



8th Year

March 26, 1979

Number 13

Gibbs Sells to C-J

In a surprise move last week Bobby Gibbs cancelled his scheduled tour with Circus Genoa and sold his performing animals to the Carden-Johnson Circus. The arrangements were made after Bobby and Rosa Gibbs were released from their Circus Genoa contract by show owner John Frazier.

In addition to selling his performing animals Gibbs also sold all trappings as well as his semi truck. He will join Carden-Johnson Circus as ring stock superintendent and director of spec productions. He will also be presenting several animal acts as part of the circus performance.

This purchase by Carden-Johnson gives the circus a total of some 15 show-owned animal acts. They include three groups of elephants a tiger act, lion act, mixed group of wild animals, three 6 pony liberty acts, a camel act, a llama and pony number, camel, llama and pony, eight white shepherd dogs, high school horse and a horse and pony number.

The circus also has an impressive group of animal trainers on its staff. They are: Joseph "Red" Hartman, cats; Bill Golden, cats/bulls; John Caudill, bulls; Mr. Cuchillo, llamas/camels/ponies; Bobby and Rosa Gibbs, ring stock;

Wayne Ragen, cats; George Carden, ring stock; Laura Herriott, dogs and Angela Wilnow, dogs.

For its performances at Odessa, Texas, the circus presented three ring displays of pony acts, llamas, and elephants. They also had a three ring display of dogs featuring Laura Herriott, Angela Wilnow and Bobby Gibbs.

It has been said that Carden-Johnson will operate three show units this season. They are also going to provide animal acts for a variety of other show operators this year.



JOHN MacKAY, clown, has been spot-dating for several shows this spring. He will tour with the Carden-Johnson Circus during the summer season.

WALLY LEE, magician, worked a March 25th date at Santa Rosa, Calif., then has other northern California dates set for the latter part of Spring.

CHUCK JONES, magician, worked a March 1-5 engagement at a shopping center in San Jose, Calif.

LLOYD the Clown worked a March 5-10 date with the Lin-Rich Animal Circus when the show played in Spartanburg, S.C.

FRANK CAIN's parade heads were featured in a parade on Washington's Birthday and then at Newport March 10th and the Heather & Thistle Parade at Dunedin, Fla. on March 17th.

GENE PLOWDEN, circus author, was honored at the Circus World in Florida where he was made an "Honorary Ringmaster." A report in CR on Feb. 6th regarding this event was in error.

BRENDA GALLOWAY has joined the Obando Family and is working with them in their new low wire act.

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KIMO, the clown from Northern Texas, is working a nightclub date in Antigua, Guatemala. Later he will tour clubs in Central America and Europe.

MR. and MRS. TEX MAYNARD celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently at their home in Endicott (NY) with over 100 guests stopping by to offer their congratulations.

LONI IRONBERG and daughter **TINA** will be presenting their animal acts as a part of the program to be seen with Circus Genoa this season.

FRANK DEAN, western star, is featuring his amazing fire whips as part of his presentation presented with the Funs-A-Poppin Circus in Southern California.

MARYSE BEGARY, aerialist, broke the 2 million mark with her "One Arm Swings" while appearing at Old Chicago.

ATHENA FRANK, daughter of **BRADD** and **SHEILA FRANK**, will be presenting her trapeze number on a portable rigging this summer.

RANDY RUNYON, former circus performer and promotional director for **STAN KRAMIEN's** "Magiczam" show has moved to Medford, Oregon, where he is involved with the discos and nightclubs of that area.

THE WAZZAN FAMILY, tumbling and trampoline act, plus **REE & ANDRE SCHWEIZER**, wire act, were with a touring show in Australia which is now set to open in Mexico City on June 29th. In most spots the show was presented under a big top.

Miscellaneous

A circus sponsored by the local firemen was featured at the San Angelo, Texas, Auditorium on March 17th, and was followed by the Moscow Circus playing the same building on Mar. 23-25. The Dr. Thomas Scott Old Time Medicine Show also played that same building, with performances there on Mar. 29th.

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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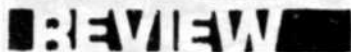
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MONTE CARLO CIRCUS... by Paul Horsman

Was impressed with the Monte Carlo Circus. The wagons are much the same as those used by the Ringling units, only with yellow decals.

The show is pretty much European style, but the band plays real American circus music for the most part. The bandstand is in front of a large backdrop, which has a movie screen in the center, plus openings with entrance curtains at the bottom and gold scroll

The movie is a tourist plug for Monte Carlo and segments are shown while props are being changed. The scrolls on the backdrop were lined with lights and there was a ring of lights around the ring curbs. The lights would sometime run, sometimes blink and at times blinked in sequence with the music. It was sort of like some German rides, especially the Enterprise.

The program included: Opening film introducing Prince Ranier, in French; The Riding Richters, bareback riding; The Albarracines, aerial number; Luis Munoz, low wire; Gabor Eotvos, European musical clowns; The Wee Gets, ground acrobats; Brian Fawcett, chimps; Elvin Bale, trapeze; Intermission; Karoly Donnert, 5 tigers, followed by two tigers riding horses; Gene Mendez, high wire; The Eotvos, clown number; The Richter Family, elephants (3) with a teeterboard; Dobritch Duo, perch; The Eotvos Family, flexible bar gymnastics; Elvin Bale, on the wheel of death; The Silagis, teeterboard,; Finale.

The program is printed in French and English. Sergio is ringmaster, with Mike Gorman performance director. Band leader is Robert Franklin.

All of the acts were great and of excellent quality. If one had to pick out the highlights would say the Fawcett Chimps were outstanding and the audience certainly likes Elvin Bale.

The tiger act uses only pedestals, no props and the net arena is almost invisible. The Richter family bareback act is an outstanding number, with well groomed animals and quickly executed tricks.

While the show was not fast-paced by any means, it was geared to hold the audience's attention at all times. Costuming was excellent and the entire production adds up to class and quality, with precision.

Attendance at the performance caught by this writer was about 2/3 in a house that seats 10,000 at Syracuse, N. Y.

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SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus
Mar 26-28 Panama City, Fla.

Hubert Castle Circus
Mar 29-Apr 1 Portland, Ore.
30-Apr 7 Columbus, Oh.

Circus Genoa
Mar 30 Quincy, Fla.

Circus Vargas
Mar 27-29 Santa Barbara, Ca.
30-Apr 1 Bakersfield

Cole All Star TV Circus
Mar 27 Holland, NY
28 Cuba
29 Hinsdale
30 Allegany
31 Randolph
Apr 1 Sherman

Dobritch Int'l Circus
Mar 30-Apr 1 New Orleans,
La.

L. N. Fleckles Circus
to Apr. 1 Detroit, Mich.

Hamid-Morton Circus
Mar 29-31 Troy, Ohio

Hubler Int'l Circus
Mar 30-Apr 1 Decatur, Ill.

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
Mar 31 Salt Lake City, Utah

Monte Carlo Circus
Mar 27-28 Toledo, Ohio
30-Apr 1 Notre Dame, Ind

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Mar 28-Apr 1 Cincinnati, Oh.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Mar 28-June 3 New York, NY

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Mar 26 Indianola, Iowa
27 Dubuque
28 Beloit, Wisc.
29 Madison
30 Appleton
31 Milwaukee
Apr. 1 New Lennox, Ill.

Shrine Circus
Mar 30-31 Tampa, Fla.
31-Apr 1 Tacoma, Wash

John Strong Circus
Mar 26 Kingsburg, Calif.
27 Le Moore
28 Shafter
29 Taft
30 Palmdale
31 Lancaster
Apr. 1 Palm Desert

--- OTHER DATES ---

Chicago Skate Show
Mar. 26 St. Charles, Mo.

Ethel's Greyhounds
to Apr. 1 Detroit, Mich.

Flinstones on Parade
Mar 29-Apr 8 Brisbane, Aust.

Globetrotters
Mar. 27 La Crosse, Wisc.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l Unit
Mar 28-Apr 1 Baton Rouge, La

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l Unit
Mar 27-Apr 1 Miami, Fla.

Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit
Mar 28-Apr 1 Shreveport, La

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Mar 27-Apr 1 Kansas City, Mo

Ice Capades - Western Unit
Mar 27-Apr 1 Moncton, N.B.

Ice Follies
Mar 28-Apr 8 Minneapolis,

Jo Ann & Sunny - Seal Act
to Apr. 1 Detroit, Mich.

Kaye's Hollywood Elephants
Mar 30-Apr 1 New Orleans, La

Evel Knievel Thrill Show
Mar. 26 Mt. Gambler, So.Aust
27 Warranambool, Vict.
28 Bellarat
29 Shepparton
30 Taralgon
31 Melbourne

Bill Korpates - High Act
Mar 28-29 St. Petersburg, Fla
30-31 Tampa



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Mar. 27 Springfield, Mass.
31 Rockaway, N.J.

Tom Ogden - Magician
Mar 27 Franklin Sq. NY
29 Yonkers
30-31 Hartford, Conn.
Apr. 1 Hatboro, Pa.

Ed Russell - Ringmaster
Mar 27-28 Salem, Oregon
29-Apr 1 Portland

Mr. Sensation - Aerialist
Mar 30-Apr 1 New Orleans, La

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YOU CAN'T KEEP an old pro down! Following two severe heart attacks animal trainer LOU REGAN was enticed from retirement by JOHN CUNEO to work the Hawthorn lion and tiger combination which has been worked in the past by PRINCE BOGINO and ROY WELLS respectively. Lou, as usual, turned in a first class job after only the briefest of run-throughs with both the wild animal and baby elephant acts. Take a big bow, Lou, you deserve it!

ROGER PRYSTANSKI (The Garden Bros. Circus Clown RUMPY, whose photogenic face adorns the Garden logo) wails that nobody knows he's alive and working. He certainly is, as featured joey with the Garden show as well as serving as production designer and choreographer and each task is handled with expertise. A footnote to this is that Roger began his show biz career as cage boy for the late ELOISE BERCHTOLD.

ACTS and producer GEORGE HUBLER were stranded in Elyria, Ohio (Feb. 24-25) when a savage blizzard struck during the Sunday matinee - 13 in. of snow over ice, and nothing moved for 48 hours. The storm naturally hurt the second Sunday show, consequently attendance was down from the previous year or, as George says with his customary outspokenness: "It was a disaster!" The one thing I like about George (among many others) is that when a date is bad he never beats around the bush or offers excuses, he simply comes straight out with the truth. The Mentor date, however, was excellent with business peaking last year.

THE AGUILLAR kids are really sprouting like trees in the spring, so big are they now! The troupe added several new routines to their teeterboard-risley turn. The girls, including Mrs. Aguillar, are doing web on the Garden show where the troupe is signed for the season

IT'S IRONIC that so many college majors are winding up nowadays as circus performers while a number of us cirkies - born and bred, as I am so fond of say-

ing, in the mud and elephant . . . (insert your own euphemism) are branching off into unrelated careers. Could this be a trend, do you think? Latest to join the Sawdust Eggheads are SARA (from the Lar-Rays) who majored in criminology, and their catcher BOB who's an educator. Sara should have been around during the heyday of those old grift shows, one in particular, famous (or infamous) for its "bizarre deaths" when bodies were found rolled up in canvas, or dropped by the railroad tracks from a passing train!

REPORT FROM THE TROPICS: ELFIE KLEMENTI, appearing with their troupe at the Hotel Jaragua in Santo Domingo, writes that the show is superb, living is delicious and the weather gorgeous, but that she misses her circus cronies and is sending a sunny hello to all via "the voice". With the Klementis for 8 weeks was ELEK SEBESTYEN, who went crazy purchasing a brand new wardrobe. Elsie postscripts that their pooch SPOOKY had made the transition from circus to hotel doggie without so much as a bow-wow.

SNAPSHOTS: The 1979 Circus Vargas program runs to 26 pages this year as compared to last year's 18, is still peddled at a buck. . . Visitors to the Allentown Shrine date included JOHN CUNEO and BILL HALL . . . AURELIA HALL, back from Mexico, sent me an Atayde program. . . MALFALDA ZOPPE working to remodel her shape since the birth of their baby boy . . . The Canadian TV series CIRCUS! is so high on the ratings the new show will expand to one hour. Taping for the 79-80 season are already underway. The program has been seen in Los Angeles and New York and is being shown in Europe. . . IAN GARDEN, always one to come up with a new idea, has opened a flourishing flea market in Georgetown (Ont) called the Circus Flea Market, which is doing sensational weekend biz. Yes, you're right, he has even used a couple of acts as extra added attractions - Which will

(Continued on Page 12)



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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

Many of the older readers will remember the days of the "Billboard" when it was the Bible of the amusement industry. Over the years it evolved into what is now the "Amusement Business" magazine and much of the circus news disappeared, that is until "Circus Report" arrived on the scene. No one can deny that Circus Report has filled a much needed void in the circus world. You might also remember when John Swann published "Circus Review" which covered good coverage, on a monthly basis, of shows in the 50's and 60's. Another good publication was put out by a Mr. Sams of Birmingham, Ala.

Now in a telephone report John Lewis, former owner of Lewis Bros. Circus and a long-time staff member of Hoxie Bros. Circus, has announced he is ready to launch a new weekly which will be called "Midway". The paper is to be a tabloid size and will be offered to agents on all types of shows, plus sales to fans, performers, owners, etc. It is expected to carry news and reports about every facet of show business and its personnel. The first issue is due May 1st, and will serve as a sample to get public reaction.

It is now official and I can release it - Bobby and

Rosa Gibbs will not tour with Circus Genoa. Instead Bobby has sold his animals and equipment to Carden-Johnson and will tour with them, working with the animals. However, we understand that Bobby will no longer have the elephants he leased from Dorey Miller and that they will remain on Circus Genoa. John Mac Kay is also scheduled to join C-J, not as a clown, but as chief electrician.

Ken Benson left the zoo at Monroe, La., where he spent the winter months, and headed out to winter-quarters of Circus Genoa. His exact duties are not known at this time, but no doubt he will be handling a variety of work on that show, as in the past.

Manual King is reported to have a "Mummy" pit show on Carson & Barnes Circus. The Dallas CFA's are planning a meeting on that show when it arrives in their city. A detailed report is expected soon.

A report received from Jim Silverlake confirms the fact that he will once again manage the Great America Circus. The show opens March 31st at Vero Beach and is offering a full 90 minute program. The show's new paint job was handled by Henry Thompson. The midway will include an Ape Show and Elephant ride, while the show will move on nine trucks. A new top is expected in May and so they will open under the tent used last year. Joe Frisco, Jr. has joined as elephant man and Dick Palmer is handling concessions.

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PEOPLE

NELLIE HANNEFORD (9 years old) and her grandmother, CATHERINE HANNEFORD (92 years old) were featured on the front page of the Chicago Tribune on March 11th.

GEORGE DA DEPPO designed the new cover for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus Program. He also did the program cover for the Royal Hanneford Circus.

GEORGE PERKINS, retired clown, was honored at the premiere performance of the John Strong Circus at Yucaipa, Calif., on March 11th, when some 200 members and friends of the Joseph Andrew Rowe CFA Tent attended the event.

HOLVECK & CO., magic/illusions, are touring with the Holiday Hippodrome Show. They do numbers in both the first and second half of the show.

WALLY ROSS trained the new goat and llama act that is presently with the John Strong Circus.

DICK CLARK, TV personality, has taken over the Westchester Premier Theatre in White Plains, N.Y., where he will present Las Vegas-style acts. He has an option to buy the theatre in two years for \$3 to \$4 million.

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BOB GREENE has his calliope on Fisher Bros. Circus for the season. Also on the show is BILLY L. SMITH, who is in the Clown Dept.

JOE TINTY was recently featured on a midwest TV program as the oldest stunt man still doing stunts on horseback. Joe is 78 years old.

Performers appearing with Circus Genoa as it started its 1979 season were: LANI IRONBERG, horse, pony, dogs; ED and EVA TOOLE, horses, ponies, dogs; KEN BENSON, lions and tigers; ONOFRES, high wire; the CABRALL FAMILY, casting; JEFF CHALMERS TRIO, high wire; BARBARA HUNTER,; WALTER LOGAN, elephants; the THEILITZ SISTERS, aerialists; LARRY SHEFFIELD, concessions; Col. CHARLES STEVENSON, band leader; plus several others who were expected to be signed this past week.

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GARDEN BROS. CIRCUS . . . by Bill Slenker

Garden Bros. Circus presented the following program at Allentown, Pa.

Mrs. Ian Garden, singing the National Anthem; the Hawthorn Jungle Animals presented by Lou Regan; The Venturas, cradle, Clowns; The Aguillars, perch pole; Miss Janis, sword balance; Liberty Horses; Cooks comedy car; Web Act with 4 girls; James Zooppe's Riding Act; Intermission; The Flying Lar-Rays (4 people); The Vickinas, risley; Mr. Sensation, aerialist; the Clowns with 'The Bake Off'; Elephants, presented by Lou Regan.

The show ran at a good pace. A coloring book pitch was made while the arena was struck.

Lou Regan did a nice job with the cats and elephants and goes way back. Miss Janis is James Zoppe's wife, and the Aguillars Troupe is a family that does perch, and risley.

The flying act is a nice number with four young folks, headed by Larry Gill. The comedy car number goes over well and of course kids always like it. Other bits of comedy were handled by Cook & Prystanski.

The show's staff included: Ian Garden, producer; Mrs. Garden, vocals; Ian Garden, announcer; Charles Schlarbaum, musical director; Frank Dailey, supt.; C. Nicholas, concessions; Roger Prystanski, producing clown and Bill Allen, electrician.

PEOPLE

MICHAEL FOX, vet from Europe and author of a syndicated newspaper column, will speak on "Animal Rights" at Ames, Iowa, late this month.

GEZA SZABO, juggler, recently worked in the show "Borklesque" which had a one week run in Los Angeles, Calif., early this month.

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CIRCUS

HOSPITALER CIRCUS . . . by Clarence Hastings

Members of the 'Dorothy Herbert Tent' CFA, attended the March 3rd presentation of the 43rd annual Hospitaler Circus, which played to packed houses.

The show was produced by Harold Bros. and had Al Vernon, band leader and Charley Van Buskirk, ringmaster. George Voise was supt.

The program featured: Albert and Jeanette Rix, bear act; Cavanaugh Duo, cradle; Clowns, Indian Attack; Lucky Bros., comedy knock-about; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Miss Maya, balancing trapeze; Les Verdus, rolling globes; Clowns and Firecrackers; Castro Bros. on the high wire; Intermission.

Vivian's Basketball Dogs; Clowns; The Cyclonians, unicycles; Willy Lenz, chimps; The Zerbini Riding act; Clowns; The Flying Carrolls, all girl flyers.

Show Date

The program presented at the El Rey Grotto Circus at Elyria, Ohio (Feb. 24-25) was produced by George Hubler and featured the following program of acts:

Prof. Hardly, come-in; Richard Rosio and Co., music; Davide Laddie, balancing; Jorge Barreda's lions; Beautiful Joy, aerialist; Clowns with "Old Town" number; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans; The Great Huberto, slide for life; the Scott Family and their Unrideable Mule; Nancy Giordano, doves; Los Latinos, tight wire; The Clowns; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; The Circus Disco, web number; Vivian's Football Dogs and Joselito, high wire.

the Hubert Castle Circus, including Fort Wayne and Indianapolis.

JERRY LIPKO purchased a 2 year old baby chimp which will be added to his act.

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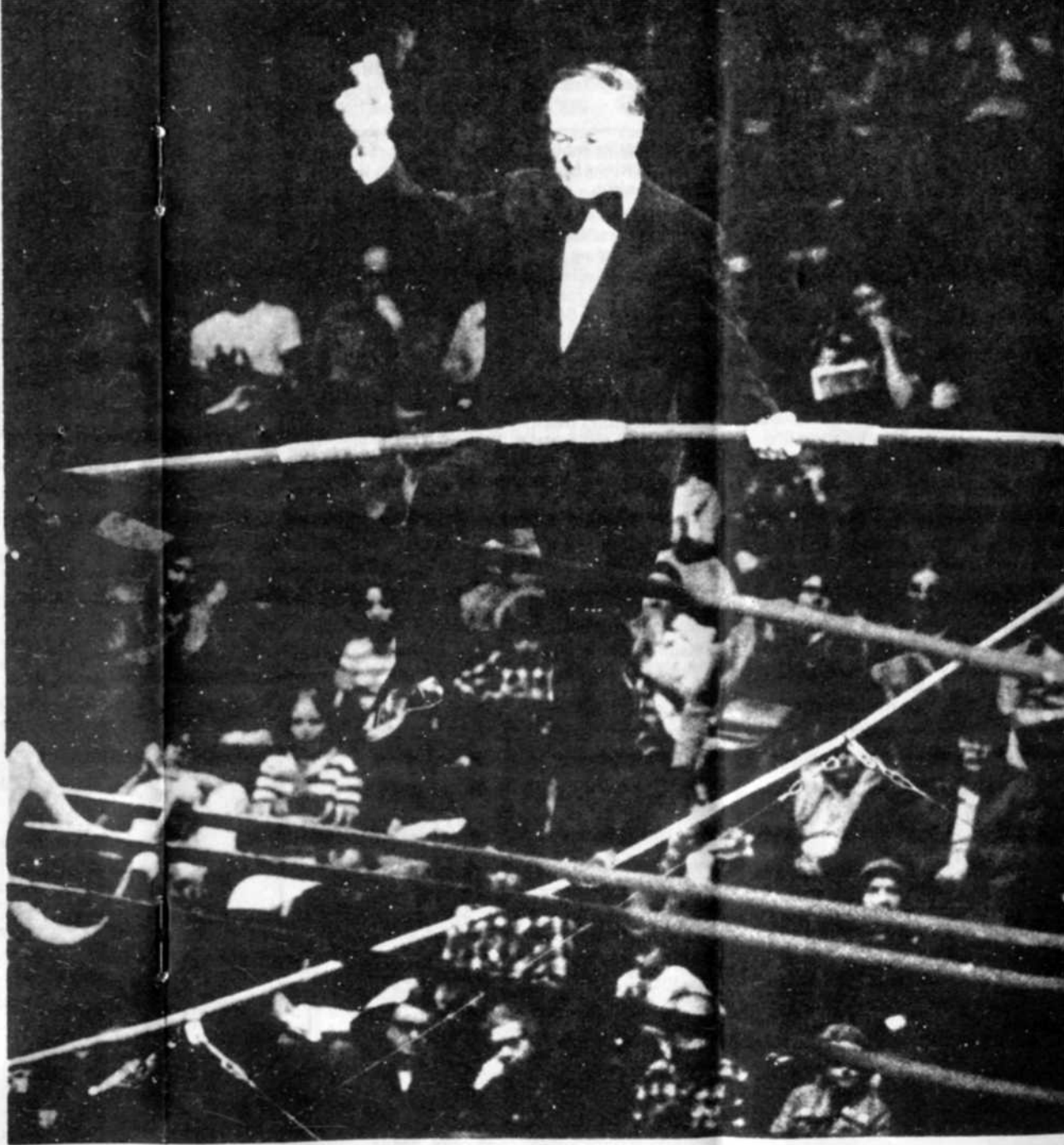
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Show Report

RBBB NOTES... by Don Covington

Visited the Ringling Red Unit at the Hampton, Virginia Coliseum and see that inflation has caught up with the show. Their program book now sells for \$2.50, although the posters are still priced at \$2.00. They have a large selection of posters this year, with some foreign posters. The stack I saw was of a stylized lion with the logo 'Cyrk' (from Poland), plus each of the 5 posters for the Monte Carlo Circus. In addition both the Ringling Red and Monte Carlo Circus were selling posters for the Monte Carlo's first U. S. tour.

The Red unit jumped from Hampton to Norfolk and the distance between the two arenas is no more than 20 miles as the crow flies, but poses a problem for a railroad show. The direct link between the two cities is the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel, with no direct rail connection. Consequently the circus packed out in a thick fog and loaded the train for a trip up the Virginia peninsula, past Williamsburg, then up to Richmond, switching back to Norfolk.

The Red Unit had a good crowd despite the steelworkers strike at Newport News Shipbuilding. The shipyard is the major industry there and has been hit by

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a major strike for over a month. Heavy promotion and advertising helped to fill the house, at least on opening night.

This year's show features a Circus Toyland spec, with gorgeous costumes and floats (the gold lame Chinese doll costumes are show stoppers); the opening and closing aerial ballet (Circus Can-Can), the elephant number Gypsy Fandango, has lavish costumes, boiling cauldrons, a Gypsy wagon and Tina Gebel-Williams, plus new bull routines.

Top crowd-pleasers were Gunther Gebel-Williams, with his tigers, mixed cats, horses and elephants; the Carrillo Bros., high wire; the Canestrellis, trampoline; Wally Naghtin's bears; Marguerite, hair-hang; the Flying Farfans and Segreras. The considerable talents of the younger members of the show never failed to pull heavy applause. These included 6 year old Alessio Canestrelli, 10 year old Tato Farfan and 7 year old Tito Montoya, who almost steal the spotlight from fellow performers whenever they appear. 15 year old Gino Farfan performs the 3½ somersault

Clown Alley, featuring veteran Lou Jacobs, presented the Burning House, and Lou's tiny auto makes an appearance as a mini-fire chief's car.

Keith Greene's band featured lots of upbeat music, plus a new feature this year, the keyboard performer and sound effects for the clown numbers (slide whistles, wood blocks, sirens, klaxon horns, bells, etc).

BOOKS

THE CIRCUS MOVES BY RAIL by Tom Parkinson and Charles P. Fox — Published by Pruett Publishing Co., Boulder, Colo. — 391 Pages — \$35.00.

This is a book that will please everyone — the circus people, circus fans and railroad enthusiasts. It is chock-full of pictures, many of which have never been published before. The volume contains an endless amount of information about railroad shows their equipment and how they operated.

One of the nice things about this book is the fact that it is set-up in chapters — Origin, Development, Operations, Advance cars, Flat cars, Stock cars, Coaches, etc. This is a big improvement over many books which tend to ramble from one subject to another.

This is really a book that has to be seen and then you'll find yourself wanting to keep it and unable to put it down. So better add it to your library now while it is still readily available.

THE ACROBATICS BOOK by Jack Wiley — Published by World Publications, Mt. View, Calif. — 183 pages.

PEOPLE

Performers appearing with the John Strong Circus as the show started its 1979 tour were: FES REYNOLDS, Brahma bull liberty act and "Frosty" the TV star; THE BRAUNS, knives/whips/guns; SANDY STRONG, dogs/birds; BILL SCHRIEBER, dogs/puppies; RON PACE, elephant; LEO GRIEP, fire eating and sword swallowing; MARSHA GRIEP, trapeze; NICOLE STRONG, horse/web/ladder; CHRIS, web/ladder; JOHN McGUIRE, TOM BECKMAN, TOM CARAVELLO and SPARKEY (Don Washburn) circus clowns, with Sparkey also handling the side show.

The author has written such other books as "The Unicycle Book," "Basic Circus Skills" and "The Tumbling Book." He is now said to be working on "The Men's Gymnastic Book."

This new volume is a manual on the sport of acrobatics, starting from the basic level and progressing to advanced stunts. It explains and shows you how to do acrobatic tricks. There are several pictures in the book showing acrobats in competition.



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Carl Conley, new owner of Circus Girard will take the show out for the 1979 season, for a tour of 12 weeks, with the anticipated opening expected to be June 11, in Ohio.

Carl reports that Glenn Dandoy will be with the show as concession manager, Jim Nivens will be producing clown, Ms. Laura Boas, aerialist, plus Gerard Soules, poodle revue, along with Dennis Martino and Jim Conley. The show's elephant will be leased from Carson & Barnes Circus, thanks to Mr. Dorey Miller.

The circus will move on 4 show trucks, using a one ring big top, plus a 30 x 50 ft. side show, a snake show, toy store and concession stand.



LIPKO'S COMEDY CHIMPS were the subject of the TV Show "PM Magazine" aired in Washington, DC on March 16th. Sam, the roller skating chimp was featured in the program.

EMMA WIRENGARD is babysitting with a dog owned by HAPPY and KARIN DAVIS, while the couple is on tour in Australia.

GEORGE McWILLIAMS visited Circus Genoa at its

SAWDUST TRAIL (Continued)

This reporter just received the first route card for the Monte Carlo Circus. It is designed European style and other than the address has no mention of the Ringling name. Even the envelopes it was sent in are the yellow and orange combination, which includes a red circle with the word "Cirque" in the center in white. Other lettering is in blue and green, plus there is a European clown face on the right side.

The 109th edition of the Red Unit program is something to behold. Thanks to Jim Forrest, of Hartford, for my copy. The price is up from \$2.00 to \$2.50 this year, but it's well worth it. The full litho of Gunther Gebel-Williams is worth that much. He is pictured with a leopard draped around his neck.

1979 opening stand in Robertsedale, Ala., on Mar. 19.

DIETER WICHERT, trainer with Jungle Larry's African Safari, has a new mixed act consisting of a spotted leopard, black panther and an elephant. In his tiger act he features two hind leg walking tigers.

DAVE KNODERER, who owns a matched palomino pony drill and the high school horse "Painted Wonder" has been spending the winter months brushing up on his art work in Florida.

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"BOOM BOOM" BROWNING

Billy Barton (Continued)

be the next NEW market for performers I'm betting - and why not? Flea Markets attract fantastic crowds. . . The GREAT AERIALETTA, making a date for Circus Odyssey this month, had a new outdoor rigging built by WIRENGARD. . . Handsome RICKEY GARDEN (so I am told by the birds and bees) has a 'thing' going for one of the FORNASARIE maidens. . . T'is rumored that COUNT NICHOLAS will be with a Garden unit this year, his capacity thus far undesignated. . . KASSLE's BEARS return to Marineland for the summer, an annual stint for the bruins. . . LOS LATINOS making dates for HUBLER. . . also scheduled to appear with BENTLEY BROS. in June. . . CAROL MARCAN is a circus band enthusiast. . . The band on the Moscow Circus has THREE American circus band leaders in it - Keith Killinger, Russ Darr and Leo Mascitto. . . Two of the HERRIOTT gals are cloud-swinging on Circus Vargas, flanking the remarkable SENOR ANTONIO. . . That band this year is co-directed by DAVID EPPERLY and WINN MURRAH. . . JIM GIBSON, the ex-CV bandleader, is off the road I am told taking his "masters". Indications are He'll retire from the circus scene and while I am happy for him personally, his abdication is a great loss to the circus bandstand. . . Property person BOBBY DAVIS, now actually notorious for being injured at least THREE times each season, kicked off his 1979 mishaps with a six inch gash in the thigh while unloading those Monster Garden ringcurbs. Off to the hospital he went (natch) where he was butterflied (?) and injected with a tetanus shot which swelled his arm to three times its normal size! What's a mother to do!

JUGGLER Kenny Sherburne played Barrados this past winter, was giving me the intriguing details when we were interrupted (Damn!). Apparently, playing the area involves much cloak and dagger, which certainly teases my mind for yet another book! Which, reminds me. . . now that I've seriously turned to writing murder-mystery novels I am inundated with marvelous and ingenious methods for killing my characters. You can't believe the ideas circus performers come up with! Already I am indebted to demolition expert FRANK DAILEY (Super with Garden Bros.) for designing a fantastic technical device for the new book on which I am no working!

CLOWNS

Clowns working the Feb. 23-25 Shrine Circus at Madison, Wisc., were: Joe Sherman, John MacKay, Bill Vaughn and Jodie Jordan. Their numbers were: Come in, The Wedding, Watch Repair, Long Shirt and Dog Pie.

Clowns working the M & M Circus date at Rochester were: Jimmy Douglass, Vern Woerner, John MacKay, David Chabira, Bruce Warner, Billy Ford, Eddie Busch, Buck Nolan and Larry Rich. Their numbers were: Mother Hubbard, Acupuncture and Big Head Walk.

Clowns working the Sam T. Polack Circus date in Louisville, Ky., were: John MacKay, Joe Sherman, Les Schmitt, Phil Ganger, Billy Ford and Eddie Busch. Their numbers were: The Wedding, Long Shirt and the Fire House.

AIRPORT 1979 starring NANCY KELLY (Emmett's Ringmistress Spouse). SYNOPSIS: Emmett and Nancy are taking off in a 727 jet from Kennedy Airport following a 9 inch snowfall. The ship is climbing out over the ocean. At 3000 feet the passengers are stunned by a horrendous explosion, followed by chilling vibrations! The ship continues to climb - despite a demolished engine which has lost its "vanes". The expected fire does not occur, because the Captain has had the foresight to dump fuel, which he continues to dump, from both wings, before returning to land.

At Kennedy the sirens are wailing, the crash trucks are speeding onto the runway in force. All that is needed now is a film crew, a director, and CHARLTON HESTON. The landing is made - cleverly, when one realizes that it requires all THREE engines to land a 727.

Now our heroine, Nancy, morbidly frightened of airplanes, is reduced to a hysterical wreck, but somehow, Emmett cajoles and contrives to get her into another plane only to be bounced by dangerous turbulence over Richmond, Virginia! Is it a plot? Is it sabotage? No - merely bad weather and bad luck. EPILOGUE: NANCY, will walk, roller skate, ski, take a bus, a pram, or a train, but its doubtful that Emmett will lure her into another airplane - at least for the rest of this season!

See you down the road, luvs!

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RAY (Sabu) MOREAU, elephant historian and model builder, who is well known among elephant trainers, has been in ill health and would enjoy cards and letters. Write him at: 1807 - 18th St., Niagara Falls, NY.

JOHN HERRIOTT and family are presenting a modern disco dancing horse number in the Circus Vargas program. CINDY and "Gen. Vargas" recently took part in a Disco Marathon at the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium as part of an Easter Seal Benefit show.

Miscellaneous

Ticket prices for the Monte Carlo Circus at Chicago are set at: \$5, \$6.50, \$7.50 and \$8.50. Boxes containing 8 seats are priced at \$12.50 per seat. One box for one performance is \$100, with boxes purchased for every performance are discounted by \$600. One box for 26 shows (8 seats per show) will run \$2000 and each Royal Box Seat Holder receives a free circus program book.

The Kare Youth League of Arcadia, Calif., will hold their annual circus on June 1-2.

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The Circus

The program for the Detroit (Mich) Moslem Temple Shrine Circus, produced by Dorothy Winn and Ron Kelroy, featured: Spec; Geronimo, high dive; Aerial Display with Miss Lucy, Maryse Begary, Bonnie Bale, De Lisa; Jorge Barreda's lions; Aerial Display with Les Barons, Dolly Sisters, Great Milton; Animal Display with Walt King's mixed group; Ethel Jennier's Greyhounds; Javanna's Jungle Jubilee, Jo Ann & Sunny, seal act, Gee Gee's Ponies; Clowns; The Jordanas, aerial; Beeswax, the Mule; Clowns; Aerial Ballet featuring Miss Aerialetta; World Wheelers; a ground display with The Barons, Ray and Yolanda; The Andronedas, Los Argentinos; The Great Joselito, high wire; Flying Act; Clowns; Rix's Bears; Miss Tina; Moore's Mess of Mutts; Clowns; ground display with the Teddys, Irving Hall, the Navarros, the Dionnes, the Bruskys; Clowns; the Bale Sisters, horses; Les Dolli (Theron); The Great Wallendas; elephants presented by Walt King, Cristiani and Gee Gee Engesser; Finale.

Some 45 members of the Circus Fans in Holland are planning a trip to the U. S. during the period of May 24 to June 4th.



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MONTE CARLO CIRCUS... by L. A. Sadler

Arriving in the Conrail yards at Niagara Falls the newest of Irvin and Kenneth Feld circus productions, the 15 car Monte Carlo Circus unloaded for a three day stand, March 2-4, at the beautiful Niagara Falls Convention Center. The advance had made its appearance well known by well spotted TV film clips and ample newspaper advertisement. This being the third stand of a new circus format, from all that was seen it appears it will be well accepted and enjoyed by the American circus going public.

For those of us whom are so used to the multi-ring productions, from high grass to the mammoth shows of old, a new aspect must be accepted to enjoy truly real circus. This being what has been refined from the Monte Carlo Circus Festival as the top acts of award winners.

This quite naturally is a one ring show with the European style performer's entrance backing the ring. The 16 piece band in red and gold braid sits back and to the side. This will be the physical set-up in most indoor arenas, as they are not circular like the circus buildings and big tops of Europe. Box seats on ground level front the ring. On first appearance the set-up appears as a let down from the \$5.50 and \$7.00 ticket charge, but this is not for long. The house lights darken and the band is spot-lighted for its overture and running lights frame the red and gold performers entrance. The show is off to real circus.

Sergio, the well groomed Parisian ringmaster, steps into the ring and introduces an act most shows would end with, Elvin Bale and his rocket launcher, a modernization of the cannon act. Having set an exciting tempo a short film clip is shown on a large screen over the performer's entrance. This introduces Prince Ranier and the Monte Carlo Circus from its set up to the presentation of awards. The show then continues offering 15 acts in two and a half hours of performance.

The Riding Richters open with a fine bareback act featuring a two person head-to-head stand while riding. The Albarracines, from Colombia, now appear high in the air, with two people doing aerial acrobatics. All aerial rigging is hung over the ring from a framework as would be the case if under canvas. Spain now offers Luis Munoz who truly is the master of the low wire. The audience soon finds themselves responding to the conclusion of each act in rhythmic applause, which is the European style. Gone are the bothersome vendors who are not allowed during the performance. This is something that American shows can adopt.

Gabor Eotvos and the European musical clowns bring up the light side with loveable comedy and that "I've got another one" producing musical in-

struments. The Wee Gets, ages 12 through 16, now display fine ground acrobatics and are the children of the Albarracines. To the delight of all, America presents Brian Fawcett and his hilarious four chimps. Following this Elvin Bale returns for the aerial heel catches he is known for and thus closes the first half.

After a 15 minute intermission the show continues with Hungary's Karoly Donnert and his tigers. Six felines are in the cages, but only five perform. This act reaches it's finale with two tigers, each riding a horse and a stand-up for the conclusion. Gene Mendez follows with his high wire mastery, highlighted by his inclined wire walk. I might add at this time, ringmaster Sergio and his polished style of charm is a fine addition to introducing the acts and working with them in his inter-action.

The Eotvos of Hungary are back for a second appearance in a short clown entree. Likewise the Richter family of Hungary make their second appearance with elephants and teeterboard work. Two adults and a baby make up the bull members. The baby was not performing.

From Switzerland comes the Duo Dobritch perch act featuring Cornelia posing on top of a long slender pole balanced from the forehead of Zdravko who carefully climbs a second perch pole anchored to the arena floor. The Eotvos return for a third appearance as flexible bar gymnasts and are then followed by the sensational whirling wheel of death, presented by Elvin Bale.

The Silagis Troupe from Bulgaria is the concluding act that befits the ending of any thrilling circus performance with their fine teeterboard artistry, and the four man high catch. Sergio then brings back the performers in an act for act announcement, they mount the ring curb with spot-lighted star Elvin Bale in the center. The audience at this review extended a standing ovation with rhythmic applause as their response in gratitude to these fine performers. (When was the last time you have seen this kind of acceptance).

For general information there were a total of 38 performers and the ringmaster. A neatly dressed 12 man prop crew indicated good timing to keep the show moving smoothly. Their uniforms were bright red tunics trimmed in gold braid. The performers are members of AGVA.

The show train is painted silver with the circular legend "Monte Carlo International Circus" centered on the car sides. Small yellow numbers appear on the car ends. Flats are 89' 6".

220 Flat	242 Sleeper
221 Flat	243 Sleeper
222 Flat	244 Combination light
223 Bi-Level	plant and dinner
230 Baggage (Stock)	245 Sleeper
231 Baggage	246 Sleeper
240 Sleeper	247 Sleeper
241 Sleeper	248 Sleeper

Circus Acts

Acts featured on the Royal Hanneford Circus program at Greenville, S.C., were:

Overture of Lights; Ms. Jule, slide for life; Spec "Circus On Parade"; Herman & Petunia, comedy riding; Clowns; Hal's poochies; Pamela's chimps; Antonucci's chimps; Al's Lemonzeen, comedy car; Roger Zope's Arabian Riders; Ms. April Fossett, disco in the sky; Spec, Cinderella; the Flying Vazquez, trapeze; The Great Vashek, inclined wire; Clowns; Capt. Wm. Golden, elephants; The Elkins Sisters, acro/dogs; The Vashek Duo, aerial motorcycle; Circus Finale.

The staff included: Tommy Hanneford, executive producer; Glenn Parkins, executive director; Keith Killinger, musical director; Kay Parker, organ; Bob Parker, drums; Ray Orzak, costumes; Al Leonard, vocalist; Senor Rai, ringmaster; Dwight Hanson, prop boss; Gertrude Hanneford, aerial director; David Jones, lighting; Philip Morris, spec designer/director; Sandra Smith, Ass't Spec director; Glenn Parkins, color scheme and layout; Wally Jones, producing clown; Cheryl Jones, wardrobe; Harold Katzsu, supt. of animals; Ed Kenyon, transportation; Dr. Charles Mays, physician; Geri Krell, secretary and Rilla Allender, receptionist.

PEOPLE

VIRGINIA LEE FENTON, organist, reports she has signed to work dates for Bentley Bros., the Emmett Kelly, Jr. and Dobritch circuses.

CHIRON's Magical Machine opened its season in South Carolina in February and next month will be in Florida with HUNKY JOHNSON's Bears, The ALMIROS, CARMEN DEL MOLINO, LIPKO'S CHIMPS and CHIRON, illusionist. The Magical Machine will also appear at the IBM Ring 144 Convention at Charlotte, N.C. set for June 1-3.

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Show Report

A special circus was recently produced and presented by the Exchange Club of Lockport, N.Y. The circus was called The Greatest Little Show On Earth and featured:

Mike Shanley, ringmaster; Parade of Performers; The Circus Clowns; Hal Haviland, trained animals; Clown Numbers; Shirley and Dick Beecher, tumbling; The Circus Clowns; The Carlos Team, high wire; Reflections in Mime; This and That with Hal Haviland; The Dipsy Doodle Daubers; Intermission; Clowns in Animal Training; Gary Goodman and Jeff Gonka, magical madness; Clowns with Camera Capers; The Lockport Flips, gymnasts; Clown Balloon number; The Carlos Duo, perch act; Clowns; Grand Finale.

The show's staff included: Bill Donald, director; Betty Donald and Becky Sullivan, wardrobe; Jack Tillotson, business mgr/props; Larry Martin, seating; Vern Ulrich, sound; Frank Lewis, tickets; Bill Porter, concessions; Don McIntyre, staging director; Bob Russell, assistant staging director; Don Kaufman, treasurer; Stanley and the Classics, music; Dave Benedict, prop designer.

Members of Clown Alley were: Bob Bennett, Wes Arnold, Steve Cuzzacrea, Lowell Perry, John Hall, Don Kaufman, Bill Anstey, Ray Betsch, David Betsch, Sara Fricke, Tom Costello, Ray Ideus, John Buczkowski, Bill Donald and Gloriann Hutchins,

IN MEMORIAM

HENRY KYES, retired circus band leader, died early this month in Florida. He spent most of his life in the circus business, working as a musician and band leader. His last years before retiring, due to ill health, had been spent with Polack Bros. Circus where he was given the title of "The Paul Whiteman of the Circus World."

JAMES L. "Cowboy" SINGEHEIM (55), former side show and circus worker, died of a heart attack at Immokalee, Fla., on Feb. 17th. In recent years he had operated a novelty stand on carnivals.

OLON LEE STARR (75), magician, died at his home in Abilene, Texas, about a month ago, following a heart attack. He started his show business career as a projectionist and later as a set-up man for Harry Blackstone. He became well known for his work with Java Doves and toured with various shows including Royal American, plus the Morris and Castle Show. Since '52 he had lived in Abilene, continuing to be active in magic. Survivors include his wife, Ruth Ann, daughter Sidney Starr Steele and son, Solon L. Starr, Jr., who is also a magician.