



5th Year

March 22, 1976

Number 12

Acts Set For '76 Tour

This year's American Continental Circus will be the largest and most colorful presentation offered in the show's fifteen year history. According to owners Matthew and Patricia Gatti and Al Charles, the 1976 advance sales point to a banner year for the West Coast-based show.

Gatti-Charles Productions, Inc. announced at the last quarterly report that both affiliate companies - American Continental Circus and Canadian Int'l Circus - showed a substantial gain for the fiscal year with every indication of the continuing upswing.

Fans Salute

As part of the Bicentennial observances at Rutherford, N.J., a program called "Museum on Park

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 8)

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Aut Mori Grotto Circus

The program presented by the Aut Mori Grotto Circus, at Youngstown, Ohio on March 17-21 featured:-

The Gutis - comedy gorilla act
 Eloise Berchtold - mixed animals
 The Pharoahs and Larjen Duo -
 aerial cradle numbers
 Irvin Romig and the clowns
 Karen Nyce - one finger stand
 David Rosaire's Perky Pokes
 Clown Number
 Feller Boys & Do Do - wire act
 Scott's Unridable Mule
 The Quassars - aerial number
 -- Intermission --
 Miss Vivian - basketball dogs
 The Harmonica Rascals
 John Herriott - dressage
 The Kocka Poldis Troupe - swing
 Eloise Berchtold - elephants
 The Clowns
 Famous Flying Lar-Rays
 Bi-centennial Finale

Others with the show were:

Florine Oler - organist
 Bill Browning - drummer
 Mark Allen - ringmaster

In Memoriam

COUNT VICTOR SANGER, owner of Sanger's Circus in Australia, and a regular feature at the Bacchus Marsh Lion Park, was killed at a railroad crossing on Feb. 6th. Also killed with him was his assistant Marilyn Campbell. Sanger spent his whole life with Australian circuses and did a variety of acts

CFA SALUTE (Continued)

"Avenue" was held during the month of February. Store windows were donated by merchants for displays of old-time items, loaned by various collectors, hobbyists and the local museum. Window displays included dolls, kitchen ware, iron banks, World War I posters, iron door stops, period furniture and pottery, music boxes, Victorian clothing and Circusiana.

The Felix Adler CFA Tent's circus display was the most colorful and talked about exhibit. A committee, appointed by President Jack Bellis, furnished the materials displayed from collections of Past Nat'l President John Phillips, Henry Gaffney and Frank Robie, who served as chairman and window decorator.

The circus display was grouped in five categories: Circus music, clowns, elephants and horses, early mid show lighting and performing artists, which included Tom Mix, Emmett Kelly, Felix Adler, Clyde Beatty and Bird Millman. A framed poster, prominently positioned said, "A Circus salute to the Bicentennial from the Felix Adler Tent - Circus Fans Association of America."

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ROUTES

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Mar 27-28 Austin, Texas

Hubert Castle Circus
Mar 22 Pendleton, Ore.
23-24 Salem
25-28 Portland

Clyde Bros. Circus
Mar 24-25 St. Petersburg, Fla.
26-28 Tampa

Franzen Bros. Circus
Mar 26 Hillsboro, Tex.

Tommy Hanneford Circus
Mar 25-28 Buffalo, NY

Happytime Circus
Mar 27-28 Oxnard, Calif.

Holiday Hippodrome
Mar 22 Lancaster, W. Va.
23 Zanesville
24 Cambridge
25 Wierton
26 Altoona, Pa.
27 Lancaster
28 Harrisburg

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Mar. 22 Plantation, Fla.
23 Margate
24 Coral Springs
25 Okeechobee
26 Kissimee
27-28 Melbourne

Hoxie's Great American Cir.
Mar 28 Westchester, Fla

Hubler's Int'l Circus
Mar 25-28 Buffalo, NY

Int'l All Star Circus
Mar 23 Hamilton Township, NJ

Mid-America Circus
Mar. 22 Orange, Texas
23 Lafayette, La.
24 Baton Rouge
25 Thibodaux
26 Morgan City
27 Franklin
28 New Iberia

Polack Bros. Circus
Mar 26-28 Canton, Ohio

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to Mar 29 Baltimore, Md.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Mar 24-28 Cincinnati, Oh

Shrine Circus
Mar 24-28 Dayton, Ohio

John Strong Circus
Mar 22 Lancaster, Cal.
23 Tehachapi
24 Orwin
25 Taft
26 Wasco
27 Shafter
28 Tulare

..... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
Mar 24-26 Topeka, Kans.
27-30 Kansas City, Mo

Royal Lipizzan Stallions
to Apr. 18 Rio de Janeiro

Royal Lipizzan Show
Mar 24 Odessa, Texas
25 San Angelo
26 Wasco
27-28 Ft. Worth

Sports Show
Mar 25-28 Sioux Falls, SD

PEOPLE

BILL CODY RIVERS recently finished work on the movie "Hawmps" which will be released in May. He is now busy breaking a camel for his father JONNY RIVERS.

KAY ALLEN celebrated her 23rd birthday on Mar. 9. Her father operates Allen's Pet Zoo in California.

BARBARA TATA recently bought a new baby bull that she named "Lulu." She and her elephants were featured in a Dallas paper on Mar. 7.

BILLY BARTON.....

GREETINGS, ALL YOU ARIENS: This is MY birthday week (March 24) so if this column has less "punch" than usual I am too busy drinking it and celebrating!...Other Aries folk commemorating their birthdays between now and April 20th include: IAN GARDEN, "BOBBI" YOUNG, LONI VAN VOORDEN, SIGNOR RAI and PATSY JORDAN.

My birthday week finds me enroute to Phoenix to open in the Desert City with SAM T. POLACK's Circus on Mar. 28th. Sam's route extends into late June so I will keep you well informed.

At the risk of "harping" I will sound the warning bell one more time before I start saying "I told you so!"...BUT...performers signing with ANY new show with NO reliability, reputation, or professional background to substantiate it, PLEASE investigate such shows and such owners thoroughly to avoid lousing up a season's work.

SANDY DOBRITCH informs me ALL his dates will be played under canvas. I forgot to ask, but assume the tent will come from HAROLD BARNES (don't most of 'em) As you know by now he is calling the show the BERMAN-DALLAS Super Circus. I still maintain he should use the old DOBRITCH title - after all, it IS his name and the title is a BIG one.

Do any of you "old-timers" recall when Sandy was SCAMPY the CLOWN on the vintage Chicago Super Circus TV Show? Now, that's what I call coming up through the

ranks. At any rate, lots of luck Sandy, on your new venture.

After TONY FOSSETT installed the new washer for wife, Irene, he found it didn't work... had to pull it out and take it back - on a 3 day show yet!..For those of you who care my abridged bio of Fay Alexander (starting this week in CR) will be published in its complete form at a later date.

Cloud-swinger BOBBY HOKUM visited cloud-swinger PRINCE NAJVEZ on the Royal Hanneford show in Georgia enroute to Chicago. BOBBY got his start as a mailman on RBBB. The first circus he appeared on with his act was Hanneford.

Report from my "number one" spy, THE FOX (If I can decipher the code) reveals: RALPH SCHAPACHER, owner of the Diamond Rodeo tossed a gala party to celebrate moving into his new house which is built on stilts! So many people crowded into the house that it sank on one side. It is lucky, I'm told, that no one was on the porch, otherwise they'd have fallen into the lake!

ANDY ANDERSON blew his cool
(Continued on Page 13)

Permanent Site Planned

At the conclusion of its current successful engagement in Puerto Rico, the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus will go into New England for the month of April, then jumps into Lambertville, N.J., for a May to September stand. According to producer Leonard Green the circus will move into the old St. John Terrell Music Circus facility near the Delaware River.

The privately owned 80 acre tract will be leased for the 5 month engagement. All activity will be outside, with a festival atmosphere.

In October, says Green, the show will move into the Manhattan Center, on 34th Street in New York City. "For the first time in the history of the U.S. a circus will be permanently installed, as they are in Europe."

The facility is the old 7 story Hammerstein Building, and was last used for the American Ballet Theatre. The building is to be converted into an amusement center, but there will be no rides. However, there will be an arcade and of course the permanent circus. Estimated cost of the conversion has been set at \$500,000.

Some 38 people are with the show in Puerto Rico, with the program featuring: Cristiani's elephants; Josip Marcan's lions; the Brusky's; the Ashtons; the Bertinis; the Geraldos; the Las Martinas and the Scalzos. Show manager is Ed Migley and the feature star is Emmett Kelly, Jr.

Tour Ends

Kramien's Magic-Capades closed its winter tour on Feb. 27th with a two day stand in Shreveport (La.), for the local Peace Officers Assoc. All of the show's South and Southwest dates were winners, except for Scottsdale, Arizona.

Both of Kramien's units were in Arizona and New Mexico at the same time. The No. 2 unit is headed by Mark Wilson and is called "Mad World of Magic."

Magic-Capades opens its spring tour in Kramien's hometown - Vancouver, Wash. - on Apr. 17. The show has been selected to appear as the feature attraction at the Magic Get-Together, sponsored by Abbott's Magic Co., at Colon, Michigan.

The Blade Tribune, of Oceanside, Calif., carried a full page story and photos of Big John Strong and his circus.

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Holiday Hippodrome

.... by M. L. DUPONT

This year marks the eleventh annual tour for Holiday Hippodrome, which opened Feb. 2nd at Plainview, Texas. The show arrived at Monroe (La.) on Feb. 13th, for its fourth year in a row and with a 1977 contract already signed by the same sponsor.

A matinee was presented here and an evening show at Bastrop, some 22 miles away. As a result there wasn't any free time for these show folks.

It's a strong show with a Bicentennial theme, that operates smoothly under the direction of manager Floyd Bradbury. They recently switched the finale and birthday cake number with Eastwood's Gorilla Parody. "It was just too hard to follow this number," says Bradbury.

This year's program is the strongest ever, which means it is "good" since all previous shows were excellent. The program features:

Chona - tightwire

Floyd Bradbury - magic/illusions
 Alberto's rolling globes
 Wally Eastwood - unicycle
 Balloon Sculpturing
 -- Intermission --
 Wilnow's Collies
 Alberto's plate spinning
 The Bicentennial feature
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ACTS SET (Continued)

In addition to a colorful opening presentation of American Patriots and flags of the past 200 years, the program will feature such acts as:

Ada Smieya - trained tigers
The Willettys - rola bola
The Gasperrys - comedy table
Dick Marko - rola bola
Miss Myoshy Amoto - hair hang
Congo - The Almost Human Gorilla
Rainbow Rhapsody - aerial ballet
featuring Myna Moon
Amazing Alain - sword balancing
Los Sanchos - trampoline
Les Blocks - high wire
Ken Willer - one finger stand

Miss Martha - contortionist
Joe Lemke - chimps
Miss Mimi - single trapeze
Lottie Brunn - juggling
Ya Ya Awada - juggling
The Flying Ibarras - flying trap.
The Suarez Troupe - riding act
Barbara Tata and Bucky Steele -
circus elephants.

Clowns signed for the tour include: Toby "Circus" Ballantine, Harry Ellis, David Jaffee and Dennis Snyder.

Miscellaneous

The Moreland Circus, in miniature, was featured in the Los Angeles (Calif.) Times on Mar. 14th.

Official Program CIRCUS ACTS

The program as presented by the Kaye Cont'l Circus for the Medinah Shrine Temple at Chicago (Ill.) on March 8-28 included:

Circus Overture - Jack Cervone
is musical director
Lorelei - single trapeze
Carrell and Mireille - revolving
trapeze in each end ring
Baron Von Uhl - lions and tigers
The Jupiter Trio - triple traps
Geza Szabo - juggling
Miss Lona's Pets (15 dogs)
Clowns - Trick shooting
Mister Bell - balancing
Four Staneks - acrobatics
Clowns -
Arturo - single trapeze - with
four web girls working also
Antalek's Chimps (3)
Clowns - Boxing Match
The Walters Family - trampoline
-- Intermission --
The Four Flying Ramos - trapeze
Johnny Daly - comedy bicycle
The Smaha Family - horses (3)
Clowns - Tug-of-War
The Seven Endres - teeterboard
Judy Jacobs Kaye - elephants (3)
The Clowns -
Harold Alzana - high wire
Bi-Centennial Finale Salute

people

STAN KRAMIEN, magician, saw a circus truck at a Shreveport (La.) truck stop, so called on his CB for Wally Ross and then set up a coffee break down the road.

March came into Michigan like a lion, with an ice storm that crippled many areas. Equal in magnitude and power was the performance of the Hospitaler Circus produced by Harold Voise. The show played the Lansing Civic Center March 4-7, in the shadow of the state capitol dome.

The program included:-

Lilliana - caged spotted leopards
Kurt & Kalyea - hanging perch
Walt King - mixed animal group
The Clowns
The Aguillars - perch act/risley
Eric Adams - chimps
Eric Arcadis - equilibrist
The Adams - dogs
The Flying Dells
The Gutis - Jungle Comedy
Walt King - elephants
Roger Zoppe's Arabian Riders
Chase & Park - comedy trampoline
Zoppe's unsupported ladders
Al Vernon - Band leader

.... George DaDeppo

PEOPLE

BOBBY KAYE, popular clown and instructor at RBBB's College for Clowns, was hospitalized at The Queen of Angels Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif. His condition is described as "serious" and no visitors, cards or flowers are allowed.

SCOTT RIDDLE has been working Smokey Jones' elephant "Tika" on the Wallace & Rogers Circus in Southern California.



Busy Spot

Several shows have announced plans to play in San Antonio (Texas) this season and most of them already have active phone room promotions going. Already several shows are playing in the state, since it is a popular early season area.

Among those using phone room promotions are: A tented circus for May 7-9, sponsored by a Latin American Group; Big John Strong for June 2, sponsored by the JC's a Country-Western Show sponsored by the Police; and Carson & Barnes for Mar. 30 sponsored by the Cerebral Palsy Association.

Clown Meet

Clowns and those interested in clowning, from throughout Kansas, gathered for a State Meeting at Salina on March 7th, where Eugene Gieselmann, presided and acted as MC. Also attending the meeting were a group of military personnel from Fort Riley, who are interested in becoming clowns.

Featured on the program for the occasion were: Micki "Dropsy" Hansen, former ice skater, who presented a Hawaiian number, then hurriedly changed to clown make-up for a juggling number with Delores Yates; Wallace "Sad Sack" Ward, balloon sculpturing, and Dr. and Mrs. Howard Killough, magicians and clowns... Velma Lowry

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Zohak Grotto Circus

.....by ALLEN BABCOCK

There's no question about it, the 1976 Zohak Grotto Circus, at Decatur, Ill., produced by George Hubler, was the best show he ever brought in. Both the sponsor and public agree that it was a great show and attendance reached an all-time high this year.

A Bicentennial theme was featured and even the program book carried out this idea with a drum and draped '76 flags.



The program presented on March 6 and 7 featured the following acts:

- Al Ross and Wayne Liikala - clowns
- John Laddie & Co. - Unsup. ladders
- Bobby Gibbs - trained camel
- Al Ross and Wayne - clowns
- Aerial ballet with: Susan, Sonja, Belinda and Anita
- The Clowns
- Lucky Bros. - knockabout comedy
- The Zoppe Family - monkeys
- Bob & Rosa Gibbs - elephants
- Intermission --
- Bob Gibbs - liberty mules
- Al Ross - trick bicycle
- Amandis Troupe - teeterboard
- Sir Victor Julian - dogs
- Princess Sonja - space wheel
- Baron Von Uhl - lions and tigers

The Amandis Troupe had fun in presenting their act, which was seen here for the last time. By the way, Florine and Phil Oler, provided the music and now Phil jumps to the Gatti show for their summer tour.

After the circus Bobby Gibbs

Miscellaneous

RBBB plays Dallas (Texas) on July 20-25 and will go into the downtown Convention Center instead of the fairgrounds.

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took some animals up to the Baraboo Museum, where they still have snow and ice. He stayed over here until time to open with the Hanneford Circus at Cincinnati. The Amandis Troupe also stayed over for a few days before heading out for Chicago.

Circus fans seen visiting at the circus were: Norman Schuler, Jim Alexander, Merle Pepper and family, Bob Phebus and daughter, James Kemper, Jack Albea and son, Mike and Marilyn Sorrill, Charles Bellatti, Jim Moran and Bill and Eddie Backstein.

BIG JOHN STRONG

"After a trouble plagued beginning it looks as if we're finally going to get started on our 1976 tour," John Strong told CR last week. "The tax people audited me and said I owed them a considerable amount of money. They also said there is no such thing as working as an independent contractor and that taxes, social security, etc. must be with-held each payday. This resulted in even bigger problems, involving back years, fines, etc."

The Big John Strong Circus has been cut back to 12 people and will travel on two 40 ft. semis and two 1 ton trucks. The latter units will pull the canopy wagon and will provide the side show banners. Last year's big top and seats will continue to be used. Chester Cable is joining the show to handle all maintenance work and any other such problems that might come along.

A combination of bad weather and competition forced the cancellation of some anticipated early dates this year. Since the Wallace & Rogers Circus has been booking heavy in California, all of John's route was revamped to put his show in a better position.

In addition to the usual numbers carried on the show, the program will feature Winnie Mc Kay, Heidi Wendany and Chris De Wayne in a web number. Chris is also working the show's elephant. A closing Bicentennial salute is planned, using a bubble ma-

chine, lots of red, white and blue costumes and then has John Strong in the center ring as Uncle Sam himself.

Working advance is Bill Birchfield, who has developed a special Family Ticket plan. Promotion for recent dates at Escondido and Vista was handled by Gudrun Morgan and John Strong. Both dates were described as "big ones."

In Memoriam

BUSBY BERKELEY (80) died at Palm Springs, Calif. on Mar. 14. He was a noted film director and is best remembered for his lavish dancing and chorus numbers. He wrote and directed most of his films including the Gold Diggers series and other specialty films. He was a flamboyant character and aided several stars in their climb to stardom. His last film was "Jumbo" in 1963, for which he staged all the musical numbers.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

when he found a strange semi parked on his property, but regained his sanity when SCHAPPACHER and REX WILLIAMS showed up to claim it....Tired of her plastic swimming pool blowing away on windy days, MIRELLE THERON (Arnosi) had husband Julian, build a 7 ft wall around it....and CARLA WALLELDA, rushing like mad to fly to Puerto Rico had to suddenly rush in another direction to ship a slip-joint for the high wire that RICKY had forgotten enroute to the Madison (Wisc.) date.

GUS & URSULA's son, DON, must be fully recovered from those gun shot wounds - he was seen turning somersaults in Delilah's (daughter of Jenny Wallenda) trailer....Hand balancer BOB JOHNSON has been entrusted with the care of what's left of Carla Wallenda's "Victory Garden". If that Garden's victorious, Carla, we'd hate to see the one that lost! And THAT's the latest from THE FOX.

Midget Clown DAVE BURNHAM joined Walter Stimax and Mildred Hall on the Polack show in Albany (NY)....Someone told me they saw LU ANN JACOBS riding an elephant on the "Streets of San Francisco" TV segment. She will be with the G-M Circus doing her single trap-eze and working bulls. Her father in case you don't know, is the famed RBBB clown LOU JACOBS.

JENNY WALLELDA (Anderson) is

upset over circumstances contributing to the demise of her aunt in San Francisco. "The doctor she was with for over a year," Jenny writes, "had seen her three weeks prior to my arrival, had already observed her skin turning yellow, and STILL he didn't hospitalize her. By the time I got there it was too late!" An autopsy revealed that the aunt died of gangrene of the upper intestine. Jenny flew her aunt's body to Sarasota for burial.

TOMMY HANNEFORD's package of acts will play St. Louis and Tampa later in the year for the new BERMAN-DALLAS Circus. He will also play dates for EDDIE ZACCHINI and GEORGE HUBLER following his three week Canadian run as the Garden "second unit."

Want to know where ALL the BOYS are? Wherever CHRISTINE FOSSET happens to be! Have you ever paused to check out the circus lovelies blooming in the field? It's a bumper crop!

With the "Pet Rock" craze gaining momentum do you think someone will come out with a "pet rock act?" I wouldn't be surprised....I predict that SIGNOR RAI (Ray Orszak) will become a much sought-after ringmaster. His recent debut was impressive....JIM & MARLYN SILVERLAKE, HOXIE's ELEPHANTS, ALBERTO ZOPPE & FAMILY, and MONGO, the Gorilla, played the Miami Pet Show.

ALBERTO ZOPPE's hip opera-
(Continued on Page 15)

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P.S. A Special "Thanks" to Bill Schreiber

(I appreciate everyone's understanding and help during this current trying time).



Circus Fans Are Always Welcome - Come and See Us!

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

tion (performed ONLY in Italy) involved a porcelain ball in a steel joint. The pain moved from his hip to the leg muscles - probably from such a long period of inactivity. Following his tour with Hoxie's Great American, Alberto will take his family to Italy where they plan to tour for at least two years.

Local musicians and windjammers augmented the Hanneford band at Athens (Ga.). Dentist FRED DETTMAN traveled all the way from Fort Myers and HORST GEYER (bass player with Beatty-Cole) came in from Port Charlotte (Fla.). Athens Public Defender COL. BOB PECKHAM arranged the musical operation, threw a party after the show with a jam session that lasted 'til 4:30 ayem. CFA President (and VP of Windjammers) DR. PAUL FITZPATRICK, of Atlanta, was also in attendance, snapping pix and recording the music.

BILLY's DILLYS: A "Winesap" is NOT an apple, but a foolish performer who drinks and works!

See you down the road, luvs.

PEOPLE

COL. ROGER BOYD, former C-B ringmaster; GILES AUSTING, last year with Suesz; ART HELLER, caliope rennovater visited CHARLES SCHLARBAUM at Augusta, Ga. when the Hanneford Circus played there He's that show's bandmaster.

PEOPLE

ROBERT BAUDY has opened his animal compound to the public on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Called "Savage Kingdom" the facility is on Rte. 48 at Belville, Fla. He has training sessions and offers the world's largest collection of rare and endangered felines.

COL. E. T. BALE reports his daughters will tour this year on the Don Woods Show. He has his horses at RBBB's Circus World.

RED HARTMAN recently broke three roll-over tigers and a wire walking lion for his wild animal act, featured on the Hubert Castle Circus.

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The Story of

FAY ALEXANDER

By

Billy Barton

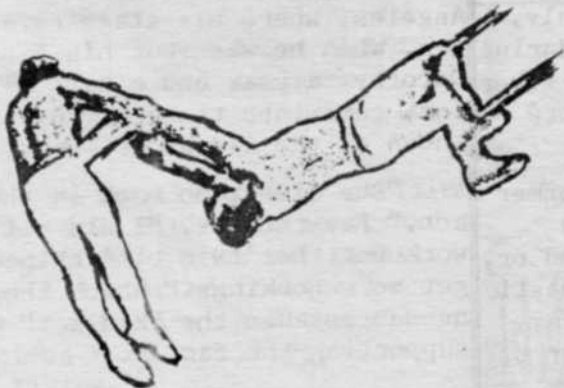
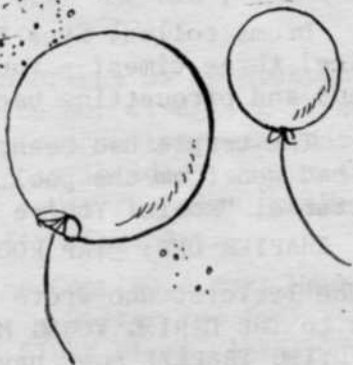


This is the Story of Fay Alexander, the star who revived the famed "triple" and doubled for such stars as:

CORNEL WILDE

TONY CURTIS

BURT LANCASTER



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The Story of
FAY ALEXANDER
by
Billy Barton

- PROLOGUE -

THEY WERE STANDING on the pedestal board. Fay's hands were sweating. The spotlight was on him, and the announcer's voice droned in the darkness below. Backstage, performers were running about with pieces of paper. The bets were on. The pool had been formed.

Whipping the fly bar into Fay's hands, Rosie murmured: "You'll never make it!"

"Godammit, Rosie, do you HAVE to do that to me!" screamed Fay as his lithe, half-naked body dropped from the board and flew out into space.

Drums rolled. Eyes looked upwards. The body turned - once! twice! three times! - turning that final time into the catcher's hands and pirouetting back to the pedestal. The crowd went wild!

The triple had been made, a clown ran off clutching the money he had won from the pool, and Fay, as he smiled down at the audience, muttered: "Rosie! You're a bitch!"

CHAPTER ONE: "TAP ROOTS"

The lyricist who wrote the words to THE DARING YOUNG MAN ON THE FLYING TRAPEZE must have had Fay Alexander in Mind. Certainly, Fay epitomizes the grace and daring that old song implies, and no flyer has been more lionized, nor more respected by his peers.

It would seem that a performer of Fay's versatility must have sprung from a circus background or, at the very least, from a gymnastic group. This is not the case. Fay, aged 3, started out as a singer of "snappy songs" and as an "acrobatic tap dancer". And prior to his tender vaudeville "debut" Fay had had ballet training - training that

was self-evident in his later years as a flyer.

During the Depression, Fay's family migrated from Seattle to Los Angeles, where his stage career began. When he was four his sister, Dorothy, a year and a half his junior, came into the act. They were known as the Alexander Twins.

"She didn't do much in the act," Fay recalls. "I did all the work but the 'twin bit' helped us get more bookings." Which they needed because the "kid act" was supporting the family.

As Fay and Dorothy approached their teens this partnership ended and Fay, who had been getting a sporadic education, went to school

full time. He was able to do so now because his father, a barber by profession, had opened a shop and was making an adequate living.

But....as anybody steeped in show business knows, school is a dull substitute for the theatre and, Fay, who bores easily, quit to join the late Ted DeWayne.

Performers who owe their start in the circus to Ted DeWayne are legion. Fay Alexander is only one of many who owes this man a debt of gratitude.

Fay stayed with Ted DeWayne eight years, working in the De Wayne risley and teeterboard acts and became an accomplished acrobat. This preliminary training greatly enhanced his future flying skill, and eventually gained the attention of Art Concello - but this comes into the story much later...

...America is at war. Fay Alexander, Ted DeWayne, and a slim youth by the name of Bill Snyder are together in the Coast Guard. They are on Special Assignment, doing musicals in camp shows with Rudy Vallee.

"It was really great," exclaims Fay. "We were living at home, had all that free time on our hands. One day Ted started to experiment with a flying rigging although NONE of us knew a hill of beans about flying."

Nevertheless the rigging was built and set up and young Bill Snyder climbed into the catch trap.

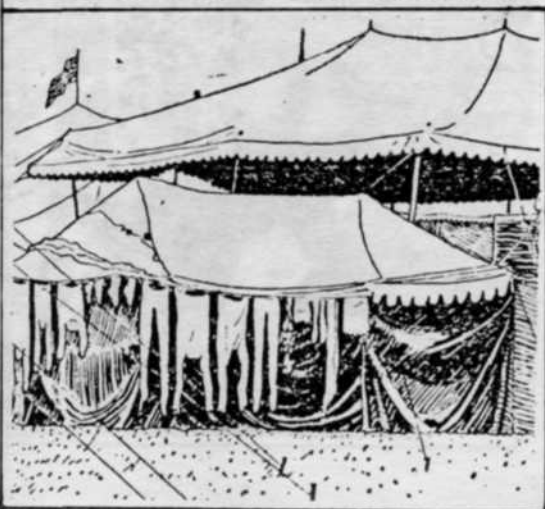
By trial and error, mostly the latter, Fay managed a double cutaway and a one-and-a-half and Bill contrived to catch them.

"And Ted," says Fay, "who knew less than any of us, stood on the ground, called our time, and told us what to do." Fay smiles and shakes his head. "God, but he was a wonderful guy!"

Between camp shows and Coast Guard duties the three men continued to work on their flying act. The "katzenjammer" kibitzing ended, however, when the men got out of the service in 1945.

Which brings us to Houston in 1947, where our fledgling flyer is working props on the Texas dates, and where an incident occurs that actually opens the door to the career of Fay Alexander.

(To Be Continued Next Week)
Chapter Two in
THE STORY OF FAY ALEXANDER





FAY ALEXANDER is pictured above with the AGVA "Entertainer of the Year" award, which he won in 1969 and 1970. The presentation was made by Emmett Kelly, Sr. in 1969 and by Don Rickles in 1970.

In the picture below Fay is accepting the "Circus Act of the Year" award from Ed Sullivan of TV fame.

