



8th Year

September 24, 1979

Number 39

## Complaint About CNE

A member of the board of directors of the Canadian National Exhibition has charged the CNE used "questionable tactics" in shoving aside a small, struggling circus troupe, and allowing the Conklin Shows to offer a circus at the fair. Toronto Alderman Arthur Eggleton, a municipal representative on the CNE board says that Puck's Traveling Circus was treated unfairly by exhibition officials.

Mr. Eggleton said that CNE manager William Mallatratt had told him he did not know the Conklin Shows were planning to bring a circus to the exhibition. However, Ian Prue, the CNE's director of operations reports that CNE officials were aware of Conklin's plans to bring a circus in as early as last fall. The Conklin Shows planned and presented a circus as part of its Year of the Child exhibit.

In turning down a request from Puck's Traveling Circus that it be included in the 1979 exhibition, Mr.

### Notice

The horse show that has been having problems in Niagara Falls is not the "Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show" operated by Gary Lashinsky, of Florida.

The "Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show" has been operating successfully for 10 years, playing regularly in the U. S.

Mallatratt said in a letter last December that space and a proposed admission fee were two insurmountable barriers to allow the troupe at the CNE. It has been reported by those attending the fair that an admission fee was charged for the Conklin show.

Mr. Prue says that the CNE's general policy is that admissions must not be charged for exhibits. However, Conklin Shows, which

runs the exhibition midway is exempt, as are food and souvenir vendors and the Grandstand Show.

When Mr. Mallatratt discussed the issue, he said, "It got into a complicated situation. What we don't want is entrance fees after you get into the gate."

When he was reminded that

(Continued on Page 4)

**SPECIAL****VERY SUPERSTITIOUS Part 2**

. . . . by Mike Martin

The elements of wind, fire and rain and the resulting problems they can cause are the natural enemies of us who make our living traveling the roads that criss-cross this country.

Natural disasters - blowdowns, the holocausts of fire, the torrential downpours are taken in stride as part of the inevitable problems to be faced in the profession we have chosen.

More often than not, these natural dangers take a back seat in the superstitions which abound in the world of the circus. Circus people believe the old adage that accidents come in threes and after a first mishap all the performers, especially those tempting the fates with the more dangerous feats, become nervous and tense, awaiting the accident to come.

During the season of 1939, on the Ringling show, we have a good illustration of this superstition. On opening night, Rosello, who spun on his head seventy feet aloft, fell breaking both wrists. At the next stand, the Boston Garden, Fritz Barton, a high trap artist, snapped a leg.

The tension mounted daily as the performers waited for the final segment of our accident trilogy to happen. Another tragedy was inevitable as tempers grew short and performers more nervous and irritable. On July 24th, in Chicago, the tension was broken. A young aerialist, Ida Walkmir, who stood on her head at the apex of a 30 foot pole, crashed to the ring below, head first. The accident wasn't fatal, but Ida did spend the next six weeks in the hospital. The threes were over for the season, hopefully. And all returned to normal. Just coincidence you say. Well, maybe.

This Jinx doesn't always work the same. That is it doesn't just effect human performers. In 1940, on the Ringling show, world renown wild animal trainer Alfred Court was attacked by a leopard and in the farcass a costly snow leopard was killed.

**NAMES in the NEWS**

**THE ROLLING DIAMOND** skating act will work the November Shrine Circus at Worcester, Mass., then will join the Allan Hill Christmas show troupe.

**REX HORTON** and his bears opened with the "Paradise On Ice" show last week where the act is being featured in the performance.

**BANANAS**, the Clown, is running for City Councilman in Salt Lake City. He is having some trouble with the election board since he wants to be listed as Bananas and not by his real name of Les F. Johnson.

**JOHN WINN** broke a bone in his arm when he struck it against a pole while doing his high wire act on a show in the east.

**KEITH McCOIL** has been named vice president of operations for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World. He succeeds **RICHARD T. FABER** who resigned to pursue other business interests.

That was number one. Enroute to Utica, New York, in extremely hot weather, attendants forgot to open the side vents on the polar bear car, and four animals suffocated. At this same time, the seals were loaded on the wrong section of the train. Their trainer couldn't bathe them, and since they die when dehydrated, all eleven were lost. That made number two in the chain of events.

Later in the season, a fire broke out in the menagerie and killed seven tigers, three camels, and two large elephants. The Jinx left once again, having struck the prescribed three times. Naturally, all of these happenings can be explained away by carelessness or just plain fool-hardiness. After all, accidents do happen.

Whether or not you choose to believe in Jinxes, HooDoos, or Jonahs, the world of the circus is filled with many such coincidences that just can't be explained away. Skeptical? Try and argue the point of bad luck coming in threes with circus people. Just try!

**Notice**

There are occasions when it appears an advertiser is "ripping-off" readers of Circus Report.

If you find yourself in such a situation don't hesitate to talk to the Postal Inspectors in your city. They will want the name and address of the advertiser and the date of the ad you answered. They'll also want to know the amount of the purchase and be sure to take along a copy of your cancelled check. It is unfortunate that such ads do find their way into Circus Report and we are sorry that such people operate. But please don't delay, talk to your local Postal Inspector and file a claim right away - they will be happy to help you with your problem.

**NAMES in the NEWS**

**GOODWIN'S CHIMPS** will return to Showtime Follies after playing some fair dates in the East. Roger Goodwin had to leave the show earlier in the year due to a broken foot.

**AL** and **JOYCE VIDBEL** were at the Catskill Game Farm in New York for their second season, working there with the elephant act.

**TONY** and **IRIS (Keppo) POTTER** were visited by Mrs. Keppo and Raya Torreani while they were performing with Holiday Hippodrome at Columbia, S.C.

**DIETER TASSO** and **DAVE MERRIFIELD**, along with **JIM GROGAN** have been with the Tommy Bartlett Show in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., during the summer season.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: 415 - 525 - 3332.

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# Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Sept. 24-26 Fairmont, W. Va.

Bentley Bros. Circus  
Sept. 26-27 Topeka, Kansas  
29-30 Lawton, Okla.

Carson & Barnes Circus  
Sept. 24 Wooster, Ohio  
25 Millersburg  
26 Newark  
27 Wellston  
28 Hillsboro  
29 Covington, Ky.  
30 Paris

Circus Vargas  
Sept. 24-27 Galveston, Texas  
28-30 Beaumont

Firefighters Circus  
Sept. 27 Oklahoma City, Okla.

Great American Circus  
Sept. 24 Princeton, Ky.  
25 Benton  
26 Paris, Tenn.  
27 Milan  
28 Huntingdon  
29 Lexington  
30 Hehenwald

Happytime Circus  
to Sept. 30 Bakersfield, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
Sept. 25-26 Carbondale, Ill.  
28-30 Champaign

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Sept. 26-Oct 1 Salt Lake City, Utah

Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
Sept. 25 Boulder, Colo.  
26 Fort Collins  
27 Greeley  
28 Crete, Nebr.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus  
Sept. 26-30 Westminster, Colo.

Texas Shrine Circus  
Sept. 25-30 Austin, Texas

---- MAGIC ----

Tom Ogden, Magician  
Sept. 29-30 Atlanta, Ga.

Rivers the Magician  
Sept. 25-29 Orlando, Fla.

Voorheis Magic Circus  
Sept. 24 Petoskey, Mich.  
26 Kalkasha  
29 Ludington

Bugs Bunny Show

Sept. 27-30 Greenville, SC  
Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
Sept. 24-29 Anniston, Ala.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
Sept. 24-29 Tuscaloosa, Ala.

James H. Drew Exposition  
Sept. 24-29 Byron, Ga.

The Flintstones Show  
Sept. 25 Montgomery, Ala.

Great Danbury Fair  
Sep. 29-Oct. 8 Danbury, Conn.

Gutis Family - Comedy Act  
Sep. 29-Oct. 8 Danbury, Conn.

Holiday On Ice -  
Sept. 28-30 Norfolk, Va.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
Sept. 25-30 Cleveland, Ohio

Ice Capades - Western Unit  
Sept. 28-Oct. 7 Tulsa, Okla.

Kaye Hollywood Elephants  
Sept. 26-27 Topeka, Kans.  
29-30 Lawton, Okla.

Los Latinos - Wire Act  
Sept. 26-27 Topeka, Kans.  
29-30 Lawton, Okla.

Mighty Thomas Shows  
to Sep. 29 Fort Smith, Ark.

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show  
Sept. 28 Minot, N.D.

The Sikorskys - Juggling Act  
Sept. 29 Baltimore, Md.

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit  
Sept. 29-Oct. 4 La Crosse, Wsc

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit  
Sept. 29-Oct. 4 La Crosse, Wsc.

Angela Wilnow's Collies  
Sept. 25 Orlando, Fla.

26 Jacksonville Beach  
27 Panama City

28 Bessemer, Ala.  
29 Columbus, Miss.  
30 Pine Bluff, Ark.

## COMPLAINT ABOUT CNE (Cont'd)

Conklin Shows charged a fee for their circus, he replied, "The people from Puck's Circus are making a real nuisance of themselves. You're not getting the whole story."

Mr. Prue said that when Puck's Circus performed at the CNE in 1977, there were several problems, including a mess created by an elephant grazing on pavement, unsuitable housing for performers and a bill of \$3,405 that the CNE had to pick up for salaries and other expenses.

But, he added, the real problem is an admission fee. "If they came up with a sponsor and didn't have to charge an admission fee, I'm sure we'd entertain the idea of having Puck's Circus back."

When Puck's Circus appeared at the CNE in 1977 they had financial problems. They were helped out when the CNE picked up the bill and by the show operator's aggressive sales of soft drinks and souvenirs.

This year the show troupe had lined up General Foods as a sponsor who agreed to pick up the costs if the CNE would allow an admission charge. In lieu of money, children under 13 would have been admitted free with the presentation of empty soft drink packages.

When Mr. Eggleton intervened with CNE officials in July on behalf of Puck's Circus, the officials agreed to allow a small-scale traveling circus on the grounds, provided it was offered free. The small show was unable to find an additional sponsor at such a late date.

"I make no bones about it," Mr. Eggleton said. "I say it is questionable treatment."



I START OUT THIS WEEK's column by wishing my mother a Happy Birthday, which is this month. Many of my readers are well acquainted with MARGUERITTE BARTON who was active for many years as an aerialist and a horsewoman.

AT the top of the column I must go into another matter which will become more pressing over the next few months. Major developments are taking place in New York with my first mystery novel PAST MURDER IMPERFECT. I have also sold pieces to ELLERY QUEEN MYSTERY MAGAZINE. Consequently I am becoming more and more involved in my professional writing career and less involved with show business. By next season most appearances will be made solely in conjunction with the promotion of my book. I have promised to sustain this column as long as possible but with my activities keeping me at home I will be going into the field less to gather news and that means performers must start writing to me. This column was created for you. Over the years it has amassed a wide readership. If it is to continue it will depend on you, not me. My home address is R'D. 1, Shinham Road, Greencastle, Pa. - 17225, so stop procrastinating and WRITE !!!

SEVEN million dollars are being spent on the renovation of the Fairgrounds Coliseum at Detroit (and about time, too!). During a visit to the fair I took a look at the two million dollars worth of work which has already been done. The ceiling and girders have been painted white, new lighting installed, new chairs and new windows. A great improvement.

CLOSEUPS: FRANK and DORIS GALAMBOS are doing a motorcycle act (incline wire) which debuted at the EMMETT KELLY, JR. CIRCUS at the Du Quoin Fair. . . HAROLD BARNES came into Wayne with the Florida Tent Rental Unit and then dashed to Philly for his eldest daughter's

wedding - his youngest daughter is in Europe. . . Globe-trotting FRANK CURRY is off and zooming again - to Nashville, Chicago, L.A., Toronto, New York and Europe - not necessarily in that order. . . The DEL TERRES high wire act is reported not to be going with Vargas after all. . . CLIFF, meanwhile, has been to Europe and back - talent scouting. . . JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS arrived in Wayne for the Dobritch Circus after the second half had already started - they'd been delayed by a broken axle. Twenty minutes after they arrived they were in the ring! Sandy put them on to close the show. . . James is buying (has bought by now) MAFALDA a new trailer - but there's a hitch (no pun intended) - she has promised to Stop Smoking. . . WALT KING to EDDIE ZACCHINI FAIR DATES. . . The park was not sold after all and BARBARA put in a nightmare summer trying to run it with the help of her sons while Walt was on the road. Never again, sez she! . . . JOSELITO had only three days to jump from Magic Mountain in California to the Bentley opening date in Devon (Philly), Pa. . . GARDEN BROS. CIRCUS played the London (Ont) Fair for STU McCLELLAN. Date was formerly played by Castle. The GREAT VASHEK was one of the headliners. . . PAUL KAYE Elephants with the Bentley Circus. . . Those stories that the CUNEO white tiger spectacular will tour with Vargas in '80 are premature. The deal is off. . . The DROUGETTES are changing "their act" - the kids, Mario, Mauricio, Jr., and Mario's wife Wendy are forming a trio, and will be with a BILL GARDEN unit next season. Poppa Mauricio and Momma Julia may go on the road or may just stay home. . . GOLDIE ASHTON, drummer with the THRASHER BROS. renewed acquaintance with a number of circus performers during the Warwick (R.I.) Fair. . . TREVOR BALE underwent another operation (which I hope was

successful) and is recuperating in Florida. . . The GUTIS will play the Great Danbury Fair and this year's edition will mark finis to a grand old tradition (the fair, I mean). . . TOMMY HANNEFORD has taken possession of Circus Girard, tent, seats, etc. . . FLORIDA TENT RENTAL burned out TWO motors enroute to Wayne. . . Head Honcho WALT DAVIS says it has been a Hell of a year. . . Nothing but problems - rain, mud and breakdowns. . . MARLENE and ARTHUR GROTEFENT visited the Beatty-Cole show and the Dobritch Circus recently in Michigan. . . They may go back on the road next season.

YELLOW journalism reached its pinnacle with a National Enquirer story on MAE WEST, saying she is senile! How senile can the legendary star be when she is making commercials for Poland Spring Water. . . If that's senility pass the geritol, quick. . . LONI VAN VOORDEN and daughter BARBARA have already booked a heavy season of dates for 1980, including the M&M route, the Dobritch Int'l Circus route and other spot dates. . . Loni is learning to drive.

TRIPLE THREAT: Newest youngster to catch a consistent triple is 14 year old MIGUEL VASQUEZ. The Vasquez brothers started up their flying act only last season. It was rough but they worked hard and now have one of the best flying acts in the business. Filippe and Miguel will switch off doing the triple on the Castle tour next season and in that way they will save their shoulders. JULIANNA is practicing to go across and by the new season will be doing more than flashing the board and dropping bars.

SNAPSHOTS: Greetings to Miss Piggy and to Taco wherever you are (It's an in-joke, folks). . . JENNY WALLENDA has a new Western singing group she is touting, sez they're great.

EDITOR DON MARCKS was invit-

(Continued on Page 18)

## NAMES in the NEWS

J. D. RUSSELL, CFA of Akron, Oh., recently retired after 32 years of teaching music in the public schools.

WALLACE G. WINTER, of Bellingham, Wash., and founder of the ERNESTINE CLARK TENT, was the subject of a photo story in the Bellingham (Wash) Herald on Sept. 3rd.

DICK SLAYTON and ROLAND KAISER are the concession bosses on the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit.

SAD BUSTER, clown, worked the Shrine Circus dates at Beaumont (Aug. 31-Sept. 3) and Galveston (Sept. 5-6).

BRUCE ANDERSON, high sway pole performer, is recovering at home after a fall. Both of his legs are still in casts. (1420 No. Seward St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028).

JIMMIE and MILLIE, comedy juggling and balancing act, worked the Aug. 17th date at Mountain Park,

Holyoke, Mass., for the Stanley Home Products Co. and the Blue Hill Fair, at Blue Hills, Me., Sept. 1-3, with the ROLLING DIAMONDS (roller skating act), the SIKORSKYS jugglers, and NORMAN LAMBERT on the organ. Norman has been playing at the fair for 25 years. All acts were booked by the Al Martin Agency

THE GREAT MAYO, escape artist, recently worked a shopping mall date in North Hollywood, then jumped into Fresno, Calif. for a few days, and reports he has some Christmas dates already set.

ANTOINETTE CONCELLO, Ringling Barnum's aerial director, had her grand-daughter with her during the show's Southern California dates. The youngster is the daughter of RANDY CONCELLO, a Sarasota lawyer.

EDDIE HOWE and daughter KAREN were guests of the Ringling Red Unit at Fresno, Calif. Eddie reports the show did outstanding business at its Fresno stand.

## FOR SALE

"FIRST OF MAY" \$6.50 p.p. a new circus novel by Charlie Hill, a man who was there.

This is an exciting book about circus life. I couldn't put it down after starting it. True to life in a circus.

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## Miscellaneous

The Fresno (Calif.) Fire Dept. and the local auditorium have a rule which prohibits the use of flames and smoke in any act.

During the week of Aug. 20-25, some 10 high acts were performing at Daley Plaza in down town Chicago. The special show was produced by Dorothy Winn of the Fleckles Co.



# BILLY MARTIN

RINGMASTER / ANNOUNCER

103 RICHMOND AVENUE  
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OPEN FOR '80



## ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST

... by Hank and Mary Gaffney

With a reminder and style of yesterday's circus mud shows the "World Wide Jungle Wonders Circus" came for a one days circus performance stand on a very muddy lot in Georgetown, Colo., which is nestled high in the Rockies, elevation 8,507.

Your scribes, Hank and Mary Gaffney, both alumnus of the CFA Felix Adler Tent, and Buffalo Bill Tent No. 80, were on the local lot early the show date morning, Aug. 14th, to welcome the show folks and workers as they came on to the lot.

The Jungle Wonders Circus name was new in the Gaffney's circus title book but it did not take long for us to figure out that this organization had all the attributes of being one of the great shows on the road.

After the main tent went up, which is a 27 ft. side with a 40 ft. middle, we had the pleasure of chatting with

the show owner, John Davenport, who gave us some intimate details of the Jungle Wonders Circus. The show winters in Texas, and the show season started in Houston, on Feb. 10th. The show then followed with stands in Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, North Dakota and is now heading towards the Colorado western slope area, after which they will head for winter quarters in the sunny south.

It was our observation that John Davenport, not only owned the show but methodically directed the show's progress from the time it arrived on the lot to tear down. It is reputed that Davenport is the youngest circus owner (27) in the country, at the present time.

As we accompanied Captain Davenport on a tour of the show all performers had a hearty greeting for the young show owner, and we suspected that he not only had a lease on their hearts but a contract as well.

Show details are as follows:

Jack Carson - boss canvas man

Jack Goebell - show electrician  
Jean Goebell - concessions  
Til F. Taylor - circus publicity and promotional director, assistant.  
Max Tollinar - working front door and gate and doubling as advance bill poster.

Show line-up:

Ringmaster Buddy Manley, did an impressive job in announcing and playing music for the show on a mammoth organ - Note: An organ circus music concert is presented for audience before show time.

Lion act - by Lawrence Grant (splendid act) billed as Count Wolfgang Maxx with action all the way through

Aerial ladder act - Gloria Knowles

Web aerial act - Leola Gomez

Horse Act - Jack Fulbright featuring his trained wonder horses worked without reins.

Elephant act - presented by Captain John Terrill Davenport and consisting of Tommie, Boo and Jewel.

(Continued on Page 18-B)

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## CANADA'S CIRCUS

... by Art 'Doc' Miller

Americans seldom hear or know of French owned circuses, but the Quebec based Gatini Circus, has a wonderful European style performance and the equipment is transported on fine late model trucks, all carefully driven and lacking the usual banged-up and wired-on fenders, etc.

The seat plank trucks are neat and no kidding, planks are actually washed every morning.

Sorry I did not meet the boss canvasman, but for the second season's trouping, the canvas was in very good condition, with few cinder holes noted.

For the Americans in the audience, Giovanni Juliani (public relations) duplicated the ringmaster's French announcements in English.

All acts drew heavy applause and while I did not meet everyone, here is a partial list of artistes. Pierre Jean, Poco and Pico, Princess Lorraine, Roy and Patricia Wells, the Johnny Zoppe Family, Shappi-Shappi, Gee Gee Engesser, Vino Venito and Dante.

All wardrobe looked as new as opening date of the season and everyone

## FOR SALE

- 1 - 60' x 120' Rd. End Tent with 20 x 30 marquee.
- 1 - 60' x 120' Sq. End Tent, Blue & White. Good condition
- 1 - 80' x 110' Tent with sidewalls and poles. Fair condition, Blue
- 72' of new 7 high deluxe tubular steel seating. Aluminum seats and foot boards, guard rails, etc. Mfg. by Safeway Steel Products of Milwaukee) This is the type of seating used by seat rental companies.

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## Notice NEW ADDRESS

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## NOW BOOKING 1980

looked alert, contented and anxious to please the audience.

The date was a double treat for me, again seeing Gee Gee and I'm afraid I was responsible for her losing her 'Beauty Sleep' that night. We sure re-hashed show biz from her father's Schell Bros. to Bud Anderson's, on up to yesterday, half of the night.

By all means drive or fly to catch this marvelous European style one ring circus - I mean 'Cirque'.

new  
ARRIVALS

BIOLETTA CASTREJON, a baby girl born at Warren, Ohio, on Sept. 2, 1979, weighed in at 8½ lbs. Her parents are Arturo and Kay Castrejon. The father is a famed flying-return artist from Mexico and is currently with Ringling Red, as a member of the Flying Segre's Troupe.

## NAMES in the NEWS

THE KLEMENTIS, bicycle act, were featured in a full page story with color photos in the Gainesville, Fla., Sun on Aug. 19th.

CAS BOXLEY, LEE GRABEL and EARL WHEELER were among the prominent magicians seen at the an-



... From Dr. Strange

Enjoy your Circus Report very much with its circus and magic reports.

Any magician or circus performers passing through or visiting in Las Vegas are invited to attend the Darwin Magic Club which meets every Wednesday night from midnight to 4 a. m.

We meet in the lounge of the Royal Vegas Casino.

## SHOW

The Boyer Bros. Circus in miniature will be featured at this year's L. A. Street Scene, this carnival type event is held on the streets in downtown Los Angeles, in the vicinity of the City Hall.

It was a special project of Mayor Tom Brady, and was such a success last year, that it was decided to repeat it again this year. The dates will be Oct. 13 and 14th. Mr. Boyer claims to have the only winterquarters of a miniature circus in the Los Angeles area.

annual Oakland (Calif.) Magic Circle dinner and show contest last month.

ED RUSSELL, ringmaster, is recovering at home (1273 West 16th St., San Pedro, Calif. 90731) after having been ill for several weeks.

# 'JUNGLE LARRY' and 'SAFARI JANE'



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# REPORT

## TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC

..... by Don Sandman

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played the week of Aug. 29-Sept. 2 at the Florence Mall, Florence, Ky., just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati. The show looks great and its bandstand has the show name in lights across the top, with red and silver curtains surrounding the entranceway thru which the performers enter. The ring curbs are lighted although not at this date.

The show was presented 3 times each day as follows: Orchestral Introduction and serenade; Introduction of Mr. Circus 'Earl Tegge', entering thru a curtain in a puff of smoke; The Carlos Trio, perch (Carlos Obando, Brenda Galloway, Gary Baker); Pat Davison and Gwen, juggling; Grinn & Barrett, casting (Gary Baker and Vickie Hendricks); Tim 'Twinkles' Tegge, the clown, with his 5 second camera which takes weird photos. Music is provided by Louise Tegge at the organ with Tim on the drums.

The show has the usual color book pitch by Tim and at this date books and balloons really moved out, as a result the writer was pressed into service, while Carlos Obando and Louise Tegge kept the balloons blowing. Tim, Carol and the writer moved them out.

Also on this date, the 11th week for the show's tour, the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus Side Show presented two shows each day. This show featured Igor from Transylvania (Pat Davison) and Mdllse. LaFlameable (Brenda Galloway) fire eaters; Twinkles, the Magic Change Bag with assistance from a girl from the audience; The Sword Box with Miss Vickie, plus Igor and Twinkles. At other dates Tim also does vent with his side-kick Crisco.

During the run of the show Carlos injured his ankle and had to sit out a few performances.

The John Robinson/Loyal Repensky Tent CFA, from Cincinnati, had a cookout with the circus personnel on Sept. 1st. At the cookout a surprise Birthday Party was held for Earl Tegge

and the show's owner. Earl and the fans were then invited into the circus set at the mall for a presentation of the TNT & Royal Olympic Follies, a burlesque of the actual performance of the circus, presented by its personnel.

The Burlesque included: Music taped by the Flatfoot 5 Minus 3, all canned. Introduction of ringmaster Pat Egge, who as he stepped thru the curtain revealed the smoke had burned off his shirt and smudged his face. Dave Patrickson and Gwed, rola bola and juggling? (Vickie and Tim) as you no doubt guess the boy took the girl's part and vice-versus. The juggler was working with a mechanic. Twinkles the Clown (Brenda) with the Paper Bag Change Bag. The Ubangi Duo on the perch-less pole (Vickie and Gary) Oh, those warm-up gyrations. Twinkles returned to Toss the Coloring Book. Gin & Tonic (Carlos and Tim) casting trapeze and quilting. The finale with entire cast in Can Can. It was decided after the performance (which had fans and Earl and Louise rolling in the aisles) that all further such performances would be banned. After the buffoonery presents were opened by Earl in the center ring.

Fans seen at the circus were: Bill Lortz and Bob Timmel, of Louisville; Al and Jake Conover, of Xenia; Sherry, Andy and Jenny Kidwell, of Cincinnati; 'Smiley' and Ann Brewer, of Fairborn; Grace and Don Sandman,

and Angie Bowman, of Harrison.

Some highlights of the first 11 weeks of the show's tour included: CFA Secretary J. Allen Duffield visiting at Reading, Pa.; also former clown Henry Van Loone.

At Decatur, Ill., the show, an indoor circus, had a blowdown and flood. The show set up in a drained pool at the mall, during the night someone turned on the wrong water line and the show was flooded. Then during a storm the awning was torn off the camper of Gary and Vickie (thus the blowdown).

At Saginaw, Mich, the Fashion Square Mall, where they were showing, was papered like in the old days for the Beatty-Cole Circus, coming into town and playing just across from the mall just 5 days later. Bill Voorheis visited.

While playing at Florence, Tim Tegge visited the Enquirer Printing Co. and Harry Anderson was the show's guest a few times. Harry and John Anderson will be providing the show with paper for its next year's tour.

Tim Tegge gave this reporter the honor of announcing his engagement to Miss Gena Marie Stinnett, of Buena Park, Calif. Miss Stinnett is currently working with NBC in beautiful downtown Burbank, but after the Feb. 10, 1980 wedding aboard the Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif., she will tour with the TNT Circus.

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## Miscellaneous

The Liebel Family Circus reports they have just concluded a good summer season and are now looking forward to the fall and winter dates.

Leaf Tent & Sail, of Sarasota, recently delivered a 212 ft. x 350 ft. tent to TVW Enterprises in Australia. The top probably will be used during the upcoming Ringling tour in that country.

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## MOBILE DATE

The Abba Temple Circus Circus was held Aug. 24-25, at the New Shrine Stadium in Mobile, Ala., and the circus was clobbered by rain on both days. The only thing that kept the date from being a complete blank, according to producer Bill Kay was the tremendous advance promotion work done by Promoter Kris Kenkel and his staff. As a result the engagement was a financial success at the box office.

For 1980, the show dates have been moved to October.

Acts appearing in the Mobile show were: DeLisa, aerial (Lisa Jordan);

the Vasquez Flyers; the Sonora Trio, aerial; the Cristiani's trampoline act; the Great Amando, juggling; the Morgan Ashton Troupe, risley; the Odd Family, knock-about; The Verdus on rolling globes; the Medro Sisters, acro; Roberta Kresk, sway pole; Roman Schmitt, elephants; Eca Schmitt, tigers; Joe Sherman, producing clown, with Dime Wilson & Co., Jody Jordan and "Bubba" Hastings.

Bill Pruyn was the musical director, Lee Pruyn was at the organ, Dave Pruyn handled drums, and Bob Medford was the announcer.

Val Antonette had concessions, while Johnny and Patsy Jordan were on hand assisting Bill Kay. Louis Dtern (long-time Polack show owner) was a guest of Bill Kay.

## WASHINGTON TUBBS II





SWAN BROS. CIRCUS

... by Gladys K. Olson

The only two man circus in America played to standing room only crowds under the big top at the San Bernadino County Fair (Victorville, Calif.) on Aug. 21-26.

Zippy, the white face clown wore baggy pants, brightly striped suspenders and magic-carpet style slippers. Hi-Tops wore a patched top hat with his traditional tramp trappings.

At the Friday 4 p.m. show, Ziggy and Hi-Tops were able to establish rapport with the audience even before the blast of the whistle started the show. Zippy kept the eager crowd amused and cooled by testing the distance his spray bottle would shoot. Even back row spectators were refreshed by squirts which were able to reach that far back. Hi-Tops nonchalantly arranged and tested the props.

Act 1 - Judicious Juggleries - Zealous Zippy Boddy Bobbing Bowling Balls.

Act 2 - Telling the Tale of William Tell - Zany Zippy and Hapless Hi-

Tops Baffled by Bouncing Balloons and the Haphazard Hat.

Act 3 - Precarious Prestigitation Production - Thirteen Badgering Blades Bombard Hardy Hi-Tops Tightly Tucked in the Magic Box.

Act 4 - Candid Canine Contortions - Toby the Wonder Dog Teases his Trainer, Amuses his Audience, as he Yaws and Yawns.

Act 5 - Tantalizing Trapeze Tactics - Hyper Hi-Tops Hangs and Twists high above the Timorous Throng.

Act 6 - Super Dog's Superlative Doings - Faster than the Speed of Sound, Talented Toby Leaps from Leaning Ladder to Adept Arms of Handsome and Tranquil Hi-Tops.

Andy (Zippy) and Mike (Hi-Tops) worked for a time in small tent shows throughout the central section of the United States. About five years ago they started Swan Bros. Circus in Sacramento, Calif. At first the price of admission was one can of food. This helped to prevent an empty ladder. Sometimes parents of the children who attended the circus would invite the talented young men to their

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## In Memoriam

**JACK ALLEN (72)** well-known novelty man who worked fairs, rodeos and circuses, died in July at Yuba City, Calif. Burial was at nearby Sutter, Calif.

**MICKEY ROSE**, novelty man with Polack Bros. Circus Eastern Unit during the 1950's, died in July at Fairfield, Calif.

homes for dinner. And Swan Bros. was on its way.

Andy and Mike are available for fairs, promotions, malls and parties. Watch for them in your neighborhood. You will be impressed with their fresh creativity.

## By Crane



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**Our Topeka office manager is: Charles Geller**

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**One good experienced promoter capable of handling a large city with an excellent sponsor, who can also run both day and night operation. Contact Mr. Geller immediately and be prepared, if accepted, to work this particular city from now through Jan. 20th, with time off for the Christmas Holidays. You must be able to provide super excellent references that can be checked immediately.**

**We also need one capable contracting agent who can book law enforcement and fire fighter dates with phones. Remuneration and % with gross will be discussed with the right party. Must be prepared to go to work immediately with a good automobile and the best of references.**

# MAGIC

... by PROF. STU MILLER

On Aug. 31st to Sept. 3rd, the Witch City Assembly of the SAM held its first convention in Boston. The all star show featured: Al DeLage, of NJ, Paul Gertner, of Pittsburgh, Gen. Grant of Boston, The Gustalphsons, of Philadelphia, Bob Porter, of Mass., and Jay Marshall, of Chicago. Al DeLage was working alone since his wife, Margaret, fell and broke her arm recently while grooming some of her award winning crchids.

Larry Weeks was on hand, just returning from producing a series of shows in Bermuda. Upon returning he discovered the Diplomat Hotel (where his next convention was to be held) had been sold, so his convention has been cancelled for the present.

Word from NYC says the Richiardi show did not go to Israel but is due to open soon in Vegas, with Vincent Price.

Radio City Music Hall has gone to an all live show policy. The current spectacular production "A New York Summer" rivals anything Vegas or Reno has to offer and is a must to see if you are in the "big apple."

A recent stop over at the New Yorker Trailer City in NJ also found Floyd Bradbury of Holiday Hippodrome and Hines Rucker, of Int'l All Star Circus both heading for New England, as we were. Later on we spent some time at Poplar's trailer park in Elkhart, where there are always some performers stopping over. The owners, Ray and Susie Reas are great people and very friendly to acts.

We caught the Blackstone show in Toledo and Harry Jr. reports he will open in NYC in March 1980, and is then going to Europe.

We showed Gowanda, NY, recently with Magic Time USA, in the Hollywood Theatre, an old Legit house. It is sure nice to see these old places still operating. North American Productions had a film crew there doing footage on the show which will be made into a video-tape to be used in booking for next year.

Recent visitors to Magic Time USA have been Johnny Canole, Hoxie Tucker and Ward Hall. We have caught several tent shows this year and most of them had magic acts. George Rowe is with Roberts Bros., Phil Chandler with Carson & Barnes and Jim Royal is with Hoxie. Phil Chandler will be doing Allan Hill's Christmas dates and Joe Smiley will be doing Bill Hill's Christmas dates.

My wife, Sara, was in Mexico City recently on a business and pleasure trip and caught Chen-Kai starring in the review at the Hilton Hotel.

Word has it that the Felds plan to do a TV special around Siegfried and Roy and then will tour an arean show starring the team.

Roy Huston is slated to be in the last show to take place in the Masonic Temple at Rochester, NY, which is scheduled to be torn down.

Showgirl Sherry Copas and clown Richard Roderigues will be with the winter tour of Magic Time USA which starts in Chicago, then moves west to Montana, ND, SD, Nebraska and Colorado before doing our regular run in the east.

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# MAILBAG

... from Bill Golden

I have read a recent article in one of your columns indicating that the Carden-Johnson elephants Mary, Sue and Margie were grazing in a freshly sprayed field before they died.

It seems that whenever a tragedy like this happens everyone that wasn't there becomes an expert in the cause and prevention and forms their own opinion about something they know nothing about.

The facts are that the elephants were never allowed to graze anywhere unless it was thoroughly checked before hand; if there was the slightest doubt as to whether the area had been sprayed or not, the elephants would be moved to a different location. They were fed and cared for by 'Tiny' Scott who had been doing so for ten years.

What happened we will never know as autopsies were never performed. We can only assume it was something they ate; whether it was given to them or they got ahold of something themselves will always remain a question. One thing is for sure, they did not die because of neglect.



## TROPICAL BIRD FANTASY

... by Richard C. Johnson

William Rodgers' Tropical Bird Fantasy played the Jackson Mall, in Jackson, Miss., on Aug. 27th thru Sept. 1st. The show was a hit. The people loved the show as they were seeing one of the top bird attractions in the world today.

Mr. Rodgers is not only a great showman but an equally gifted trainer. In his act he not only has several species of Macaws and Cockatoos, but also doves, a cat named Morris and a dog called Shalimar. Mr. Rodgers incorporates the dog and cat with the birds to perfection and it is an amazing act to watch.

After one of the shows I asked Bill what his schedule had been and he told me that he had played a mall in Biloxi, Miss., before playing in Jackson. From Jackson he goes to his home in Gibsonton, Fla, to complete the construction of a new 35 foot high A-frame building and a bird sanctuary which will open about the middle of September of this year. It will be called the "Pirates Treasure Cove" and is located on U. S. Highway 41 in Gibsonton, Fla. He will be raising and selling exotic birds.

Stop by William Rodgers' Pirates Treasure Cove and see the most beautiful performing tropical birds in the world.

## Show Report

Col. Bill Voorheis announced this week that his "under canvas" tour was one of the best ever.

The show owner was temporarily side tracked earlier in the season when he attempted to work several indoor dates for another producer. One of these dates was played on the parking lot of a large Michigan chain and resulted in his being invited to do the entire state for them. Unable to accept all of the dates, because of his sponsored dates, Voorheis added six of the dates to his route and he has been invited to play the entire chain next year.

The fall indoor tour opens today (Sept. 24), a date he has had for nine consecutive years. Signed for the big tour are: The Rolling Diamonds, Martin Lambertini, Marina Neilsen, Jon Danacheck, Wayne Owens "Peanuts" the clown, Larry Morse, 3' 5" mini-magician, talented newcomer Miss Ruth Wood, singer and assistant to "The Amazing Byron" magician and illusionist. The show has live music and this year will use an auditorium seating concept in addition to the usual bleachers. Only one ring will be used and each act will be featured separately. Lighting and drapes have been added with portable stage rigging to be acquired.

Most dates will offer only one night performance due to the new enlarged format. The publicity is slightly different, with large banners displayed in many prominent downtown stores. These were created especially for the

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### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

ted to Ringling Red while it was in the Bay Area by TIM HOLST and says his treatment was Royal Red Carpet all the way. He visited with WALLY NAGHTIN and many others and saw CLIFF VARGAS who was also visiting. Don Remarked that copies of CR were much in evidence and that at one point the grooms for the horse act were sitting around reading while their

ing while their horses stood unattended. . . And that's all for this week - have to save some of the news for the next issue.

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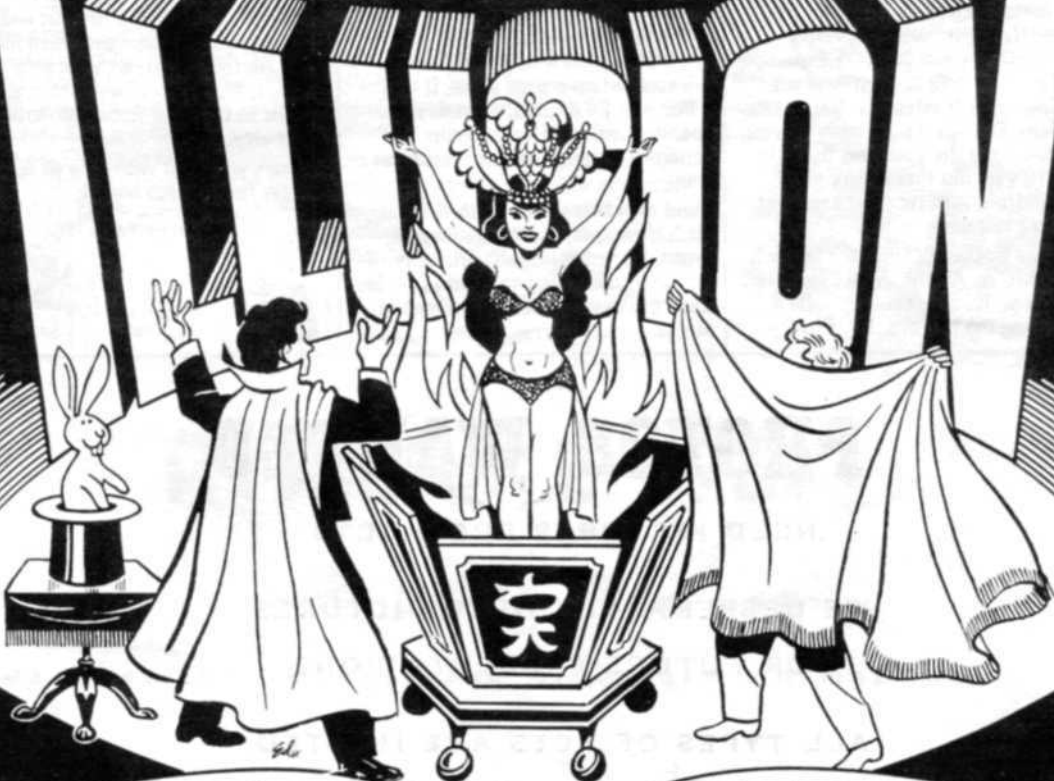
Voorheis claims the success of the summer tented show was due mainly to the new concept of his Magic Circus, combining the mysteries of the Orient with the thrills of the circus. Naturally, in this concept, Voorheis is able to use his talents as a seasoned veteran magician, who was exposed to magic at an early age and devoted many years to Gospel Magic, while travelling as an evangelist. As time permits he continues to spend more time in this pursuit.

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**REPORT****HANNEFORD CIRCUS**

... by Pat Bissonette

The Tommy Hanneford Aerial Thrill Circus was back for its second year as a Free Act at the Minnesota State Fair. Officers of the circus are Executive Director, Glenn Parkins and Executive Producer, Tommy Hanneford with Ernie McLean, ringmaster, and Keith Killinger, bandleader.

Five high acts were presented: Vashek, motorcycle; The Franconi Duo, double trap with two girls, Harry Mill's daughter and Senorita Espana; the Two Castro Bros, high wire act walking down frontwards. Next came the Four Flying Gaona's with 11 year old David and the youngest flyer, Julio, a 10 year old that is very good, the blindfold turn received excellent audience response.

Rossini's Rocket Car was the last act, a real thriller. At one show I saw the car land on its side, causing quite a stir among the patrons. Mr. Rossini

**Acts**

Acts working at the Atlantic National Exhibition in St. John, N. B., Canada, Aug. 27-Sept. 1 were:

My-Immba, baboons; The Madson Bros., Great Andre, comedy magic, Christopher James, wire; The Plunketts, trampoline and Bill McDonald, M.C.

Bookings were handled by the Better Booking Agency.

hobbled over with his cane to see if the driver, Clint Olson, was hurt.

All acts put on a good show, it was a hot day, 84 degrees, patrons responded with spirited applause and generous cheering upon act completion.

Band members were: Keith Killinger, leader/trumpet, Wanda Darlington, organ, Steve Lockwood, drummer. In fact their music was so good Ernie McLean broke out in song on a few pieces.

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST (Cont)**

Pony Liberty act - presented by Wanda Fulbright (first class).

Note: Refreshment time break in the middle of the program was used to promote elephant rides in the arena.

In conclusion, Jungle Wonders Circus is doing a tremendous job of presenting top grade circus performances in the small communities which are hungry for entertainment. These are the areas where the bigger shows do not dare to tread.

We hope in the future to meet and see more professional showmen like Captain Davenport, who are helping to meet the needs of our circus going public in the rural Rocky Mountain West area.

Closing with best wishes to all our tender foot friends back East.

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## Acts

Acts working with the Olympic Int'l Circus at Memphis, Tenn. for the Sept. 21-30 run include:

The Jeffries Troupe, Aerial Jennifers, Walt King's animals, Christopher James, the Flying Lar-Rays, Los Castros, Harry Phelps, Les Schmitt, Gary Strong and Keith Killinger.

Acts appearing at the Convention of Insurance Underwriters of South Florida & Carribbean, held at the Sarasota Hyatt House, Sept. 6-8 were:

Circus acts appeared on Sept. 6th at an 8 p.m. show. Goldfinger, Medro Twins, the Rhalfys, Erik Adams, Jr. the Hernandez Troupe, Randy & Sylvia, Rudolph Del Monte, Mr. Timmy, Alfredo Landon and Danny Chapman.

Acts were booked by Amandis Entertainment Service, Inc., with Helen Amandis on hand to oversee things. Bill Kay was the show announcer and

## FLASH

The annual Shrine Circus at Beaumont, Texas (Aug. 31-Sept. 3) was produced by the Peter Luvas family, with the tent set up on the parking lot of the Gibston's Discount Store.

Just prior to the opening day the show tent was blown down by strong winds and as a result the circus performances were presented in the open to satisfactory crowds.

When the show played for the Shrine Club at Galveston (Sept. 5-6) it had standing room only for the closing performance.



performance director; Finn Neilsen was prop boss and the circus band was directed by Billy McKosher.



## MAGIC CLUB DATE

... by Lloyd Jones

The Inter-club Competition and Annual Spaghetti Feed of the Oakland (Calif.) Magic Circle drew over 100 people who enjoyed a fine meal and then watched an interesting series of magic acts, presented by seven of the local clubs on Sept. 4th.

Winner of the trophy cup was Reece Jensen, Jr., representing I.B.M. Ring 218. Billed as the Shaolin Warrior (a type of kung-fu) his posturing, music, silent presentation of a superb two ring linking routine and closing with an Asrah presentation made him the unanimous choice of the judges. His assistant, Shari Crockett - WOW!

Runners-up were Chuck Amaral representing I.B.M. Ring 38 and Hank Vitek of the Mystic 13 of San Jose. Two other acts were "average" while the other two should have stayed at home.

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# MAI-BAG

... from JOE WIEBUSH

We have just gotten back from our most successful Tent Troupe tour ever - our 10th anniversary. New records were set for attendance and the season was successful by any measure.

Since you seem to be interested in everything that goes on in the tented entertainment world, I wanted to share with you a most enjoyable experience that came our way this summer, which involved a group that was new to me, at least.

Thursday, July 19th, Tent Troupe was playing a one day stand in Jackson, Mich. We were visited by Harold Rosier, who with the Rosier Players was playing a one week stand in near-by Addison. Upon his generous invitation, Pastor David and members of the Tent Troupe staff visited the Rosier Show lot, for a most enjoyable tour under the auspices of Harold and Waunetta Rosier. Here was Americana in its purest form - an old dramatic theatrical company - a rep show with a true turn of the century flavor.

The Rosier Players are the successors to the Henderson Stock Co., which was founded by Richard Henderson in 1898. The show has been in continuous operation since that time - a remarkable record. Harold joined the show in 1934, and bought it after the death of Mr. Henderson. The show has been under canvas since 1965, having formerly played in traditional opera houses (by 1965, these were getting scarce!). The show takes pride in presenting the old plays as they were presented a half century ago. Harold is still active in the traditional 'Toby' roles - and indeed has been pronounced by Joe McKennon as "the greatest Toby of them all."

The show operates with local sponsors

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and local publicity which relies strongly on handbills, flyers and such. The show moves on three immaculate, vintage 1936 Dodge trucks, with trailers - all freshly painted in a bright red, white and blue motif. The tent is also a quarter century old, and in remarkably splendid condition. It is a push pole type, with a proscenium stage and comfortable chair seating for about 800. A colorful marquee announces "The Rosier Players; 3 act plays; vaudeville: America's Last Old Time Tent Theatre."

The show is under the direction of G. L. Blanchard. A five piece concert band is featured, with sing-alongs. The actors are students of Jackson Community College. Indeed, since September 1976 when the show was donated by the Rosiers to the Drama Dept. of the college, the show has toured Michigan each summer, producing American Folk Theatre. Truly a novel tent show.

The show, which is now essentially a student operation, except for the Rosiers, and a few staff members, sets up on Mondays, shows daily, Tuesday through Saturdays, with a different show each night, and then moves over the weekend. Show personnel live in trailers on the lot during the season.

## REPORT

### SUPER CIRCUS

The Super Circus at Canada's C.N.E. was sponsored by the Dominion with the Conklin Shows and operated with Sergei Sawcy as producer and Elek Sebestyn as consultant and performance director.

The show was produced European-style in a one ring tent. There were two show units, each presenting three shows per day on an alternating basis. The program ran about 45 minutes and audience and local media response was very good.

A three piece band backed the show and special lighting was set up for the performances.

The Yellow Unit featured Elek Sebestyn, announcer; Frank Magyarosi, cat act; The Beran Duo, balancing; Young Troupe, teeterboard; Ruthanna, trapeze; Barbara Tata, elephants.

The White Unit featured Ruth Sebestyn, announcer; Wini McKay, trapeze; the Juggling Jewels, juggling; Rick O'Shea and Tom BoLeon, The Trampoline Guys; Chester Cable, foot juggler; Elek Sebestyn and His Gang (dogs). The prop changes were covered by Roger Prysanski as Rumpey the Clown and was done with a European flavor.

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**Acts**

Acts appearing at the Columbia Co. Fair, the oldest fair in New York, were: Joie Chitwood's Thrill Show, Stoney Robert's Demolition Derby; Smokey Warren Country band, and Ritchies Puppets.

Appearing on the grandstand show at the fair were: Myron Floren, accordion star from the Lawrence Welk Show; Alexander's Dogs; Bonnie & Clyde, musical comedy; Billy Earl and Henrietta, vent; and Col. Seabright, sway pole.

Acts featured at the Bethlehem Fair on Sept. 8-9 were: The Walters, balancing act; Bonnie & Clyde, musical comedy and Billy Earl and Henrietta, vent act.

Acts working in the Catskill area of New York this summer were: Ann and John Spitzer (sister and brother act) with rolling globes and unicycle. After the Catskill Park date they were scheduled for independent dates in New England.

Acts working at Old Country, Busch Gardens, in Williamsburg, Pa., for the summer season were: Moore's Mongrel Revue; DeMille, tight wire; Moore's Comedy Mule and the Pietro Cannestrelli Family, teeterboard. Ray Hartzell is the show's musician and announcer.

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**HOTLINE****ELEPHANT DEATHS**

**BINGO**, an Asian elephant owned by the school children of Lansing, Mich., and kept at the Potter Park Zoo, died after undergoing surgery on Aug. 14th.

She had a habit of eating foreign objects and in mid-June gulped down a large stone that became lodged in her throat, which had to be removed surgically. Bingo's chances of surviving were called slim as she had to be fed through a tube. However, she fought off a secondary infection, but doctors "theorize the scar tissue from the operation contributed to the cause of her death."

**SNOOKS**, an Asian elephant at the

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San Diego Zoo died on Aug. 31st, after being pushed into a moat by another elephant, while the two were rough-housing.

She arrived at the zoo as a baby in 1960, and apparently died almost instantly of asphyxiation after being wedged in the moat. It is believed she suffered some trauma as a result of the fall and that her weight helped to crush her lungs.



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