



7th Year

May 29, 1978

Number 22

Show Plays

Although it faced a \$500 per day fine the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus played its three day engagement at Hanover Township (Pa.) as scheduled. According to local officials the presentation of a circus at the Hanover Township site violates the local zoning laws.

The circus which played at Westgate Mall was caught in the middle of a dispute between the mall's owner and the township. At the heart of the issue is a proposed single family development that the mall owner wants to build alongside the mall.

Prior to the circus arrival township officials said that if the circus went on as was planned they would issue the citation. However, they did not seek a court injunction that would have banned the show.

One show official told newspaper reporters that the possible \$500 per day fine would amount to less than 1% of the shows projected revenues. Almost 10,000 advance tickets had been sold for the engagement, he added.

The circus was reportedly given an assurance that no problems would arise be-

cause of the zoning regulations. There was obviously some misunderstanding about the situation, a showman said.

Township zoning ordinances don't cover activities like circuses and the township has no mechanism for granting permission to run such activities.

A city official said the proper procedure would have been for the circus to go before the zoning hearing board in advance, asking for a variance.

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

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CARDEN-JOHNSON CIRCUS

by Herman Brandmiller

The 10th annual Knights of Columbus Circus in Muskegon, Mich. (May 5-7) was produced once again by Carden-Johnson's Red Unit.

The program included: Pre-opening with 'Sparky' the clown in center ring; Overture; Spec; Joe Via with 6 lions; Cuccillo, trampoline; the Galumbo Trio (Frank, Doris, Frank, Jr.), cradle; the Ybera Family, trampoline; Rueben Rosales, foot juggling; Gilberto Rosales, bounding rope; Clowns with magic flowers; Armando (Rosales) hand balancing (highlight has him walking down steps on his hands, carrying his partner (Rebecca) across his back); Joe Via, camels; Cuccillo, llamas; Al's Lemon-zeen (Fay Alexander); Aerial ballet with Magaly Esqueda, Blanco Ybera and Rebecca Rosales.

In the second half were: The Yberras, flying act (Ignatio, Ignatio, Jr., Blanco and Sally); Fearless Adele and her Gorilla (Adele Gora and Hans Klaus); Sparky the clown with floating cane; Chin Biaze & Co., unicycle/juggling/teeterboard; Hans Klaus, sword balance; The Francos (Galumbo Trio with 2 yr. old Dieter), rolling globes; Clown boxing match; Joe Via, elephants (3); the Zavara Bros (Nestor, Titino, Pancho), high wire.

The show's staff consists of: Larry Carden, producer; Cleo Plunkett, performance director/announcer; Susy Schelly, vocalist and assistant announcer; Mike Pike, musical director and organist; Emerson Scott, drummer; Frank Galumbo, supt.; Blanco Ybera, wardrobe; Joe Via, animal supt.; with Clowns Phil 'Phillipe' Shear, producing clown; D. W. 'Sparky' Washburn, producing clown; Paul Niebauer and Elliott Crown.

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PEOPLE

EMMETT KELLY, Jr., is currently being featured in TV commercials for Beneficial Loans, with Emmett working in the circus ring.

CAROL BUCKLEY and her elephant "Tarra" reportedly jumped into Canada after some recent California dates to join a unit of the Gatini Circus in the east.

KEN and BETTY WILLER reportedly played a variety show date at Santa Rosa, Calif., this past month, doing their balancing and juggling acts.

DAVID SLUSSER (Hi Ho, the Clown) is currently touring with Gary Strong's Great Circus International.

CLARK McDERMOTT and His Cold Nose Five are spending some time in Las Vegas, where he reports the weather is warm and nice.

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus

May 30-31 Exton, Pa.

June 1-4 Voorheis, N. J.

Big John Strong Circus

May 29 Leveland, N. M.

30 San Angelo

31-1 San Antonio, Texas

June 2-3 Fort Worth

4-5 Midwest City, Okla.

Carden-Johnson Circus

May 30-31 Brantford, Ont.

Circus Vargas

May 29-30 Napa, Calif.

31 Merced

June 1-4 Emeryville

Great American Circus

May 29 Colledgeville, Pa.

30 Lansdale

31 Red Hill

June 1 Hilltown

2 Tamaqua

4 Frackville

Hamid-Morton Circus

June 1-4 Trenton, N. J.

Knights of Columbus Circus

June 3-4 San Francisco, Calif.

M & M Circus

June 2-4 Mt. Clemens, Mich.

Pickle Family Circus

June 3-4 San Francisco, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to June 4 New York, N. Y.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

June 2-4 Wheeling, W. Va.

Roberts Bros. Circus

May 29 Harmony, Pa.

30 Waterford

31 Conneaut Lake

June 1 Stoneboro

2 Tionesta

3 Falls Creek

Shrine Circus

June 1-4 Buffalo, N. Y.

----- OTHER DATES -----

Baretta, the Cockatoo

May 31-June 4 Champaign, Ill.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit

May 31-June 10 Harvey, Ill.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

to June 3 Chicago Hghts, Ill.

James H. Drew Expo Shows

May 29-June 3 Beckley, W. Va.

Doug Henning Show (Magic)

May 30 Davenport, Iowa

31 Cedar Rapids

June 1 Madison, Wisc.

2 Milwaukee

3 South Bend, Ind.

4 Fort Wayne

Bob Jones Petting Zoo

to June 14 Oxford, Pa.

PEOPLE

MAY BAKER, SANDY WINDLAND, DARLENE and RENE WILLIAMS and JAN JOYNER visited REX WILLIAMS at the hospital just prior to his knee operation. He was scheduled to have been released Tuesday, but will be off work for 6 to 8 weeks.

VICTOR and LINDA FLORES finished their engagement with Bates Bros. Circus in Canada in time to open with Hix Bros. Circus where they will be touring for the entire season.

Mr. and Mrs. NORMAN DAVIS, parents of JAN JOYNER, have returned to their home in Las Vegas after spending a couple of months visiting and working on Circus Vargas.

DON MARCKS is currently serving on Jury Duty and as a result there may be delays in getting ad copy and news into a specific issue of CR. However, the paper will be mailed on schedule.

Little Lion Land

May 31-June 4 Lombard, Ill.

Los Latinos - wire act

to Aug. 20 Hunt's Circus

Magic Time USA - Prof. Miller

May 30 Dover, Ohio

June 1 East Lansing, Mich.

2 Valparaiso, Ind.

4 Bradley

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WHAT WOULD THIS business be like without rumors or stories of major shakeups in dates? Fairly dull, I suspect. At any rate I have a column full of both this week.

1979 signals a major upset in early winter northern Shrine dates with at least three important biggies contemplating a change in producers. One such date has been produced by the same circus for almost two decades.

Changes are in store also, on this year's Texas Circuit, in clown alley in particular, where many of the old guard will be replaced. One well known clown team, an annual in Texas for years, as well as being popular and well liked, are NOT returning, nor are a number of others. It is something of a mystery as to why these perennials are being let out.

DOWN RUMOR ROAD: Fact or fantasy, take your pick. . .but a former top echelon staff member of a world famous circus combine has reportedly formed a syndicate which has amassed over one million bucks with which to create a new circus (and, a tent, at that). Reports circulate that a high-level conference was set up in Chicago where negotiations with a major tent circus were to develop. The meeting was cancelled, however, when the circus owner phoned to say his show was NOT for sale. All this transpired in February. Now rumors are that this syndicate will start from scratch.

MORE FANTASY or fact. Two years back I reported rumbles of a third Ringling unit to tour under canvas. It was my conjecture then that the only way such an operation would flourish, under such a banner, and with today's economy, was to go out on rails. Well, nothing came of these rumors (as I am frequently reminded). Believe it or not, new information has come to me, DIRECT from very close sources, that there indeed will be such a unit, going out on flatcars, hauling Mack trucks, cat tractors, a big top, etc., to play 3-4 and 5 day engagements. In addition a number of railroad cars have been purchased and are now being refurbished in Venice. Personally I have no comment, I'm only reporting these new rumors which started in Florida in January and have gained momentum ever since. My information two years ago came from fairly reliable sources also (which sources later denied giving me the information). So you pay your nickel and take your choice.

RADIO CITY Music Hall, due to close its doors April 12th, did not; as a matter of fact they continued with their Easter show another week, and there is a new production appearing there now along with the fabulous Rockettes.

WHILE SOME producers lose dates, others manage

to hold on to them. Sam Polack has signed back most of his, ditto for M&M (who signed back Omaha), and Sandy Dobritch who will play New Orleans again next season for the Police.

For those acts who have appeared with the Globetrotters it is sad news that MEADOWLARK LEMON was stabbed in the back on a Manhattan street in late April. The Globetrotters basketball star was taken to Bellevue Hospital where a 5 in. steak was removed from his back. He was listed in 'stable' condition. Lemon's wife was charged with first degree assault. Lemon, known as the "clown prince of basketball" is in his 21st season with the trotters.

SNAPSHOTS: Sultry SA SA ARMOR has a new romance. . .REGGIE ARMOR, now catching in the flying act, sez their new rotating aerial motorcycle act is going very well. . .JON FRIDAY is a "talker" on one of WARD HALL's side shows, will play the Dallas State Fair this fall. . .The QUASSARS make the Minnesota State Fair for Hanneford. . .LAURA WALKER is doing a solo dressage on Hoxie. . .BUCKY STEELE is using 6 lions and 2 tigers in his new cage act. . .WADE and MARGARET BURCK are at Jungle Larry's. . .Good reports coming in about the CASTRO BROS. hi-wire act. . .MARLENE GROTEFENT is writing a book, husband ARTHUR is electrician with Garden Bros. . .RUMPY, the clown, has returned to that show after a season with Puck's. . .JIM SWAFFORD visited the Gatti show. . .BONNIE & CLYDE are with Nordmark's Magic Unit. . .the Hawthorne cat act, worked by ROY WELLS (now with Garden) goes to Marineland this summer, along with the CUNEO animal attractions. . .BOOM BOOM received 3 more bow ties from IRENE FOSSETT. . .WALLY NAGHTIN's father passed away on April 22. . .DINKY PATTERSON left Circus Vargas when BRIDGET BALLENTINE returned, recovered from her fall. . .TREVOR BALE put together a mixed animal number for Famous Hunt. . .ELVIN and JEANETTE came down to Hunt's quarters last month and took Trevor and Bonnie with them to visit Great Adventure. . .That new booker/promotional wizard with Hunt is SY ROSEMAN, for three years Promotional Director with Philadelphia's Spectrum. . .The VASQUEZ FLYERS, GILDA and LUCIO CRISTIANI, CONNIE WELDE and WALK KING among the acts who augmented Cincinnati for Ian Garden.

FLASH: SONJA ZOPPE has announced her engagement to FRANK LUDEMULK. The announcement was made public during the Indianapolis Shrine date. Nuptials take place following the end of the Castle season.

(Continued on Page 16)

Show Report

When Kelly Bros. Circus arrived at Village Square Shopping Center in Dodge City, Kans., on May 3, they were greeted by freezing temperatures, with an inch of snow on the ground. The show moved into a nearby Armory and played to good crowds for its 4 and 7 p.m. performances. Earlier bad weather forced the tent to move indoors at Perryton, Texas, and Liberal and Garden City, Kans. Huge crowds attended the shows at the latter spot despite near-freezing temperatures and heavy rains.

The current performance with Kelly Bros. Circus is as follows: Overture; Bounding Kays (3), trampoline; Clown Zapata, feather balance; Princess Morningstar, aerial loop walking and trapeze; Peanut pitch; Rianos, slack wire with comedy; Hanneford Family's four baby elephants; Color Book Pitch; Intermission; Dianne and Catherine's dogs and pony revue; Clown Zapata, acrobatics; the Amazing Dr. Kay, magic/illusions; Ron Perry, juggling; Zapata's Fable of Dr. Jeckle & Mr. Hyde, and the George Hanneford Family of bareback riders.

Staffers include: Gordon Walsh, producer; Heinz Frauenstein, company manager; Nick Bengor, supt, Heinz and Margaret Frauenstein, concessions; Dean Coonrod, organist; Les Braxton, percussionist and Jon Friday, ringmaster/announcer.

IN MEMORIAM

ALICE M. BILLINGSLEY, known professionally as "Alice the Clown" died at Adelphi, Md., on Feb. 22nd. She was a prominent entertainer for both adults and children. Survivors include two sons, three sisters and two brothers.

PHYLLIS LITTLEFIELD, wife of Frank Littlefield, died recently in Sarasota, Fla. Frank is an old-time showman and advance agent and was one of the founders of the CFA.

CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS. CIRCUS

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PHILIP MORRIS, ringmaster, has completed a national TV commercial for Coca Cola. The TV spot will be seen during the summer months of June, July and August.

REV. AUSTIN MILES, show business chaplain was pictured along with a story in the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Independent on April 29th.

ANGELA WILNOW and her Collies have been playing single dates during May and in June will be with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Elmira, N. Y. (June 3), booked by Rose Adair.

JOHNNIE JONES visited Hoxie Bros., King Bros. and the Great American Circus over a period of three weeks. He showed his circus films to the folks on Great American.

THE ROLLING DIAMONDS have been booked for the Ak-Sar-Ben show at Omaha, Nebr., set for Aug. 15-20. Their booking was handled by the Amandis Agency.

TOSCA BICKMORE, youngest member of the Bickmore risley act appears in the show with Big John Strong's Circus each day and is a real scene stealer.

SEBESTYEN, Poodles; RUTH ANN, sponge dive; FAWCETT's Chimps and DeMILLE, wire, jumped over night from Napa, Calif. to Los Angeles for a 9 a.m. show for Emmett Kelly, Jr.

THE FENTONS, acrobats on ice, are featured in the Ice Capades program.



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Miscellaneous

RBBB's Circus World Park in Florida has a new thrill ride called "The Center Ring". The ride was designed and built in West Germany and is new in this country.

An Oregon animal dealer — Arthur E. Fessler — has been charged by the USDA with violations of record keeping and care requirements of animals.

The Great Y Circus is featured with a two page story and photos in the May 1978 issue of "Sunset" magazine.

MAILBAG

It's just a shame that people can't give credit where credit is due. The elephants that Frans Tish has at the park were not trained by him. Charlie Franks owned and trained the elephant Sonita. Wally Ross helped in her early stages of training. Wally Ross also completely trained the elephant Jenie, who was later worked with Joan Emby and Red Tomas of the San Diego Zoo.

Don McLennan came to the zoo to put a show together for them, and he trained both elephants Carol and Jenie for an act. Later he received a male elephant, completely trained him and used him and the females in the show at the park for almost a year.

Frans Tish watched the show everyday 'til he could copy it trick for trick. Maybe Mr. Tish can snow some people but the real trainers know the real story about this so-called great trainer who has to copy other people's acts.

I will give him credit for putting a nice show together, but just give credit where it is due, lets not forget the sweat of the trainers who actually trained them.

Thank you,

Mrs. Madylin McLennan

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MAILBAG

After reading the article on red tape in the May 8 issue of CR, thought you and others would like to know it's not all over animals. As of April 1st any performer working in Canada must obtain a work visa.

This is done by applying for forms at any Canadian Consulate. Also the employer must request their services. Forms include a complete physical, chest X-ray and passport photo. All this has to be mailed to Ottawa.

After it is processed (which may take 2 to 3 weeks) you go back to the Consulate for an interview (will need birth certificate or some proof).

Our interview was set for May 5th. Even though we mailed everything from Windsor and the Consulate attached an urgent sticker, our medical report data was not back.

As we were leaving the office our car was hit by a bus, and now we couldn't work if we had a visa. My husband, Ed, received a laceration on the forehead, broken ribs and a punctured lung. I had nothing broken, but was banged up and hardly able to move.

Fortunately, Les Gibson, who was driving only received small bruises.

Gloria Peebles

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PEOPLE

CHARLOTTE HUNT LeVINE recently returned to her home in New Jersey after spending two weeks with JO and PAUL FRITZ at the Primate Foundation in Tempe, Ariz. Her chimpanzee, "Mia", is living in retirement at the Foundation along with 39 other chimpanzees (many of whom are retired circus performers). Charlotte, daughter of Charles T. Hunt, founder of Hunt Bros. Circus, retired her well-known chimp act in 1975.

EGYPT LOWRY BURDEN, daughter of Velma and Aden Lowry, of Kansas, recently underwent an operation for cancer and would enjoy hearing from show friends. Cards and letters can be sent to her at: Lancaster Community Hospital, Room 308, Lancaster, Calif. - 93534.

HARRY BLACKSTONE, magician, will bring his full stage show to San Jose, Calif., for a March 7th date only in 1979.

RICHARD BARSTOW is staging and directing an "Annie Get Your Gun" show for the Jones Beach Theatre on Long Island (NY). The show will star LUCIE ARNEZ and HARVE PRESNELL. Barstow was a production director with RBBB

Miscellaneous

The tusk of the elephant that killed Eloise Berchtold was given to the Police Dept. at Rock Forest (Canada) and they plan to sell it to the highest bidder as a means of raising money to help in the rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents.

CUSTOM COLOR CIRCUS PHOTOS

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- 5) Beatty-Cole, Logan, 1974

- 2) M & M Productions, Steele, 1973
- 4) Sells & Gray, 1974
- 6) Carson & Barnes, 1976

7) Hoxie Bros., Walker, 1977

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Show Report

CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS. CIRCUS

by Albert F. House

When I arrived at the Beatty-Cole Circus lot in Stanton, Dela. (Apr. 28) the big top was just going up. Very high winds forced the stake driving crew to put in an extra set of stakes to keep the top secure. Their new blue and white tent is very colorful and really looks great.

This date was the second one day stand of the season and was the second of four days played in Delaware for the Shrine.

The clowns work hard and do a good job. They greet people before the show starts and also sign autographs at intermission time. Their numbers include: a walkaround after Dave Hoover's cat act, the clown band, a boxing gag that is a take-off on the film 'Rocky', intermission autographs, a balloon chase and a crazy number.

Jimmy James is in charge of the alley which includes Jim Stutz, Julius Baymann and Mike Ferrera from last year. Other clowns are: Jeff Starroff, Jim Marple, Sandy Kozek, Keith Dans and Robert Arlaquin and Paul Cohen.

The band is directed by Charles Bertini and is excellent. They surely must be the best undercanvas band on the road. Bertini, who plays the trumpet is aided by trumpet players Jim Buttolph and Bill Gueren, trumpets; Jim Cunningham and Chris Price, trombones; Hugh Rankin, bass; Gene Nicholas, baritone and Bill Chocianowski, drummer. The trumpets and baritone are on the top level of the band stand, trombones and bass are on the second level and Bertini and the drummer are on the lower level.

This year the cages in the side show are regular cages with wheels. Each day they are taken from the side show truck by a fork lift and wheeled into the tent. All are well planted and well lighted. Display animals include a 6 month old tiger, 9 month old lion, 7 month old cougar and 2 baboons. Other animals are the 9 elephants (3 of which are babies), a camel, a 57 lb. Burmese python and 8 ponies, for the pony ride.

The side show acts are: Glenn Soni, fire eater/bed of nails; Shandor Kaliph, Rubber Girl; Kay Pittenger, Miss Electric; Barbara Hunter, snakes; Cheri Cunningham, and magician Dick Stuart, who plans to add 2 leopard cubs and a black panther to his magic numbers.

The show's program lists the acts as: Welcome to the Circus; Dave Hoover, lions and tigers; aerialists the Flores Duo and Rita and Elba; Clowns; The Ramos Family, riding act; The Ruwills, plate act; The Antoys, teeterboard; aerial features by Mr. Ga-

NICE SPOT

When your rig is maximum length, or your semi full of exotic animals or perhaps you're just looking for a reasonable place to lay off and practice without having to go all the way home, where can you go? For the past 12 years many performers have been graciously welcomed by Ray and Suzi Reas who own Poplars Mobile Home Park on US 19 in Elkhart, Ind. They are indeed fans of the circus.

Seeing as Elkhart is so close to the Chicago area, there is hardly an act in the business that has not spent some time at Poplars. Not only individual acts visit Poplars, but whole circuses have layed off there. Carden-Johnson, Suesz, Castle, Hubler and recently Holiday Hippodrome, to name a few.

It is easy to understand why performers come back to Poplars when in the area. The large flat field next to the pull through spaces (aptly named "Circus Row") is the scene of much circus activity in fair weather. Flying acts, wire acts, trampolines, teeterboards and more. All have been set up and practise "performances" presented to perfection. The audiences consist of from no one to everyone, youngsters to oldsters and always in the front row enjoying things the most are Ray, Suzi and Lee Ann, their 17 yr. old.

Ray's father purchased the 25 acre park when it was full of Poplar trees. Now only one remains of that variety. That one tree though has seen when the property was an airport, home of the first lighted ball field in Indiana, location of Elkhart's finest home-made ice cream store and one time site of Rubin & Cherry Carnival. In 1947 the first trailer rolled in to establish Poplars as a mobile-home park and that it has been ever since. If you'd like to really know how nice the park is just ask "Dondi, the Elephant". The last time he visited he took it on his own to check out the surrounding neighborhood only to discover nothing quite so nice as the green grass in the park right outside his door!

..... Karin Stewart Davis

briel, head balance trapeze and Miss Pittenger on the trapeze; Clowns; Equilibrists, The Ferreiras and Julio and Antonio; The Lancelots, high wire; Circus Clowns; Javana's Jungle Wonders; Aerial Ballet with the Girl in the Moon; Intermission.

In the second half are: The Flying Aztecas; Circus Clowns; Charmaine's Animal Revue; Hans and Sigrid, adagio; The Catalans, rola bola; The Estradas, acrobatics; The Oscarians, risley; Clowns, followed by the circus elephants in a number directed by Fred Logan.

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Show Folks

by CLAYTON WOOD

Vino Venito is the feature act at Old Chicago. He opened April 25th and will continue through to the end of May, when he will be replaced by Joyce Rice, with ropes, whips and batons.

Other features at Old Chicago include the Pablo Rodriguez troupe. The show opens with the Dielkar Sisters (Lupe and Diana) on rolling globes; then a clown spot with "Zilly" (Paul Zillmann); the Golden Moon with Karen (the fourth night of the show Karin fell and broke her left ankle and chipped another bone. She was replaced in the moon by Diana); Aerial Ballet with Elizabeth and Diana; Clown spot with Zilly and finale with Vino Venito. The Rodriguez Troupe will spend the major portion of the summer season at Old Chicago.

- * -

The Flying Alvarez, headed by Raul Alvarez, left O'Hare Field in Chicago on May 8th for Stockholm, where they will appear for the remainder of May. From June 1st thru the end of July they will be at the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen.

Martin Alvarez, 11 yr. old flyer, is a fourth generation circus performer. His father, Raul and his grandfather are flyers (the grandfather no longer flies) and his great-grandfather was a circus performer.

Raul came to the U. S. from Cuba with Fidel Faria as a flyer in 1958 and has spent most of the last 20 years in the states. His first tour in the States was with the Tom Packs Circus.

Show Crew

The program and staff for Hunt Bros. Circus at Philadelphia (Pa) consisted of:

Featured in the program were: Col. E. T. Bale, animal acts; Los Latinos, tightwire; Aria performing bears; Miss Olga, foot juggling; Great Humberto, slide for life; the Navera Duo, sword balance; Marie Louise and Prince Najvez, aerialists; Jo Ann and Sunny, seal act; Aerialetta, trapeze; Alexandra the Great & Co., illusions; the Crazy Bull, comedy act; Ethel Jennier, greyhounds; the Race Flying Saucers and several clowns.

The show's staff included: Marsha Hunt Jones, president; Harry T. Hunt, vice president/treasurer; Donald W. Jones, secretary; Robert Momyer, advertising coordinator/production assistant; Col. E. T. Bale, ringmaster; Gary McNulty, media director; Stanley Freedburg, musical director; Ron De Hoff, clown productions; John Owen, boss canvasman and Richard Warringeln, transportation.



INTERNATIONAL ALL STAR CIRCUS

by Bob Tomer

The Int'l All Star Circus played here at Gloucester, Mass., on April 30th

The Program featured: Overture by Dave Epperly and the circus band; Randa Carey, foot juggling; Terry O'Brien, slack wire; Maria Tania Vazquez, hair hang; Graham, Joan and Michael Ahrhart, clowns; Hines Rucker, magic; Danny Carey, rola bola; Rafael Vazquez, poodles; Brad and Julie Ward, aerial number; Hines Rucker and an uncaged leopard; Graham, Joan and Michael Ahrhart, stilt walking; Intermission.

Boyd and Linda Kimes, trained pigs; the clowns; Julie and Tonda Ward, roman rings; Danny Carey, balancing; Terry, Camille and Eoin O'Brien, unicycles; the Vazquez Chimps; Hines Rucker and the trunk escape, plus Mike and Sally LaTorres with 'Stoney' the elephant.

The show's staff included: Hines Rucker, manager/performance director; Don Kierce, prop boss; Dave Epperly, organist; Christopher Bryant, trumpet; Randy Menke, trumpet; Shawn Smith, trombone; Lee Ketchum, trombone and Tom Gibbs, drummer.

WAIT TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC

WATCH CIRCUS REPORT
FOR OUR 1978 ROUTE



by Carlton Young

Caught the Coronas show in West Orange (NJ) May 5th and enjoyed it. Serge Coronas' Gyro Wheel goes over big. It is a wild green color and really hits the eye.

Mike Rice and his great little elephant is one of the best and fastest acts I have seen. The Gaona flying act is very smooth and polished, but does not seem very long.

Saw the Famous Hunt Circus at Coatesville, Pa., on May 6th where the show was working out its opening day jitters. Of course it had to be in the rain. The tent has just been repaired, but doesn't look like it is in its 4th season. There was some electric problems, but they were quickly handled by Bob Wotherspoon (original electrician from the first season).

Herbie Weber fell from the inclined rope, about 10 feet, but regained his cool and came right back and finished his act, like the great star he is. The rope slipped on the anchor end and thus it went slack, causing him to fall.

The Navarro's are back from last year and their sword/knife act is done with great flare.

Bonnie Bale does a cloud swing and is very well received. Her routine is different and fast.

After a brief under canvas tour Famous Hunt's Circus moved into the Philadelphia (Pa) Civic Center for a May 12-17 engagement. It was the first of several such indoor dates the circus is playing this year, all of them fully sponsored by the circus itself.

An old-time, one-ring circus was created with the use of banners, miniature circus wagons and carpeted floors. A free menagerie was also offered in the center's exhibition area.

A heavy promotional and advertising campaign, using radio, newspaper and TV was carried on throughout the Philadelphia area. School sales were offered and tickets were priced at \$4.00 to \$6.00 for the two hour performance.

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HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

by Don Sandman

Hoxie Bros. Circus played Mason, Ohio, on May 10th and although it was a nice day the lot was muddy and soft from recent rains. Because of the soft lot the program was re-arranged somewhat and Mike Cecere was unable to work his cat act.

The program here ran as: Spec 'Circus on Parade'; The Volvos, revolving ladders; Graham Sisters, an aerial cradle surrounded by 4 web girls; Tom Sink & Co., clown boxing match; the Gunga Family, balancing; Mr. Eugene, rola bola; Color book sale; Jim Royal & Co., magic/illusions; Gunga and Ivy, glass balancing; Prof. Miller with chimp 'Miss Jane' followed by the Wazzan Troupe, acrobatics; Laura Herriott, pony drill; Clowns; the Diaz Sisters, juggling; Ivy Gunga, rolling globes; Jokers Four, juggling; Balloon pitch; the Wazzan Family, trampoline; John and Laura Walker, elephants (2 large and 8 small); Clowns and taking pictures; The Flying Vienna, all girl flying act.

The organ broke down at the start of the show, but was back working about midway through the program. In the interim they used canned music.

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NOTICE

An item in the April 31st Billy Barton column was wrong. It was Jerry Lipko's chimps at Birmingham, Ala., news as a result of a local woman MAMIE DYKES, being called a "Monkey's Aunt" because she now makes all the costumes for the chimps and, has, after a fashion, "adopted" them. We regret the error in the typesetting which thus caused some concern and problems.

..... Don Marcks

Because of the soft and muddy lot only one pit show was set up on the midway, along with the concession and ticket wagon.

John Lewis said the rains have been making lots rough since the season started and he hoped this sunshine would be the start of good weather. John is listed as the purchasing agent, but he does just about everything as Hoxie Tucker's assistant. The program lists Hoxie Tucker as general manager, Jim Royal is ringmaster and Joe McMahon, is the general agent.

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Card of Thanks

We wish to express our thanks to all those generous people and organizations from whom we have received gifts of flowers and cards on the occasion of Karl's death.

You were so kind to think of us at such a difficult time.

The cards accompanying the flowers, while giving the sender's name, did not always include an address. I have thanked some of you individually - However, to those lovely people I could not reach, please accept our thanks and gratitude.

Sincerely,

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. Dupont

JOHN MARRONE, formerly with Circus Vargas, is now supt. on Franzen Bros. Circus where he is also handling the cat act. Others on the show include Amanda and Beatrice, daughters of Michael Derris, who work an aerial act, plus dogs; Curtis Canan does wire, juggling and unicycle, while Wayne Franzen works the elephant and his wife handles the business up front. Jack Belmont is an advance clown and doing an excellent job ahead of the show.

TEX DREYFUS spent another couple of days on Carson & Barnes Circus at Hunstville, Texas, in April. Tex spends all his time on the show with the elephants and says "they are my kind of people."

JAMES FORREST, CFA of Hartford, Conn., was a guest of Hoxie Tucker when the Hoxie Bros. Circus played Melbourne, Fla. He reports the show had two sell out performances.

DON NIEMAN, of Columbus, Ohio, says his zoo is looking for female llamas. They're hard to locate, so maybe a reader can help Don out.

Dr. WM. "Bill" Hooper, recently completed his annual musical festival in Mesquite, Texas, where he is music coordinator for the school system. The event used the theme "Music, Circus and Magic" with Mike Allen serving as ringmaster. RFB Clown College graduate trained the clowns and members of the Ed Millette CFA Tent helped on the program. A brief history of the circus, plus a question and answer period were included.

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JIM WINDLAND

Circus Vargas as per route

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

THE GREAT BREAKDOWN: When her diesel tractor went kaput during the Garden tour, GEE GEE had to rent a tractor for the jump from Canada to Altoona which caused no end of delays, buying of permits (in the States for a Canadian rig), and numerous holdups at the border caused by bureaucratic red tape. Our gal Sunday FINALLY arrived, two days late, HER tractor still in Canada having a new motor put in which, when it WAS sent to the States, broke down enroute. Seems the mechanics overlooked putting the bolts in the transmission and the transmission fell out! The total bill, Gee Gee told me, came close to \$7000. So if you think you are having breakdown problems, cheer up . . . think of Gee Gee!

MARSHA HUNT was running old circus films for acts just prior to the show's departure from quarters when one reel, thought to be an old-timer and a Hunt treasure, turned out to be "Baby Marsha" lying naked on a bear-skin rug. That wasn't so bad BUT. . . during the running of the film the projector caught fire and burned up. . . film, Baby Marsha, bear-skin and all!

See you down the road, luvs.

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ELOISE BERCHTOLD

by JOHN HERRIOTT

We have just heard the shocking news of the death of our friend and colleague, Eloise Berchtold. I knew and frequently worked with Eloise during her circus career. She and my wife, Mary Ruth, started their circus careers together on King Bros. Cristianis Circus where Eloise fought the untamable lion and handled the snakes in the side show and Mary Ruth did trick riding in the concert and both did swinging ladders in the big show. Barbara Fairchild was the other member of this trio of young circus girls, and they all lived in No. 27 sleeper.

During her school years, Eloise worked in the Children's Zoo in Cincinnati, Ohio, so it is apparent that she had a life long love for animals. She was a brilliant girl scholastically, having completed four years of high school in two.

When the Cristianis bought the unique Cuneo caged bear act of 14 bears of different breeds, including Kodiak and Polar bears, it was the beginning of her career as a top flight wild animal trainer. She trained an African male elephant during her marriage to John Cuneo, Jr., plus working with other wild animals and they developed a fantastic act of black and spotted leopards, a zebra, and white German shepherds, all working together. Always working, training and loving animals, she continued training bears, tigers, lions, an Ouidad, elephants and horses.

We in the circus knew of her lack of interest in the glamorous aspects of our profession, her only concession being very attractively costumed in the ring. This was due to her complete dedication to her animals. She always had an excess of animals that she carried along, even on trying seasonal tours and would go to great lengths to care for them, even to sleeping on top of the bear cage and driving the truck, all with complete devotion.

She would write my wife annually, telling of her latest endeavors and womanly tidbits. She had a wonderful sense of humor and I believe a love for all man and beast with no criticism of others human frailities.

In our league of animal and elephant trainers, it was often easy to criticize, but we had to admire her training ability. She was a devoted daughter and was in constant contact with her parents, who deeply loved her and were so proud of her accomplishments. She had deep religious convictions.

Her association with Morgan Berry gave her a big herd of elephants to train, along with her wild animals, a fulfillment of one of her dreams. She worked hard training and caring for her animals but it was certainly a labor of love.

We will all miss this unusual person. The thought that one of these animals, that she loved and labored so hard for, might hurt her could possibly occur to her, but she would dismiss this thought entirely. She would be the first to insist that this particular animal not be reprimanded as she would feel that some unusual circumstance caused the animal to behave this way.

She enriched our lives in many ways and was a good friend. Those who didn't have an opportunity to know her missed a unique experience. One of the rewards of this sometimes trying profession and way of life is to know and love people like Eloise.

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