



7th Year

October 2, 1978

Number 40

Suit Filed

The parents of a 4 year old boy whose arm was torn off by a circus lion near Crawfordsville, Ind., have filed a suit against the circus for \$2 million.

Two suits filed in the Federal Court at Indianapolis, name the Acme Circus Operating Co., Inc., known as the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, which has its headquarters at Winter Park, Fla. A jury trial has been asked.

One suit on behalf of the boy, Sean Spencer, asks \$1.5 million to compensate the child for medical expenses and for his "permanent disfigurement and physical and psychological disabilities."

The second suit calls for \$500,000 in damages to the parents, James M. and Vicky Spencer of New Richmond, Ind., for medical expenses and distress.

The suit alleges that the circus was negligent in the placement and supervision of the caged animal.

Sean has been reported in satisfactory condition at Riley Hospital for Children at Indianapolis, where he was taken after first being taken to a hospital at Crawfordsville.

The boy was reportedly walking to the seats with his 7 year old sister and his mother, who was carrying a baby when Mrs. Spencer heard

the daughter cry out, "No, Sean!" and turned around to see that a lion had the boy's arm in its mouth. Surgeons at the hospital were unable to sew the arm back into place.

The \$500,000 suit was filed with Federal Judge S. Hugh Dillin, and the other suit was filed with Judge Cale J. Holder. The cases will probably be consolidated with one judge.

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PEOPLE

THE PISANI FAMILY, trampoline/acrobats, retired from show business after their date at Saginaw, Mich. Son Rod will be teaching physical education with the Canton, Ohio, School System.

DON (Whizzer the Clown) BRIDWELL will be working Xmas dates this year in Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia for Variety Attractions.

JOEY JORDAN, juggler, worked this season with: the Great Adventure-Six Flags, N.J., Barry Aston's "Crystals on Ice", Buddy Lalonde's "Ice Classics", plus several dates for Spotfield Productions, Amusement Enterprises and Howard Schultze.

ALBERT LUCAS, juggler, THE RANDELLS, trampoline and PALUZA, clown, are with the Eastern Unit of Ice Capades.

DICK FRANCO, juggler is working dates in Europe.

TOM OGDEN, magician, worked at a Labor Day Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, for the Western Canadian IBM. Tom was made an Honorary "Calgarian" and presented with a Stetson, etc. He also performed at the Magician's Alliance of Eastern States convention in Reading, Pa.

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REVIEW

KOOL AID CIRCUS

by Ron Sanford

The Eddie Zacchini produced Kool Aid Circus played the Nebraska State Fair, at Lincoln, Sept. 1-10.

The program included: The Ricardos, tightwire; The Kool Aid Circus Clowns; Jerry Lipko's Comedy Chimps; Merle Cook's comedy car; Diano's elephants with Lee and Jeannette Keener; Norbu, almost human gorilla; The Canestrelli Troupe, teeterboard; the DeCastro Bros., high wire; Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball.

The ringmaster was Bill Boren, and the program ran 1 hour and had 19 performances in all.

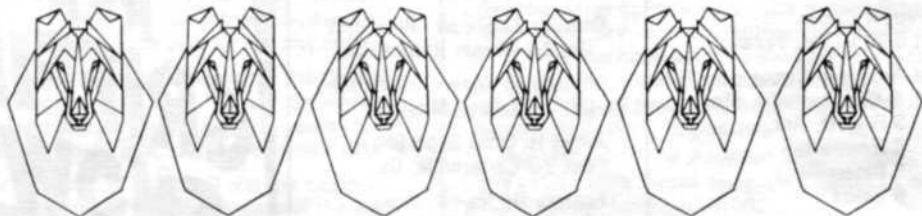
Circus Fan Bill Green joined me in the trip to Lincoln to see the circus. After the show the two of us went to the midway to see the Circus Side Show, which was just like the old shows of the good old days.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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SHOW DATES

- Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct 2-4 Springfield, Ohio
5-8 Louisville, Ky
- Carden-Johnson Circus
Oct 7-8 South Bend, Ind.
- Circus Vargas
Oct 3-5 Enid, Okla.
- Dr. Pepper Circus
Oct 6-22 Dallas, Texas
- Great American Circus
Oct. 2 Caruthersville, Mo.
3 Piggott, Ark.
4 Newport
5 Batesville
6 Beebe
- Happytime Circus
Oct 2-8 Ventura, Calif.
- Hoxie Bros. Circus
Oct 2 Mobile, Ala.
3 Pasagoula, Miss.
4 Gulfport
5 Picayune
6 Slidell, La.
7 Hammond
8 Gonzales
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Oct 5-15 Denver, Colo.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Oct 4-15 Detroit, Mich.
- Royal Hanneford Circus
Oct 6-8 Knoxville, Tenn.
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Oct 2 Omaha, Nebr.
3 Council Bluffs, Iowa
4 Fremont, Nebr.
5 Manhattan, Kans.
6 Lawrence
- Royal Palace Circus
Oct 4-7 Muncy, Pa.
- Shrine Circuses
Oct 4-8 El Paso, Texas
5-15 Houston
- TNT & Royal Olympic Circus
Oct 4-8 Denver, Colo.



--- OTHER DATES ---

- Al's Lemon-zeen Comedy Car
to Oct 8 Tulsa, Okla.
- Blackstone, Jr. - Magic
Oct. 3 Wausau, Wisc.
4 Green Bay
5 Needah
6 Madison
7 Ames, Iowa
8 Iowa City
- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Oct 2-7 Warner Robins, Ga.
- Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Oct 2-7 Laurel, Miss.
- James H. Drew Expo Shows
Oct 2-7 Cartersville, Ga.
- Fantasy On Ice
Oct 5-8 New Jersey dates
- Fred, the Cockatoo
Oct 3-7 Lexington, Ky
- Gutis' Jungle Parody
Oct 6-22 Dallas, Texas
- Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Oct 3-8 New Haven, Conn.
- Ice Capades - Western Unit
Oct 6-10 Dallas, Texas
- King Arthur, the Lion
Oct 5-9 Wycote, Pa.
- Lipko's Comedy Chimps
to Oct 9 Danbury, Conn.
- Los Latinos - wire act
Oct 5-15 Houston, Texas
- Magic Show
Oct. 11 Oakland, Calif.
- Magic Time USA - Pf. Miller
Oct 5 Sheridan, Wyoming
- Rodger's Tropical Birds
to Oct 9 Danbury, Conn.
- Royal American Shows
to Oct 8 Little Rock, Ark.
- The Sikorskys - Jugglers
Oct. 7 Erie, Pa.
8 Columbia, Md.



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BAD LUCK delivered a double uppercut to the **KLEMENTIS** when **EGAN** was injured during the "champagne routine". The front wheel of the bicycle collapsed hurtling Egan to the floor and he injured his back. Then enroute from Omaha to Kansas City, **ELFIE** wrecked their Avion travel trailer.

The **SHOWFOLKS CIRCUS**, produced by the Sarasota Showfolks, will be held Dec. 9th. **JENNY WALLEDA** and **GUNNAR AMANDIS** are co-chairpersons of the show. Some of the talent set includes **TINO ZOPPE**, high wire and **KLARA BERTINI**'s wire and bike acts.

GUNNAR AMANDIS reports his Thrill Show at the New York State Fair was very successful but that he was busy publicizing the event himself, personally putting out posters, sending stiltwalker **BARRY SLOANE** out on the midway, and arranging publicity for the show since the Fair itself had made no effort in that direction. (as is often the case).

Producer **IAN GARDEN** phoned me prior to his flying to Chicago for **L. N. FLECKLES'** funeral, giving me the rundown of acts taping **CTV's CIRCUS!** from Aug. 28 thru Sept. 8: Attila Molnar, plate spinner; Dante, one finger stand; Frank & Estreleta, Francarro, Kalmar Bros., Aguilars, Vickinas, Bruski, Fossetts, swaypoles, The Dymeks, Rock-Smith Flyers with 3/4, Brett Shockley, unicycle, Robin Medina, iron jaw, Los Obandos, Carlos Twins, Gerard Soules, Tarzan Zerbin, Mile. Jacqueline, Burger's dogs and chimps, Boomer & Co., boxing kangaroo, and the Great Huberto, slide for life; Roger Prysanski "Rumpy" the clown did the bake shop and some warm-up routines. Also on were the Claytons, Les Blocks, Great Alain, sword balance on slanted wire, Gas Perry, comedy and Martin Lambert, Jr.

LARRY and **JAN JOYNER** will be playing an independent season in 1979 and **JAN**, who "retired" her trap act writes that her "retirement" lasted 10 months too long and she is getting back into shape.

Those great new circus color books created and marketed by **ART BARRETT** and **GEORGE DA DEPPO** will soon be available to others, with special title imprinting and sales gimmicks. Interested parties may contact me for information.

LATE REPORT: The Van **BUSKIRKS** (Charlie and Joyce) are the proud parents of a baby girl, born June 24th, whom they've named **Laurel Alexander** (Alix for short). The Van Buskirks are on tour with the **TEGGES' TNT** Royal Olympic Circus, along with **MYNA MOON** and **PAT** and **GWEN DAVISON**.

TED and **LISA STEWART** finally disposed of their two gorilla suits which now makes their retirement complete. Lisa says adjustment to private life was harder for her than for Teddy, which is odd, since Teddy was in the business longer.

SNAPSHOTS: **JENNY WALLEDA** and **ANDY ANDERSON** have rented a store in Sarasota and plan to open a Deli. . . **BUCKY STEELE** and **BARBARA TATA** left the Gatti show in late Aug. . . **MICKEY GARDEN** is making a slow recovery from her "back problems", may have to undergo more treatments. . . **SANDY** and **MICHELLE DOBRITCH** are home in Las Vegas. Sandy is branching out (more about this later). . . Set for the Dobritch Int'l Circus in Wheaton for 1979 are: Norbu, Vashek, the James Zoppe Resinback Riders and Mister Sensation. . . **HAZEL** and **MIKE** (Co Co) **POLAKOV** are touring their own Musical Comix, a 90 minute revue, in Texas Theatres, plus the Kool Aid Circus in Richmond, followed by a series of Florida spots, a tour then for **JAMES HETZER**, before they fly to London for two **BILLY SMART** TV specials. . . **CHUCK MARINE** disposed of two class-A ring carpets, one to the **ALBERTO ZOPPE** Family, the other to **LINDA CHANDLER**. The Chandlers repeat their school tour for **JAMES M. COLE** this winter, meanwhile Linda leaves for a three week European vacation on Oct. 12th. . . **PETE** the **TRAMP** bounced into the Mich. State Fair, having departed the **HOXIE** show, went to work for **CAMELRIDER** in a sausage joint on the midway. When asked how many shows he made this season, Pete replied: "Only three - Sells, Great American and Hoxie". . . **RON BACON**, who agents the Hoxie show for summer dates in Ohio, opens his Xmas Unit Nov. 12th, running thru Dec. 9th. On it will be the Chandlers, Irv and Bob Lang Families and Billy Martin.

A number of performers who have visited **REGGIE ARMOR** say that the injured aerial star is holding up well emotionally despite his very serious condition and injuries, which may keep him in the hospital for more than 7 months, with additional surgery scheduled. Plucky Reggie is high-spirited and very optimistic, and **THAT's** what it takes to get well!

Editor **Don Marcks'** mother underwent eye surgery in August. Mrs. Ogier suffers from glaucoma and cataracts but doctors feel the operation will greatly improve her vision. We wish her a speedy recovery.

DELIAH ZOPPE is scheduled to have her new baby in January, but due to a weakened condition, the doctors have insisted the young high wire performer refrain from performing until after the baby arrives.

Among the acts scheduled to appear at the Hadi Temple Shrine Thanksgiving Circus, produced by **PAUL V. KAYE** are: The Zoppe Arabian Riders, De Miller, The Kneiseleys, The Pharoahs, The Knophs (a new perch act), Pamela Rosaire's chimps, Sebastian's dogs, Maryse Begary, Mister Sensation, the Sensational Leighs, the Vasquez Flyers and 3 head-balance traps, with other acts to be set.

See you down the road, luvs.

Tour Facts

The Beatty-Cole Circus played to SRO crowds at its Owensboro, Ky., date, the home of the late circus owner Zack Terrell. Many folks from the Ringling show were on the lot and several stayed over to enjoy a cookout after the performance.

The show's cookhouse truck exploded and burned, and was a total loss. A faulty butane tank was said to have been the cause of the accident.

The Sells & Gray cookhouse truck has since come on and will remain with the circus for the rest of its current tour.

PEOPLE

Members of the CFA's Roland C. Butler Tent of Phoenix, Ariz., recently joined CFA member John McGinn, of Prescott, Ariz., in providing a special activities event for patients in a Prescott Nursing Home. With a background of circus music and colorful lithos, circus models and circus related books were displayed. CFA personnel participating in the event were: Karl and Ginny Helbing, Bob McCall, John McGill and Fred Reed.

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Close One

A magician trying to duplicate one of Houdini's famous escapes at Kalamazoo, Mich., on Sept. 16th, almost drowned while some 600 people, including his wife watched. John McNeas, 26, was revived by fire department paramedics when he failed to escape from a box placed in 11 feet of water, as a publicity stunt.

McNeas was bound with locked chains, placed in a canvas bag that was tied at the top, and put into a pine box which was lowered into the water. He said he would be free in a minute and a half, but after three minutes the paramedics were called.

The magician was taken from the box, unconscious and bleeding. He had freed himself from two of the chains and the canvas bag before losing consciousness.

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PEOPLE

JOHN WINN made a skywalk 160 feet above the ground at Glendale, Calif., on Sept. 17th, in conjunction with Paul Wright's show there. Also appearing on the show were: The Mum Bros., juggling; Valentino, high wire and the Takyun Troupe, low wire.

ROBERTA and KEN GRIFFIN have been touring on the show "Rosier Players" which travels on 1929 era trucks, all well painted and renovated.

FRANK HANNON (Ho Po the Maine Clown) recently completed his 6th year at the Altamont Fair in New York.

CARLOS OBANDO's injured hand is healing rapidly and the act continues to work. They just completed the "Canadian Jam" for EAN GARDEN, and then are set to appear at the Texas State Fair in Dallas.

CARL (The Professor) GRAY recently filled in a date at the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus (Kentucky State Fair) for clown DON BRIDWELL. He will also be working fall and 1979 dates for Royal Hanneford Circus.

BILL BACKSTEIN and son EDDIE visited the Carson & Barnes Circus several times during the show's tour of Illinois.

Miscellaneous

The zoo at Knoxville, Tenn., is offering 27½ x 23½ in. color prints of a painting of "Little Diamond and Toto" in commemoration of the first African elephant born in captivity in the Western Hemisphere. The color prints are priced at \$100, plus \$5 shipping fee, and can be obtained from: Knoxville Zoo, P. O. Box 6040, Knoxville, Tenn. 37914.

Hoxie Bros. Circus will reportedly stay out on tour until the middle of December. The Gorilla show is back on the circus midway.

The Sells Floto Ring No. 34, of the CMB, held its Fall Circus Model Exhibit at Attleboro, Mass. on Sept. 23-24th.

KENT and DONNA CLAYTON left the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Aurora, Ill., on Sept. 4th to appear in the TV special "Circus!" which was filmed at Toronto.

RICK LEGG, (Harry the Clown) worked the Philadelphia date for Bentley Bros. Circus and then went on to Wayne, Mich., to work for Dobritch Int'l Circus.

BILL CASE (Peppy) clown, worked on Bentley Bros. Circus at Dubuque, Iowa. Sept. 23-24.

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**INT'L FAIR TIME CIRCUS**

Saginaw, Mich. - Sept. 11-12

Acts appearing in the Int'l Fair Time Circus, produced by Variety Attractions, of Zanesville, Ohio, for the Fair at Saginaw (Sept. 11-12) were:

Don (Whizzer) Bridwell, come-in; The Aristocrats, trampoline; Kim Kristensen, long rein dressage horse; Clown Strongman with Don Bridwell, Joe Quinn and Wayne Liikala; Bill King, juggler; My-Imba's Baboons; The Clown Dentist; The Pisani Family, acrobatics; The Joe Zoppe Riding Act; Lilli-Ana's leopards, and Roger's Double Sway poles.

The show's staff included: George Moffett, producer; Bill King, ringmaster; Wayne Liikala, prop boss and Don Bridwell, producing clown.

PEOPLE

KRIS KREMO, juggler, is working at the Stardust in Las Vegas, and **FRANCIS BRUNN**, juggler, is due at a hotel in Atlantic City.

MARGARET and **JAMES K. COTTER**, CFA'S, were honored at an open house celebration at the First Baptist Church, Glens Falls, NY, on Sept. 3rd, the date of their wedding in 1948. Rev. Robert Noblett, pastor of the church paid a tribute in poetry form, and an anniversary cake and money tree were presented to the couple. The affair was hosted by their daughter and son-in-law, **JEANNE** and **MERRITT HILDRETH**.

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New Rules

Restrictions severely limiting the use of automatic dialing devices for "junk" telephone calls will go into effect in California on Nov. 4th.

The rules adopted last week by the State's Public Utilities Commission affect the state's 29 telephone companies and are aimed at prohibiting unsolicited telephone advertising by recorded messages.

One requirement is that any recorded message must be preceded by an announcement by a live operator who describes the nature and length of the recording, identifying the group, business or organization calling.

The operator also must ask the called parties if they want to hear the message and, if not, must disconnect immediately.

Those who use the automatic equipment must notify the telephone company in advance of use, listing the days, and hours, the number of messages involved and the length of the message, the purpose for which it is to allow the telephone company to determine if there is a reasonable chance that such equipment might cause an overload, thus interrupting regular service.

A telephone company spokesman said the PUC's ruling won't prevent someone in another state setting up the devices and then using leased, long distance lines to hone in on California phones. Because of this possibility the Federal Communications Commission has slated hearings to discuss rules regulating junk calls nationwide.



JUNGLE WONDERS CIRCUS

by Ralph Henderson

Monday, Sept. 11th, found the Jungle Wonders Circus set up on a beautiful grassy lot in a City Park in Post Falls, Idaho.

On the right side of the midway was a line of ten elephants, including one African and four tuskers, plus a camel. The elephant line was backed by two elephant semis. Then came a snake pit show.

On the left side of the midway was a semi carrying a rhino and a hippo, another semi with a leopard, a lioness and two black bears. A fenced section held a couple of llamas, three Sicilian donkeys, several goats with some African pigmys. A flatbed carried a monkey, another lioness and a light plant for the midway. Next came a concession trailer. A ticket booth stood in the middle of the midway, just before the marquee.

The three pole big top and the rolling stock showed the wear and tear of the long, but successful Alaskan and Canadian tour, during which they lost two tigers. A new top is on order for next year and they are replacing several of the tractors with new diesel units.

The performance ran about an hour and 20 minutes, with some aerial acts not working due to illness. Bob Emerico, clown, did several walk-arounds as a come-in. Before the performance they had a balloon pitch.

The show started with a good single trap act, followed by a single elephant, after which four more were brought into the tent for a long mount. The clown Jargo followed, with a trained llama next. Then came a pretty girl juggler, and a pitch for peanuts roasted in the shell. The clown did a snake charmer number, and a trained zebra was next. Two pre-teen girls did a "Junior Acrobatic" number, then Gopher Davenport worked a single chimp. A well received western rope spinning act followed, then came the clown and his Chicken Plucker, followed by Clyde the camel. The children loved the five dog act, and the trick pony that did a little high school and a bit of talking. A plate spinning act followed, then came Frosty, the wonder

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Miscellaneous

A cast party held on the Int'l Fair Time Circus, Sept. 12th at Saginaw, Mich., featured home-made spaghetti, made by Mama Pisani.

pony. The Clown played the part of a Mad Magician, then Gopher Davenport was back to work three male elephants in a very good finale act.

It was a small show, geared to the children and small towns, but it was very good and entertaining.



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by Billy Barton

Sam T. Polack produced a strong show for the Sudan Temple in Wilmington (NC) Sept. 13th, Fayetteville Sept. 16th and Durham Sept. 17th. Two of the dates were outdoors and rain at Wilmington forced the show to stay over, but with a rain date scheduled and an extra day off on the route, the circus made the transition from an outdoor date in Wilmington to an indoor date at Fayetteville without a hitch.

Talent line up included: The Flying Ray-Lunas; Pat Anthony; Frank & Estreleta; Angela Wilnow; The Morgan Ashton Family; Lou Ann Jacobs; Johnson's Bears; Carmen del Molino; Francarro; LaVon, the Klementis and the Tony Diano elephants.

Al Dawley was the ringmaster, with Russell Darr, band director. Clown Alley consisted of Billy Ford, Ed Busch, Michelle, Nick Pinto and Nicky. The clown numbers were especially bright and lively, thrown together at the last minute when producer Polack was left in the lurch by another clown who didn't show up.

Miscellaneous

The Goldsboro (NC) fair (Sept. 18-23) featured a grandstand show produced by Wes Oler Productions. The talent line-up included: Jo-Ann & Sunny, seal act; Mlle. Bridget and Prince Najvez. Florine Oler was musical director and Joe Smiley was the MC.

In addition to the stage show, other attractions included nightly fireworks, the Jack Kochman Hell Drivers; Jim Curry's Demolition Derby; Stella Par-ton; The Dixie Melody Boys; Shoji Tabuchi and a horse show. The majority of attractions were booked through Wes Oler.

IN MEMORIAM

MYRTLE VAIL DAMEREL (90) star of the "Myrt and Margie" radio show of the 1930's, died early this month at Kansas City, Mo. She had been in vaudeville for 30 years before going to radio. In 1932 her show won the New York Mirror award for the most popular dramatic program on radio.

IT'S NEW

Amended standards under the Animal Welfare Act are being proposed by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to promote humane handling, care, treatment and transportation of captive marine animals.

On Aug. 19, 1977, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service published proposed regulations to the Act in the Federal Register with a 60 day period for public comment. During that period, three informal public hearings were held to give the public further opportunity to participate in the rule-making process. A total of 49 comments were received; many raised questions or made suggestions that merited changes in the proposed standards. In addition, editorial changes were recommended for clarification and accuracy.

The proposed amendments to the regulations affect transportation companies, intermediate handlers, licensed zoos, universities, research facilities, circuses, and others involved with maintaining animals such as Cetaceans (whales, porpoises and dolphins), Pinnipeds (seals, sea lions, and walrus), Sirenians (the dugong and the manatee), polar bears and sea otters.

The republished proposal includes standards for facility construction and maintenance; structure and design of tanks, pools and partitions; and space and facilities for the animals. Also standards are proposed for natural water systems such as tidal basins, bays and estuaries.

Other standards deal with the environment: water and power supply; ventilation and drainage; waste disposal and sanitation; indoor lighting and temperature; sanitation and housekeeping; veterinary care and pest control; and water quality - bacteria count, salinity, pH level and water exchange.

Also proposed are standards for animal handling; animal care and treatment; identification and recordkeeping; and transportation and time in transit.

Emphasis is placed on food quality, food storage and feeding techniques. Besides feeding adequate amounts at least once per day, the diet should be prepared with consideration for the age, species, condition, size and type of animal being fed.



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From the Desk of

DON MARCKS

This is the first of what may become a regular feature in Circus Report. Time and space will be the determining factor as to the continued appearance of this column.

It is not our intention to repeat items that appear in other CR columns. In fact this space will not be devoted to being a news column. Rather, it will contain some human interest items, some personal ideas and thoughts, maybe at times a progress report on CR, some stories told by old-timers, and even some material from my father's extensive files.

We appreciate your continued interest in Circus Report and want to thank you for reading the paper each week. It would be nice if

It would be nice if you'd tell your friends about the paper, for they might want to become regular readers too. Don't forget, as the Holidays approach that Circus Report makes an excellent gift — one that really continues each week, all year long.

Thanks for now and we'll see you next week.

NOTICE

All residents and those people who plan to winter in the State of Florida must have current permits for their exotic animals.

The Fish and Game Commission of that state reports they will be making regular checks during the winter season. So, if you don't already have the permits be sure that you get them soon.

PEOPLE

BILL and VIRGINIA HORN, who used to have the Keller cat act, are reportedly working for a vet's hospital in Southern California.

DAVID CARRADINE, RICHARD WIDMARK and KAREN BLACK will be featured in the new film "Mr. Horn" a four hour mini-series being prepared for CBS-TV. It is the story of a frontier figure who was an Arizona cavalry scout, champion rodeo cowboy, Pinkerton and stock detective and a Manhunter.

RICH McCONNELL spent several weeks touring with the Beatty-Cole show and reports that he enjoyed each minute of it, even though they kept him busy all the time.

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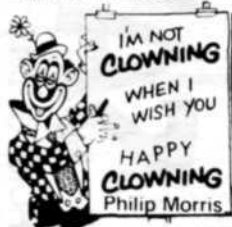
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PEOPLE

COL. E. T. BALE is at home after having spent several weeks in a hospital. He would like to thank all of the friends who phoned or sent cards.

GUNNAR AMANDIS and CHUCK MELTZER were among the visitors catching the Bentley Bros. Circus Philadelphia Police date.

ETHEL JENNIER, HORST GUYER, JO ANN and ROCKY, BILLY BARTON and BOBBY DAVIS visited the Sam T. Polack Circus at Durham (NC) between their fair dates for WES OLER.

JOHN ASBURY, organist, has recovered from his auto accident early in the season and is busy playing fairs and local dates near his home in Charlotte (NC)

FRED FINNICUM, a clown with the Franzen Bros. Circus, also helps take care of the animals and does a variety of other jobs on the show.

KENNETH ANDERSON, an uncle to WAYNE FRANZEN, operator of Franzen Bros. Circus, keeps tabs of tickets on the show.

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Escapee Caught

Charlie, a 7½ foot boa constrictor, escaped from his glass display case at the University of Cincinnati's science center last week, and caused everyone some nervous moments.

However, the snake didn't go far and wasn't found very quickly. He was found after several days draped over some ceiling pipes above his cage.

Jack Gottschang, professor of zoology, said there never was any real danger. Charlie, he said, was "absolutely not dangerous, except perhaps to mice."

Guess you can't get a better mouser.

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Tax Killed

The Oakland (Calif) City Council has killed a city amusement tax that was set to go into effect next year. The tax was originally passed in late June as part of a frenzied search for new revenue to replace money lost because of the passage of California's Proposition 13.

Scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1st, the 5% tax would have been imposed on all admission tickets to sporting and entertainment events and restaurants within the city. The new tax was expected to provide \$1.5 million each year for the city coffers.

In deciding against the amusement tax the Council said there was too great a risk that the tax would drive business away from Oakland. We could lose more than we would gain, said one councilman.

Of major concern to the council was the possible loss of the Oakland A's baseball team and the Raiders, football team.

Councilman Vukasin, who moved to kill the tax, said there was a chance the A's could be kept here under local ownership, but the tax would jeopardize that.

Councilman Maggiora, who has always opposed the

Show Report

by Ron Lucza

Circus acts booked for North Haven, Conn., (Sept. 7-10) by George Moffett, of Variety Attractions, included: The Obandos, perch/high wire; The Drougettes, juggling; Peyton & Raye, dogs.

Acts booked by Wayne McCary for his Royal Int'l Circus (Sept. 13-17) at the Eastern States Expo in West Springfield, Mass., were: The Vasquez, head balancing; Jorge Barreda, lions; The Renoso Bros., Pirates of the Sky; Holugari, Hungarian teeterboard act; The Zerbini horse act; The Vasquez, flying trap-eze; Al and Joyce Vidbel, elephants; Lang's chimps, with Boom Boom Browning, band director and Charles Van Buskirk, ringmaster.

On Sept. 16 and 17 the show had SRO crowds and many people were turned away. (My thanks to Mr. McCary for his fine hospitality).

tax, said there was a move underway to lure the Raiders to Los Angeles. He said another 15,000 seats should be added to the Coliseum and soon if the team is to stay here.

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BIG JOHN STRONG'S CIRCUS

by Mike Sporrer

The John Strong Circus played at Cates Park in North Vancouver, BC, on Sept. 8-10 and had a full house at the 2:15 matinee on Sept. 9th, when this writer attended the show.

The circus was in a beautiful setting and the two year old red and blue vinyl, 80 ft. round end push pole top was set up using a 20 ft, 30 ft. and 20 ft. middles. A matching marquee is also used and admission prices were set at \$2.00.

All equipment is well painted and lettered with the show title. As always John makes those attending real welcome and after the long drive from Seattle it was much appreciated.

The one hour show offers some of the best clown numbers seen on any show. Using taped music, John presents a nice show program. The full program was listed in CR on July 17th (Page 19), Missing from the show was 'Neena' the elephant who was unable to cross over into Canada. It was learned you need to submit a permit to the Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC, some 60-90 days ahead. If no such permit applications have been made the penalty upon arriving back in the U. S. is a fine set at the value of the animal plus 3%.

In recent days the Canadian Dollar was 17c off com-

Thank You

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Jan. 7 to May 21

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Hoxie Tucker, owner



THE FENTON FAMILY, acrobats, are touring with the western unit of Ice Capades and are featured in at least two numbers.

pared to the U.S. Dollar. In addition John reports the tour has been a rough one with stiff opposition from shows. This year many of the show dates had already been played by two or three circuses before John's show arrived. He credits the first 7 weeks of the tour as being among the best ever, dates which were booked by his son, John, who is now at Circus World.

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I've got some good news and some bad news. First the good news! We had a good year Thanks to all the wonderful show people that stopped by this summer.

Now the Bad News. As of Oct. 1, 1978, I cannot accept animals, thanks to the city fathers and their wonderful rules. I'm very sorry about this and I hope to have it rectified by next Spring or Summer.

Again, thanks to a lot of good friends.

Ray and Sue Reas

Phone: 264-3761

SPECIAL

Citizens of at least two cities will have an opportunity of seeing more than one show in the same week, as shows day-and-date this week in Denver and Dallas.

Appearing at Denver, Colo., are:
 Ringling's Blue Unit - Oct. 5-15
 TNT & Royal Olympic - Oct. 4-8

Appearing at Dallas, Texas, are:
 Ice Capades - Oct. 6-10
 Dr. Pepper Circus - Oct. 6-22

Miscellaneous

Franzen Bros. Circus was featured in a two page special in the Milwaukee (Wisc.) Journal of Sept. 16th. The article included a page of photos.

BILLY KERSANDS, a feature performer with the Callender's Georgia Minstrels (1870's) had a huge mouth in which he could put a cup and saucer. One of his specialties was to dance with a mouth full of billiard balls.

YEARS AGO

The Jethro Almond Show of 1935 traveled on 15 trucks and offered a combination of circus acts, musical numbers, lectures and stage players presenting "Over the Hill to the Poorhouse."

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POLICE CIRCUS

by Don Bridwell

The Sandy Dobritch produced Police Circus at Wayne (Mich) on Sept. 15-17 was deemed a success, despite some heavy rain storms that failed to detract large crowds. The two hour show played under a Florida Tent Rental big top, supervised by veteran Walt Davis.

The program featured: Lillia-Ana's leopards; Miss Elizabeth, hair hang; Norbu, Almost Human Gorilla; Clowns (Vern Woerner, Rick Legg, Don Bridwell) with the Exterminator; The Dantes, balancing; Vashek, inclined wire walk; Kim Kristensen and horse 'Pascha'; Clown Strongman; My-Imba's Baboons; Intermission; The Rodriguez Troupe, bar act; Professor Shappi, comedy piano; Clowns with the Long Shirt; the Rodriguez Sisters, rolling globes; Vashek and Kathy, aerial motorcycle; Kaye's Hollywood Elephants with Ben DeWayne.

The staff included: Sandy Dobritch, producer; Jim Douglas, equestrian director; Kim Kristensen, prop boss; Vern Woerner, producing clown; Circus Creations, Inc., lights and sound, and Buzzy and Lovie Cutton, concessions.

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