



7th Year

September 25, 1978

Number 39

Tragedy Averted

(Special to The Circus Report by Clayton Wood)

Tragedy was averted on Sunday, Aug. 27th on the Ringling Red Unit in Madison, Wisc., by the quick action of Charlie Smith, train master and his crew.

At 5:30 a.m., Smith received a call that a building next to the siding where a string of 27 circus coaches were spotted, was on fire. Smith arrived at the scene and found the Struck and Irwin warehouse at 302 South Paterson St., was engulfed in flames.

The coaches were on the Milwaukee tracks and could be pulled away only in one direction. Smith called for a locomotive crew, then in the meantime started to pull the coaches away with a show truck. It was only possible to move one or two cars at a time with the truck. The reason for the one direction pull was caused by hoses and fire equipment which were across the tracks. Ten cars of the show train were spotted on another track and therefore were not involved.

Smith said it took considerable time to move the 27 coaches by truck and before the move could be completed sixty panes of glass in the cars broke from the intense heat. Some of the aluminum plates on the outside of the cars warped.

Coaches number 51 and 52 were the only

ones receiving damage. One coach housed Bulgarian performers and the other concession people. No damage was done to the interior of the cars.

In spite of the fact that Struck and Irwin is an asphalt company and the tar and other supplies caused intense black smoke, the wind

(Continued on Page 17)

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YEARS AGO

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Tom Mix Circus

The Tom Mix Circus arrived here about 7:40 a.m. coming in from Stockton. The show is all trucks and trailers, with trucks painted red. The trailers are all white with red lettering and all are built alike. In all there are 90 units.

They have 15 tents - 4 pole big top, with 20 long quarter poles, 34 short quarter poles and 52 side poles. The top is 135' with three 50' middles. The menagerie has 5 center poles, and three 40' middle sections.

The Side Show is an open front tent with 14 center poles, 12 banners, a bally stand, 3 ticket boxes; the Cookhouse has 5 center poles and 16 tables. There are 4 small tents, plus two candy stands, Tom Mix's private top and the marquee.

In the menagerie are 36 horses, 10 ponies, an elephant, six cages - lion, tiger, two bears, two parrots, mountain lion, monkey, lion, a candy stand and a Ford Motor Co. display.

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Fair Date

The Bauer-Hall Int'l Circus, which appeared at the Michigan State Fair (Detroit) Aug. 25-Sept. 4, was sponsored in part by the Kowalski Sausage Co. and gave 33 performances in eleven days. Shows were at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. and no performances were missed.

The circus attracted the largest crowds of any circus attraction playing the fair in recent years, with packed and turnaway houses at every performance, due a great deal to the publicity stunts and TV guest shots by Co-Co and Coconut.

Co-producer William B. Hall was on hand for the opening and closing days.



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SHOW DATES**Beatty-Cole Circus**

Sep. 25-27 Richmond, Ind.

28-Oct. 1 Lima, Ohio

Oct. 2-4 Springfield

Bentley Bros. Circus

Sep. 30-Oct. 1 Johnstown, Pa.

Circus Vargas

Sep. 25-27 Pueblo, Colo.

29-Oct 2 Wichita, Kans.

Happytime Circus

to Sep. 30 Bakersfield, Calif.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep. 25 Valdosta, Ga.

26 Tallahassee, Fla.

27 Panama City

28 Ft. Walton Beach

29-30 Pensacola

Oct. 1 Milton

Wm. Kay Circus

Sep. 30-Oct. 1 Jacksonville, Fla

Lin-Rich Animal Circus

Sep 26-Oct 1 Chattanooga, Tenn

Ringling-Barnum - Blue UnitSep 27-Oct 2 Salt Lake City,
Utah**Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit**

Sep 26-Oct 1 Indianapolis, Ind

Roberts Bros. Circus

Sep. 25 Ellaville, Ga.

26 Richland

27 Edison

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Sep. 25 Denver, Colo.

26 Boulder

27 Fort Collins

28 Greeley,

29 Crete, Nebr.

Shrine Circuses

Sep. 26-Oct. 1 Austin, Texas

26-27 Eugene, Oregon

29-30 Kennewick, Wash,

29-30 Sacramento, Calif

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Sep. 26-28 Marshalltown, Iowa

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--- OTHER DATES ---

Al's Lemon-Zeen Comedy Car

Sep 29-Oct 8 Tulsa, Okla.

Blackstone, Jr. - Magic Show

Sep 26-Oct 1 St. Louis, Mo.

Vince Carmen's Magic Show

Sep. 27 Durango, Colo.

28 Cortez

29 Montrose

30 Grand Junction

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

Sep. 25-30 Anniston, Ala.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

Sep. 25-30 Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Collector's Car Show

Sep. 29-30 Edmonton, Alberta

James H. Drew Expo Shows

Sep. 25-30 Byron, Ga.

Holiday On Ice

Sep. 27-Oct 2 Landover, Md.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit

Sep 26-Oct 1 Cleveland, Ohio

Ice Capades - Western Unit

Sep 29-Oct 4 Tulsa, Okla.

Kaye's Hollywood Elephants

Sep 30-Oct 1 Johnstown, Pa

Kornelly Marionettes

Sep. 27-30 Muncy, Pa.

Lipko's Comedy Chimps

Sep 30-Oct 9 Danbury, Conn

Los Latinos - wire act

Sep 26-Oct 1 Austin, Texas

Magic Time USA - Pf. Miller

Sep. 27 Logan, Utah



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Sep. 29 Kansas City, Mo.

Rodger's Tropical Birds

Sep 29-Oct 9 Danbury, Conn

Royal American Shows

Sep 29-Oct 8 Little Rock, Ark

Sells Bros. Top - Convention

Sep. 29-30 Springfield, Ohio

The Sikorsky's - Jugglers

Sep 30-Oct 1 Columbia, Md

Tip Top Shows

Sep 30-Oct 5 LaCrosse, Wisc.

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ART BARRETT has developed a great new circus color book, designed by GEORGE DA DEPPO, which is extremely well turned out and features the added gimmick of an iron-on T-shirt decal bearing the likeness of the clown illustrated on the cover. The decal is an insert and the vendors who display the item during the book pitch wear T-shirts with the decal as well as large buttons with the same design. The new books will be seen at the Kansas City Shrine date (promoted annually by HENRY BARRETT) where the committee has ordered 25,000 books and decals. The books will next be seen at the Saginaw and Flint Shrine dates in January.

The notion that off-springs of certain famous circus families do not follow in those illustrious footsteps, or do not adhere to the old discipline, or attempt the really great tricks and routines, is further dispelled by young JAMES ZOPPE who is one of the most outstanding young bareback riders seen in years. Not only is the young man a peerless rider, he is a beautiful one, with uncanny balance, superb form and style. He stands back on the horse's rump where he belongs, up on the balls of his feet, handles his body with the grace of a ballet dancer, and lands from pirouettes, leaps, jerks and somersaults as lightly as a falling leaf.

Jimmy made his debut this year with his own troupe and his first year out has not been without its problems. His brother, JODY, broke his leg in a car accident, and Jimmy's wife, MALFALDA, became pregnant (they expect their baby in October) and he has had headaches with a lame horse. By next season all that will be behind him. His wife and brother will be back in action, Jimmy is buying two more horses (giving the act a total of 5), and he has acquired the famous BRRIN DAVENPORT riding act mat, sold to him by CHUCK MARINE. The troupe opens its '79 season in Rochester for Gracie and Chuck, plans to spotdate rather than take a season so they can better showcase the act and become known more quickly. In addition to featuring a somersault through the hoop on a single horse, Jimmy also does an excellent back from horse-to-horse (galloping NOT trotting), and closes with an exciting series of leaps thru huge chrome hoops set at two points in the ring standing atop a fast, finish horse which leaps low hurdles. So . . . keep your eye on the new JAMES ZOPPE RIDERS, they're slated for Big Things!

PHIL and LINDA CHANDLER, ALBERT RIX and WALT KING are among the acts who filled in for the Hanneford Circus at the Americana Park in Middletown, Ohio when that show departed early to make its regular fall route. WALT KING has sold his Animaland Park (near Detroit) and has also disposed of

the wild animal act purchased from HARRIETT BEATTY. Rumors are the act was sold to the JEF-FRIES, currently with Gatini No. 2 Unit.

LOLLY and LINDA ZACCHINI, who were injured, almost fatally, in cannon mishaps on Ringling a number of years ago, and who retired afterwards, are now back in the swing of things. They were seen on the midway of the Michigan State Fair with games and report they've had a very good season. Also seen on the midway were IONE STEVENS and DONNY Mac INTOSH with four novelty joints. One of the stands was presided over by (Ms) JERRY PRESSLEY. Jerry once worked in the FLO MacINTOSH wire act along with TOMMY BENTLEY, GRACIE MacINTOSH, and the late SYLVIA GREGORY. Jerry now resides in Las Vegas, says there seems to be almost as many circus folks in the desert spa as there are in Sarasota!

SNAPSHOTS: CHARLIE SCHLARBAUM has signed to repeat the Garden Bros. Circus tour in '79 . . . ALBERTO ZOPPE and family are playing malls around Toronto with their own small circus unit . . . LOUIS STERN underwent an operation for cataracts in Albany (NY) in late July. . . MARTIN LAMBERTI Jr. will spotdate Castle in '79. . . Prominent, informed sources reveal the rumors that Castle lost Grand Rapids are NOT so. . . But, Milwaukee, recently produced by FLECKLES, has reportedly gone to CARDEN JOHNSON. . . IRENE and TONY FOSSETT will be with Castle next season. . . REX YOUNG appeared at the grandstand at the Mich. State Fair with the "Thundercycles", reports his new comedy cannon creation, built on an old bucking Ford, has been very successful. Rex and Sandy are now on the Texas dates, visited the Hanneford Circus prior to leaving for Texas when that show played Rex and Sandy's home town of Holland (Mich). . . An Insurance Commercial is using a quick shot of the FLYING LANES shot under the Circus Vargas big top. . . Some of the acts to be seen at the Monaco Circusfest includes the MULLENS, a chimp act from Holland; BRIAN FAWCETT Chimps from the USA. . . Ringling Red hits Detroit Oct. 4-15. . . Look for the Kool Aid Circus to increase its fair route in '79. . . GEORGE BARREDA and brother JOSELITO have signed some M&M dates . . . BAUER-HALL booked MARGARET (Ayala) MICHELLE (hair suspension) on Ringling Red for '79. . . CO CO the English stilt-walker, lost the organist he was scheduled to bring in to the Kildeeland Circus at the Detroit fair when the musician (at the last minute) said his religion prohibited his playing for circuses! Co Co and Hazel had to scrounge for a local organist toute-suite.

(Continued on Page 16)

WANTED

BIG JOHN STRONG'S CIRCUS

by George N. Bukota

Big John said both he and his circus are in the best shape they've been in for years. Big John played the small Eastern Washington town of Sunnyside, Sept. 2nd, before making a long jump (250 miles) to Vancouver, Wash.

Strong said he did turnaway business earlier in Hermiton, Ore., before playing to three good-sized audiences for the Sunnyside Police Guild.

"My show is in the best financial shape it's been in for years," Strong said. "We paid all our back taxes last July. This has been a tremendous season for us - we're in our best financial shape ever. In the first seven weeks this season, we made as much as we did

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last year in 30 weeks."

He attributes much of that success to what he called "really excellent advance work" by Robert Johnson and, earlier in the season, by Strong's son Johnny.

Strong is also doing much better physically. "I'm feeling great since starting insulin treatments for my diabetes," he said.

Among the most obviously improved aspects of Big John Strong's Circus is the expanded clown alley. Under the direction of producing clown Don "Poco" Young, the alley includes: John "Pete Moss" Mc Guire; Chris "Crisco Shorts" Kennington and Roll-ick "Alphonse" Griep. The clowns have six bits throughout the performance - three handled solo by Poco.

From Vancouver, Wash., the John Strong Circus will move north for British Columbia dates, then turns south.

The circus program included: Pre-opening elephant rides; Clown Band with Poco, Crisco Shorts and Pete Moss; Big John Strong's entrance; The Balancing Bickmores (Wally, Czigi and 3 year old Tasca Bickmore, and Terrell Morgan Strong) risley and juggling; Christine Burrell, Spanish web; Bill Schreiber's liberty ponies; Poco and his clown mini-van; Sandra Strong's trained birds; Alphonse and Pete Moss, the clown boxing gag; Bill Schreiber and Sandra Strong, trained dogs; Poco and his clown dog, Blue; Nicole Morgan Strong, swinging ladder; Pete Moss and Crisco Shorts, clown balloon gag; Intermission with a coloring book pitch; The Acro-Bics, revolving ladder; Poco and comedy kitchen juggling; Swami Amazo, fire eating, sword swallowing and magic; Chris Burrell and Bill Schreiber, with Neena the elephant.

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Flash!

News stories originating from Crawfordsville, Ind., report a circus lion tore an arm off a 4 year old boy either just before or shortly after the performance started. The accident occurred on the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus on Sept. 5th. The youngster was rushed to a local hospital and then transferred to a Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. The boy also suffered cuts on his face and other arm.

According to a police report the boy arrived for the 4:30 p.m. performance with his mother, Mrs. Vicky Spencer, an older sister, Angela (7) and an infant sister.

They were walking along towards their seats when Mrs. Spencer, who was carrying the baby, heard her daughter say, "No Sean," she turned around and saw the lion had her son's arm in its mouth.

The animal was behind bars, but a protective screen was down at the time. The boy apparently thrust his arm between the bars. His severed arm was packed in ice by circus employees, but doctors at the hospital said they were unable to attach it.

A circus employee said the youngster came down out of the seats and went to the cage before anyone could stop him. He went right by safety nets, they said, and put his hand into the cage.

PEOPLE

MILDRED and RUSS WARNER, who were missing from the circus lots this year, are sure their circus friends wondered where they were. The couple has been seriously ill throughout the summer and are only now starting to recover. They are looking forward to an active 1979 season.

BOB CORBIN, musician, was one of many acts who worked at the Kentucky State Fair last month.

DUTCH CRAWFORD with the elephants Bessie and Topsy, and BOB CLINE with the elephants Konit and Ola, shared the work of setting up and tear-down on the King Bros. Circus.

VINCE CARMEN will have his illusion act with the Royal Hanneford Circus when the show plays Knoxville, Ky., early in October.

JIM KERNAN, who had concessions with the MEL SILVERLAKE's Fisher Bros. Circus during the summer, is now working Flea Markets in Texas, and Mel is working fair dates.

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Flash!

An audience of some 4,000 people watched as a girl member of the Chinese Acrobats of Taiwan fell during a performance at the Western Fair in London, Ontario (Canada) on Sept. 11th.

The girl was balanced atop another members head and both were supported by a ladder balanced on a team mate's feet. The girl's fall was cushioned by other members of the troupe and she was unhurt. The other performer clung to the ladder until she could climb down.



The manager of the Contra Costa County Fair at Antioch, Calif., has been told by a California State official that he should resign. C. Larry Gately is under investigation for the second time in two years because of accounting procedures.

George Gomes, of the state agriculture department, said Gately's continued resistance to state accounting regulations could cause the state to withhold a good portion of its budget.

The first investigation of Gately came after a state audit disclosed mishandling of funds and improper payments to Gately's two sons for part-time work. However, at that time the district attorney concluded that criminal prosecution was not justified.

The current investigation was ordered after a state audit showed a lack of proper accounting of receipts from concessions and failure to comply with civil service and purchasing requirements.

It will take about two weeks to complete the investigation, officials said.

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IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH ORTH (66) an avid circus fan and a tool maker, died at Kenosha, Wisc., on Aug. 20th, after a bout with emphysema and cancer. Survivors include his wife, Eulalia.

TOMMY WINDSOR (Thomas Isaac Lowry) (72) a professional magician and inventor of magic tricks, died Sept. 2nd at Marietta, Ohio. He started entertaining when a teenager, worked on riverboats, in tent shows and then traveled with his late wife Dorothy (she died in 1971) as a team doing ventriloquism and illusions.

Windsor's specialty was comedy magic and entertaining children. He was an artist and worked with sand and rag pictures and wrote several books. In one year he was featured on the cover of five U.S. magazines.

Miscellaneous

The Big Apple Circus apparently closed sometime in the second half of August, rather than over the Labor Day weekend as scheduled. The early closing was blamed on poor attendance.

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MINSTRELS

A Chronological List of Black Minstrel Troupes - 1855 - 1890 -

(Only the first appearance of each troupe is listed. Since many toured for years, the list does not indicate how many black minstrels were touring in any given year).

Mocking Bird Minstrels - 1855-56 Philadelphia	
Alabama Slaves - 1856 Northeast	
Apollo Minstrels - 1857 Ohio	
Anon - 1858 New Hampshire	
Sam Pride's Minstrel Party - 1862 - San Francisco	
Anon - 1863 St. Louis	
Smallwood's Great Contraband Minstrels and Brass Band - 1865 Detroit	
Norton's Oriental Minstrels - 1865 New York	
Anon - 1865 Cincinnati	
Brooker and Clayton's Georgia Minstrels - 1865 Northeast	
Griffin and Rogers' Georgia Minstrels - 1866 Connecticut	
Lew Johnson's Minstrels - 1866 Chicago	
Georgia Minstrels and Brass Band - 1866	
Georgia Minstrel's Slave Troupe (Charles Hicks) - 1866 Rhode Island	
Charles Hicks' Original Georgia Minstrels - 1867 Northeast	
Hicks and Height's Georgia Minstrels - 1869	
Neal Moore's Minstrels - 1869 Lower South	
Anon - 1870 Boston	
Diamond and Wellington's Georgia Minstrels - 1870 Michigan	
Billy Anderson's Minstrels - 1870 Nebraska	
Georgia Quadroon Minstrels - 1870 New Jersey	
Davenport's Original and Only Georgia Minstrels - 1871 Northeast	
Marshall and Smith's Georgia Minstrels - 1871 Pennsylvania	
Original Georgia Minstrels - 1871 St. Louis	
Lew Johnson's Plantation Minstrels - 1871 Iowa	
Georgia Minstrels and Slave Troupe - 1871 Cincinnati	
Callender's Original Georgia Minstrels - 1872 Ohio	
Henry Hart's Alabama Minstrels - 1872 Indiana	
Charles Hick's African Minstrels - 1873	

Charles White's Great Troupe of Georgia Minstrels - 1873	
Emmett and Ripley's Georgia Minstrels - 1873	
Raynor's Georgia Minstrels - 1873	
Alabama Minstrels - 1873	
Louisiana Slave Troupe - 1873	
Hardman's African Minstrels - 1873	
Henry Hart's Colored Minstrels - 1874 Indiana	
Harry Davis' Alabama's - 1874 Cincinnati	
Callender's Jubilee Minstrels - 1874 New York	
Charles Hick's Georgia Minstrels - 1874 Midwest	
Old Kentucky Minstrels - 1874 California	
W. A. Mara's Georgia Minstrels - 1876 Midwest	
Louisiana Slave Troupe and Brass Band - 1875 Indiana	
Original Georgia Minstrels (John E. Warner) - 1875	
Original Black Diamonds - 1875 Boston	
Colored Plantation Minstrel Combination - 1875 Chicago	
Slavin's Georgia Jubilee Singers - 1876 New York	
Maguire and Haverly's Georgia Minstrels - 1876 Nevada	
Harry Leslie Colored Congress and Brass Band - 1876 Illinois	
Alabama Colored Minstrels and Plant. Jubilee Singers - 1876	
Old Dominion Slave Troupe - 1876 Wisconsin	
Sprague and Blodgett's Georgia Minstrels - 1876 Missouri	
The Bohee Minstrels - 1876 Philadelphia	
Corbyn's Georgia Minstrels - 1876	
Lew Johnson's Original Tennessee Jubilee Singers - 1877 Illinois	
George Montague's Virginia Minstrels - 1877 New Jersey	
Slavin's Original and Only Georgia Cabin Singers - 1877	
Brown's Slave Cabin Minstrels - 1877 New Jersey	
Original Virginia and Old Dominion Slave Troupe - 1878 New York	
New Orleans and Georgia Colored Minstrels - 1878 Memphis	
Stoddart's Original Alabama Sable Minstrels (Pure Negro) - 1878 Washington, Dc	
Haverly's Colored Minstrels - 1878 Northeast	

Sprague's Georgia Minstrels	1878
Tom Granger's Georgia Minstrels	1878 Midwest
Henry Hart's Colored Minstrels	1878 Indiana
Sine's Virginia Slave Troupe Minstrels	1879 Philadelphia
Original Dixie Minstrels (Colored)	1879 Richmond, Va.
Bishop's Female Georgia Minstrels (Lew Johnson)	1879 Chicago
Alabama Colored Minstrels	1879 Massachusetts
Kentucky Jubilee Singers and Combination Troupe	1880 California
Cross' Original Mastodon Minstrels	1880
Cross' Virginia Mastodon Minstrels	1880 Connecticut
Alabama Minstrels and Blackville Family	1880 Michigan
Hall and Thompson's Slave Troupe	1880 Albany
Hart's Colored Georgia Minstrels	1881 Cincinnati
Crescent City Minstrels and Louisiana Jubilee Singers	1881 New Orleans
Lew Johnson and William Sherwood's Colored Combination	1881 Midwest
East Tennessee Colored Minstrels	1881
Original New Orleans Minstrels	1881
Callender's Consolidated Minstrels	1882 Chicago
Simond and Allen's Minstrels	1882 New York
McIntosh and Sawyer's Coloured Calendar Minstrels	1883 New Jersey
Richard and Pringle's Georgia Minstrels	1883 Midwest
Alexander's Colored Minstrels	1883
Dixon's Alabama Minstrels	1883 Toronto
Liverman's Genuine Colored Minstrels	1883 Minnesota
Press and Jones' Genuine Colored Minstrels	1883 Pennsylvania
Bishop's Colored Minstrels	1883 Maine
Gales and Hagger's Minstrels	1884 Cincinnati
Sawyer's Georgia Minstrels	1885 New Jersey
Kersand's Colored Minstrels	1885 New York
Charles Taylor's Alabama Minstrels	1885 Kansas
Virginia Coloured Minstrels	1886 New York

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YEARS AGO

July 6, 1935 - Pittsfield, Mass.

Ringling-Barnum Circus

The Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus arrived from Springfield early this morning on four trains. They set up at Wahconah Park and had good crowds for their performances.

At night while loading, a colored man was run over by a heavy wagon and was killed.

World Minstrels (Integrated)	1886 New York
McCabe, Young and Hun Bros.	
Refined Colored Minstrels	1886 Philadelphia
Hicks and Sawyer's Consolidated Colored Minstrels	1886 Midwest
McIntosh's Georgia Minstrels	1886 New York
McCabe, Young and Gray's Pavilion Minstrels	1886 Pennsylvania
Prof. Henderson's Minstrels	1886 Chicago
Minor, Eaton and Williams' Alabama Minstrels	1886
Halliday and Company's Colored Georgia Minstrels	1887 Missouri
Shultz's Georgia Minstrels	1887 Kansas
Lew Johnson's Black Baby Boy Minstrels	1887 San Francisco
Yarber's Colored Minstrels	1887 New York
Pennington's Georgia Minstrels	1887
Howard's Novelty Colored Minstrels	1888 New York
Roscoe and Swift's Minstrels	1888
Colored Parlor Georgia Minstrels	1889 New York
Bohee Brothers Minstrels	1890 London
Parkis' Colored Carnival	1890
W. S. Cleveland's Colored Minstrels	1890 Chicago
Cash and Newburne's Colored Minstrels	1890
Eden and Hogan's Minstrels	1890

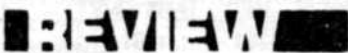
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CIRCUS VARGAS

by George N. Bukota

One of the world's largest Big Tops came to the Tri-Cities area of Washington state recently, as Circus Vargas played a four day run at Columbia Center shopping mall, Kennewick. Vargas opened on Friday evening, Aug. 18th, then gave three shows daily, Saturday thru Monday.

Business was good, Circus Vargas officials said, with turnaway crowds on Monday night. The tent was full or nearly full for all performances. The Tri-City engagement followed another successful stay with turnaway crowds at Union Gap, near Yakima, Wash. Vargas had his old orange tent up on what some circus people called "one of the worst lots we've seen this year." Officials say it took several hours of raking to clear enough area of rocks for the elephants to join the parade in the Big Top and to clear an area for animals outside.

The Circus Vargas performers and members found themselves on the receiving end of entertainment, however, when Paul Pugh brought in the Wenatchee Youth Circus Band for a special concert following one of the matinees.

Pugh, justifiably proud of his young group, was telling the circus professionals that many of the Wenatchee Youth Circus bandmembers doubled as performers. After naming some of the acts in the Youth Circus, Pugh turned to Vargas band conductor Jim Gibson and asked, "Are there any high wire walkers in your band?"

Gibson didn't bat an eye as he pointed to the elevated Circus Vargas bandstand, above the performer's entrance, and said, "Not officially, but being up there is about the same."

Acts during the Tri-Cities engagement included: the Spec; The Plunketts, trampoline; The Flying Lantons and The Flying Lanes (including triples by Raoul Lantony and Patrick Lane). Gary Thornton's Samoyeds; Clowns (England's Baker Family - strong man, acrobatics and sword fighting). The Seven Alexanders, teeterboard; Sr. Wm. Baker and Tommy Baker, liberty horses; Ron and Mitzi, iron jaw; Semon and his Chimps; The Abulet Bros., high wire; Intermission with color book sale and elephant rides.

The second half included: Lawrence Grant, lions; The Glorions, aerial perch; Christopher James, slack

New idea

Walter S. Mack, who was president of Pepsi-Cola Co. from 1938 to 1951, has formed a company to launch "King-Cola," the first new cola nut flavored beverage introduced on the market in several years.

Mack says he expects to be able to deliver King-Cola to local warehouses for five cents a case, whereas the bottling and distribution systems of the older beverage companies can lift their cost of delivering to the supermarket to levels approaching \$1.00 a case. Thus, he added, King-Cola will undersell existing advertised brands.

According to Mack, King-Cola will be marketed on a nationwide basis and in foreign countries. He said he has assembled a team of former executives from the Pepsi Cola and Coco Cola firms.

CIRCUS ACTS

BRITISH SHOWS . . .

Fossett's Famous Circus — Pusztas Troupe, acrobatics, Duo Mexicanos, bouncing rope; Konchaks & Co., snakes and crocodiles; Bobo and the Clowns; the Great Kahn, knives and axes; the Aerial Julians, cradle; Duo Galos, high perch; Christina, foot juggler; Danny Cummins, TV star

Sir Robert Fossett's Circus — David Freeman, tigers; George Biddall and Brenda Haeni, elephants; Johnny Kayes, liberty ponies; Stella Fossett, horses; Phyllis Allan, dogs; Teddy Green, comedy; The Garcia Troupe of Russian swing acrobats; The Cubanitos, perch and risley; Miss Maria, trapeze; Mitchello and Marie, low wire; Duo Mariano, juggling; The Tabaks, trampoline; John Otto, hand balancing; Duo Folke, sword balance

wire; Baker Family Clowns, acrobatics and music; The Naughtin Family's bears; Miss Bridget, trapeze; Rex and Ava Williams, elephants.

The nine piece band includes Jim Gibson, director, David Cowdin, Jeanne Anne Gibson, Jim Miller, Dave Murphy, Steve Hillary, Richard Rusk, Bill Reichenbach and Steve Curl.

Ringmaster was Michael Gorman and clown alley includes: Pat, Richard, Patrick and Steve Baker.

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YEARS AGO (Continued from Page 2)

A loud speaker system is used for the show. They have 12 men in the band and 12 people in the after show concert.

Seating is: Blues \$4 stringers 14 tier high; Reserved 18 stringers 12 tier high; Grand stand 30 stringers 10 tier high.

Trucks include! Tom Mix's big car, cookhouse, two trucks, kitchen truck, 7 horse trucks, pole truck, the Grand Stand seats, grand stand planks, reserved seats, stringers, jacks, blue seats, 3 light plants, 2 ticket trucks, 7 cage trucks, seal truck, side show truck, props, wardrobe, calliope, privileges and 30 house trailers.

The show opened with a small crowd, but then had good crowds for the rest of the performances. The Crippled Children were there for one show.

It rained every day during the shows and all day long on the weekend, with a hard rain. The water was very deep and they had straw and hay all around to help some. It was still raining when they started to tear down on Sunday night. The show left early on Monday morning for Martinez.

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Presstime News

The Wonderful World of Circus, operated this past year by Dubsy and Jordan, has been sold to Allan Hill of Pennsylvania.

Seven carnival workers at the Antelope Valley Fair in Southern California were arrested on charges of "fraudulent means of winning" and "hidden devices in carnival games," according to the local sheriff.

Members of the Vice Squad who made the arrests said the concessions involved were "Wiffle Ball" and a .22 short range "shooting gallery."

IN MEMORIAM

LEO DEMARIO (81) a retired circus aerialist and an acrobat, died on March 11th at his home in England. He appeared with most of the British circuses and in later years had a group of baboons that worked on a trampoline.

PEOPLE

LIPKO'S COMEDY CHIMPS and BILL RODGER'S TROPICAL BIRDS will be some of the features to be seen at the Conn. State Fair in Danbury, Conn., on Sept. 30-Oct. 9th.

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INTERVIEW

by Steve Harvey (The Los Angeles Times)

A few years ago, Bob and Pauline MacDougall ran away to join the circus. They were in their early 40s and married.

They gave up a three-bedroom house in Van Nuys for a small stateroom on a coach on Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's private train.

They don't miss their old lives a bit.

"I had worked as an aerospace design engineer for 19 years in an office with no windows," MacDougall said Tuesday. Gesturing around the Forum, he added, "Even when I'm inside now, it feels like I'm outside."

As assistant operations manager, MacDougall's duties range from making sure that Elvin (the Human Space Shuttle) Bale's rocket gets a tuneup every two months to fixing the bubble machines.

"We're having trouble getting good bubbles here," he admitted. "They (the bubbles) were all right in Tucson and Phoenix, where it's dry. It must be the humid weather here. We even went to the company that makes Lawrence Welk's bubbles, but their formula didn't work for us."

The Ringling circus currently in town is a 155 person army, constantly packing, moving and unpack-

ing 35 train cars.

"One thing I like about the circus," MacDougall, said, "is that if a problem comes up here, you have to solve it fast. In aerospace, I sometimes worked for 2½ years on the same project."

And so it was that MacDougall found himself not long ago in a Baltimore railroad yard shortening a replica of a giant gorilla so it would fit through the entrance of the local arena - while a police helicopter hovered suspiciously above.

Pauline, a former secretary for a telephone company now works in wardrobe, where she does everything from drying ostrich feathers with a hair dryer to sewing up the pants of the Human Space Shuttle when he tears them on his 90 foot journey from rocket to net.

The MacDougalls who have no children, didn't enter the circus world on a whim.

"Bob was always interested in the circus," Pauline said, "and when we got married I became interested too. He got to know a lot of circus people and eventually they offered him a job."

For him it was a chance to keep a personal streak intact: since seeing his first circus at the age of one month, he had been to every edition, except the 1956 one, which didn't play in Southern California because of financial problems.

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PEOPLE

WAYNE FRANZEN, ALLEN BABCOCK and BOB PHEBUS visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at its date in Terre Haute, Ind.

DIETER WICHERT, head trainer with the Jungle Larry Animals, reports he is currently breaking in a

THE FOLLOWING BOOKINGS WERE SET BY ROSE ADAIR, Artists' Representative, 250 West 57th St., Suite 1527, New York, NY - 10019.

Acts available for October, November and December can reach me on station call directly at: 212 - 247 - 1844.

July 10-16 - Rocky Point Park, Warwick, R. I. - Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds & Pomeranians

July 24-30 - The Urias Troupe - Death-defying motorcycle globe act.

Aug. 7-13 - Rocky Point Park, Warwick, R. I. - The Urias Troupe

July 20 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus - Wallingford, Conn - Therese & Teddy, balance duo; T&T, perch; Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds & Pomeranians; Aria's Bears; Sabo's Chimps; Vino Venito, sword balance; Los Latinos, wire act; Barbara Autry and Jocelyn, ropes and whips; Crawford & Gloria, illusions.

July 22 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus - New London, Conn - The Berans, double trapeze; Los Latinos, wire; Therese & Teddy, balancing; Cimse's dogs; Vino Venito, sword balance; Crawford & Gloria, illusions; Aria's bears.

Aug. 16-24 - Flagship "Kungsholm" Cruise of Bermuda-Canada - Charles Merrill, dove illusions/variety; Raven & St. John, acro-adagio dance team

Aug. 17-27 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus - Louisville State Fair - Les Lemoine Troupe, aerial motorcycle/trapeze; Michelle & Renee, slide for life; The Berans, double trapeze; Therese & Teddy, balancing; Vino Venito, sword balance

Aug. 29-Sept. 4 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus - Aurora, Ill. - Pinson's elephants; Joanne's Canine Revue; Pinson's aerial cradle; The Berans, double trapeze; Therese & Teddy, balancing; Vino Venito, sword balance.

Sept. 15-16 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus - Greenville, S.C. - Les Lemoine Troupe, aerial motorcycle/trapeze; Michelle & Renee, slide for life; Stacey Moore's Madcap Mongrels; The Berans, double trapeze; Therese & Teddy, balancing; The Young Troupe, teeterboard; The Juggling Jewells; the Olmeda Bros., bikes; Olmeda's Horse fantasy.

Sept. 3 - Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park - Ken Sherburne, ringmaster/unicycle/juggling/globes; Stacey Moore's Madcap Mongrels; Granmar, high wire; Rex Horton's Wonder bears; Sabo's chimps; David's plate spinning; Charles Merrill, dove illusions/variety; Hermine's Midgets, marching band

new mixed group, consisting of a black leopard, a spotted leopard and an African elephant.

BEN DeWAYNE and the Kaye Hollywood Elephants were featured in AP releases when the elephants had a bath at a car wash in Woodstock, Ill., early this month.

JAMES AUER, art editor for the Milwaukee (Wisc) Journal, will show his film "It's Circus Day" and also will exhibit circus posters at the library in Sheboygan, Wisc., on Sept. 27th.

ADA SMIEYA with her lions and tigers were featured at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wsc., on Sept. 16th, the day the museum closed for the season.

ERIK ADAMS, Jr., is traveling with the Kool Aid Circus and expects to be back at his home in Florida sometime next month.

ESTERINA LOYAL REMPENSKY and her husband **JOE GALASSO** were featured in a special story in the Pioneer-Press-Dispatcher (St. Paul, Mn) on Sept. 2nd. The former circus people now work with the Royal American Shows.



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BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

by Doris McDonald

On Sept. 6th, the Big John Strong Circus had a one day stand at Enumclaw, Wash., and it rained. The circus was on the way to Vancouver, B.C.,

Big John greeted us with his usual welcome, cheerful, with an uncanny memory of our names. Sandy Strong's melodious laugh was heard above the rain drops. Czigi and Wally Bickmore and two year old daughter, performed with their excellent style, and Don Fairbanks, of the Jack Bell Tent, had the pleasure of riding Teena, the elephant, in center ring.

The circus tent with its colorful plastic sidewall was a pleasure to see, and the trucks are all painted with circus motif. I especially liked the truck with the picture of George Perkins, clown.

PEOPLE

ED BERG (6433 West 82nd Place, Burbank, Ill) would like to hear from BILLY GUNGA and also FRANK BRADBURY.

BILLY McCABE, clown, has joined Circus Vargas to do advance work. He will also be making advance dates with clown JIM PARKER.

The URIAS TROUPE has been signed to tour with Ringling's Red Unit in 1979, where their "Globe of Death" act will be featured.

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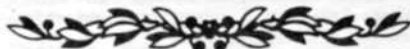
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Billy Barton (Continued)

A Somerset (Pa) radio station alerted listeners in the area that NBC was anxious for movie footage or photographs taken of the Carson & Barnes Circus in June 1977, the blowdown at nearby Myersdale. Evidently a documentary is in the offing?

REX YOUNG quipped that we might be faced with the possibility of a Third World War since SLICK VAL-ENTINE went to Japan! Now, Rex, that isn't nice (but it sure IS funny!).

See you down the road, luvs.



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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

Have you heard of "Bohn's United Circus"? Well the citizens of Wetumka, Okla., have. It seems that in 1950 an advance agent for the show arrived in town to promote the arrival of the circus.

He took an advertisement in the local paper on credit and arranged to lease the hotel for the circus performers. He even ordered hay for the elephants and bought buns and hot dogs (all to be paid for on circus day).

He sold ads to the merchants and citizens for the circus program and generally promoted this great show. Some merchants put in special stock for the big day and a cafe stocked up for the circus people who were going to eat there. Then the big day arrived but no Circus showed up, and the agent was nowhere to be found. The town of Wetumka had been CON-NED.

Now each year on this date the town of Wetumka celebrates the "day it was suckered". There are Indian dances, singing, a parade, rodeo and all types of contests. The Hughes County Tribune predicts that 10,000 people will be on hand for the 3 day festivities. Yes, "Sucker Day" will be long remembered.

A letter from C. C. Day states he enjoyed a Windjammer Meet in Rochester (Minn). Cliff says he played the drums and there were 35 in the band. One 83 year old youngster played bass. The next meet is set for New Orleans in Jan. 1979.

The Atlantic Southern Show Productions opened their fall tour Sept. 8th in Tyler, Tex. The show put together by Ray Winder and Mike Martin will feature magic, plus circus type acts. Ray was formerly with Royal Hanneford and Mike has been on Beatty and Sells & Gray.

Labor Day weekend found this writer in New Orleans catching acts at Pontchartrain Beach. A very fine diving exhibition was presented by the U. S. Diving Team. The highlight of the show was a comedy deal with a plant from the audience challenging the

TRAGEDY AVERTED (Continued)

blew it away from the coaches.

It should be mentioned that during the moving of the cars the Madison fire department continued to spray the cars with water.

Smith said it took until 7:30 a.m., to clear the fire scene. There were complications due to crossings and such things. Just as the last of the cars were being removed the locomotive crew reported to the scene.

With quick repairs made to the two coaches receiving damage, the 37 car circus train was able to depart on schedule on Monday.

The fire burned out of control for over four hours, and the warehouse burned to the ground.

SPECIAL

Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit train escaped damage when a nearby abandoned railroad car burned at Omaha, Nebr., on Aug. 21st. The circus cars were moved from the blaze without incident.

winner of a jousting match over the water. Also working was a 20 minute magic show featuring Merlin Rainbow, the magician, with everything including voice on tape.

Several weeks ago this reporter said that Carson & Barnes No. 2 Unit would enter North Dakota at the end of Aug. Well you can see how wrong that info was for the show was still in Canada as of Sept. 10th. So my report of an Oct. date in New Orleans could also be wrong.

Jack Bennett has sold his book store in Miami, Okla. and given up interest in other locations. The last word was that he was negotiating with Ringling.

Do Do the Clown would like to hear from some of the clowns he worked with and saw this year. John MacKay where are you? The Texas Shrine season has started and some of you are near my area.



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Show Report

SHOWS IN CANADA

by Gordon Brown

More shows favored Western Canada in 1978 than in any previous year to date. In addition to the large arena shows - Hubert Castle's fine show in June and the Canadian Int'l (Gatti) in late August, undercanvases shows provided stiff opposition for one another in late July and August.

Gopher Davenport's Jungle Wonders Circus see Aug. 10th in Topfield, Alberta, had 5 semi-trailers, 5 straights and 2 show trailers; a 60' with 3-30's big top, a large rhino, pygmy hippo, 1 African and 7 Asian elephants and a cut-back performance after a blowdown in Strathmore, Alberta, on June 15, and a tough trip overland to Alaska and back. When a strong wind and rain threatened during the 6 p.m. show, Gopher ordered the teardown, but by 8 p.m. the wind was down and the rain had gone and tickets were being refunded for the second show.

John Frazier's Carson & Barnes Western Unit seen at Leduc, Alberta, on July 24, with a full house, had a 120' with 3-40's about four years old big top; 14 semis, 7 straights and 4 show trailers; and a good performance with Bob Stephenson's band (5), Wayne Ragan working close and well with 3 lions and 4 tigers, Mark Weber, a graduate of the Circus World Museum Baraboo Circus School starring on the single trapeze and later cloud swing, the Nolbertos on the high wire, the enthusiastic Flying Trapeze Cabelleros family, Bobby and Rosa Gibbs, ponies, mules, dogs and 3 elephants highlighted by "Lydia" (How Dry I Am) in Bobby's Cafe, and another 2 African and 5 Indian bulls in the side show.

Canadian Al Stencell's Martin & Downs Circus seen on a grassy lot with blue sky and sun at Onoway, Alberta, on Aug. 29 was a real gem, with a clean well preserved blue big top and colorful orange and blue sidewall, and a 30' x 20' white menagerie-side show top with an attractive new canvas bannerline. Rolling stock, new in 1977 was well painted; a midway concessions semi with ticket booth at front end, a red straight-bed big top spool truck with large water tank on the front, a pit show giant snake trailer and workmen's sleeper at the back end, a red elephant decorated stock semi with 5 ponies (kid ride), 4 goats, 1 llama, 1 palomino, 1 mule and an Indian bull, and a custom built huge red and blue semi well adapted for loading jacks, stringers, planks, stakes and big top poles. Carl Conley's white truck carried his petting zoo, 4 beautiful liberty horses and side show equipment.

Bill McCardle, show organist, was doing well with his morning banner sales tied in with a well pitched "commercial" for each buyer after his pre-show announcement. Al introduced the well costumed acts:



LALLA ROOKH GROTTO CIRCUS

by Bill Galloway

The 1978 Lalla Rookh Grotto Circus was presented for the fourth year by George Hubler at the auditorium in Rochester, N.Y. Three shows were given at 1, 4 and 8 p.m. on Sept. 9th.

The program featured: Clown Come-in with Prof. Hardy; Overture by the circus band; National Anthem; Miss Lilli-Ana, leopards; Clowns with Birthday gag; Miss Diana Yoxall, web; Miss Alice Messeri, and Fantail Birds of Paradise; Miss Carmen Hall and the My-Immba Baboons; Intermission.

In the second half were: Clowns with the Sharpshooter gag; Kim Kristensen, long rein dressage horse; the Clowns with the Strong Man; The Klementis, bicycle act.

The show's staff consisted of: George Hubler, producer and announcer; Phil Sauvageot, organist and Ron Rose, drums; with clowns Wayne Liikala (Prof. Hardy) and Bubba Hastings.

YEARS AGO

July 1, 1935 - New Lebanon, N. Y.

Milliken Bros. Circus

The Milliken Bros. Circus arrived early this morning coming in on ten trucks and seven trailers. This is a small dog and pony circus.

After giving two shows they left for Berlin, N.Y.

Opening Spec, with all personnel; Carl Conley, plate spinning; B. Bonita, miniature poodles; P. T. Michaels, inclined cable walk; Color book pitch; Lucky t the llama with Marie; Mary Constance on aerial rings and then on the solo trapeze; Clown cannon with Bonnie's dog "projectile"; Carl Conley, juggling with Bill McCardle; Cathy and Marie, ladders; Peanut sale with balloon prizes; Clown magic - Al Modine changing color ribbons and Cha Cha, the disappearing dog; Al and assistants with goats and comedy mule; The Amazing Conklins, magic/illusions; Well costumed Disneyland Spec with aerial finish on webs; Carl Conley, liberty horses; Clowns with Modine and Laura at Al's restaurant; The Amazing Conklins, an encore of magic; Betty the elephant presented by Al Stencell.

On Aug. 31st, Bucky Steele and his animals left the Canadian Int'l Circus at Edmonton and luckily the Martin & Downs Circus was only 30 miles away. Al had a busy time shuttling Betty back and forth for the 5 and 7 p.m. shows at Edmonton and for his own 6 and 8 p.m. shows at Spruce Grove, Alberta.

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