

7th Year

May 22, 1978

Number 21

NEW PHONE RULES

Californians will be protected from over-zealous telephone solicitations under new guidelines recently adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission.

The new rules will bar the use of automatic dialing and announcing devices without the prior consent of the called party, or without a human operator to get the called party's permission to play a recording.

The so-called "junk calls" controls now requires users of automatic dialing devices to notify the telephone company of their plans to hook into phone lines, including the hours of use and the anticipated volume.

Devices subject to the controls are those which are capable of storing numbers to be called or generating random or sequential number selections, and are able to play pre-recorded messages.

The PUC said there is no evidence that automatic dialing devices are now operating in California for solicitation without operation control, but said it expected such devices would soon be coming into common use.

Without the controls, the commission said, the practice would "infringe on the comfort

Prison Date

The Circus California visited San Quentin prison May 4th, and although the circus and its audience were locked behind prison walls, the prison athletic field, where the show was set up, looked like a circus on any vacant lot on the outside.

The circus was the first to play at San Quentin
(Continued on Page 6)

and convenience of the telephone subscriber, which is guaranteed" by the law.

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PEOPLE

REX WILLIAMS, elephant trainer, suffered a leg injury early this month when he was shoved against a quarter pole during the elephant long mount number on Circus Vargas. Medical reports indicate that surgery may be required.

GUNNAR AMANDIS and GEORGE HUBLER were among the many visitors catching the Sam T. Polack Circus at Toledo, while Gunnar also visited the Coronas Circus in West Orange, N. J.

HARRY MILLS, JOE SHERMAN, the FLYING ESPANAS, BILLY BARTON, BOBBY DAVIS, MIQUEL and MARGARITA, BILL and TRUDY STRONG, GUNNAR AMANDIS, GEORGE HUBLER and TOMMY BENTLEY visited Garden Bros. at Cincinnati, Ohio.

ORMAN MCGILL, magician, played a series of dates in British Columbia last month, where the top gross was \$9,000.00.

JENNY (Mrs. Sam T.) POLACK and ETHEL JENNIER had a gala reunion when both got together on the Sam T. Polack Circus recently. They had been "close buddies" on Russell Bros. in 1938 and hadn't seen each other for 40 years. At that time Mrs. Polack was a menage rider. She was also part of the famous POODLES HANNEFORD riding act.

BILLY BARTON recently visited BILL and TRUDY STRONG on their beautiful 12 acre farm at Springfield, Ohio, when he was enroute from Little Rock to Toledo, for Sam T. Polack's Circus.

ARCHIE CHAN visited Beatty-Cole in Charleston (SC) and reports they had packed houses for all 7 shows. He also visited Ringling Blue in Jacksonville, Fla., and Ringling Red at Savannah, Ga.

ANNETTE McCARY, wife of Wayne, flew to Bangor (Me) to help Wayne celebrate his 10th consecutive year of producing the "Maine Shrimp Dates".

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TALENT

Included in the program at Cleveland, Ohio (April - 28-30) which was produced by George Hubler were: the Zoppe Arabian Riders; Norbu; The Quassars; Gilda's Leopards; Herman & Petunia; Pam Rosaire, chimps and dogs; The Pharoahs; the Elkins Sisters; the Cristiani's trampoline; Clowns, Joe Sherman and Wayne Liikala and Jessie Griffiths, organist.

PEOPLE

BILL BACKSTEIN and wife visited Carson & Barnes Circus at Wray, Colo., driving out from their home in Decatur, Ill. Their son Eddie is bull man on the show.

WAYNE RAGAN recaptured two of his tigers after they escaped just shortly before doors at Oberlin, Kansas, when the C&B show was in that city.

Aerial Acts Wanted

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AMUSEMENT PARK

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July 3 to July 9

July 10 to July 16

July 24 to July 30

July 31 to Aug. 6

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

May 23-29 Philadelphia, Pa.

Bentley Bros. Circus

May 21-22 Concord, Calif.

24 Bakersfield

25-26 Simi Valley

Big John Strong Circus

May 22-23 Tempe, Ariz.

24-25 Tucson

26-27 Albuquerque, N. M.

28 Clovis

Carson & Barnes Circus

May 22 Columbus, Nebr.

23 Wahoo

24 Hamburg, Iowa

25 Falls City, Nebr.

26 Maryville, Mo.

27 Gallatin

28 Carrollton

Circus Vargas

May 22-25 Mt. View, Calif.

26-28 Salinas

Great American Circus

May 22 Levanon, Pa.

23 Terre Hill

25 Christiana

26 Wernersville

27 Reading

28 Exeter Township

Hoxie Bros. Circus

May 22 Palatine, Ill.

23 Crystal Lake

24 Carol Stream

25 Downers Grove

26-27 Hoffman Estates

28 Park Forest

Pickle Family Circus

May 27-28 Nevada City, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to June 4 New York, N. Y.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to May 16 Largo, Md.

Roberts Bros. Circus

May 22 Masontown, Pa.

23 Smithton

24 Scottsdale

25 Yukon

26 Norvelt

27 Tarentum

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

May 22 Davis, Calif.

23 Stockton

24-25 Sacramento

26 Santa Clara

Wonderful World of Circus

May 23-29 Columbus, Ohio

---- OTHER DATES ----

Baretta, the Cockatoo

May 23-27 Michigan City, Ind.

Victor Borge Show

May 24-27 Hamilton, Ont.

Vince Carmen's 'Razzle Dazzle'

May 23 Saginaw, Mich.

24 Grand Rapids

25 Bay City

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

May 23-29 Joliet, Ill.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

May 26-June 3 Chicago Hghts, Ill

Dondi, the Baby Elephant

May 25-Sep. 5 Gurnee, Ill.

James H. Drew Expo Shows

May 22-27 Charleston, W. Va.

Fantasy On Ice

May 24-27 Media, Pa.

Doug Henning Show (Magic)

May 23-24 Dayton, Ohio

25 Toledo

26 Warren

27-28 Columbus

Ice Follies

May 24-29 Oakland, Calif.

Koske, the Human Bomb

May 26-27 Colorado Spgrs, Colo.

Little Lion Land

May 24-28 Dubuque, Iowa

Magic Time USA (Prof. Miller)

May 26 Shelby, Iowa

NASCAR

May 28 Bakersfield, Calif.

Victor, the Rasslin' Bear

May 25-29 Hamilton, Ont.

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IAN GARDEN has been having a good season thus far, told me the route is fully booked 'til July 2, at which time several specialty dates have been inked - a fair in Minot (ND) and a park in Kansas City, followed by the annual Trois Riviere Fair. Following the Quebec fair, the second half of Garden Bros. Circus tour will get underway. Ian's show played more stateside dates this year, mostly for Shrine sponsorship, than ever in the past and he is adding new dates to this lengthy route in 1979.

Ian's wife, **MICKEY**, a professional chanteuse prior to marriage, sings several numbers in the current edition of the Garden show and is in great voice. She proudly displayed a beautiful (and ornate) gold elephant head ring, studded with diamonds, which Ian had given her this winter. The songbird is as lovely as ever, permitting the natural grey to streak her hair (which is becoming) and says their two sons are now as tall as Ian, and their daughter is almost fully grown. For the first time, I have the opportunity to get away and travel with Ian, she said (which makes her happy).

GEE GEE filled me in (during my Garden visit) on the "weddings" which generated so much publicity for the show in Toronto, and which occurred just before the cat act, IN the cage, with ALL lions and tigers attending, watching the ceremonies from their pedestals with either yawns or growing appetites! Four weddings were scheduled, but one couple backed out (probably after the melee between a lion and a tiger immediately following the FIRST wedding), and included a full-scale production: minister, wedding cake, the wedding march, bride and groom walking to the cage under an arbor of crossed sabres held by Shriners, plus a one-week's honeymoon in Florida with all expenses paid. Gee Gee remarked the whole thing was very campy, that some grooms made entrances like latter day Tarzans, that some were scared to death, but that she, personally, has finally had enough of weddings, between those in Toronto AND her own, to last a lifetime!

SNAPSHOTS: **ALBERTO ZOPPE** has a mall circus unit he tours in Canada during the winter months. . . **CHUCK SCHLARBAUM** reports he used a 28 piece band in Toronto, claims it's the largest circus band used in North America this season. . . Drummer **BOB GARDNER** left Bourbon Street in New Orleans to troupe with Carson & Barnes 2nd unit. . . Musicians with Nordmark's Magic Unit include: George Weedon and Bob Amato. . . Spies tell me **TITO GAONA** is "Mr. Popularity" on Ringling Blue, that **GUN-**

THE GEBEL WILLIAMS cops the same honor on Ringling Red. . . **NEIL (Kay) KAHANOVITZ** is busy clowning his way thru Medical School, was listed in Kaye Cont'l program as "staff physician", turned out he was needed: he placed a cast on **BILL KNEISELEY's** leg, and whenever First Aid had a problem, Neil was summoned. . . The **QUASSARS** to the Puyallup Fair this fall. . . **LINDA HERRMAN** helped out **JOANNE PINSON** with the elephants during the Kool-Aid Circus in Tampa. . . The **GUTIS** to Circus Odyssey in Providence in June. . . Wild animal trainer **ROY WELLS** was Gee Gee's man Friday during the Garden tour, aiding the Blonde Bombshell's elephant number decked out in a tux. Gee Gee says she would have been lost without Roy's help. Gee Gee is now on Cirque Gatini. Incidentally, her lead pony broke its pelvis and has been boarded with a Vet in Guelph (Ont). A new lead pony has been broken until her main pony is well and prancing.

LARRY KENT writes the Hoxie Big Top Circus has its best performance in years. Spec wardrobe was purchased from Holiday on Ice, the program features all new talent, including an all-girl flying act. The midway carries two pit shows, bubble bounce, grease joint, concessions and elephant ride. Add **JOSIP MARCAN** and **VASHEK** to Circus Odyssey's line-up. . . **JO ANN & SUNNY** to Gastoni Fair in Canada this summer. . . **ETHEL's** Greyhounds to Kennywood Park in July (for Bauer-Hall) and to the Maritime Fairs later on for **AMANDIS**. . . **PRINCE NAJVEZ** to a Garden date in July, to Bentley Bros. in August and Sept. . . **JIMMY DOUGLAS & Co.**, **VASHEK**, set for the Dobritch Wayne (Mich) Police date in Sept. . . **RON & JOY HOLIDAY** to the Calgary Stampede in July. . . **MARY HUBLER** heads for New York City that same month, on a scholarship for 8 weeks study at American Ballet Center. . . **BUCKLES & BARBARA WOODCOCK** visiting Famous Hunt in Philadelphia on a day off from **RBBB**. . . **GEORGE HUBLER** Circus played Cleveland twice, in April and again this month. . . **BONNIE & CLYDE** will play a Southern Fair for **WES OLER** in the Fall.

Hollywood Variety reviewed Circus Vargas (plagued by accidents this year) and praised Semon's Chimps, Naghtin's Bears, the Albullet Bros. and Chris James as Top Line acts. However, neither Variety nor the Hollywood Reporter (especially the latter) were overkind to the show as a whole.

When they move to the Lido de Paris show in July,

(Continued on Page 16)

PRISON DATE (Continued)

tin since 1970, when Rudy Jacobi took his show there.

The 1400 inmates whistled and cheered, and ate pop corn and cotton candy like all circus lovers. Their wildest cheers were for the pretty circus girls, but they also offered their encouragement for the elephants, chimps and tigers.

"You got to appreciate it," said inmate Kim Prattis, of New York. "There's no telling when something like this will come along again. In here, a circus gives relief," he added. "It gives the inmates a chance to holler it up or whatever without attacking each other."

Show director Dick Garden said, "We had to break in to get in," then went on to explain that a high prison fence, which wasn't high enough for the elephant truck to drive under, had to be cut with a torch before the circus could enter the prison amphitheatre.

**IN MEMORY**

OF

ELOISE BERCHTOLD

Died - May 5, 1978

Today is Sunday, May 7th - "I declare May 7th as Eloise Berchtold Day."

Thank you God for her presence.
Thank you for her dedication and
love that made the Circus a Wonder
to behold!

... Virginia Lee Fenton
Carlos R. Gomes

Review**INTERNATIONAL MAGIC SPECTACULAR**

by Ed Freeman

This is truly a spectacular magic show. Lavish wardrobe, well presented illusions and beautiful girls make this show one of the best in America today. Joe Eddy, a tall, thin, curly haired young man, is the starring illusionist. Using a smile here and a serious face there, he sells each and every illusion and turns the 90 minute program into a magical fantasy.

The program is fast moving and well choreographed with 3 girls and 2 boys doing the routines. Each illusion appears as part of a major production with elaborate settings. For instance in the Star Wars production, two huge rockets appear with flashing lights and smoke filling the stage. Instantly Joe emerges in a space suit to do the Zombie and Zig Zag.

The first half of the show comes to a close with a very colorful South of the Border theme. A Samba dance leads into a flower and silk production, the backdrop is filled with flower carts and multi-color flowers and silks. The major illusions include the Zig Zag, Ken Griffin's levitation, The Drum That Can't Be Beat, Cutting in Sixths, Temple of Benares, Square Frame, Guillotine and the Mis-Made Girl.

The highlight of the second half is the Circus production. The stage is filled with circus wagons, Joe appears dressed as a ringmaster, doing whip cracking and fire eating. The dancers, dressed as clowns, look on as he makes a snake appear and then quickly vanish. Next he does the Temple of Benares, with the girl appearing with the snake. An added attraction is a gorilla who runs through the crowd. All in all it is a very imaginative and creative show. Between the many illusions Eddy does flames at the fingertips, vanishing candles and several dove productions. The show also features a vocal group called Bonnie & Clyde and a fast vent act by Eddy. The troupe includes 13 people, with a band and it travels in two semis and three house trailers, plus a sleeper.

PEOPLE

FRITZ LAUBER, concessionaire, had a unit working at the Aahmes Shrine Circus in Oakland, Calif., the last weekend of April, while another unit was on tour with Circus California. DANNY BAKER, a long-time circus concessionaire was working with Lauber on the show.

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REVIEW

SYRIAN TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

by Don Sandman

This year's Syrian Temple Shrine Circus was produced by Garden Bros. Circus and presented at the Cincinnati Gardens (Ohio) on May 2-7.

The show's staff included: Ian Garden, executive producer/ringmaster; B. Elliot Abells, manager; Roger Prystanski, producing clown; Charles Schlarbaum, musical director; Arthur Grotefent, lighting; Ron Morris, concessions and special costumes were provided by Melody Toys.

As usual the large contingent of Shrine units held their parade on the main floor and after everyone was introduced it was "on with the show."

Charles Schlarbaum led the band in a stirring overture, then with the help of a clown and small child we were led on a trip through the Nursery Rhymes such as Three Little Pigs, Three Blind Mice, etc., all leading to Toyland.

Then came the trampoline acts of the Cristianis and Fornasari, both outstanding and famous circus family names.

Nancy Joy Giordano, the young lady who has become the sweetheart of Cincinnati, returned to be featured in an aerial ballet number.

Powell's ponies and the Hollywood horses were followed by the Fornasari Musical Clowns, presenting a European clown act. The kids were delighted and especially so when the older clown's instruments were taken away and he was ordered out of the ring, only to return with a different instrument. Highlight was the tiny sax, which was removed from a giant

sax - both played.

The Reginine Duo offer true poetry in mid-air with their aerial cradle, and were followed by the Flying Vasquez and the Flying Armors. Both acts end with the passing leap.

During intermission the Shriners held a baton twirling contest each night for local high school twirlers. The finalist, at the end of the show date, was to receive a College Scholarship.

Three rings of jungle beats got the second half underway. Gilda's Leopards and the Royal Palace leopards flanked the center ring feature - Hans Sonneberger, billed as Germany's foremost wild animal trainer with 4 lions and 4 tigers.

The Castro Bros. kept the crowd on the edge of their seats with their high wire thrills. They walked up the wire to start the act and then back down for the conclusion.

The Verdus, three lovely young ladies kept rolling globes going in all directions, bringing many oohs and aahs from the audience. Then attention was switched to the Mad Hatters who are really hat manipulators, with hats going everywhere.

Lipko's and King's chimps were in the end rings, while Zoppe's Canine Revue was presented in the center ring. When the Zoppes finish they have just about everything but an elephant piled high atop a horse there in the center ring.

The circus elephants, presented by Gee Gee, followed by the Daring Deetlifs on the aerial motorcycles brought a fitting finale to this fine show.



— COMPLIMENTS AND THANKS —

That's what we get from everyone receiving Chappie Fox and Bev Kelly's new book "THE GREAT CIRCUS STREET PARADE IN PICTURES."

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Dover Publications "Circus Stencils" 52 all circus stencils \$ 2.75

Send 25 cents, stamp or coin for list of desirable circus collectibles.

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WANTED

GIRL ASSISTANT in Animal Act for Reno, Nevada. Long Term contract not impossible.

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K. ANDEN

Circus Circus Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev.

SPECIAL

Juan Vasquez fell during the May 3rd morning performance of Garden Bros. Circus at Cincinnati, Oh. Strangely, it was this same show a year ago when Nancy Joy Giordano fell. Nancy's sister, Dede Lamb and a clown were under Juan when he fell.

"All of a sudden I was on the floor," said Dede. "I just went down and the next thing I knew I was standing up, looking down at him. I didn't notice the screams."

Vasquez suffered bruises to his right elbow, hip and side of the head. He walked unaided to a police car which took him to a hospital for a check-up, but he was back at the next performance. Dede received some bumps and bruises and the clown was unhurt.

..... Don Sandman

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FLASH

The following information has been taken from the Mattel Annual Report to Shareholders, for the year ending Jan. 28, 1978.

"In 1978 Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey will be planning a new live show featuring the stars of the International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo, with a tour currently planned for 1979. In addition, preliminary development for an international circus will begin with an Australian opening in 1980."

SHOWTIME FOLLIES

by Bill Galloway

One of the two Showtime Follies units played at the West High School in Painted Post (NY) on May 3rd.

The show was sponsored by the local Jaycees and those attending seemed well pleased with the performance as was evidenced by the laughs and applause.

The program included: Miss Deanna (Hansen) foot juggling; Chiron, magic; The Van Noys (Philips) bicycle/unicycle; Chiron & Co., gorilla parody; the Rajia Duo, balancing; Intermission; The Torreanis, slack wire; Chiron, magic; Don Philips & Co., comedy juggling on unicycle on a table; Sharon Vidbel's chimps; The Rolling Diamonds (Hansen), skating.

The show's staff includes: Chiron, general manager and announcer; Wes Oler, stage manager; Don Philips, assistant announcer and H.M.; Florine Oler, organist and Phil Oler, drummer.

NOTICE

DUE TO THE RECENT DEATH

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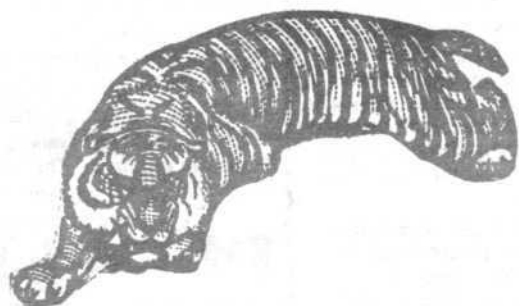
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THE BEST TIME TO CALL IS LATE EVENING



SAM T. POLACK CIRCUS

by Billy Barton

Sam T. Polack brought a powerhouse performance into the Barton Coliseum for the Shrine at Little Rock (Ark) Apr. 28-29. Press notices called the circus the "best that has ever appeared at the coliseum" and were quick to observe and point out the unusual assemblage of animal acts in the program i.e. Roman Schmitt with his rhino and elephant; Jo Ann & Sunny, the seal, with Sunny playing "America" on the musical horns; Ethel Jennier's leaping greyhounds; My-Imba's baboons, and the still "up and at 'em" Pat Anthony with a mixed group of lions and tigers.

If producer Sam Polack programed an unusual assortment of animal attractions he did not overlook aerial acts - in abundance, including the Flying Espanas, rapidly becoming one of the greatest flying acts in the U.S.; Aerialletta, Frank & Estrelita, the Francini Duo, Prince Najvez, Los Obandos, high wire, Francarro, head balance trapeze, Margarita, hair suspension, and Princess White Cloud, cloud swing.

Topping the ground displays were the exciting Klementis with their outstanding bicycle act. Other ground acts were the Albertis, rolling globe; Miquel, tight wire (with forward and backward somersaults) Jose, hand balancing, the Carolines, contortion, Giovanni's Surprise (plate spinning), and the Peggy Mills tight wire number.

Producing clown was John MacKay; Al Dawley was the ringmaster; and Ron Kelroy provided lights, the ring curbs, and was prop boss and general supt., with Russ Darr fronting an excellent 10 piece band.

PEOPLE

JACK GOBBLE recently left the Carson & Barnes Circus to return to his home due to ill health. Also closing with the C&B show was clown Frankie Cane.

SMOKEY JONES and daughter KARI visited the Carson & Barnes Circus in Cheyenne, Wyo., where they were playing for the Bell Telephone Company.

FOR SALE

5 year old Morgan/Hackney horse
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A 2 horse Bar-A Trailer

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SIDE SHOW ACTS - Also want
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Top Pay - Must have own living
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JIM WINDLAND

Circus Vargas as per route

Show Report

M&M CIRCUS

by Ron Sanford

The program presented by the M&M Circus Internationale at Lincoln, Nebr., April 25-30 featured: Harry Thomas, Bengal tigers; The Apollos, cradle act; Carmen del Molino, tightwire; The Ricardos, tightwire; Miss Sandy, liberty ponies; Dainty La Vonne, aerialist; Victor Julian, dogs; Lipko's comedy chimps; The Aguilers, perch act; Peitro & Joyce, balancing act; Francine and Baby Dondi; an Aerial Display with 8 girls on web and featuring the Lovely Carmen on the single trapeze; Jack and Sandra Fulbright, horses; The Gutis Family, Jungleland Fantasy; Jeanette and Lee Keener and the Diano elephants; The Canestrellis, teeterboard; The Vickinas, teeterboard; The Flying Lunas.

PEOPLE

FAWCETT's Chimps "Jungle Jamboree" spent the winter working with the Atayde Circus in Mexico, and are now working for shows in California. The act leaves next month for a European tour.

FOR SALE

BAVARIAN FUN HOUSE (Copy
of German Cakewalk) - Hollingsworth
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NEW Hollingsworth Dark Ride -
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SAWDUST TRAIL

ART and BEA STONE, CFA's from Ruston, La., are traveling out ahead of Franzen Bros. Circus this year, doing PR work, booking and clowning. Art reports that business has been good and the show is heading into Missouri.

CARSON & BARNES is said to be "first class all the way". The big unit will be at the CFA convention in Michigan, has a 16 page program and 22 display acts. Both it and the other unit has a cage act, flying acts, live bands, etc. All the reports coming thus far indicate both units are great shows.

JAMES FORREST, CFA of Hartford, Conn. spent three weeks in Florida where he visited Beatty-Cole, Sells & Gray, Hoxie, Great American and Franzen Bros., plus several show folks, like Merle Evans, L. Wilson Poarch, of Southern Sawdust and Fred Daw.

DODO, the Clown, had a busy May 5-6-7, worked a parade and Health Fair, a TG&Y Store and the Zoo, while he was working these dates Sells & Gray was just 100 miles away, maybe things will work out better next year?

THE season is barely underway and already King Bros. and Great American day-and-dated at Tifton, Ga., on April 16th. Both shows reportedly did well on the date.

FRANZEN Bros. is featuring a liberty act of eight "Ponies of America" which look like small Appaloosa horses. Also in the show is Michael Dennis, clown, with Mrs. Dennis at the organ and handling the announcing. John Marrone is working a full cat act of 7 lions and 2 tigers.

Acts Named

CIRCUS ODYSSEY - Providence, R. I. - June - Acts signed include: the Gutis Family, comedy; Lottie Brunn, juggler; Josip Marcan, wild animals; Burgers, chimps, dogs, pony; the Cristiani elephants; Vashek & Kathy, aerial; Aerialetta, aerial; Jo Ann & Sunny, seal act; Prince Najvez, aerial; Ted Chirrick, ringmaster and Cook's comedy car.

DOBRTCH INT'L CIRCUS - Wheaton, Ill. - June 22-25 - Acts include: Norbu, My-Imba's baboons; Ethel Jennier, greyhounds; Mister Sensation, aerial; Vashek & Kathy, aerial; Paul Kaye's elephants; Jo Ann and Sunny; Aerialetta; the Flying Lunas; Jorge Barreda, lions and Jimmy Douglass, spec, clowns and ringmaster.

BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS - Cincinnati, Ohio - July 11-16 - Acts include: George Hanneford, Jr., Family; Joselito; Aerialetta; Jorge Barreda, lions; the Vickinas; Jo Ann and Sunny; Mr. Sensation, with Florine and Phil Oler, musicians, Jimmy Douglas, clowns, spec, lighting, ring curbs, sound and ringmaster. The show will be presented under a Florida Tent Rental big top.

King Bros. jumped 176 miles from quarters to its opening stand at Brunswick, Ga. The Campa and Padilla families are very much in evidence there, as is Dave Knoderer who has a pony drill and menage act. Clown Alley is headed by Henry Whitman and show manager is Whitey Black.

WORD has it that Beatty-Cole played to sell-out crowds at Roanoke, Va, playing the Tanglewood Mall for four days. The promotion was handled by Dave Brechtel.

... M: L. DUPONT

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Letter

(The following letter was received just as this issue of Circus Report was about to go to press).

May 3, 1978

Dear Mr. Marcks:

Thanks for your continued interest regarding AB 2840. As you know, this bill was introduced to protect society and exotic cats from possible human injury due to improper restraints on these cats. In addition, I don't feel these cats should be caged in private residences, but should live in their natural habitat.

There are specific allowances included in AB 2840 for continued possession by current owners of cats and indefinite rights to ownership for public exhibitors and research institutions. AB 2840 also provides that circuses, zoos and animal parks will be allowed to continue exhibition and ownership of cats if they assure license and take proper care of the animals as determined by the Department of Fish and Game.

For your information, AB 2840 was heard in the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee on May 2 and passed out of committee with some amendments. This measure will now be reviewed by the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

IN MEMORY

OF

A GOOD FRIEND

ELOISE BERCHTOLD

..... Don Marcks

Thanks again for your comments.

Sincerely,

Henry J. Mello,

28th Assembly District

Assembly California Legislature

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

award winning SIEGFRIED & ROY will become the highest paid production act in the history of Vegas with a new long term, 5 figure pact. Meanwhile the Stardust tossed a party to welcome their returnees (lured from MGM GRAND and BACK to the Lido) by presenting them with a Rolls Royce!

The GILBERT MILLER Agency advises its "freelance acts" in fact ALL acts booked by that agency in the future that, due to inflationary increases in office expenses, they will require a 15% commission instead of the usual 10%. Such a move is understandable in these trying, economic times BUT . . . let's hope the Miller Agency, and other talent offices as well, escalate OUR salaries proportionately as inflation has hit US a helluva lot harder than it will EVER hit the Agents!

ODDS AND ENDS: JOANNE PINSON breaking a new group of huskie pups to add to her dog act . . . TRUDY STRONG hoping to ready her new Dalamation dog act for the '79 season so she and Bill can put the cradle act permanently into "dead storage" . . . Kudos to the Strongs for their very impressive AND effective "star wars" entrance for the Quasar act -- complete with robot, flash pots, space ship, alien characters and ray guns. . . KENYA, the Zoppe

Show Folks

The Zenobia Shrine Circus, produced by Sam T. Polack, at Toledo, Ohio (May 4-7) featured the following program:

Overture; Spec; Aerialetta; Pat Anthony; Miguel; Frank & Estrelita; Ethel Jennier; The Widgets; the Fulbrights; Clowns; Prince Najvez; Sandy's ponies; La Margarita, hair hang; Jo Ann and Sunny; Franco and web number; the Klementis; Clowns; the Diano elephants; the Vickinas; the Flying Espanas; and exit march.

Al Dawley was the ringmaster; William Browning was musical director; and Ron Kelroy was prop boss and general supt.

Chimp, is the most humanoid animal I've ever seen. . . is always loose, eats with silverware, takes her dishes to the sink, places refuse in the garbage, traps and untraps the pony, Windy totes hay to the horses, understands and OBEYS word commands, is toilet trained . . . is in fact, better behaved than most show kids, and far politer than are most adults!
See you down the road, luv.



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MAIL BAG

I couldn't decide whether to spit out my mouthful of Gallo wine, swallow it or shout my discpvery to the family. There on a page of the instruction manual for my new Minolta XG-7 Camera was a series of pictures demonstrating a motor driven attachment.

The subjects in the picture were me, my sister-in-law Jeanne, and our dog, Pal. Jeanne and I were assuming the position of a fence while Pal provided the action: Approach, take-off, docking (his toe nails into my back) and landing.

I wiped the spray of Rose off the page, "Look! Look! Remember last year we did that thing with Minolta in Japan for Paul Kaye?"

"Well, I'll be. . .What-a-ya-know. . .It doesn't look like you."

I showed it to my local camera store owner. He found a larger color cardboard display version of us and gave it to me. Oh, boy!

On another page is John (Smiley) Daly, Jr., attempting to upstage Ernie (Blinko) Burch; subsequently Blinko's rubber sledge-hammer persuading Daly to

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CROWD PLEASER

The Tripoli Temple Shrine Circus, presented at Green Bay, Wisc., on April 19-23 featured: The Circus Overture; Spec; Miss Elizabeth and Miss Lydia; Wild Animal Act; Miss Tina; Clowns; Pam's Poodles; Cimsie's wolfhounds and pomeranians; Aerial Ballet; the Great Lamberti and Los Argentinos; The Great Norbu; The Burkett's and The Pharoahs; Herman & Petunia; the Rodriguez Troupe.

After intermission were: The Flying Lar Rays; the Clowns; Roasires chimps; Johnny Luxem's Wheel; Martin, juggler; the Hortobagy! Troupe, teeterboard and the Bruski; Clowns; Roger's Arabian Riders; Joselito, high wire; The circus elephants and The Quassars, aerialists.

yield.

The pictures were posed and not part of our acts. They are really quality color shots..

So if you're in the market for a camera, remember, Minolta Corporation used circus people, but the pictures were all taken with Nikons!

..... Bonnie Moore

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ELOISE BERCHTOLD

Miss Berchtold was a resident trainer for the Toledo Zoo for 4 years (1962 to 1965). She had worked for Al Dobritch here in Toledo in 1962 for the Zenobia Temple Shrine Circus. Then she appeared with the Paramount Bear act.

The Toledo Zoo Wild Animal Show followed for the next 4 years, with Eloise presenting her cage act of lions, tigers, bears, horse and African Barbary sheep. The bear act and chimp act were also part of her routines.

Her first act at the zoo in 1962 was that of presenting the elephant "Koa" an African male which butted her off the stage twice in 1964 before he was retired to a cage in the zoo.

Eloise was a real veteran on many circuses, being with Ringling in the early 1960's, working with the Paul Kelly lions in Havana, Cuba, when they were there;

She started out in Macon, Ga., with the King-Cristiani Circus, even went to Alaska, South America and Africa during her career. This all took place during the years she was an attendant at the Cincinnati Zoo Children's Zoo, where she raised and cared for the animals. Three years later, after graduating from high school she went to Macon, Ga.

She appeared in numerous Shrine Circuses, for various producers all over the country. She left Toledo in 1965, going out west to a show and make her home there.

She joined Morgan Berry sometime later and worked 5 male elephants in addition to her cage act. Her bear act (leash) was still popular as one bear roller-skated in the act, and she presented "Zero" the polar bear, working on a leash.

I last saw Eloise and Morgan in Columbus, Ohio, about four years ago. They were featured in Klein's Attractions Continental Circus free show on the fair grounds. Eloise and I had been friends for a long time and it was nice to renew that long friendship once again.

Her tragic death came during a performance of the Gatini Circus at Rock Forest, Quebec on May 5th, when apparently she slipped and fell; and was thus trampled by the 13 year old "Teak" who then refused to allow anyone near her body. Finally local police killed the elephant with a high-powered gun.

Our Zenobia Shrine Circus was going on that day and a memorial display was setup near the back door. I hope that she heard the circus band, for I know the show gave it a little more than usual in her memory.

Cards can be sent to Eloise's mother (Mrs. Clifford, 7678 East Kemper Road, Cincinnati, Ohio). Flowers were sent to Woodland, Wash., where Eloise was to be buried.

Tour Facts

Owners of the new "Circus Girard" - Girard Soules and Steve Schumacher, have announced that their one-ring, European-style circus will debut on June 1st, at Albert Lea, Minn.

The show will be presented under a 60 x 90 ft. red and white striped big top (bale ring), made by Leaf of Sarasota. The center poles tower over the canvas 15 ft., supporting flags and a lighted Clown sign reading "Circus Girard". Seating is bleachers and European-style box seats. The tent is completely carpeted to allow for on the ground seating - capacity will be about 700 people. The circus will be carrying a unique main entrance trailer completely trimmed in chaser lights and circus banners.

On the midway, the show will feature a concession trailer, novelty stands, pony rides, elephant rides, and two old fashioned circus parade wagons - one a calliope wagon and the other a ticket wagon.

The performance will be featuring: Plate spinning, Gerry Girard; Miss Carol on the single trapeze; Dorothy Kelly's Dalmatians; The Great Girard, slack wire juggling; Hans Heinrichs, magic dolls; The Shane Trio, comedy acrobats; Schumacher's chimps; Maryse Begary, aerialist; Gerard Soules and his Poodles of Paris; The Wainwrights, trampoline; Paul and Dorothy Kelly's elephants, plus a Clown Alley consisting of: Billy McCabe, Corky the Clown and Russell Schumacher.

Bookings and promotions are being handled by Ed and Wilma Leary, who booked and promoted Holiday on Ice for seventeen years. Advance publicity will be handled by Miss Jean Sekovitch, who headed that department for Holiday On Ice for many years. The show will play shopping centers, with a 14 week tour anticipated.

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Eloise will go down in history as one of the best and most devoted circus trainers and friend of the animals, both wild and domesticated. To people she was also a good friend, I know, she was one of mine.

.... TOM HENRICKS

IN MEMORIAM

LEO GRUND, theatrical and booking agent, died on March 8th following a heart attack. For many years he operated the "International Attractions" out of New York City, which will be continued by his partner John Seaton.

ESTHER KIRK (81) retired circus and vaudeville performer, died on April 29 at Sheboygan, Wisc., after a long illness. She began as an aerialist doing trapeze and iron jaw with her husband and brothers. Later they became a family act known as the "Cycling Kirks."

ALFRED A. LIBERATORE (73) known as Al Libby, died on April 15 at Boston, Mass., following a heart attack. He had been a performer, appearing in vaudeville, as well as Ringling-Barnum and various night clubs. Survivors include his wife, Lillian, two daughters, a son and three brothers.

PETER MARCH (73) a menagerie supt. for Ringling-Barnum for several years, died on April 19 at Point Pleasant, N.J., after a long illness. After working for RBBB he was supt. of animals at the San Diego Zoo and then he toured with the Clyde Beatty Circus, retiring in 1968 due to ill health.

PEOPLE

KENZO TAKADA, fashion designer, produced a circus in Paris to assist him in showing off his latest fashions for women. The event was presented under a flowered big top with marching bands, bareback riders and other circus performers.

JOYCE and PIETRO CANESTRELLI visited the Carson & Barnes Circus enroute from a date in Lincoln, Nebr., to California.

WILLIAM HENRY (Harry) VILLEPONTEAUX (71) retired clown and trapeze performer, died on April 1st at Charleston, S. C. He spent 52 years in show business, appearing with Sparks, Hagenbeck-Wallace and other shows. At one time he jumped 14,000 ft. from a hot air balloon. After his show business career he worked for an oil company. Survivors include three brothers and four sisters.

FRANCES VOGES (57) an 826 lb. woman known in side shows and carnivals as "Baby Frances" died on May 6 at Tampa, Fla., of pneumonia and heart disease. She spent most of her life with side shows and carnivals and was hospitalized just three weeks ago.

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