



8th Year

May 28, 1979

Number 22

# TOUGH RULES

Owning exotic cats in California has become a bit more difficult because of regulations recently adopted by the State's Fish and Game Commission.

The regulations state that all pet cats in the state, other than domestic cats, will have to be confined in completely enclosed cages of specified minimum size. Owners of these cats will also be required to pay a two year permit fee of \$25, plus an annual \$100 fee for inspection of their premises.

Four types of care facilities are specified under the new rules, one for each group of cats of a particular size. All facilities must include protection against inclement weather and direct rays of the sun, and must have elevated wooden loafing platforms and scratch blocks.

The rules pertain to such animals as lions, tigers, cheetahs, leopards, jaguars, mountain lions, bobcats, lynxes, ocelots and various other cat animals.

Details about the new rules and regulations can be obtained by writing to: The Fish and Game Commission, Sacramento, California.

## Show Date

On Thursday, May 3rd, members of the Robert Nelson Tent CFA attended the Monte Carlo Circus in a group. They were introduced and spotlighted by debonaire rinmaster Sergio.

After the performance the CFA tent hosted a party for the entire circus company at the 500 Club, just three short blocks from the building. Most of the show personnel attended, as well as Baker Brown,

(Continued on Page 17)

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## Acts

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, the Hollywood agency specializing in variety acts for revue shows, including: Leonardo, balancing and plate spinning and Carlton & Co., magic illusions featuring wild exotic animals, both are appearing in "Razzle Dazzle" at the Flamingo-Hilton in Las Vegas; Les 4 Iles Rosettis, comedy acrobatic adagio quartette in "Bedazzle" at Harrah's Club, Lake Tahoe and Keny Stewart, ventriloquist in "Wow 79" at the Sahara Tahoe, Lake Tahoe.

## PEOPLE

**TIM HOLST**, of the Ringling Red Unit, has helped to organize a program of hospitality for the Dutch Circus Fans who will be visiting shows on the east coast late this month.

**WAYNE LIIAKA**, clown, is at home recovering from a foot injury he received while chasing after the runaway elephants at Decatur, Ill.

**BILL SLATER** served as rigger for the Hubler Int'l Circus. He is now booking his new slack wire act for the upcoming season.

**COUNT NICHOLAS** is touring with a unit of the Garden Bros. Circus in Canada, where he is ringmaster, personnel director and concession manager. After the tour he plans to be in Europe for two months.

**DAVE KNODERER** has been expanding his artistic talents in Florida during the past several months. He hopes to get his pony drill and dressage horse booked on a show for the summer. Dave also has a calliope that is a good attraction on any show midway.

**DONNI, NAT LITT** and **A. J. MILDEW** will be working at Dorney Park in Allentown, Pa., on June 3rd.

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## IN MEMORIAM

**JOHN CUTLER** (66) died on May 8th in the Newport (R.I.) Hospital after a brief illness. He was well known to many circus and carnival people who played the Rhode Island area. He had a large collection of circus photos that had been taken over the years, going back into the 20's. Several of his pictures have appeared in various publications.

**LESTER FLATT** (64) died May 11th at Nashville, Tenn. of heart failure. He teamed up with banjo picker Earl Scruggs to spearhead the rise of bouncy bluegrass music. Flatt and Scruggs were well known for their "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" and for their work on TV and records.

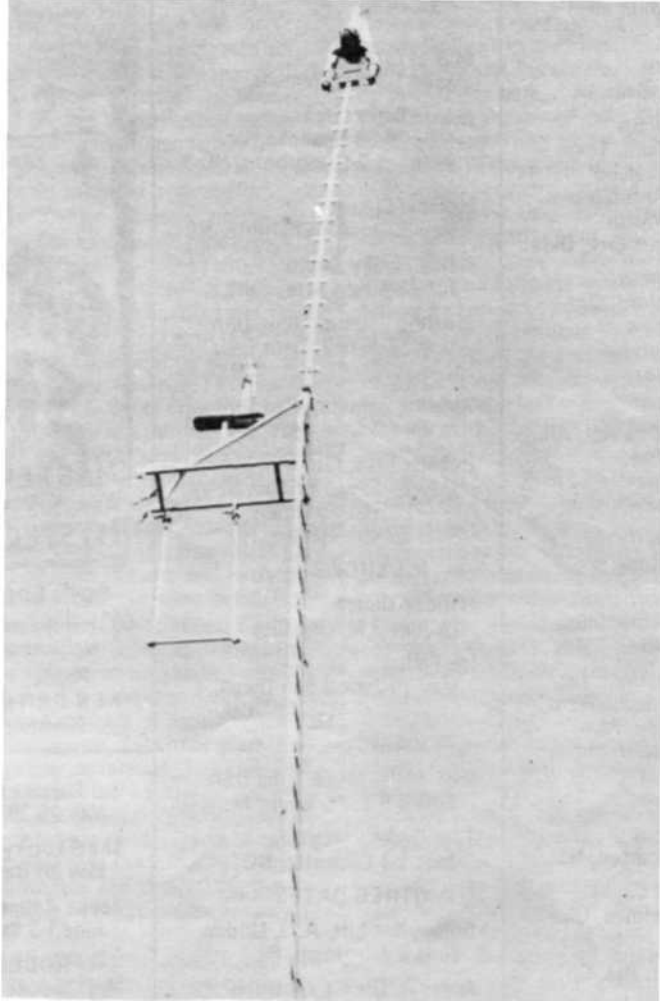
**EMILE C. HAHN** (63) died on May 6th at Canton, Ohio. He was an accomplished bandmaster, musical director and organist and recorded for RCA Victor. He conducted the Football Hall of Fame Bandwagon for many years, traveled extensively with Circo Pan Americana in San Juan, P. R., worked with many of the Shrine Circuses, the Hubler Int'l Circus, was Musical Director at Pioneer Park (Aurora, Ill.) and for 5 years was bandmaster with Carson & Barnes Circus. He also served as musical director at Old Chicago. He was a member of the CFA, CHS, Windjammers and many other organizations. Survivors include his wife, Jeanne, daughters, Mrs. Nancy Walker Willison and Mrs. Carol Burgess and a step-son Dale Schweisberger all of Canton.

**TEX** and **MARY MAYNARD** visited their son **GAY-LORD MAYNARD** at Ithaca, N. Y., when the Royal Lipizzan Show played that city. They also visited **JOHNNY JORDAN** who is in the University Hospital at Syracuse, N.Y. (room 1743) recovering from injuries suffered as a result of a fall. He expects to be released in about five weeks.

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

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# SHOW DATES

**Beatty-Cole Circus**

to May 30 Plymouth Meet'g,  
Pa.

**Bentley Bros. Circus**

June 2-3 Salinas, Calif.

**Big John Strong Circus**

May 28 Leveland, Texas

29 Brownwood

30-31 San Antonio

June 1-2 Fort Worth

3-4 Midwest City, Okla

**Carden-Johnson Circus**

May 28-29 Brantford, Ont.

30 Barrie

31 Bracebridge

June 2-3 Windsor

**Hubert Castle Circus**

May 28 Medicine Hat, Alb.

29-30 Red Deer

June 1-3 Edmonton

**Circus Vargas**

May 29-31 Castro Valley, Cal.

June 1-4 Santa Rosa

**Funs-A-Poppin Circus**

to May 31 San Bernardino,  
Calif.

**Allan C. Hill Productions, Inc.**

Present Great American Circus

May 28 Rennerdale, Pa.

29 Zelenople/Harmony

30 Kittanning

31 Tarentum

**Hamid-Morton Circus**

May 31-June 3 Trenton, NJ

**Tommy Hanneford Circus**

to Sep. 12 Middletown, Oh.

**Hoxie Bros. Circus**

May 28 Wash. Crt. Hse, Oh.

29 Athens

30 Logan

31 Orrville

June 1 Ashtabula

2-3 Warren, Pa.

**Kare Youth League Circus**

June 1-2 Arcadia, Calif.

**Knights of Columbus Circus**

June 1-3 San Francisco, Cal.

**Lin-Rich Animal Circus**

May 29-June 2 Middletown,  
N.Y.

**M & M Circus**

June 1-3 Mt. Clemens, Mich.

**Monte Carlo Circus**

May 29-30 Roanoke, Va.

June 1-2 Greensboro, NC

**Moscow Circus**

May 30-June 3 Charlotte, NC

**Pickle Family Circus**

June 1-3 Palo Alto, Calif.

**Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit**

May 30-June 3 Glens Falls,  
NY

**Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit**

to June 3 New York, NY

**Roberts Bros. Circus**

May 28 Capon Bridge, W. Va

29 Falling Waters

30 Strinestown, Pa.

**---- ICE SHOWS ----**
**Holiday On Ice**

to June 3 Mexico City

**Ice Follies**

May 29-June 3 San Diego,  
Cal.

**---- MAGIC -----**
**Prof. Miller-Magic Time USA**

June 3-6 E. St. Louis, Ill.

**Tom Ogden - Magician**

June 1-3 Charlotte, NC

**---- OTHER DATES ----**
**Donni, Nat Litt, A. S. Mildew**

June 3 Allentown, Pa.

**James H. Drew Exposition**

May 28-June 2 Welch, W.Va

**Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds**

June 1-3 Mt. Clemens, Mich.

**Liberace**

May 29-June 2 Hamilton, Ont



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**Sad Buster - Clown**

May 26-28 Glaveston, Texas

**The Sikorskys - Jugglers**

May 30 Dundalk, Md.

**Zoppe Animal Act**

June 1-3 Santa Maria, Calif

**---- RODEO -----**

May 28-June 2 Ft. Smith, Ark.

31-June 2 Salem, Ark.

31-June 2 Carthage, Tex.

June 2-6 Branson, Mo.



SID KELLNER kicked off his "Globe Gallopers" in April and while the results of that tour were not spectacular the potential of this new idea is such that Sid is now preparing a fall run of dates. The Wazzan troupe appeared with Sid and then returned to Las Vegas. In June the Wazzans go into rehearsals for their lengthy booking with the Hanna-Barbera Show (with whom the Wazzans appeared in Australia).

LARRY CARDEN's "Carden-Johnson" unit made its west coast debut at San Francisco's Cow Palace and brought in a powerful, well produced show that was certainly (from the people I talked to) the surprise of the season. The cavernous building was filled with aerial riggings, the floor covered with red carpet, everything was well painted, the lighting artistic, and business for the Shrine was exceptional. The Cow Palace seats about 18,000 and a "small crowd" in that building would be a turnaway in a normal area. The circus drew between 7 and 9 thousand per show. I had never seen a Carden-Johnson production and was impressed. Special bows to an excellent band leader (Mike Pike) and right hand man (Frank Galambos) who keeps the show moving: Ditto to new ringmaster Larry Rich (a former clown) and to Larry and Betty Carden who take a personal interest in every detail.

AFTER years in the business the fabulous Mike and Hope Kent (The Star Dusters) finally appeared in an indoor shrine circus and were an unqualified smash hit. The Star Dusters are the last of the really great high acts (we once had a plethora of such fine acts) and provided something unique for circus-goers. He and Hope are outstanding performers. Their adagio routine on a tiny pedestal in the uppermost regions of the darkened arena is spell-binding. So impressed were the Cardens they are now endeavoring to convince the Kents to appear with the circus in larger buildings (such as Milwaukee and Denver) for the 1980 season. I hope these negotiations are successful.

THE CARDEN-JOHNSON Circus, which has mushroomed to three units, will be playing new dates this year, such as Reno, Vancouver, Kalamazoo, Springfield (Ill) and have added still more for 1980 including Grand Rapids in January, plus a number of other major dates that cannot be announced at this time.

SNAPSHOTS: Pamela Rosaire Zoppe and hubby

Roger became proud parents in April. The act is currently playing a rodeo circuit in California; meanwhile Peggy and Joe are staying off the road, sprucing up their trailer park. . . Ann Pike (who flew in for San Francisco) spent several days with good friend Dinky Patterson, appearing for the season with Circus Vargas. . . The Wilnows end their Carden-Johnson tour in June and head straightaway for a long route of fair engagements for Gastoni in Canada. . . Diamond Jim Parker arrived with Chuck Clancy and Tommy Bentley to visit yrs. truly during the Shrine Circus at San Francisco and he looks wonderful! It's impossible to believe he had just had a heart attack and two minor strokes. Jim has returned to the Circus Vargas Clown Alley. . . Tommy remarked there was really nothing wrong with Jim other than "brain leakage" which I believe. Jim said he came up because he had never seen me work, and then was so busy jack-potting he never did!

DENISE (Zoppe) and Antonio Olmeda bought ten acres of land 6 miles from Kaufman (tex) which is fairly close to Dallas, have already installed water and electricity and plan to build stables and a ring barn. Denise is stunning in their lovely horse display when she rides without using her hands. . . California is undergoing what I call a "gas charade". Oil companies claim there is no gas and yet a tanker, scraping bottom, which needed to unload couldn't because every tank in the Bay Area was filled to capacity. Now, if that doesn't prove a conspiracy's afoot I've just moved to the moon! . . . Bob-O the clown, who had two massive strokes is back working dates. . . Mike and Hope Kent are still using one of the three original high act 5th wheels, built in 1935. Mike owns two, the other is in storage. The 5th wheel they have was formerly used by the Four Queens, a Jack Schaller high act production. In those days nearly all high acts originated from California. . . ROSA SUAREZ is pregnant, daughter Martha dislocated her knee in the riding act, but is improving.

Keeping up with the Keppos: Sulo Keppo just returned from Finland. . . Anita (married to handsome Tom Desimini who are now San Franciscans) should be having her first baby by the time this column sees print (yes, they plan to have two). . . Sister Iris mar-

(Continued on Page 16)

# PEOPLE

D. R. MILLER and his Carson & Barnes Circus were the subject of a special article in the Victoria (Texas) Advocate on May 10th. Dorey was also the subject of an article which appeared in the Los Angeles (Cal) Times on May 6th.

BARBARA WAGNER and GEORGE "Red" WHITE met and were married when both traveled with the Barnes show in the mid-30's. They are presently living in Reseda, Calif.

DOROTHY HERBERT, is probably the most popular circus horsewoman of all time. People are consistently asking about her and the circus stithos showing her riding a horse over a burning barrier are prized items for any collector.

SCALZO, magician, worked a May 12th engagement at Chicago for the local Magic Ring's annual show.

EARL MICHAELS, circus ringmaster, has reportedly been signed to tour with the Wallenda Circus for its upcoming show dates.

CLARK McDERMOTT and his "Cold Nose Five" act has been working Shrine Circus dates in Missouri this month.

## Miscellaneous

Visiting the Ringling Red Unit when the show was in Binghamton, N.Y. were: Tex and Mary Maynard, Paul and Lois Horsman and Lee Meriweather, of the TV show "Barnaby Jones."

The McCord Theatre Collection at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, has become an extensive repository of material from films, circus, opera, dance and various other forms of entertainment.

The Brickyard Mall in Northwest Chicago opened with a celebration that featured a circus, ice show and a magic show.

THE FENTON FAMILY, ice skating acrobats, will be touring with the Ice Capades Eastern Unit following the annual summer lay-off.

CHICK SCHICK, of Chicago, a magician, clown and escape artist, filmed a segment for Canada's Tv show "Circus" in which he did a strait jacket escape.

FAY and ROSE ALEXANDER are appearing at the Six Flags Great Adventure Park in Jackson, N.J. for the summer season.

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# Acts

The following acts have been set by Rose Adair, artists' representative, 250 West 57th Street (Suite 1527), New York, NY - 10019.

April 7 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, Akron, Ohio

Joanne & Toma, horse dressage  
Joanne Pinson's canine and pony revue  
The Berans, duo trap  
TNT, perch

April 7 - Circus Odyssey, North Adams, Mass.

Joanne & Sunny, seal act  
Aerialetta, swinging trapeze  
Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters  
Diana, risley  
Horton's wonder bears  
Crawford & Gloria, illusions/magic

Mar. 29-May 23 - Mexico City and Resort Hotels

Charles Merrill, dove and variety illusions  
Viva Los Girls

July 4 - New Jersey Communities - 3 towns

Joanne & Sunny, seal act  
Aerialetta, swinging trapeze  
Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds  
Bridgitte & Fifi, sword balance  
Dionnes, high perch act

Les Michels, balancing  
Ray Yolanda & Michel, juggling  
Charles Merrill, illusions  
The Berans, duo trapeze  
TNT, high perch  
Therese & Teddy, balancing  
Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters  
Diana, risley  
Verdu's Acro, disco  
Verdu's Rolling Globes  
Kneisley's cradle act  
Najejan, swinging trapeze

June 23 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, Lake Elsinore, Ca

Great Huberto, slide for life  
Los Latinos, novelty wire act

June 29-July 4 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, The Fair at San Rafael, Calif.

Great Huberto, slide for life  
Los Latinos, novelty wire act

Aug. 9-18 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, the Fair at Louisville, Ky.

Great Vashek, inclined wire walk  
Vashek Duo, aerial motorcycle  
Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians

Aug. 24-Sept. 3 - Du Quoine State Fair, Ill.

Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians

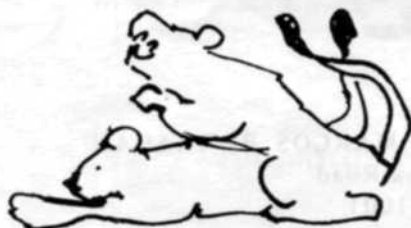
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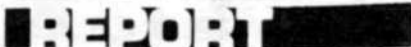
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## MARTIN & DOWNS CIRCUS . . . by Paul Horsman

The Martin & Downs Circus opened at Omeme, Ont. on May 6th and moved from there to Stirling. The opening was on a tight lot, due to the original one being too soft. It rained all day and the show was put up in the mud. Due to the lack of space, only the concession and elephant semi were on the midway. The town produced a full house for the one performance only.

In Stirling the show played on the fairgrounds and so had plenty of room in which to set up. On the midway were a Snake Show, Petting Zoo and Side Show, Elephant ride and concession semi, plus a novelty stand.

A smaller marquee was set up at Omeme, but everything was up in Stirling. The big top is in its third season and is still in good condition.

The Side Show/Petting Zoo has new orange sidewall, orange and yellow striped, and the cookhouse top is new, red and blue. The cookhouse trailer is also new and a side show truck has been added.

The truck line-up consists of: Big Top Canvas Spool, No. 7 Cookhouse trailer, No. 10 Poles, Seats, Ring Curbs, straight bed, No. 12 Ring Stock, Petting Zoo Animals, semi trailer, No. 14 Concessions and tickets semi trailer, No. 16 Side Show, straight bed, No. 22 Snake Show, trailer, Elephant semi (Bill Morris), Elephant ride platform, straight bed (Bill Morris).

The Side Show has Jim Windland as manager and features fire eater, electric girl, petting zoo animals and several box cages. The cages contain Kinkajous, Java Monkeys, and small animals and birds. The elephant, Jewel, owned by Bill Morris, gives rides on the midway, goes in spec and performs.

Everything is well flashed and freshly painted. Trucks

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are deep orange with dark blue stripes with yellow stars top and bottom. Many carry pictorials and scroll work and lettering is flashy. The performance is much stronger than last year and heavy for a show of this size.

Department heads are: Concessions, Bobby Hakes, Side Show, Jim Windland, Boss Canvasman, Miguel Meraz, Office Manager, Larry Shellon, Electrician, Wayne Hronek, Cookhouse, Sue Watkins, Wardrobe and production numbers, Al the Clown, Announcer and Equestrian Director, Jim Conklin, Elephant Dept. Bill Morris, Band, Bill McClory, leader/organist with Doc Swan on drums.

The program features: Spec, with all personnel and animals; Robin Meraz, trapeze; Bonnie Bonta, dogs; Al the Clown, plate spinning; Danny Carey, rola bola; Clowns, Al and ChaCha with disappearing dog; Al Stencell, performing mule; The Amazing Conklins, magic production number; Web Act; Color Book pitch; Swinging Ladders; Randa Carey, foot juggler; Clowns, Wayne, Al and ChaCha with the Levitation; The Conklins, trunk escape; Cathy Wilson and llama act; Announcement for banners; Danny Carey, Miguel Meraz, hand balancing; Clowns, Wayne and Al with the Hot Water Bottle; 4 liberty horses presented by Al Stencell; Announcement for merchants and the sponsor; Miguel Meraz, cloud swing; Announcement for working boys; Bill Morris and elephant Jewel.

**SPECIAL**

**FRANK McCLOSKEY . . .** by Greg Parkinson

The circus career of Frank McClosky has extended over approximately a half a century. Although born in Monson, Mass., there is not a state in the nation, and probably very few towns, that have not seen a McClosky managed or McClosky owned circus.

In his youth McClosky earned money to pay his college education by working for circuses. His early days were spent as a prop hand and a rigger, and in 1931 he was working at the Valencia Music Hall in Copenhagen with Lillian Leitzel when she fell there on Feb. 13th. The 1942 Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus route book lists him as Sound Projection Supt. Two years later he was the manager of the Clyde Beatty-Russell Bros. Circus where he had the likes of Edna and Bill Antes, Red Sonnenberg, and George Werner assisting him.

By 1947, McClosky was back with the "Greatest Show on Earth" as Supt. of props. In 1948, Frank became the show's manager, and for the next several years he worked for John Ringling North on the executive staff. As General Manager in 1954, he helped direct the winter tour in Cuba.

After the Big One folded its tents in 1956, McClosky

(with other backers) purchased the Clyde Beatty Circus. He was highly influential in converting the show to a truck circus for the 1957 season. In August of 1958, he acquired the Cole Bros. Circus title along with Walter Kernan. Thus began a twenty year string of successful seasons for Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. "the World's Largest Circus", with Frank McClosky as part-owner and president. Also operating under his ownership during these years were King Bros. Circus and Sells & Gray Circus.

To a large degree, it can be stated that Frank McClosky has exerted more influence toward keeping the canvas circus alive in America than anyone else. It was he in 1966 who opposed Art Concello and the idea of moving Beatty-Cole indoors to compete with Ringling-Barnum in 1967. And it was he who brought such sensational performers as Zaccchini, the Wallendas, the Flying Gaonas and Clyde Beatty to the low grass lots of America.

On Monday, June 11th, at Gettysburg, Pa., members of the CFA from the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area will raise a CFA tent in honor of Frank McClosky. It will be named the "Frank McClosky CFA Tent No. 133."

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**BARNUM'S DAY . . .**

from the Macon Republican, Aug. 26, 1880

An immense concourse of people took possession of Macon on Tuesday, Visitors commenced to come the evening before and continued coming all night and up till noon Tuesday. It is estimated that there were not less than 10,000 people here. All streets, avenues, stores and public places were filled with restless crowds. The fifty or sixty cars that transported Barnum's great show came in early in the day, and in a short time with his three hundred men the tents were up and arrangements completed for the grand procession, which took place at 9:30 a.m. Both in the afternoon and evening the large tents were crowded amost to suffocation. In the afternoon two babies died in the arms of their mothers from the heat, while they were witnessing the performance of the ring. All of this great throng of people that

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surged on the streets and under the canvas, were well dressed and seemed well supplied with money, which was freely expended.

With the show also came the usual followers of thieves and burglars, and quite a number of our citizens met with losses. Mr. D. A. Black's safe was unlocked and four hundred dollars in money abstracted. Mr. Gus Maffrey's till was emptied of about ninety dollars. Mr. Spriestersbach's money drawer was robbed of about thirty-five dollars.

We saw very few cases of drunkenness or attempts at disorder. After the show departed a splendid rain set in that was vastly of more benefit to the people and country, and gave a great deal more genuine pleasure than a half dozen shows.

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# BEAR

## THE MOSCOW CIRCUS... by Gordon Brown

The Moscow Circus was reviewed at the Denver Coliseum during its 15th week of the U. S. tour, directed by Art Concello, president; Carlos Vasques, vice president and Valentin Filatov, famous bear trainer, many times honored "Merited & People's Artist", as the Artistic Director. W. E. Lawson has the programs and concessions.

A fleet of five semi-trailers, five large 5th wheel travel trailers and several private trailers marshalled in Baton Rouge for the mainland tour. The high single ring curb was packed with yards of compacted clay-dirt in the Russian mode. A wide, high colorful backdrop with Iristan pinacles shielded one end of the arena and the back stage entry area.

After a lively opening with most performers engaging in traditional and acrobatic dances, Ludmilla and Valeri Filatova displayed a unique exotic animal group of monkeys with pony dressage, a bear cub riding a pony, macaws forming a colorful living chandelier, and a high jumping dog.

The graceful Magomedov couple on the high wire, featured a steep walk-up and a one-foot stand by the lady on his head, while he strode across. Tension was less with the visible safety wire affixed to her belt.

The nine member Barkar Troupe after great tumbling did unusual teeterboard with all landings on a hand-held horizontal pole, including a double to a two high, and a three high. Equilibristic dexterity, hand balancing and strength highlighted the Yuri Shubin Trio's efforts.

Kuklachov entered on a small hand cart pushed by 3 cats and a dog. One of the top Soviet clowns, he was in the ring after almost every act with good take-offs of many acts. Loudest guffaws were provoked by a high single pole climb after a punishing struggle (for the understander) to reach the pinnacle whereupon he pogo-pogoed the width of the ring, and later by his rapport with pre-schoolers who threw a ball into his fish net with balloon prizes and surprises.

Strongman Anatoli Osipov showed incredible strength and dexterity wielding massive weights and cross-bars with a drum major's virtuosity. The Filatovas returned with a pair of large uncaged leopards with long leaps to a padded white pony and some unexpected comedy. Charming Veronika Birina on a tall freely swaying ladder balanced tray and wine glasses with sword to dagger-in-mouth in graceful equilibrium. The well costumed Antoninovs Duo pleased on a very high revolving perch.

Icarian Games with the Kusyakovs featured three foot jugglers interchanging bouncing performers and then the chief's daughter, about 4 years old, who was presented as a limp doll until after a few vigorous

whirls on her father's feet, she suddenly flipped to a foot to foot stand and then some very professional tumbling.

The Nugzarov Cossacks portrayed the traditional "Mountain Legend" with eight riders, 10 fiery steeds and the statuesque Ms. Nugzarov, on a tall white horse, who stilled the torches, sword fighting and sparks on her entrance. Nugzarov, after a long swooping swing from a shield-trapeze to his dappled black steed, started a fierce full-gallop round of classic stances for his Cossacks in rotation, to near continuous tremendous applause.

After intermission and setting of a firm wooden ring floor, the Filatov Bears (16) took to the spot-lights for 35 minutes. Acclaimed as the greatest bear act ever trained in Russia, they were presented by Ms. Filatov (who appeared at first from a large cage after a bear-substitution illusion) and her husband P. Ahalkatsishvili. Highlights were the three bear trika entry with a top-hatted bear-driver in charge, a one paw bear stand; good two paw rollo-bollo; throwing, revolving and catching a big barber pole on most tries; a show-stopping lively, boxing match with a comical bear "second" stealing considerable of the action; bicycle riding after lifting the bike from the floor and mounting without help or a leash; motorcycle riding in the dark without leash and turning on headlights appropriately as needed; a high aerial by-the-teeth whirl by two baby bears, then Malishka and Dasha, seven ft. bears with high jumping and "bent-knee" Cossack dances. The show received a three minute standing ovation (the bears, at least 100 lumps of sugar) as all performers applauded the audience in the finale.

The band, led by Boris Porojezki played a wide variety of music from traditional to frank rock n' roll, overseen by assistant Keith Killinger with R. Darr, lead trumpet, L. Mascitto, keyboard, B. Childers, drums and 10 local sidemen.

A 12 page program with 21 color and 12 black-and-white pictures sold for \$2.00. Show tickets ranged from \$5.00 to \$7.00.

Considerable publicity followed the attendance of two big bears at the Arapahoe Ski Basin; Dasha and Fontanka riding the ski lift and a snowmobile and eating biscuits in the bar with a "shringking" barman.

The tour included engagements at: San Juan, Baton Rouge, San Antonio, San Angelo, Amarillo, Denver, Memphis, Fort Worth, Oklahoma City, Houston, Austin, Birmingham, Atlanta and Charlotte.

# PEOPLE

MILONGA CLINE reports she will spend her summer vacation visiting with her daughter KATHY HUELING at Baraboo, Wisc. Milonga teaches school in Florida, and Kathy is expecting a baby in October.

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## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

ries Tony Potter in July. It will be an outdoor ceremony taking place in Gifford, Conn. Anita and Tom will fly east for the nuptials. . . . Anita moonlights from professional appearances by teaching an aerial ballet class to dancers, some of whom have gone on to do web on Paul Kaye's circus dates. . . Rajia and Hans Torreani are off the road with no immediate plans to return because of Hans' heel injury of last fall.

Another Keppo daughter (Anneli) and husband Alfonso Esquada, currently at Circus Circus in Reno, have opened a costume business in Las Vegas. Their youngest daughter, Lili, is now featured in the Esquada bike/teeterboard number.

Finally caught up with Circus Vargas at Antioch (Calif) and visited with friends for a few hours. Due to a breakdown I couldn't return for a second visit. Had a chance to chat with Millie Ward whom I hadn't seen for many long years and who is on the road for the first time since her flying act days. Millie is working feverishly to finish the spec wardrobe for the show. . . Lydia and Alfonso Burkett have added a winch devise which hoists the entire rigging from ground to air with them on it and it is very effective. . . Harry Thomas has added great new routines to his tiger act. . . Jan Joyner is doing a good job with the Samoyed dogs. . . The three rings of liberty horses, worked by the Herriotts, is pure flash. . . the new seat railings are a much needed safety improvement. . . My time on the show was too fleeting for much analysis, but everything looks ship-shape and while business was off slightly in Northern California it is

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## SPECIAL

. . . by George Da Deppo

On April 30, 1979, the silver show train of the Monte Carlo International Festival de Cirque was spotted behind the Detroit Union Produce Terminal on Fort St. and Green St., southwest of Detroit. The train was setting there while the show played in the Cobo Arena, some 4 miles away. The arena site is also the birthplace of James Anthony Bailey, born July 4, 1847.

An interesting note is that the yards where the train was spotted is only two short blocks from where the writer was born and grew-up; and was the main Detroit show grounds for all of the major canvas railroad circuses in the 1920's, so I felt that it was quite fitting that the New, Monte Carlo Circus was parked their for their May 1-6 Detroit engagement.

now accelerating. . . Cliff says he only toured ten thousand miles in 46 weeks last season and hopes to do better this time.

Bob and Edna Top bowed out of the final Sunday show at the Cow Palace to tape a TV special in L.A. for Home Box Office. Son, Royce stayed behind to tear down and ringmaster Larry Rich drove their rig to the next spot. Another rigging was built for the aerial roller skating act in L. A.

EAST MEETS WEST: After nearly five years of columnizing for CR, editor Don Marcks and I finally got together. As producer Larry Carden said: "The Eastern Unit finally caught up with the Western Unit, even if we did have to pay the expense!"

SEE you down the road, luvs.

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**SHOW DATE (Continued)**

the show's general manager, and his wife Rosanne. The May 1-6 circus date coincided with the May Invitational Frolic of the Detroit Player's Theatre (a gentlemen's theatrical club) and through arrangements with Mike Gorman, the circus performance director, circus performers were escorted to the theatre for guest appearances. On Friday, May 4th, the Player's audience had the treat of meeting and being entertained by the Wee Gets (the Albarracine children) and the most interesting lady lighting technician of the circus.

On Saturday, May 5th, Mike Gorman and CFA Ken Kurtz, introduced on the Player's Stage, guests visiting from the circus and France, Joseph Bouglione, Dr. Frere, and Sylvie Mercier, concert pianist who honored the group with several numbers on the grand piano. Also featured were Mime numbers by

**PEOPLE**

EUGENE NOCK, Jr. recently won the title "Mr. Hartford" (Conn.) in a weight lifting contest. He will soon be competing for the "Mr. Wisconsin" title.

LOUIS L'AMOUR author of western novels whose stories have been turned into films and TV shows, once worked with circuses. When he was just a child his family and Buffalo Bill Cody were friends.

BOB-O the Clown has been signed for a show date in Reno late this year.

Sergio, the flamenco dancing of Luis Munoz, the singing by Elvin Bale, followed by the introduction of Jean Pierre, show lighting director from Paris.

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# SAWDUST TRAIL

... by M. L. DUPONT

An AP report on May 4th stated that audiences at Madison Square Garden don't really appreciate the circus like they used to. The report indicated that audiences sat on their hands even for the most excellent of acts. Can it be that shows no longer provide the thrills for today's modern audiences who are so used to watching TV? Or is it because prices have so skyrocketed that audiences are saying we expect more for our money?

The following day AP carried an interesting story about Bob Parkinson, librarian of the Circus World Museum at Baraboo. It was a nice story and a fine tribute to a man who has done much to catalog circus information for future generations. We may never see the old style rail shows, or parades, but our children and grandchildren will be able to go to Baraboo and see how it used to be.

CFA'r Harold Causey has been trying to locate Kay Rosaire. He was on the show with her last year at Shreveport. If anyone knows where Kay is let us know so we can catch her fine act and pass the word along.

Latest report from the Northeast Shrine Club is that the Shrine Circus scheduled for Monroe, La. on June 16-17 has been rescheduled to July 14-15 because of a conflict of dates.

The La. Purchase Gardens has been unsuccessful in trying to locate someone who'd offer elephant rides at the zoo during Zoo Week.

When Beatty-Cole left Arkansas, it took only a few jumps to put them into Ohio, then Penna. This reporter wishes to thank Hans Ruwill for his prompt reply and for the show routes.

Our readers don't realize how hard it is to put out a weekly column of news that will interest the majority and still be newsy. Now and then we receive news via mail, but at the end is the comment "not for publication". It makes one wonder why folks want to operate a "Secret Bros. Circus", and are so obviously set

# PEOPLE

ELSIE SUTTON, widow of the late Whitey Sutton, continues to operate Sutton's Circus Side Show, featured on the midway of the James E. Strates Shows.

TRUDY and BILL STRONG (The Quassars) report they thoroughly enjoyed their tour with Circo Atayde in Mexico and hated to see it come to an end. In order to make their date with the Hubler Int'l Circus at Lexington, Ky., they had to do some all night driving.

against publicity of any kind. We hope readers will continue to provide us with news and material that can find its way into this column.

The Flying Vasquez Troupe was billed as the "epitome of grace, daring and timing agility" in a front page story in the Duluth Budgeteer on April 18th. It was for a show produced by Sam T. Polack. He also produced a show at Pine Bluff, where Al Dawley was ringmaster and Al Vernon was musical director. Al reports that the Kentucky Fried Chicken chain bought out one show and the Col. himself was there.

For years CFA'r Tex Dreyfus had to share his circus collection with a limited amount of space. But now that his son has gone out on his home he has a whole room for his circus collection. I know how that is, but soon even a room isn't enough and already my photo collection is sneaking down the hall, but my wife says 1/6th of the house for the circus is enough!

DoDo the Clown was booked for a 4 hour date at an Auto Show in West Monroe, La., but couldn't get away until he'd been there 7 hours or so. You can't just walk away from kids when they are lined up to talk with you and shake your hand.

Word has it that Bobby Gibbs is in Canada with a unit of Carden-Johnson. Last year Bobby spent most of the season in Canada too. Bet he misses his former charges - Minnie, Lydia and Marie.

My thanks to everyone who sent me articles about the late Emmett Kelly, and especially to Perry Luth for the cartoon showing Kelly sweeping the spotlights together, with finally only the broom left as a spotlight shines upon it. Mr. Luth built the wagons that became a part of the Charles Koehler Circus.

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## CIRCUS SAFARI . . .

by John Hogben

Circus Safari is a 2 ring circus owned by John and Betty Reid, which played for the Umatilla County Sheriff's Posse at Pendleton, Ore. on April 24th.

In addition to the 2 ring set-up, a steel arena was set up in one ring. Music was live and consisted of a trumpet player who plays some drums with a foot peddle and an accordionist, with electrical amplification. The two were able to produce an astounding volume of music.

Announcements were handled by a young man wearing the traditional red tails, with black top hat and trousers. Clowning was handled by veteran clown Harry Ross.

The program included: Lawrence Grant, in the steel arena with 7 female lions and 1 male lion, plus a tiger. It offers a nice display and features a fire jump with 2 lionesses jumping one way, while a third jumps the other way. The finale has the maned lion sitting up on a revolving mirrored pedestal. Lawrence tells me that he usually has ten cats in the act, but one of the animals was ailing.

The Jean Boyee Trio, from Las Vegas, consists of 2 men and a woman doing casting on the Olympic horizontal bars.

Clown Harry Ross with the TV camera gag involving kids from the audience.

Otto Berosini with the Sahara Desert Camel Fantasy. Uses 2 dromedaries, a tiny Sicilian donkey, a brown and white pony, in a drill with various pedestal mounts and ends with the donkey and pony jumping over the camel's outstretched necks as they are laying down. The attendant wore the appropriate Arabian costume.

Just think, next week we're joining the Circus Report family. It's sure going to be fun visiting with CR's readers each week - Hope they'll watch for us.



## PEOPLE

JOHN MARIETTA, of Pittsburg, Kans., had his circus calliope wagon at a festival in Topeka, Kans. this month.

MYSTERIA and DIANNE ONASSIS, are stripper/magicians working club dates in Florida. They combine magic with their strip acts much to the delight of club patrons.

JIM FORREST, of Hartford, Conn., has supplied the paper for this week's issue of Circus Report, for which we are all very grateful.

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Following intermission Otto Berosini was back with a 5 Palomino pony drill. The ponies wore attractive red leather harness with red star hip drops, and red military brush plumes.

Harry Ross doing clown magic, with some help from children in the audience.

Princess Elena Omar, in hand balancing featuring the one finger stand and playing a mandolin while balancing on her head on a revolving stand. She sells her act very well.

Clown Ross in a jumping and chair gag.

Otto Berosini with two uncaged tigers, a Bengal and a Siberian. They work on leashes and do a variety of pedestal stands and sit-ups. The Bengal does a long jump between pedestals and the act ends with the tigers riding a huge draft horse along with their trainers.

Bucky Steele with 5 elephants, two large elephants, including Boo the male tusker, plus 3 young animals. This is a fast working act with Boo doing a one foot stand, there's a 3 elephant pyramid, a walking long mount with all five animals, etc. The footing was not all that might be desired as squares of celotex were put down to protect the floor and this tended to shift. Nonetheless it was a very good act.