



4th Year

October 27, 1975

Number 43

'75 was good one

"We've just completed the biggest season since we started three years ago," says Al Stencell of Canada's Royal Bros. Circus. "We covered a total of 9,500 miles and were on the road from May 11 to Sept. 30th and lost only three days. Our biggest day of the season was at The Pas, Manitoba."

It was good steady business that made the year a winner, Stencell added. Neither inflation or unemployment seemed to hurt us, but the increased cost of fuel and food certainly added to our operating expenses.

Royal Bros. Circus is currently wintered at Barons, Alta, and plans to go on the road in early 1976. The show's advance agents are already setting up engagements for what is expected to be a big year.

Two accidents marred the show tour this year. In July the spool truck overturned enroute from Manitowadge to Marathon and was a total loss. The per-

(Continued on Page 15)

CHILD MAULED

A two year old boy was reported as being in "fairly good" condition after being mauled by a leopard at Bridgeport, Conn., on Oct. 12th.

The youngster - Matthew Blanchard, of Fairfield, Conn., was severely clawed in the face and head by a leopard at the Beardsley Park Zoo. Observers said the boy had crawled inside a fenced area around the leopard cage.

Shriners Talk Circus

Some 45 Shrine Temples were represented at the Oct. 24-25 meeting in Indianapolis (Ind.) where the subject of the two day session was circus and its problems. The special "Circus Committee" convention was hosted by the Murat Shrine Temple and was co-chaired by Cecil Byrne.

Topics discussed during the two days ranged from contract details and prices to concessions, insurance, public relations, advertising, posters and promotion, etc. A major discussion point was the practice of competitive bidding for acts, a move that naturally drives up the costs. Other discussions centered around routing plans and schedules.

Tiger breeder Robert Baudy talked about legislation that affects the animal trainers, and Sam Polack presented information on the Circus Producers Assoc. viewpoint about legislation and other matters.

Attending the meetings was Fred Morrison of Detroit's Moslem Temple, the Imperial Shrine Fund-Raising Chairman. All circuses operating on a charitable basis for the Shrine come under his jurisdiction.

PEOPLE

BRADD FRANK has been busy at his Florida home breaking in new horses for the coming season

In Memoriam

VINCENT M. CAREY (Vino, the Clown) died at Baltimore, Md. on Sept. 21st after a heart attack. He started in show business as a drummer, then worked as a barker and publicity man and later worked as a clown and juggler. He had a magic and juggling shop in Baltimore. Survivors include his wife, Winnie.

HOMER DENNY (90) calliope player, who died at Springfield, Ohio, on Sept. 20th. He worked for many circuses, showboats and amusement parks. Survivors include a daughter and several grand children.

Clown College

The annual fall/winter session of the Ringling-Barnum Clown College is currently underway at the show's quarters in Venice, Fla. The course includes various lectures, films and actual work on props and costumes.

The college, headed by Bill Ballantine, has a staff of some 23 circus experts. Some 52 students are attending the six day a week, 8 hour day classes.

New Feature For Horse Show

One of Spain's most exciting and unusual spectacles -- the Spanish Riding Show -- will be joining the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show, according to showman Gary Lashinsky. The special added attraction will feature professional trainers with Spain's dancing Andalusian stallions.

These Spanish horses will be appearing in the U.S. for the first time and will bring all the classical movements of The Spanish Riding Show for American audiences. Adding to the beauty of their performance, the riders wear vaquero dress, while exhibiting the movement of the bullfight, including fast and dangerous turns, pirouettes and gallop leaps. They also perform exciting numbers to a background of classical music.

The beauty, nobility and the graceful movement of the Spanish Riding Show has aroused admirers from all over the world. The horses have played an important role in the development of the modern horse.

Kings and aristocrats coveted the Spanish Horse. Even the Kings of England owned them and great artists painted them with royalty in the saddle.

In July 1580, the Archduke Charles II founded the court stud at Lipizzan with Spanish horses and they became the foundation for the Spanish Riding School in Vienna and the famous Lipizzaners that have become world renowned over the past 400 years.

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Miscellaneous

The paper Midnight, dated on Sept. 15th, carried several pictours of movie stars at RBBB's Red Unit in Los Angeles.

The Chicago (Ill.) Tribune for Sept. 28th, had a full page color reproduction of an RBBB 1920 poster, plus a feature story about Linda and Tim Holst.

Fair Show

Featured at the Kern County Fair, at Bakersfield, Calif., on Oct. 1-4 were:

Dave Barry - Master of Cerem.
The Duane Dancers
Dwight Moore's Mongrel Revue
Danny Welton - harmonica
Skiles & Henderson - comedy
Happytime Circus
Foley & Burk Shows



ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus
 Oct. 27 Hattiesburg, Miss.
 28 Columbus
 29 Muscle Shoals, Ala
 30 Tuscaloosa
 31 Selma
 Nov. 1 Ozark
 2 Mariana

Hubert Castle Circus
 Oct 22-25 Utica, N.Y.

Circus Vargas
 Oct 30-31 Springf'ld, Mo.
 Nov 1-2 Joplin

Hanneford Circus
 Oct 27 Winnsboro, Tex.
 29-30 Sulphur, Okla.
 Nov. 1-2 Lawton

Int'l All Star Circus
 Nov. 3 Decatur, Ga.

Pickle Family Circus
 Oct 31-Nov 2 San Fran, Cal.

Polack Bros. Circus
 Nov. 1-2 Huntington, W.Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
 Oct 31-Nov 2 Champaign, Ill

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
 Oct 29-Nov 2 Pittsburgh, Pa

Royal Hanneford Circus
 Nov. 1-2 Worcester, Mass.

Sells & Gray Circus
 Oct. 28 Philadelphia, Miss
 29 Meridian
 30 Laurel
 31 Jackson, Ala.

Nov. 1 Atmore
 2 Crestview
 -- End of Tour --

Shrine Circus
 Oct 28-Nov 2 Austin, Tex.

John Strong Circus
 Oct. 28 Riverside, Cal.
 29-30 Goleta
 31-Nov 1 Oxnard
 Nov. 2-4 San Diego

..... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
 Oct 31-Nov 4 Seattle, Wsh

Dancing Waters
 to Nov. 1 Sparks, Nev.

James H. Drew Shows
 Oct 27-Nov 1 Augusta, Ga.
 -- End of Tour --

Ice Follies
 Oct. 28-Nov 2 Rochester, NY

Kramien's Magic Capades
 Oct 27 Spokane, Wash.

Kramien's Magic Capades (Ctd)
 Oct. 28 Colfax, Wash
 29 Moscow, Idaho
 30 Pullman, Wash.
 31 Lewiston, Idaho
 Nov. 2 Richland, Wash.

In Memoriam

HUGO ZACCHINI (77) died at San Bernardino, Calif., on Oct. 20th following a stroke. He is credited as being the original human cannonball -- an act that was started in 1922, prior to the family's coming to the U.S. He was featured on many circuses and often was a park and fair attraction.

Hugo was an artist and for several years taught art in Southern California.



MUD SHOW

A CIRCUS SEASON

FRED POWLEDGE

With over 70 photographs
by the author

An outsider looks under the canvas—a whole other view of the hurly burly, crazy-colored world of the Hoxie Brothers Circus. Journalist Fred Powledge discovers an almost separate world here. With incredible people from Hoxie himself to Superchicken, the sail maker. There's more, ladies and gentlemen, much more. And it's all right inside this book.



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*Ken Griffin
& Roberta*

SHOW KNOW-HOW

..... by BILL RUESSKAMP

Caught the Ken Griffin Magic Show at the Arena Building in Cape Girardeau (Mo.) where he played a matinee only show on Oct. 12th. Ken is from the old school of troupers and gave a good account of how the showman worked in the "good old days." All budding magicians should see this show, and the old-timer will get a case of nostalgia when he sees the old-time goodies unfold before his eyes.

Popping corn on a boy's head, the Rice Bowls, Miser's Dream, the Levitation, Buzz Saw, card and coin manipulations and many others of like vintage.

He played to a comfortably filled show crowd, with chairs added for the latecomers. Of course Ken does the lion's share of the show, but thank goodness for his hard working wife, Roberta. She helps with most of the illusions and had a couple of solo spots doing a pleasing rag picture number and an ESP bit - both very good.

Ken is a very friendly man and welcomes magicians and showmen and is ready to chat whenever time permits. He has written a book on how to make a success of one night stands. So if you are willing to work hard, buy out a magic shop and patiently practice and practice you will be on the road to success.

The show's roster includes: Roberts Griffin, Jan Mitchell, Giaun Tran, Ly Dugh, Cheyanne,

PEOPLE

CARL HELBING and his model circus were featured on TV and in newspapers to announce the Shrine Circus at Phoenix (Ariz.) on Sept. 27-28.

CORT LANGDON reports he's found a soft drink bottle (1900 era) with raised letters reading "Hagenbach Wallace Shows". Note the spelling.

MIKE SPORRER reports the Seattle Shrine Temple says RBBB has two more years to go on the current three year contract. It is the third three year contract between the show and Shrine club

CHARLES "Gene" McDONALD, former CFA President and retired Washington State employee recently donated his model circus to the Seattle Museum of History & Industry. GENE and DORIS plan to tour with Wallace & Rogers in 76

and Lee Jackson (of the Juggling Jacksons).

Bill Coomer and Kevin Probst, local magicians and showmen, also caught the show.

CIRCUS SENTINEL

..... by BILLY BARTON

TOMMY HANNEFORD spalshed all over the New York dailies and TV when he took his elephant "Chandra" in for a Casio Corp. commercial (they make electric calculators). Tommy, being Tommy, unloaded all three bulls and hiked them to the intersection of 84th and 2nd Avenue, where they proceeded to put on an impromptu performance.

LOTTIE BRUNN's son MICHAEL CHIRRICK, the most exciting new juggler since FRANCIS (who's his uncle) back from Japan, preparing for a Globetrotter tour. He's already headlined a Barry Ashton revue. Keep your eye on this lad - he's slated to make juggling history.

BILL RODGERS, of jewels, feathers and birds, took birds only to the Great Danbury Fair following his annual summer sojourn at Tuxedo Park, N.Y....IVAN HENRY to 20th Century for some movie work.

KATHY ENGLISH confided to me plans to start a trapeze act under the tutelege of superstar LA NORMA.....ANITA and IRIS KEPPO are parting amicably, going separate paths in '76. No definite plans but they promise to fill me in first.

For your West Coasters Vargas his Sacramento in late November.....DYMEKS, pole voltiage due to start rehearsals at the Dunes in Vegas.

Shrine Bits: Hear Miami is up for grabs.....and what about Chicago?.....GARDEN returning to

Altoona and Montreal, adding Reading, Hamburg, Allentown and Pittsburgh, all Shrine.....HANNEFORD has Cincinnati..... It almost takes a score card to know who has what anymore.

KEITH and KATHY KILLINGER, sort of semi-retired, doing the old Willy, West & McGinty housebuilding bit in Florida....PHILIP MORRIS creating gigantic Bicentennial Spec for Detroit. We will be so full of red, white and blue and flag waving in '76 that we'll more than welcome the Dawn's Early Light of 1977.

Aside to chef LEE MISTER of G-M Circus: Potato plant alive and living well.....TONY FOSSETT, the FLYING DELLS, the FLYING MEDALIONS, EDDIE VENTURA's Rocket car, are among the many acts inked for Detroit.

Old adage "love makes the world go round" certainly inspires movement anyway. Bandleader LEO MASCITTO flew in to White Plains, N.Y. between Garden dates to sweet-talk fiance CLARA BERTINI.....ANDREW KIRBY now managing-director for the top HOWARD SUESZ unit.....the ROBERSTONS go

(Continued on Page 14)

A Clown and Artist

A dream of traveling, being in show business and hopes of becoming an artist have all become a reality for Jim Howle, one of Ringling-Barnums clowns.

Howle studied art for three years at the Ringling School of Art, in Sarasota (Fla.) and then in the winter of 1968 he attended RBBB's Clown College. Upon his graduation he was given a six year contract with several renewal options.

"I practically had to sell my soul," he says. "The contract renewable up to 20 years, covers all my talent, including painting, photography and clowning. I can't even sing in the shower if anybody's listening."

Although Howle doesn't do much clowning these days he is nevertheless busy with photography and painting. He is the first official artist employed by the circus, and works mostly from his own photographs. His drawings tend to be life size and he likes to work in both oils and acrylics - already he has completed hundreds of circus scenes and portraits, many of which are used for advance publicity purposes.

Late this year Howle hopes to go back to school and earn his master's degree. After that he wants to continue his work, and maybe even try a little acting work.

"But I want to continue making money for what I like doing. Once you get paid, that makes it all valid somehow, especially art."

P.R. Work

During the RBBB's Red Unit engagement in Chicago, Ill. (Oct 1-27) circus performers have been kept busy doing a variety of public relations work.

On Oct. 4th, the CBS-TV News carried a film report on A Day in the Life of Clown Lou Jacobs, which was made in Fresno, Calif., in August.

On Oct. 9th, one local TV station featured an interview with Philippe Petit, while another station carried an interview with Barry Lappy.

On Oct. 10th, the Graffiti TV show featured a film on the arrival of the circus and their animal parade on State Street.

On Oct. 11th, a morning TV show called Chicago Today, featured Buttons, the Clown and Philippe Petit.

.....Kristen Meyer

Miscellaneous

The Parents magazine of Aug. 1975 has several pictures and a story about Circus Kirk.

new animal regulations

Circuses and animal trainers should find it easier to acquire permits for the transportation of their animals, especially across state lines, because of new regulations concerning the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that were enacted on Sept. 26th. An important point is the fact that many so-called "endangered" animals will be switched to an "threatened" category.

A spokesman for the Division of Law Enforcement, of the Dept. of Interior, says the "new regulations definitely will make it easier for trainers -- much easier to transport their animals and much easier to get new ones."

Thomas Wilds, president of NCATB said, "We view this new development as a real victory for circuses and trainers. We have been pushing for it. However, now we must press for immediate implementation of the new regulations. That is, as it now stands - changes can be made from endangered to threatened status. Now we want to see those changes made as soon as possible

Three bills that would amend the Animal Welfare Act of 1966 are being supported by Rep. Wm. Whitehurst (R.Va.) who says "The bills which I am supporting aim to extend the principles which the Animal Welfare Act espouses to problems which the act does not deal directly."

Whitehurst says he is concerned about the fact that common carriers were previously ex-

empt from the regulations. It is the belief of everyone concerned he said, that the "Bruce" crate does not meet reasonable standards.

Adding to the problems, he said, is the fact that often animals are too young for shipment or are not healthy at the time of shipment. The new bills will remedy this situation by prohibiting the transportation of very young animals and by requiring a vet's examination before they travel. It will also set up standards for cages, food, water, rest, ventilation, etc.

Whitehurst is against the shipment of animals for fighting purposes. He also wants to see standards set for the shipment of horses overseas. Such shipments, he says, have been resulting in high mortality. (See Circus Report of Sept. 1, 1975 - Page 12).

Miscellaneous

The Chinese Acrobats from Taiwan were featured on Howard Cosell's TV show on Oct. 25th.



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Show Ok

A total of 27,400 people attended the five performances of the Olympic Int'l Circus at Macon (Ga.) on Oct. 3-5, officials report, thus setting new records for attendance and box office receipts. The show was produced by Eddie Zacchini and sponsored by the Al Shihah Temple Shrine.

This year's circus was scheduled about a month earlier than in previous years and held to account for the records achieved. An unofficial source said the Shrine Club had already set an early October date for their '76 circus.

The program was backed by an eight piece band, directed by Al Vernon. Other staff members included:

Eddie Zacchini - producer
 Bill Boren - ringmaster
 Tom Phelps - prod. clown
 Bela Ezsias - prop. supt.
 Tom Phelps, Al Ross and Chas. Watkins - clowns

Featured in the show were:-

Kay Rosaire - lions
 Gala Shawn - single trapeze
 Carmen del Molino - single trap.
 Fenn & Gunnar - comedy acrobats
 Zoppe Duo - unsupported ladders
 Bob Johnson - revolving
 Lona's Canine Revue
 Vidbel - ponies/elephants
 Santos and Lisa - tight wire
 Sensational Parker - sway pole

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The Spartans - aerial feature



Frightening Moment

Narrow escapes are one of the hazards of being a circus performer and recently Barbara Woodcock told *The Enquirer* magazine how she came close to being killed by an elephant.

The accident took place during a performance of a circus at Houston (Texas) in 1963. Barbara and the 8,000 lb. elephant Anna May were working in the center ring when the girl was almost crushed by the huge beast.

"The elephant picked me up in her mouth by my leg was that I dangled upside down," said Barbara. The elephant was on a wooden platform, and then climbed atop a pedestal -- still holding Barbara.

"Suddenly, there was a tremendous crash. The platform gave way. I was filled with terror as I plunged down head first, hit the iron pedestal -- and was knocked unconscious. The miracle is that the elephant didn't fall on top of me."

Show Report

Rumor has it that the big George Matthews Circus has quietly wintered its equipment on a farm in Ohio, after closing the season in West Virginia. The current plans, reports indicate, are to open the show early in March for a long and fully sponsored 1976 tour.

Among those expected to be with the circus next year are Ed Russell, LouAnn Jacobs, Alphonso Magana.

SHOW ACTS

Acts seen working at the "Old Chicago" Mall during the period of Oct. 14-18 were:

Mario Alberti, Antonucci's chimps, Cleo, Veno Venito, Ms. April, Arturo Seguro, Saul Shaf-ton, The Crazy Sailors, Bobby-Jane Duo, The Kellys, Burkett's Silver Sattalite, The Lang Family, Rosell High Wire Troupe, Ken Benge, Stagg McMann, Ar-wood's Dogs, Mister Magic, Ernie Johnson, Tony & Chris, and The Wheel of Destiny with Johnny Luxem.

Miscellaneous

Circus Vargas' current tour ends in California on Feb. 3rd and the 1976 tour opens on Feb. 17th on the west coast.



The famous horse trainer Jorgen M. Christiansen is shown here on his palomino stallion "Sunburst." The picture was taken on Russell Bros. Circus in 1942.



The three young ladies shown above were photographed in the back-yard of the Ringling-Barnum Circus in the mid-1930's.

CIRCUS SENTINEL (Continued)

back to Garden in '76, ditto
BERTINIS

FULBRIGHTS to early Polack dates starting in Flint....J. M. COLE looking for a family package of acts for his annual school tour.

Caught Pan Americana Circus at Beacon Theatre in New York -

review coming up.

Watch the American side coming out of Canada - they go thru everything! Make sure to manifest all equipment on the American side before going in. Gettin' so rough that if you have a choice, stay home, which is what I would like to do but since I can't.....see you down the road.

'75 was Good One (Continued)

formance was sidewalled until a spool unit could be mounted on the cookhouse truck. Then while playing at Manitowadge the side show top was blown down just before the second show was to have started.

About mid-season the show's feature attraction - the hippo died, of old age. Shortly afterwards a new baby hippo was added to the circus and was promptly named "Hugo."

For its 1975 tour Royal Br. carried two elephants, two lions, two wallabies, a llama, a hippo, four black bears, one Himalayan bear, two pigmy goats, three horses, six ponies and a python snake.

The show's rolling equipment included:

These units were semis: concessions, light plant and sleeper, poles and seats, side show cage, snake show, hippo show, stock and elephants.

Other trucks were: props, cookhouse, canvas spool, side show canvas and sleeper, school bus, office trailer and novelty stand. There were also several private vehicles and trailers, plus Dave Knodder's air calliope.

Remember

When the postage rates go up the subscription costs for Circus Report will have to be adjusted upward.

Great Tour

"The 1975 tour kept the Wenatchee Youth Circus pretty much within the states of Oregon and Washington for a highly successful season," says Manager/director Paul Pugh. "It was a banner year in every way and we are now engaging in fall practice for the 1976 season - our 24th year of traveling on the road."

The show played three fair dates in 1975, with the rest of the tour being sponsored dates. It was "standing room only" at all the fair dates despite the heavy rain that was encountered during the start of the Multnomah County Fair at Portland, Ore.

The windiest date of the tour was at Ephrata (Wash.) on June 28th, when 30 m.p.h. gusts hampered every act, forcing a quick show and hurried tear-down. The worst spot of the season was at Hoquiam (Wash.) where lack of advance promotion resulted in a complete blank.

A highlight for the year was the special feature (picture and story) that Sunset magazine carried on the circus in its August 1975 issue.

Miscellaneous

RBBB's Blue Unit, for 1976, will feature 200 years of circus history and the wedding of Michu and Ershica in its spec number.