

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY



9th Year

July 28, 1980

Number 30



Joseph C. Reisinger

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MAILBAG

(The following letter, dated July 1, 1980, was received from R. L. Crawford, Chief Staff Veterinarian, Animal Care Staff, Veterinary Services, USDA, Washington, DC.)

I am writing you in regard to an article on Page 3, of the June 2, 1980, Circus Report which concerns one Otto Berosini.

The following statement appeared in the article, "Berosini also reports that his lawyer called the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) office in Washington, DC, in an attempt to work out his problems. He was informed they were not interested since they wanted to phase out circus animal acts as soon as possible."

This is to advise you that no such statement was made by anyone in the USDA. In addition neither Mr. Berosini, his lawyer, nor anyone else, has contacted any USDA official in Washington, DC, concerning his problems. The Animal Welfare Act and its regulations establish minimum humane standards for the care and housing of animals used for research, exhibition, or sold at the wholesale level for pets. The Department is concerned only for the health, well-being and human care of these animals, as is aptly demonstrated by the USDA's past and present policies.

The Department is not trying to put anyone out of business, or to phase out any circus animal acts. Please advise your readers that the statement indicated above is false and that no USDA official in Washington, DC, has been contacted regarding Mr. Berosini's problems in California.

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ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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WEDDINGS

KLARA VALLA BERTINI, of the Bertini unicycle act, and JOE GUTTENBERG were married on July 1st, at Heritage USA, NC. Circus band leader Leo Mascito was the best man, the bridesmaid was Klarisa Bertini and the bride was given away by Henri Strazan. Rev. Austin Miles performed the ceremony. (All were with Tino Wallenda Zoppe's Circus Maranatha).

JAN SMITH and CHUCK HUTINGER were married on June 14th and spent their honeymoon in Redlands, Calif., visiting with friends in the Great All American Youth Circus. The couple met while playing with the Illinois State University Gamma Phi Circus and both performed at Marriott's Great America in Santa Clara (Calif). They plan to continue their teaching careers in the Peoria, Ill. area.

DEBORAH ANN GLAZER and DOUGLAS LYON were married on June 21st at Malibu, Calif. Doug has been a promotional director for both Beatty-Cole and Circus Vargas. He is also active in the promotion of illusionist Doug Henning.

SUSIE RYAN and TONY MEDLEY were married on June 21st at Redlands, Calif. The couple are performers and trainers with the Great All American Youth Circus. They met while performing in Marriott's Great America Circus Fantastic at Santa Clara, Calif. Susie received her training at Peru, Ind.'s Circus City Festival and is now spot-dating in the west with a double trapeze act called 'The Shurays'.

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

July 28-29 Marion, Ohio
30-31 Piqua
Aug. 1-3 Lima

Hubert Castle Circus

July 28 Great Bend, Kans
30 Wichita

Circus Arts Troupe

July 30 - Aug. 2 Jackson,
Miss

Fleckles Circus

July 29-Aug. 3 Rockford,
Ill.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

July 28 Northfield, Vt.
29 Burlington
30 Glens Falls, NY
31 Johnstown, Pa.

Aug. 1 Auburn
2 Geneva
3 Batavia

Make-A-Circus

July 29 San Jose, Calif.
31 San Francisco
Aug. 1 San Francisco

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to July 29 Inglewood, Calif
July 31-Aug 11 Anaheim

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

July 29-Aug 3 Dallas, Texas

Roberts Bros. Circus

July 29 Marietta, Pa.
30 Mahanoy City
31 Stroudsburg

Royal Crown Circus

July 29-31 Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 2-3 Santa Fe

Swan Bros. Circus

July 31-Aug. 3 Placerville,
Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic

July 29-31 Maplewood, Minn
Aug. 1-3 Eau Claire, Wisc

Wenatchee Youth Circus

July 28-31 Wenatchee, Wash

---- MAGIC ----

Berger the Magician

July 19 Ashland, Ky.
23 Proctorville, Ohio

Manzini - Escape Artist

to Sept 1 Lake George, NY

Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA

July 28 Centerville, Iowa
29 Creston
31 Atlantic
Aug. 1 Harlan
2 Jefferson

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

July 28-Aug. 2 Orleans,
Mass.

Dondi the Elephant

Aug. 2 Chicago, Ill.

Draft Horse Show

Aug 1-3 Castro Valley,
Calif.

James H. Drew Exposition

July 27-Aug. 2 Valparaiso,
Ind.

Firemen's Muster

Aug. 3 Idaho Sprngs, Colo

Foley & Burk Shows

to Aug. 2 San Mateo, Calif

Gund Western Collection

to Aug 20 San Fran, Calif

Gutis Family Comedy Act

July 29-Aug 1 Isle Verte,
Quebec

Hall & Christ Attractions

Aug 1-10 Ionia, Mich

Mighty Thomas Shows

July 22-Aug 2 Lethbridge,
Albta

Tom Ogden

to Aug 24 Sheffield, Mass

Old Time Medicine Show

July 28 Espanada, Ont.
29 Sudbury
30 Gravenhurst
Aug. 2 Midland

Royal American Shows

July 31-Aug 10 Milwaukee
Wsc

The Sikorskys - Jugglers

Aug 1 Reston, Md.
2 Gaithersburg

Frank Strout - western act

July 31-Aug 3 Augusta, Me.

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit

July 30-Aug 3 Green Lake,
Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit

July 30-Aug 3 Cedarburg,
Wisc.

Carson & Barnes Circus

July 27 Rugby, N.D.
28 Devils Lake
29 Grafton
30 Grand Forks
31 Thief River Falls,
Minn.

Aug. 1 Bemidji

2 Hibbing

NOTICE ----

Sister Josephine Calo wants to find her brother, Angelo C. Giardino. Anyone knowing his whereabouts or him, please contact:

Sister Josephine Calo
Holy Family Covent
60 Harrison Street
Nutley, NJ - 07110

Phone: 201 - 667 - 2050
Or 201 - 667 - 1847



RECENTLY I saw a comedy act that was an imitation of another comedy act I had seen earlier in the season. And, as usual, it was a poor quality imitation, as most such imitations are. Those of us sitting together merely looked at one another with expressions that read: "Looks familiar does it not?"

It seems a shame that with all the strikes the circus performer has against him (or her) he should be dealt one of such criminal injustice as a fellow performer trying to usurp his act. Unfortunately the U.S. Patent and Copyright laws being what they are, one's rigging or special props cannot be patented, and one's specialized routines cannot be copyrighted. I have never understood this. Copyright laws CAN be changed. Very recently they were changed by writers whose unpublished works were subject to plagiarism because one could not copyright an unpublished play or book, story, article, or song. Now a writer CAN. It means of course that the individual must secure a SECOND copyright on the published work but at least all those months, even years of hard creative work, are protected. I should think the U.S. Patent and Copyright Laws could also be changed to protect the performer (any performer, any sort of act) but first performers must band together and LOBBY for that change.

The worst of it is too many performers are like ostriches. They think, if they stick their heads in the sand, their problems will simply go away. Alas, when they look up again they find that not only have their problems not disappeared but also those problems have been augmented by new ones.

The new CIRCUS ODYSSEY, bowing next month in Cape Cod, is a show to watch. Producer ED MIGLEY visited while I was appearing at the Brockton Fair and told me that 39 Shrine committees are coming to see the new circus, as well as many other VIP's from the show world. Unquestionably Odyssey is the most beautiful American indoor circus I have ever seen. Ed is a young man with vision and determination, two qualities that are hard to beat. There is a huge difference between 'flash' and 'class'. And the difference in Circus Odyssey and many of its competitors is just that. Odyssey has Class, upper-class at that.

Migley will produce in Boston, next fall, a

circus for that city's famed JIMMY FUND, a five ring spectacular presented on a stage the size of Radio City Musci Hall's. The engagement is to run, I believe, ten days, and I will tell you more about it after I have another in-depth talk with the producer in August.

RAMBLINGS: TOMMY HANNEFORD has his small tent unit at the Purchase (NY) Arts Festival for the rest of the summer. At the end of August he goes to the Allentown Fair and then to the Springfield (Mass) fair for WAYNE McCAREY, the second time around for this association. Following the Springfield date Hanneford makes his regular fall tour with his big show. . . HOXIE TUCKER, in a long, long confidential chat, told me that while they had a rocky tour coming up through the south, the circus did not lose money, at least through its promotion. Lack of people on the lot severely affected the concession business. All in all, however, it has been one of the show's toughest seasons, made so by the loss of their big top, breakdowns, and the terrible rise in unemployment across the country. Hoxie agreed that 1980 was a counterpart of those early bad 1930's. Did you know that Hoxie was broken into the circus business by my uncle GEORGE BARTON? Well, it's true, and several witnesses to our conversation heard Hoxie admit that to me. I'm sure many readers don't know that I was born on my family's circus, and that over the years my family had many well-known circuses on the road including: Barton Bros., Barton & Bailey, and, during the war, Bond Bros. So, you see, dear readers, I come to my columnizing with a lifetime of experience in this business. I learned to lace a big top before I learned to lace my shoes, stood on the running board of an old truck, hopped off and chalk-arrowed poles before I could write my own name. I started out in my family's riding act at the age of six and at the age of seven climbed onto my cloud swing. Forty-six years later I am still astride it and have watched other cloud swings come and go.

FRANK CURRY, that perennial globetrotter, is back in the USA and I almost fainted from shock when his voice emerged from my telephone last night! My little spy JUNE DEWSBURY let it slip that he had visited her a few days earlier. So you see, you can't keep

(Continued on Page 24)

Show Report

CIRCUS TIME IN SEATTLE AREA

by Mike Sporrer

For the third time in a row, Circus Vargas - America's Big Top Giant - played Seattle, Wash. For the first time ever, Seattle had a back-to-back day and date. This resulted when Circus Vargas played Tukwila, Wash., just south of Seattle at the South Center Shopping Center for June 30-July 3, and then on to Seattle for July 4-7 for a date at the North Gate Shopping Center.

At the same time the American Continental Circus was at the Seattle Center Coliseum for a July 4-6 date for the Seattle Officers Guild. In all the years I have done research on circus activity there was never so much media coverage as was here during the last week of June.

The year began with the Shrine Circus, with Hubert Castle in the Coliseum Mar. 21-23. The newspaper publicity began slowly at first for Circus Vargas, but on Sunday the campaign exploded in the major dailies with not just Circus Vargas, but American Continental and Ringling-Barnum offering \$2.00 off for all tickets by mail until Aug. 1st. TV was filled with spot ads for both Vargas and Ringling and all local stores were well covered with window cards. This year Vargas has new window cards offering half price coupons inside for the children. Each shopping center also displays lithos and photos and I have seen it each year and it is worth the time it takes to look at these fine old circus items. Too bad other shows don't do the same thing.

This year's program is by far the best ever and most of the show is new. They have new lighting and special effects which add to the show. Prices range from \$4.50 for general admission to \$7.00 for preferred seats on the front side, to \$9.00 for box seats. I noticed most of the box seats were sold. Business throughout the run was quite good. The opening night at the South Center (June 30) was almost a sell-out. Most shows had better than three-quarter houses.

Some folks were also planning to see Ringling thus destroying the myth that if you've seen one circus you've seen them all.

Business at the Police Circus was not all that good. Most tickets had been sold in advance not knowing that Circus Vargas was coming along too. For the average person it must have

been confusing, but on the other hand for the fan it was really quite a week.

The overall physical layout is about the same as in previous years. The show's two year old big top and marquee are in excellent shape and is in use at most dates. The first blue top is still carried on a flat bed along with matching poles in case of an emergency. At both of the above dates the four poler was used. The new fine poler has been used only a few times.

The midway includes the concession semi, a moon bounce, pit show, Arden 5th wheel ticket trailer, pony sweep, and a display of the elephants, horses and other animals. There is also the show's comfort station and a souvenir stand. A second stand is just inside the big top.

At present there are no printed programs but it is hoped one will be along soon. Because of this it was hard to cover the show in detail. The Jan. 21st issue of CR came in handy as well as last year's program. As of June 30th the program was as follows: Color book sale and Elephant rides; Introduction of Ringmaster John Pon; National Anthem and Overture, directed by David Epperly; Circus on Parade, with all performers and animals in parade; the Knops, double perch; Osmani Sisters, juggling; the Zunigas, juggling; Diablo Trio, juggling; Clowns at the Dentist; Jan's Samoyed Dogs; Alysoon Seacat's Samoyed Dogs; Cristina, single trapeze (arrives on an elephant) the Franconi Duo, arrives in a chariot pulled by an elephant, Miss Najean, single trapeze (arriving on an elephant); Liberty Horses presented by Mrs. and Henri Wagneur; Tina Risdon, capriole horse; Display of Pegasus by Henri Wagneur; The Zultanas, high wire; the Clowns and Magic; The Venturas; Armond Duo and Kneisleys, cradle acts; Million Dollar Carlos Twins; Intermission with color book sales and elephant rides; The Flying Espanas, The Flying Lar-Rays; Wayne Ragen, tigers and lions; Aerial Ballet (6 girls on web); Clowns and the Balloon Chase; Miss Alysoon, Miss Darline and Miss Tina, dressage horses; Miss Kathy, equestrian acrobatics; Robert Hocum and Princess Irena, cloud swings; The Rolands, rola bola; The Anastasini Brothers, risley; Julian and Monique, aerial motorcycle; Rex Williams' elephants with long mount. (Special thanks to Don Fairbank).

On the evening of July 5th, the Jack Bell CFA Tent of Seattle, was invited to the annual Kids

(Continued on Page 26)

REPORT

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

BY GEORGE C. BINGMAN

The wind was sailing into the canvas of Hoxie Bros. Circus big top on Friday, June 20th, at Newcastle Square Mall in Wilmington, Del., when representatives of Robert Dover Tent CFA No. 112 visited the lot. It apparently was a harbinger of the future inasmuch as Dover Tenters visiting later at Westminster, Md., found a sidewall set-up after three in-near-succession blowdowns. The front office reported a back-up canvas was enroute from Florida within two days. The elements did not keep the people away as the show had an opening whistle by 5:30 p.m. and moved briskly to two enthusiastic and large houses.

With Lee Maloney at the organ and Michael Dorval at drums the Circus Day Welcome presented opening spec consisting of the entire company of performers and seven ponderous pachyderms. Ringmaster Bill Brickle whistled a fast moving show of talented acts featuring beautiful girls, zany clowns, assorted skills and well-trained lead stock.

Isabel and Marie opened as a bicycle balancing duo. Sonya and Elizabeth - the Campa Sisters - delighted with their juggling.

Aerial perch, presented by the Lisner Duo, delighted the audience with graceful, gymnastic gyrations. Then the Campa Sisters doubled the thrills with each performing masterfully on their own low wire.

Mr. Fred and Co., Ramon and Tamara Espana presented a unique baggage act, baffling and bizarre, one of the most unusual acts this reviewer has seen in years.

Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy was a crowd-

pleaser, especially to the canine fanciers and Dutch Crawford's ponies featured the smooth routines of the miniature equines.

Clowning via Carlo and Ramon brought laughter via the Washerwoman gag and the long shirt haul.

The Campa Sisters with brother Juan Carlos, displayed a nifty unicycle trio. The entire Campa Family is a highly versatile quinette in five (5) displays!

The intermission offered the opportunity for a side show excursion which was followed by Regalito & Co., mirthful, musical, melodic madcap via Trouser-trek Carlos Campa and two sexy daughters, climaxed with the upside down xylophone - always great entertainment

Ramon Espana's rocking, rolling rola bola with a four (4) level high artistry represented exceptional virtuosity on the board. Aerial web with Danuska's head balancing in the center, surrounded by four (4) dazzling damozels wowed the crowd with beauty and eye-goggling wonder.

Dutch Crawford's bulls featuring Hoxie's African male and a harem of four assistants wound up very entertaining circus fare for the sawdust clientele. The African played hooky in Wilmington and decided to take a stroll around the Mall parking lot.

Hoxie Tucker keeps his show on the road and continues the great tradition of the tented circus despite the harassments of inflation and blowdowns. We circus fans salute Hoxie for his moxie! We wish him many more successful years of successful trouping.

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Acts

ACTS SET

Variety acts booked by Simone Finner Enterprises for appearances on the Merv Griffin TV Show include: Jean Claude, French foot juggler and John Baldwin's Charming Chimps. The programs will air nation-wide this month.

PEOPLE

HOLIDAY SPECIAL

The "Old Fashioned Fourth" of July celebration at Old City Park in Dallas featured seven Alley 85 clowns: Anneta "Jingles" Moerbe and daughter Michelle "Bubbles"; Poppy "Poppy" Benner; James "Jim-Bow" Decker; Joe "Jo Jo" Vineyard; David "Peabody" Bower and Bill "Willie" Powell.

Excited, happy children in the very young set played "All fall down", and other children's games, all afternoon with petite Mickey and Minnie Mouse (Rosaria Mungiola and Alva Nolan).

James "Jim-Bow" Decker clowned in the Fourth of July parade in Duncanville, Texas.

REPORT

HALL & CHRIST CIRCUS UNIQUE

by Kent Ghirard

The Hall & Christ Circus Unique (Side Show) has been playing an extended engagement in Honolulu for the past five weeks. The show played the Hawaii State Fair, May 29-June 21 and then the State Farm Fair, June 26-July 6. Business was slightly off from last year due to unseasonably rainy weather.

Show used a 40 x 120 ft. top, with a ten banner front. Line-up of acts included: Melvin Burkhart, anatomical wonder; Joyce Burkhart, electric girl; Poobah, iron tongue Pygmy; John Trower, sword swallower and knife thrower with partner Connie Dougherty; Bill Fitch, human pin cushion; Pete Terhune, fire eater; Ward Hall, magic and vent; Pat Schumate, blade box; Don Gilbert, bed of nails; Kelli Carlisle, zig-zag girl and bally; Dick Brisben, penquin boy; Doctor Frankenstein's Asylum of Horrors in Annex; and Tom Shepherd, front talker.

Also appearing at the Farm Fair for three nights as a free attraction on the midway was The Great Valentino, high wire performer.

IN MEMORY OF

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by Lloyd E. Jones

The I.B.M. Ring of San Francisco staged its First Annual Close-Up Competition on July 4th and drew about 100, including 12 contestants. Ever see the Coins Through the Table? Hmmm.

Seven judges scored and the winners, each receiving a trophy were PATRICK MARTIN (he has won many other prizes and was the only one who used music); RICK MANG back in our area who surprised with good magic and TOYOHISA SAIKAWA who lived up to the reputation the Japanese are building of performing excellent magic.

Three runners up received prizes of books or tricks, they were JIM CONGER, VICTOR TALLA and CHRIS ABBE, a developing youngster who showed he can perform other than with a vent dummy.

It was an over-long competition and not too well arranged and handled. Next year, the Ring should provide better viewing (performers on stage or raised platform, even viewers on bleacher seats, or a mirror overhead for viewing. Also a better refreshment stand instead of one with only coffee and sweet rolls)

Featured with the activities was a lecture by JOHN CORNELIUS, who amused and delighted all while he showed his varied magic. Ever see a coin jump UP without a gimmick instead of just falling down? Fascinating. Wide variety of tricks and improvements which showed an active magical mind and gave much desirable magic.

There were also several dealer and swap tables in the downstairs area of the First Con-

HOTLINE

July 3 - Lewiston, Idaho - The Carden-Johnson Circus had some problems during its engagement at this city. Circus officials thought their first show was at 2 p.m., while Shriners had advertised the opening performance was to be at 11 a.m. The afternoon show was hampered by a thunderstorm.

During one performance a confused chimp attacked 17 month old Melissa Brown. As the animals were coming from the ring, heading for their trailer, one chimp apparently thought the baby stroller was a prop, and grabbed it. It then fought for it as trainer Curt Scymanski and other show people tried to release the animal's grip.

The youngster's mother, Toni Brown, is an aerialist with the show and was performing at the time. She dropped from her trapeze and rushed to the youngster. Melissa was treated at St. Joseph Hospital for scratches and then was released.

gregational Church which has a downtown location with parking always a problem. In all it was a most enjoyable magic filled day.

What happens to a lot of expensive magic books? Many of them are still to be had while others drop out of print or sight. For example the beautiful 'Classics of Magic' series of Dr. Robert Albo has No. 1, that on the Oriental Magic of Okito out of print, but Vol. 2 and 3 are still obtainable at the original prices. Vol. 2, 'Classic Magic Without Apparatus' is \$90 with postage \$1.25, ins. \$1.10). Vol. 3 'More Classic Magic' is \$125 (post. \$1.25. Ins. \$1.40) and Californians must add the 6% sales tax. Since these editions are limited and of quality they are certain to be a collector's item.

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On The Cover

This week's cover painting by Robert B. Johnson was done in watercolors and shows an early Mabel Stark act.

In her early days Mabel Stark presented a large number of tigers and always featured a black panther in the group. This painting was cropped to fit into CR's front page. It shows a total of 15 tigers in the arena, with others coming down the runway. The black panther is on the pedestal at the lower right.

SPECIAL

JOHN W. PUGH HONORED

BY ED PHILLIPS

Employees of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus and local circus fans gathered for the 10th consecutive year to celebrate the founding of the tent named in honor of John W. Pugh. The event took place during the tent show's annual visit to Wilmington, Dela.

John returned the favor by presenting a 'white elephant' to departing tent members Chet and Mitzi Pomeroy.

REPORT

STARS PLAN FOR NEW ACTS

Rumor has it from Tokyo that super-flier Tito Gaona and TV star, the former Miss America, Lee Meriwether, will sign with Ringling-Barnum to do three acts on the show during the 1981-82 seasons.

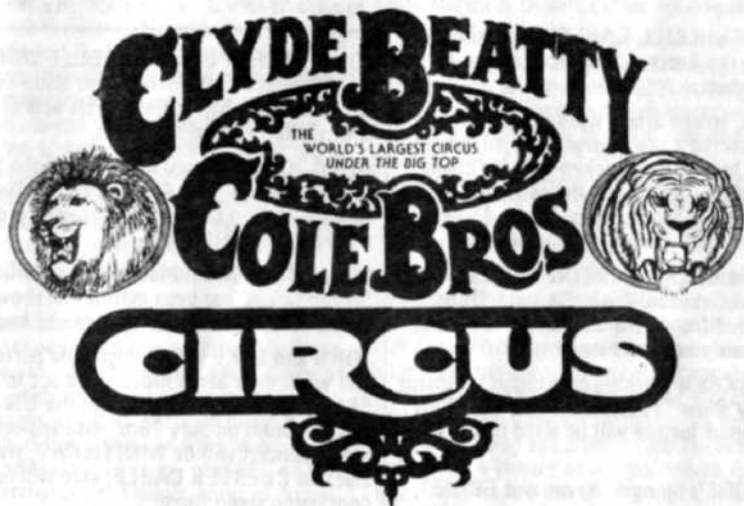
In addition to the flying trapeze act, the famous couple plan to do a motorcycle-trapeze wire routine and also will be presenting the whirling wheel of death.

Gaona said that although the two new acts are not classic, they will and can be effective with favorable fan appeal.

A rose bouquet was presented to Brigitte Pugh, Lois Hoover, Ora Logan, Anita Verdu, Maria Rawls and Sandy Windland.

Members of the tent made coffee and served refreshments to the entire assemblage while entertainment in the form of movies on loan from the Circus World Museum, featuring the late Clyde Beatty, were shown.

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PEOPLE

BRUCE ANDERSON, high sway pole performer, was among those who visited the Great All American Youth Circus in May. His name was somehow omitted from that show's list of visiting guests.

BEVERLY and **BILL GALLOWAY** visited friends on the Beatty-Cole Circus at Hornell, NY last month.

MANZINI, escape artist, will soon attempt to escape from the Lake George, NY, jail, where he will be handcuffed, locked with leg chains and locked in a cell by the Police Chief. He is hoping to break his record of 5 min. 15 sec., established for Guinness on May 10, 1968.

DORIS and **RALPH HORTON** visited the Ot-Berosini Circus in Mexico in June. Doris just returned from a trip to Canada to see her daughter and new grand-daughter.

BOB YERKES is working on a circus sequence for the TV show "Fantasy Island". The show with its circus feature will be aired late this season.

BOB MOORE's Mongrel Revue and **FRIZZY**, the juggling mime clown, have been working at Knott's Berry Farm Fiesta Village.

THE KUNTZ BROS. (Frank and Darryl) presented their slapstick variety show of dance, songs and snappy patter for patrons of Town East Mall in Mesquite, Texas, July 4-5.

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JOHN, MICHAEL and **MICHELLE WINN** (the Winn Troupe) worked their Slide-for-Life and Revolving Aerial Motorcycle acts at the Knott's Berry Farm July 4-13.

ALVA JOHNSON was chairman of the Sarasota Showfolks' July 4th picnic. The Showfolks' Aug. 2nd Chinese Dinner will be directed by **BEA JOHNSON**.

BILL BURGER, advance man for the Big John Strong Circus, has been getting the show in ahead of other shows everywhere he books it.

JOHN and **MIKE WINN**, high wire performers will work their aerial motorcycle act for the "Cheap Trick" rock concert in the Los Angeles Coliseum on July 26th. Also appearing at the concert will be **WINI McKAY**, trapeze star and **CHESTER CABLE**, who will have a concession stand there.

BILL and **ONALEE WILLIAMS** (Cotton Candy the Clown) returned to their California home last week just in time for a clown date at a shopping center in San Pablo, Calif. They had been vacationing with relatives in Texas.

REPORT

THE BARABOO CIRCUS PARADE

BY KENNETH HOLEHOUSE

Early this month, Rocky Christakes and I drove to Baraboo, Wisc., to see the much heralded Circus Parade and visit Circus World. We arrived at noon in heavy bumper-to-bumper traffic but found a good spot to watch the parade along a shady neighborhood street. The people along the route were remarkably jovial and friendly and waited in anticipation of the two o'clock arrival of the Mounted Trumpeteers, heralding the arrival of the parade. The sun frolicked behind white billowing clouds and the eighty-five degree temperature was complimented by a light breeze that made the day and atmosphere picture perfect.

Forty-four pieces made up this two hour extravaganza which posters advertised had not been seen in Baraboo in fifty years. Some of the highlights of the parade were the huge bandwagons, each one carrying bands blaring out lively circus music. And the horses . . . teams and teams of horses - over 300 of them, many Percheron, and many teams of ponies, also pulling colorful wagons. And then the cry everyone waited for: "Hold your horses. Here come the elephants!" And elephants there were, three herds of them lumbering down the street. The lead elephant was ridden by a former Miss America. Closing this

BIRTHS

MICHELE MARIE was born to Miguel and Robin Marie Meraz on June 10th at Barrie, Ont., Canada. The youngster weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 1/4 ozs. Her parents are performers with the Martin & Downs Circus in Canada.

REGAN COLEEN was born to Glenn and Trish Duncan on May 21st and weighed in at 7 lbs. 3 oz. and measured 20 1/2 in. long. Her parents are trainers and performers with the Great All American Youth Circus at Redlands, Calif.

once-in-a-lifetime experience was the American Steam Calliope, which reportedly can be heard for up to five miles.

After the parade, a visit to the Circus World Museum and a display of liberty horse training by John Herriott and then to the Big Top at Circus World where in an hour show Ada Smieya puts her lions and tigers capably thru their paces. The Herriott family makes up most of the show, however, with various members showing a dog act, a liberty horse routine, juggling and a variety of aerial displays. Between displays, *Happy the Clown*, a perennial Circus World favorite entertains the audience with his various clown antics.

Here's hoping the city fathers of Baraboo and Circus World Museum will consider putting on a parade again soon. Fifty years is too much time to wait to enjoy this kind of fun.

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

By Crane



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REPORT

MODEL CIRCUS DISPLAY

Members of the Al G. Barnes Ring, CMB are preparing for their annual Exhibit of Model Circuses. The exhibit will be held in the Anaheim Convention Center, Aug. 1-3. Displays will be open to the public, without charge, from 12 noon to 10 p.m. each day. This year the exhibit will bring together circuses from all over the State of California. Present plans indicate this will be the largest exhibit presented for several years.

A rare opportunity is presented for the public to view these outstanding examples of miniature circus art. The circuses represent a lifelong hobby for many of the builders. Tents, animals, wagons, animation effects and even the sawdust represent hours of toil in design, hand-carving, and construction.

All of the model circuses are in the scale selected by the builder and are true to the period represented by them, from the time when

NOEL BROS. CIRCUS

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horses and elephants really moved the circus to modern day diesel trains and trucks moving across the land in a bewildering succession of daily construction and tear down of colossal canvas cities. The modelers have combined the physical appearance with the spirit of the circus performance, displaying elegant elephants with engaging antics, dainty displays of daring, dazzling, death-defying denizens of the diminutive, with Lilliputian ladies and gentlemen and tiny tots of all ages enjoying the littlest shows on earth.

Who are these model builders? Quite possibly one may be your neighbor for the members of the CMB (an International Association) include teachers, stock brokers, accountants, engineers, computer experts, even some retired (and active) circus performers. Men, women and children all contribute their spare time to this most fascinating hobby.

The public is invited to come and view the displays. There is no admission charge - no solicitation - nothing for sale.

PEOPLE

GREG BRADFORD and KELLY LANG, roller skaters were guests on the Merv Griffin TV Show on July 24th.

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist, currently touring with Acurama in South America, has reportedly been signed to appear with Circus Vargas in 1981.

AT LIBERTY

I am now available for Shrine Circus, Parks, or Fairs, with my little 1910 Tin Lizzie Model T Ford, radio controlled comedy car.

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POSTERS

POSTERS

POSTERS

"COL. TIM McCOY IN PERSON" Beautiful and scarce two-sheet in three colors. Date: 1959 (when the Col. was with Carson-Barnes). McCoy is shown riding horseback. Insured and in mailing tube for only \$22.50.

+++++

THREE OLD ONE-SHEETS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

KING BROS. CIRCUS 1954, Upright. Shows the Riding Christianis. Inspired by their Hagenbeck-Wallace litho and much like the design on Page 254 of "The Circus in America". Note: this was after the Cristianis and King split up so the Cristianis name does not appear on the poster. Scarce.

AL G. KELLY AND MILLER BROS. CIRCUS famous upright Giraffe poster. Nice item.

COLE BROS. CIRCUS - The well-known flat bill showing herds of performing elephants. Much like the bill on Page 271 of "The Circus in America".

All three above lithos sent in mailing tube and insured for only \$ 22.50

+++++

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Miscellaneous

HERBIE WEBER and MARCELLA visited with RICK LEGG while enroute to show dates in New Jersey.

RICK LEGG, clown, has been working dates for the M&M Circus and will be doing spot date work at fairs for Klein's Attractions.

TV's 700 Club presented Tino Wallenda Zoppe's Circus Maranatha, taped in Virginia Beach (Va). Acts included: Olinka, trapeze; Bertini, bicycles; Col. J. P.'s Tank; Dondi the elephant; Tino Wallenda Zoppe, wire (taped in Youngstown, Ohio); Don Giovanni; Erna's Chimps; J. P.'s bicycle; and the Frying Lanes (taped in

Youngstown, Ohio). Ross Bagley was the announcer.

A sudden gust of wind at Elmira, N.Y., snapped a big top side pole on the Beatty-Cole Circus and pushed the pole through the canvas top.

The Golden Gate Clown Alley No. 80 has announced plans for a special dinner program to be held at San Mateo, Calif. on Sept. 27th.

TEXAS SHORTY CHANCELLOR was the lead story on P.M. Magazine on July 7th. The show was filmed at the annual Fiddler's Competition in Athens, Texas, with more than 3000 fans in attendance. Shorty made it all worth while by winning the Grand Champion award for the event.

PEOPLE

ANGELA WILNOW and Her Collies have left the mid-west and are now playing Fairs in New York for Oler Productions of Sarasota.

TIM COONEY has returned to his home in Southern California after visiting with GARY JACOBSON, TONY STEELE and RON and ROXANNE WHITFIELD.

"POPPY" BENNER and ROY HONEYCUTT "Mr. Bashful" entertained with their clown numbers at the Pepper Square shopping center in Dallas on July 18-19.

MICHAEL and MICHELLE CLARK (Clark's Lions) recently taped a CFTU-TV series for "Circus!" in Toronto, while there they were booked for Garden Bros. fall tour.

LARRY WILSON, magician, was featured on the John Davidson TV Show the afternoon of July 22nd.

BOB "Rags" THOMAS, Amarillo, Texas, clown, has survived his surgery and is back at work clowning.

WANT

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Shrine Dates

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- 1956 - Apr. 7 - Rudy Bros.
 1957 - None
 1958 - Apr. 5 - Ken Jensen
 1959 - Apr. 4 - Ken Jensen
 1960 - Apr. 2 - Ken Jensen
 1961 - Mar. 25 - Ken Jensen
 1962 - Mar. 31 - Ken Jensen
 1963 - Mar. 30 - Ken Jensen
 1964 - Mar. 28 - Ken Jensen
 1965 - Apr. 3 - Ken Jensen
 1966 - Mar. 26 - Ken Jensen
 1967 - Apr. 1 - Ken Jensen
 1968 - Apr. 6 - Ken Jensen
 1969 - Mar. 22 - Reppines Int'l.
 1970 - Mar. 28 - Reppines Int'l
 1971 - Apr. 27 - Reppines Int'l
 1972 - Apr. 11 - Reid Bros.
 1973 - Apr. 7 - Reid Bros.
 1974 - Apr. 20 - Grand Circus Safari
 1975 - May 10 - Grand Circus Safari
 1976 - May 15 - Grand Circus Safari
 1977 - May 7 - Grand Circus Safari
 1978 - May 6 - Grand Circus Safari
 1979 - Apr; 14 - Grand Circus Safari

(All shows were presented at the Marsfield High School Gym).

in the NEWS

BUSY WRITER

Billy Barton, author of the mystery novel 'Past Murder Imperfect' is already busy sandwiching personal appearances to promote his novel between regular performing commitments.

On Aug. 4, during Old Home Week Celebration in Greencastle (Pa), the author's home town, an event held every four years which just happened to dovetail with the publication of his book, Mr. Barton will make a personal appearance with his Mister Sensation aerial act to kick-off the opening night festivities, performing 15 minutes before the Grand Opening Ball. His appearance will be covered by the media in the area, television, radio and newspapers. Members of the Emmett Kelly CFA Tent in Hagerstown, Md., will also be present.

In copyrighting the published edition, the novelist authorized the U. S. Library of Congress to turn his book into Braille for the blind and into phonocopies for the handicapped.

A donation of one copy each to four local libraries will also be covered by the media in September just before he leaves to open in Austin, Texas, Sept. 29th.

Upon his return from Providence where he will be appearing with Circo Italia for producer Ed Migley (Dec. 4-7), Billy Barton will make a guest appearance at the Felix Adler CFA tent meeting presided over by Frank Robie. This kicks off a string of personal appearances at civic functions, women's clubs, colleges and schools nationwide, all in connection with his book.

REPORT

HOXIE'S BLOWDOWN

BY BILL WATSON

The writer caught the Hoxie Bros. Circus at McKeesport, Pa., the day after their first blow down.

The show was set up on the lot in Morgantown (W.Va.). At that time we had the worst set of tornados to hit the Tri-State area. At Morgantown on June 3rd, about 3 p.m. the storm hit.

The wind hit the big top and down she came. Nobody was in the tent at the time. The tent was ripped beyond repair.

For about the next week they sidewalled the show. When I caught the show on June 4th it was set up in a cornfield. I have seen some rough lots but this had to be the worst I have ever seen.



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REPORT

AINID SHRINE TEMPLE CIRCUS

by Karin Davis

The annual Ainid Temple Shrine Circus produced by George Hubler (June 7-9 and June 10-13 in Belleville and Granite City respectively) was once again a festive summer meeting place for performers working there and in St. Louis at the Moolah Temple Shrine Circus (June 4-8). Show times were staggered such that lots of visiting was done by all. All of the Ainid show was able to go see the St. Louis show before their opening.

Visitors from St. Louis to the Belleville date included Lou Ann Jacobs, Pancho Magana, Aurelia and Irving Hall, Billy Barton, Bobby Davis, Mike and John Winn, Johnny Luxem, Janet and Susan Rix, George Barreda, Ron and Ivey Kilroy, Luis Munoz, the Flying Lanes, Nicholas Young, Clark McDermott, the Darrel Waltens and the Rolls Duo. Also visiting was the Alberto Zoppe family.

The program ran as follows: Overture; Harry Thomas, tigers; Olinka, trapeze; Antonios, bicycles; the Edwardos, bicycles; the Karinas on trampoline; Ben Williams and Anna May; Evelyn, Girl in the Moon; Olmeda Spanish Horse Fantasy; Sir Chadwick Chase and his Rolls Rotten; Tino Wallenda Zoppe; Intermission; Torino Bros., juggling; Don Giovanni, lamp post; Woodcock's performing elephants with Ben Williams; Sensational Swaying Stars; Raccini's Original Rocket Car.

Announcer, George Hubler; music by a ten piece band under the direction of Boom Boom Browning's trumpet player; Clowns

were Wayne Liikala, Tino Zoppe's older daughter, Antonio Olmeda and Giovanni Zoppe.

Buckles Woodcock left before the Belleville opening to supervise his elephant ride at the Kansas City Zoo. Attendance in both Belleville and Granite City was SRQ. The high heat and humidity in Belleville made the late night and morning set-up and first matinee miserable. After a front came through, the first night, the weather broke for the better. This gave way to perfect temperatures for the remaining two matinees and night shows.

Provisions for the band's comfort from the sun's glaring rays in the form of a sophisticated shelter was attended to by the show's architects G. Hubler and H. Davis. A 10x20 flat top canopy was attached to one side of the show's Wells Cargo and guyed out with 7 iron stakes and hundreds of feet of clothes line. The band was most grateful to Hap Davis (designer) and George Hubler (materials supplier) for their fresh air housing.

PEOPLE

PHILIP MORRIS has been serving as technical director for a new feature film "Carnival Magic" being filmed in the Carolinas. PAUL ROYTER, who is with the Morris organization has been teaching a chimp to do magic. Morris has also booked the Stebbings Circus for the film.

REPORT

MATTEL REPORT

(The following information has been taken from Mattel's Report to Stockholders, for the period ending May 3, 1980. For a true picture of the company's operations one should read the full report).

"... As indicated in our recently distributed Annual Report, the period since our last Annual Meeting has been an eventful time. Consistent with our previously stated commitment we have been active in refocusing and redeploying our resources where appropriate to maximize overall future profit margins while assuring a solid base for continued growth. During that period we acquired Western Publishing Co.; our Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows subsidiary acquired the Shipstads & Johnson Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice ice shows..."

"... Income before extraordinary item was \$30,553,000 up 27.5% from \$23,961,000 reported for the previous fiscal year. This increase was principally due to higher operating profit from the Toy Products segment of our

business, including Electronics, and the addition of Western Publishing Co. Furthermore, these earnings for fiscal 1980 were after absorbing non-recurring pre-tax operating losses totalling approximately \$7,300,000 from our Metaframe Corp., and from the unsuccessful introduction of the Monte Carlo Circus by our Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows."

"... In the fiscal year ended Feb. 2, 1980, each of the operating units contributed once again to Mattel's continued growth in sales. The Toy Products group was up 24% led by electronic games which were up 173%; Monogram Models was up 20%; Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows was up 9%; and Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus World theme park was up 35%.

"During the first quarter of fiscal 1981, all of these segments, plus Western Publishing and the Ice Shows, continued to show significant sales growth except Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows which was negatively impacted by the transit strike during their important New York City engagement."

"... The Entertainment segment consisting of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows traveling circuses, the Ice Follies and Holiday On Ice Combined Shows, the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus World theme park, provided about 10% of Mattel's total sales last year with mixed performance. Revenues were up over the previous year for both the traveling circus units and the theme park. However, while profits from the Circus World theme park were up, profits from the Combined Shows were down due to problems with the new one-ring Monte Carlo Circus. The Ice Shows were acquired early in the year and Ringling management brought these operations from a loss to a near break-even by year-end.

"So far this year the operating performance of the Entertainment group again has been mixed. After a very encouraging start by both units, the upward trend of one unit of Ringling Bros. Combined Shows was adversely affected by the transit strike in New York City. The other unit, however, has continued to post both attendance and profit gains. The International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo, which turned in a loss last year, is now operating profitably overseas with extended engagements in Australia and Japan:

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Circus and Rodeo Mule - 5 year old 40" buckskin - lots and lots of good tricks - outstanding hindleg walker - Much more - Asking \$1600.00 - real steal at \$850.00 this week.

Five cute African pygmy goats - outstanding routine - complete with all new props and cages - \$2400.00, this week just \$1200.00

You'll never buy complete acts for this money again.

R. E. LEONARD

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(Continued on Page 26)

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

much a secret from Rona! . . . While I caught some of the Hoxie Circus performance in Milburn, NJ I didn't watch it all. However, I thought the wardrobe was of particular high-quality and thought the **CAMPA FAMILY**, in particular, did a good job, and the **ARM-STRONGS** do a very nice hanging perch act. The show overall is weaker than have been most Hoxie programs in the past but that's because they've lost several acts this year. . .

DONNA McMAHON seemed a bit piqued with me when I couldn't place her. I had only met her once, briefly, when she was a **PYLE** . AND a little girl. And I don't believe I ever met husband **JOE** more than twice, years and years ago, when we were all with **HOWARD SUESZ** - at that time Joe was out with **HAGEN Bros.** and I was with **Howard's** other show, **Clyde Bros.** . . **BONNIE ARMOR** is now in New England touring with **DICK GARDEN's** Bavarian concession . . **GARDEN BROS.** resumed its tour, kicking off at the **Three Rivers (Quebec)** Fair followed by a string of fair dates in Ontario. . . **IAN**, along with many producers, had a booth at the Shrine Convention in Cleveland the week of July 5th. . . **MISS LONI** appeared at the Shrine Ball on July 8. . . Rumors are that **DOROTHY WINN** and **RON KELROY** have the **Saginaw Shrine** date back BUT I hasten to add this is **ONLY** a rumor. Neither has called in a confirmation. . . I am told by a number of people that, sadly, **TONY SMAHA, Sr.**, continues to languish in serious condition. **INGA** and young **TONY** are besides themselves with grief. The worst of it is there is nothing any of us can do to make their situation better. . . **BONNIE ARMOR** tells me that **MANUEL BARRAGAN's** son has only a short time left in which to live; may in fact, have expired, even as this column goes to print. . . The **Smahas**, incidentally, are set to appear on the Texas dates and I was told by **JOHNNY LUXEM** that **DARREL WALLEN** offered to help them

HERBIE WEBER will make the **Emmett Kelly Circus** date at Washington's prestigious **Kennedy Center** in late Aug. This has become an "annual" for that show. . . **Ringling Red** has been touring Texas in the midst of that **Killer Heat Wave**. . . **JACK** and **PATTI COOK** are playing fairs in Canada for **Gastoni**. . . **GAY-LORD MAYNARD** played the **Winnipeg Fair** . . . **BARBARA LUXEM** is at home in Wisconsin with her excellent executive's position while **Johnny** barnstorms the summer with his wheel. **Johnny**, meanwhile took a night school course to study and read blueprints, and has a good job in the winter. He only tours in the summer because he would be off his job anyway. He recently bought a new car for **Barbara** and would you believe - hid it in the garage bedecked with streamers made out of - **TOILET TISSUE!**

A WORD: We are only printing 5000 copies of my special **FIRST EDITION** of **PAST MURDER IMPERFECT** in the deluxe hardcover autographed version and those copies are selling out. This edition will not be reprinted. When those 5000 copies are gone there will be **NO MORE**, so those of you who are procrastinating you'd better get your order in quickly or you'll be out of luck. Furthermore the **Second Printing**, which is a lesser edition, will not be out until later in the fall and that edition will **NOT** go to bookstores. It will be offered by mail order and sold via a series of college lecture tours, women's club luncheons and various other appearances at civic functions throughout the country. **AND**, if you are waiting for the paperback you will have a long wait. While I have made arrangements for the sale of my novel to paperback I will not allow its release until the end of 1981, perhaps the spring of 1982, when my second novel is off the press and the first hardcover book has run its course and has been sold to foreign rights - **England, Australia and Canada**. So, kiddees, don't say you didn't know. **SEE** you in print, luvs.

MATTEL REPORT (Continued)

"We also expect the combined Ice Shows to operate profitably this year as Ringling management continues to upgrade the quality of entertainment with fresh themes, choreography and music, and new acts, costumes and props.

"Last month Ringling Bros. Combined Shows jointly announced plans with Walt Disney Productions to produce and market a new family entertainment show called "Disney on Ice" to be launched in Aug. 1981. This new traveling show will feature leading world class skaters as characters in scenes from Disney cartoons and animated features.

"After recording substantial gains in attendance and profits last year, the Circus World theme park was experiencing difficulties in maintaining attendance gains early this year. Circus World's three most direct competitors each opened costly new additions to their parks accompanied by vigorous promotion campaigns in Dec. As a result, attendance suffered at Circus World. However, we will be opening a new 8-acre animal wonderland attraction to the park in July which, coupled with new advertising, should improve the attend-

CIRCUS VARGAS (Continued)

Circus following the evening performance. Each year the children of performers perform in wardrobe, presenting their parents and management with a display of their skills. Before the performance started Tent President Michael Sporrer presented Clifford E. Vargas with a special certificate of appreciation on behalf of it's members for the fine work he has done. Following the performance pink lemonade, cookies and donuts were served, compliments of the Jack Bell Tent.

Mr. Vargas, Management and Performers, take a bow for a week we will never forget!



Miscellaneous

Magic Fantasia will present four performances at the Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Summer Fest when it appears there on Aug. 7th and 8th. The show is scheduled to tour in Canada this fall.

ance trend. Even so, there is a possibility that Circus World may be somewhat short of its goals for the year."

REPORT**FLORIDA NOTES**

BY 'CIRCUS JOE' VALENCIANO

There are currently two TV commercials utilizing circus trains - Dr. Pepper, the soft drink and Sherwin-Williams Paints.

Recently on a local telecast, the news program showed the removing of the large 10-ton Barnum & Bailey "Two Hemispheres" band wagon from the defunct Circus Hall of Fame in Sarasota. The big 40-horse hitch wagon was pulled by a lonely farm tractor, next door to the Ringling Museum. It was the first time the big bandwagon had been moved in years.

The Great Sebastian, recently featured his Death-Defying Bullet Catch in Florida, appearing at a Gun Show in Sarasota and Ft. Myers.

CIRCUS BOOK - "The Circus Life and Adventures of Adam Bardy" - A truly interesting life story for old-timers especially. Only \$7.95 a copy. Order from: Adam Bardy, Thompson, Conn. - 06277.

CIRCUS QUIPS

BY KARL J. BISCHOFF

A LAPLANDER is a concession man who can't keep his balance in the seats.

TO SOME PROMOTERS WITHOUT AMBITION, money isn't everything **MATTER OF FACT** it isn't very plentiful.

GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION . . . remember only a turtle moves ahead by sticking **HIS NECK OUT**.

ONE OF THE SALESMEN in the big top, selling program books, objects to being referred to as a pitchman, **HE PREFERS BEING CLASSED AS A WEALTHY LIBRARIAN**.

TOM MIX COULD SHOOT A HANGMAN'S ROPE IN TWO PIECES while jumping on his horse. **THE NEW T.V. SHOOTERS** need two hands, **CAN IT BE THAT THEY ARE BUM SHOTS?**