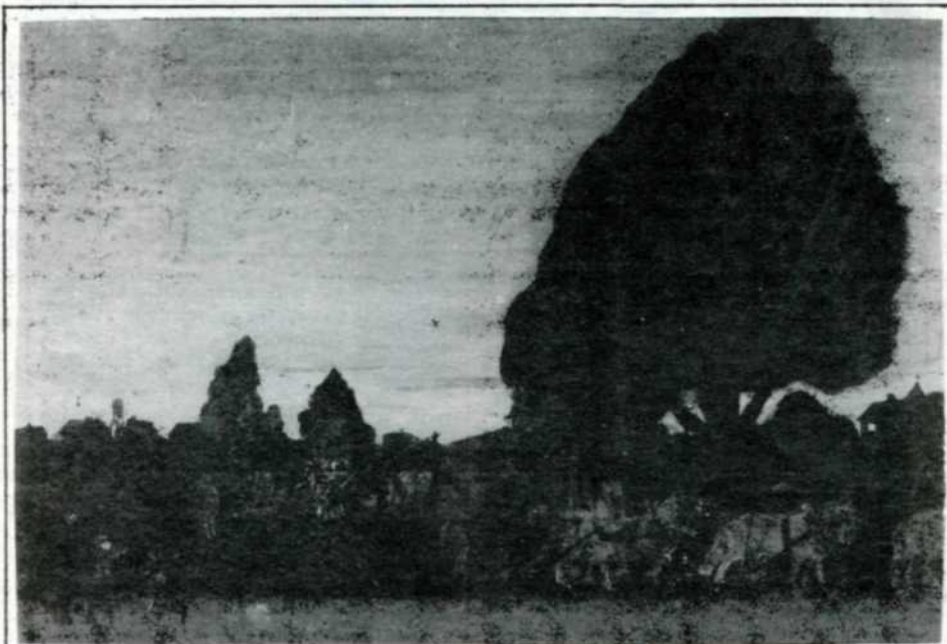




9th Year

June 30, 1980

Number 26



# Joseph C. Reisinger

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## REPORT

### ROBERTS BROS. CIRCUS

by Frank Felt

Robert and Doris Earl's Roberts Bros. Circus reports generally good business on its spring trek from Florida to Penna. This year the show offers a sparkling appearance with a new blue and white big top; new wardrobe, upgraded rolling stock and newly painted and decorated trucks and equipment.

The 1980 performance is one of the best ever presented by this small show. Running order as caught at Marysville, Pa., on May 30th was as follows: Circus on Parade spec with George Rowe, vocalist; The Great Tino, Space Age rola-bola; Jeff and Ginny Earl's trained terriers; Oscar Macias, hand balancing; Clown walkaround; Swinging Ladders, Rebecca Macias and Ginny Earl and Sharon Hilton on web; Lisa Macias, foot juggling; Jeff Earl with pick-out pony; Moises Ferreria, comedy balancing; Bobby Schneider, vent; Kalibar, illusionist (George Rowe); Jeff Earl and elephant; Joe Meyers, billiard ball balance for clown gag; Oscar Macias, cloud swing; Grand Finale.

The new big top is a 60 ft. round top with two 30 ft. and one 40 ft. middles. On the midway are a combo ticket office and grease joint, elephant skin dog pit show, moon bounce and novelty stand.

The newly decorated rolling stock consists of the following: semi carrying seats, poles, and a small fork lift tractor; semi with lead stock; generator and props; straight bed with stake

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$15.00 per year.

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ACTS - Are you listed with us?

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## HOTLINE

The Bentley Bros. Circus concession van had to have a new motor just prior to leaving Los Angeles for the show's eastern tour. Later at Flagstaff, Ariz., the driver jumped a curb and tore off the units gas tank, which called for a quick repair job.

Another of the show's units, a semi, burned out its transmission as it moved through the city of Flagstaff and so that unit had to be put into a garage for quick repairs.

## PEOPLE

CHARLES MASON, former circus man, was featured in two recent publications. The *Milpitas, Calif., Chamber of Commerce paper*, and the *San Jose (Calif) Mercury*. The latter included a full page story on his circus life.

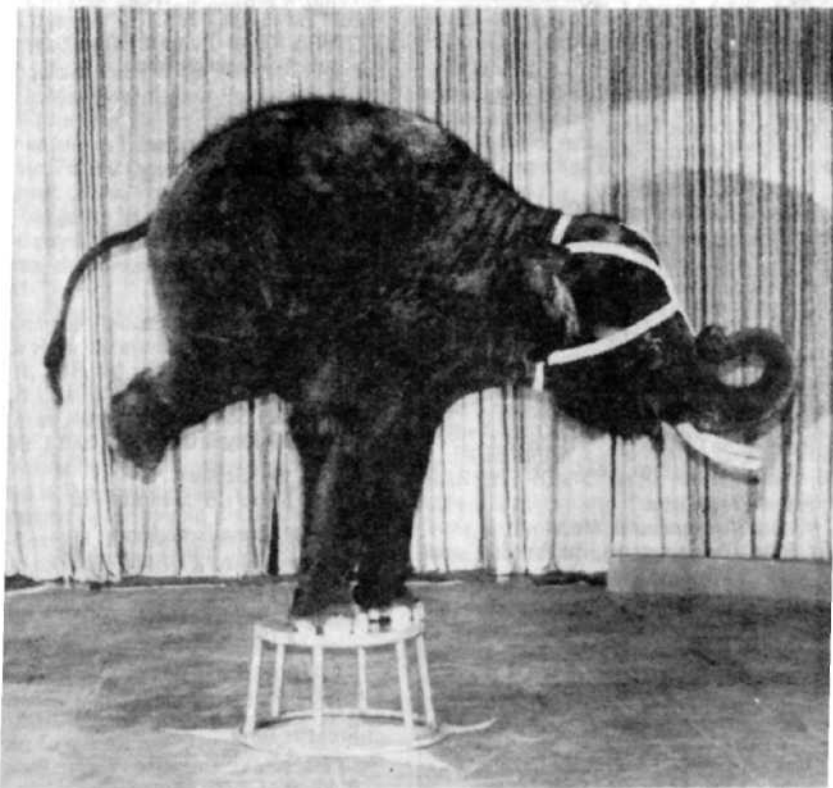
DON, ROXY, VATES, LOLA and ROBY ENGESSER visited Carson & Barnes Circus at Bloomington, Ill., on June 6th. They enjoyed cutting up jackpots with old friends,

driver, canvas and water tank; straight truck for cook house; straight truck with welding unit; auxiliary generator and shop; pick-up sleeper; trailer carrying grease joint and ticket office; trailer with pit show and novelty stand. About eight private vehicles and trailers round out the rolling stock.

Roberts Bros. 1980 staff includes: Robert Earl, owner and general agent; Doris Earl, road manager; Jeff Earl, supt. of canvas and animal trainer; Bob Earl, mechanic and electrician; Ozzie Schleentz, concessions and banners; Joe Meyers, producing clown and promotions and George Rowe, ringmaster/announcer.

# BOOKING 1981

(AND, SOME OPEN TIME THIS AUGUST)



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# Show Dates

## Beatty-Cole Circus

June 30-July 1 Bradford, Pa.

July 2-4 Lakewood, NY

5-6 Erie, Pa.

## Big Apple Circus

July 1-6 Staten Island, NY

## Carden-Johnson Circus

July 4 Lewiston, Mont.

## Circus Arts Troupe

July 3-5 Greensboro, NC

## Circus Street Parade

July 5 Baraboo, Wisc.

## Circus Vargas

June 30-July 3 Tukwila, Wash.

July 4-7 Seattle

## Hanneford Family Circus

July 4-6 Parkersburg, W. Va.

## Happytime Circus

July 2-6 Calistoga, Calif.

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

June 30 Westminster, Md.

July 1 Downingtown, Pa.

2 Vineland, NJ

3 Millburn

4 Maplewood

11 5 Hackettstown

6 Piscataway

## Hubler Int'l Circus

July 6-11 Cleveland, Ohio

## Make-A-Circus

July 1 San Francisco, Calif.

3 San Francisco

## Marantha Circus

June 30-July 4 Charlotte, NC

## Pickle Family Circus

July 4-6 San Francisco, Calif.

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

July 1-6 Phoenix, Ariz.

## Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

July 2-6 San Antonio, Texas

## Royal Crown Circus

July 3-6 Las Vegas, Nevada

## Swan Bros. Circus

July 2-6 Roseville, Calif.

## TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

July 1-6 Saginaw, Mich.

## ---- MAGIC ----

### Manzini Escape Artist

to Sep. 1 Lake George, NY

### Tom Ogden

to Aug. 24 Sheffield, Mass.

## ---- OTHER DATES ----

### Bryans Clowns, Inc.

July 5 Rose Point, Pa.

### Burr's Fun-A-Rama

to July 6 Fall River, Mass.

### Century 21 Shows

June 30-July 6 Gary, Ind.

### Dondi, the Elephant

June 30-July 5 Charlotte, NC

### James H. Drew Exposition

June 30-July 5 Prestonburg, Ky

### Firemen's Muster

July 4 Virginia City, Nevada

4 Georgetown, Colo.

### Foley & Burk Shows

to July 6 Pleasanton, Calif.

### Frontier Days

July 3-6 Willits, Calif.

### Gund Western Collection

to July 20 San Jose, Calif.

### Hall & Christ Attractions

to July 6 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Honolulu, Hawaii

### Mighty Thomas Shows

July 2-5 Yorkton, Sask.

(Continued on Page 7)



HELLO AGAIN and My Thanks to LEE MALONEY of Hoxie Bros. Circus for writing the first of this year's GUEST COLUMNS. You will be reading Lee again.

My thanks to ED and CYNDY MIGLEY with whom I spent three days in Rhode Island from May 14 thru May 16, for their kind hospitality. Everyone knows I don't take kindly to Chinese Food but Ed and Cyndy took us to a Chinese Restaurant called 'The Islander' in Warwick which has got to be the greatest restaurant of its kind anywhere in the world. Visitors to that area, and lovers of Chinese Cuisine, Don't Miss It!

Speaking of Cuisine, enroute home I stopped in New Haven to again visit with WALLY NAGHTIN, SUE and RUDI LENZ and Ringing Red gal LINDA HOLTZ has revamped her cookbook in an elegant new format. Unfortunately, I couldn't find her to ask the price of the new, improved edition, but those of you who are interested in this unusual cookbook may get the information by writing to: Circus Cookbook, P. O. Box 937, Kailua, Hawaii 96734. This new edition has a firmer cover, color pix, and is far superior to the first.

It was a bright and sunny day in New Haven and when I arrived Wally and Renee were rehearsing bears preparatory to the new two ring bear display on Ringling Red in 1981. Circus Fan AL HOUSE was visiting and TERRY O'BRIEN, on a three week layoff with Int'l All Star was working concessions. I also had time for a quick chat with organist DAVE KING, bandleader KEITH GREENE, the CARRILLO BROS., ARMANDO FARFAN, MARGUERITE and MIGUEL AYALAS, and one of my favorite aerial stars DOLLY JACOBS who told me that LOU ANN and PANCHO were visiting but had gone off to play tennis. From there I went to White Plains, NY.

I was motivated to stop in White Plains to see WADE BURCK after his near fatal altercation with a tiger. He has a bad scar on his chin and some raw bites on his arm but is otherwise hale and hearty. The STAR, issue May 12 (or 19) carried a story on the incident, at least partially true. Wade says he didn't jam his arm down the tiger's throat, it was his foot, and

THAT was NOT intentional!

As a result of that stop-over I booked Pittsburgh, my first date ever for Hamid-Morton, a fun date I shall report on later.

ITEMIZING: CAROL ATTERBURY (what a great gal), BOBBY and I trekked off to an Italian eatery once known as 'Pappa John's', and a favorite with circus folks, which has since changed hands and which is not so good as it once was . . . Visiting Hamid-Morton was my friend TINY PHILLIPS. Unfortunately he had a previous engagement, stayed briefly, and so we didn't have time for a gabfest. . . Beatty-Cole played Hagerstown, Md. the first week in June and was that show's first return appearance there in several years. . . Naturally, I was out of town and missed seeing everybody. Rumorhazzit the Beatty-Cole Circus will play the Three Rivers Circus at the Civic Center in Pittsburgh in November . . . INGE SMAHA asked me to publicly thank HARRY THOMAS for his assistance with the act on Gracie's dates. Meanwhile I hear that Tony, Sr., who was faring so well, had a relapse, suffered through a lengthy coma, and underwent a major operation to remove a blood clot on the brain. I have been unable to ferret out more details but will, I promise and will file a report on Tony's condition in my next column. . . Whoever spread that rumor that OTTO VERDU died has a damn sick sense of humor. Mr. Vedru is alive and well (thank God!). . . The Great AERIALETTA bought a new van in which to transport her outdoor rigging and played Bentley Bros. Circus route, where when ROVERTA's mother died, she took over for Roverta in the Winn motorcycle act. HANS called to tell me that Jo-Ann (Aerialetta) did a good job. . . ETHEL JENNIER took her greyhounds to the St. Louis Shrine date and she is soloing it this season. . . The ZAMPERLAS joined Europorama after the Poplar Bluff date for DOROTHY WINN. . . The new Broadway opus BARNUM, produced by the Felds in association with CY COLEMAN is a runaway hit, scoring standing room only crowds, and its star won a Tony Award. . . JUDY BAKER called from Hollywood to report her tall,

(Continued on Page 26)

# Acts

**HUBLER INT'L CIRCUS - Belleville, Ill.,  
June 7 thru 9.**

Acts appearing with the George Hubler International Circus at Belleville, Ill., included:

Harry Thomas, tigers; Miss Olinka, aerialist; The Denise Trio, and Olmedas, bikes; Hap Davis and Karen, trampoline; Clowns; Ben Williams and 'Anna May' elephant; Evelyn the Girl in The Moon; Olmedas, three rings of horses; Hap Davis and his Funny Car; Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire; Intermission; Olmedas, juggling; Don Giovanni, comedy balance; Clowns; the Buckle Woodcock elephants presented by Ben Williams; Fossett, sway pole; Rosini Rocket Car.

**KARE CIRCUS - Arcadia, Calif. - June 7-8**

Acts appearing in the Kare Circus at Arcadia, Calif., were:

Skeeter Vaughan, Tomahawk and Knife Throwing; the Bostocks, high wire; Alge the Sea Lion; Thurano's comedy low wire; Frank Dean, whips and ropes; Bruce Anderson, sway pole; Cat Routine; Frank Dean, breaking the rope spinning record by spinning 15 ropes at one time; Houdini II, escape artist.

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## Visitors

Visitors seen at the Bentley Bros. Circus in Los Angeles on June 7th were: Vi Hoffmeister, Paul Kaye, Bobby Kay (who also clown-ed for the date), Mingo, Al and Lois Swerdfefer, Hunt Bushnell, Ed Henrichs, Tony Baumann, Fred Levine, Phil and Betty Escalante, Velma Amos and Ray Harris.

## In Memoriam

**HAROLD (Toby) ROSIER (79)**, of Jackson, Mich., operator of the Rosier Players, died early this month in his home town. He had donated his show to the Jackson Community College, who continued to operate and tour the show each summer season.

Survivors include his wife, Wanetta, and a daughter Wanetta, Jr.

## On The Cover

This week's cover picture is another in the series of watercolor paintings created by Robert B. Johnson. It is called "At The Runs."

The scene is just as daylight is breaking with buildings and trees dark against the light sky. The first of the heavy wagons has been unloaded and is heading off towards the show lot. In the background the train crew is busy unloading the rest of the show, while a few early-bird towners are on hand to watch the operation.



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Royal Lipizzan Stallions  
July 5-6 Ventura, Calif.

Salmon Bar-B-Que  
July 5 Ft. Bragg, Calif.

Mr. Sensation - Aerialist  
to July 2 Brockton, Mass

The Sikorskys - Jugglers  
June 30 Morgantown, W. Va.  
July 4-6 Baltimore, Md.

### Tent Troupe

June 30 Heath, Ohio

July 1 Worthington

2 Columbus

3 Brookville

4 Kettering

5 New Carrollton

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit  
July 2-6 East Troy, Wsc

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit  
July 3-6 Columbus, Wisc.

White House in Miniature  
July 3-12 Saratoga Sprgs, NY

Whizzer the Clown's Show  
July 4 E. Fultonham, Ohio  
5 Vardalia



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**REPORT****THIS WAS BURLESQUE**

by Irwin Royes

New Orleans, a town with Bourbon St. and Strippers, but a town that hasn't seen a real burlesque show in a long time got it's chance the week of June 4th, when a show called "This Was Burlesque" came to town.

The show carries the wrong title as it should be called "This Is Burlesque" as it was years ago. The cast included Pinky Lee, Maxie Furman, Charlie Naples, Dexter and April Maitland, Phil Ford, Jerry Kurland, Lisa Cabot, Marilyn Simon, the Burley Cuties, Patrick, the All American Stripper and all headed up by the very pretty Ann Corio.

One should not get the wrong impression, the show was not all strip and dirty jokes, but Vaudeville as it was and I hope will be again soon. With people like Maxie, Ann, Dexter, and Pinky Lee the material seemed as fresh and up-to-date as if they had come out of vaudeville today.

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The show is a good one and for a few hours you will forget your problems of today and have a good time.

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### Some Comments . . .

*"If anyone is Houdini re-incarnated, it's Griffin"*

- Charles Ruben (Magician)

*"I don't know who Houdini was, but Griffin is the Greatest"*

- Editor, Mountain Courier (Newspaper)

*"Our student government received many good reports, concerning student reaction to the assemblies."*

- David Regalado (Student Body Advisor)

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## by LLOYD E. JONES

During an extended tour of the Philippines, P. C. SORCAR, Jr. was congratulated by President Marcos and presented with the traditional Barong shirt. In Cebu, he received the Key to the City from the Mayor and in Manila enthusiastic crowds greeted his performances. The Araneta Coliseum which seats 35,000 was packed for each show. Sorcar carries 48 tons of equipment and a company of 24. From the Philippines he has moved on to tour Malaysia.

One lecturer terms his lecture, "The Quarter Pounder" because all the equipment is carried in that hamburger box from MacDonal-  
alds.

If you've been watching the films of acts performing at the F.I.S.M. Convention, you may like to know that this next triennial meeting is set for Lausanne, Switzerland, on July 6-10, 1982.

FABIAN BOCKLICH (Sam) phoned from Sacramento, Calif., to tell of his recovery from a third heart attack. Remember his animal circus? His latest depression was caused by the death of his pet dog, after 12 yrs of companionship. He is now actively promoting "Fun and Games" evenings for adults. With him as 'ringmaster' it is going well. He will be using some material from "M.C. Bits" by Algonquin McDuff (\$5.00 postage is 59c) DARYL (Martinez) preparing to move from

our area to a wider field in Southern California is winding up with a series of lectures which follows some seven weeks of them else where. He uses them to show the material which won him the recent Academy Award for Close-up Magic. These tricks are in his first book "Secrets of A Puerto Rican Gambler" which is being sold for \$8.00 (Post. is 59c). A 115 page book, 5½x8½ with 49 illustrations. Editor Stephen Minch explicitly explains the moves that make Daryl's magic a standout. Here, not new tricks, but developed technique that the card expert will ready avidly.

Daryl, by the way, gave his first lecture for my then 'The Club' some seven years ago which spurred him on to his present recognized spot as an entertaining close-up magician. His lecture notes have been changed to an 8 page booklet selling for \$3.00 and containing less difficult material than in his book. Seven tricks are explained, of which two are with coins. Alone, the notes will cost you 15c for first class postage, or for a bargain, get the book and the lecture notes for \$10.00 and save a dollar (59c is sufficient for postage. Insurance 50c if desired).

Which reminds me, my own last set of lecture notes are \$2.00. In a plastic cover they offer a 400 year old rope trick, some coin magic and of course a card trick or two, plus two exclusive apparatus effects. Like the above they are so light in weight they can be included with other items at no extra postage charge.

By the way, we have an ample stock of "Mud Show" by Powledge, but had to increase our price to \$5.95 (plus \$1.03 postage).

**SPECIAL****A VERY SPECIAL PERSON**

by Bob Stoddard

"Texas Shorty" Chancellor started playing the fiddle in 1950, when he was seven years old. When he was fourteen, he won his first National Fiddling Championship.

In the 20 years that followed, the boy wonder fiddler, and his father, Jim Houston (Chancellor) traveled almost a million miles, winning 17 national championships and hundreds of regional championships and fiddling contests. Sometimes they competed in thirty contests in a single month.

During this time Shorty was a guest on such National TV shows as "What's My Line", and "To Tell the Truth." He also appeared on many local TV shows from coast-to-coast, and also cut several phonograph records.

After this our paths separated and didn't cross again until June 7th when we met at Old City Park in downtown Dallas, where a special feature was taking place.

The feature on this particular Sunday was an Old Time Fiddler's contest, that drew fiddling hopefuls from near and far.

The man on the stage announced that there was a tie for first place between "Texas Shorty" Chancellor and Jimmy Don Bates.

They played another selection to break the tie - and then another - and then another, until Texas Shorty won by a single point.

I was sad to hear that his father, Jim Houston Chancellor, an old friend, died in 1976, of a heart attack, but it was good to see that Texas Shorty, now 37 years of age, was still winning.

**ATTENTION**

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## PEOPLE

**KRAMIEN**, the magician, was featured on the front page of the *Abbott's Tops Magazine*, issue of June 1980.

**JOAN EMBERY**, of the San Diego Zoo, was a recent guest on the *Mike Douglas TV Show*.

**SLIM PICKENS** will be featured in a soon to be released TV show called 'Jake's Way.'

**GEORGE W. LILLY**, an agent for the *Carson & Barnes Circus*, was the subject of a special photo story in a recent mid-western newspaper.

**STEVE BAKER** and **GARY RAY** (Checkers & Patches) now performing in their third year at *Six Flags Over Texas* theme park, have announced the publication of their first book 'The Adventures of Checkers and Patches' a children's activity book. All activities are built around the popular clown team. Details on how to acquire the book will be released thru *Circus Report*.

## KING BROS. CIRCUS

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## REPORT

### SHOWTIME FOLLIES

Acts appearing with the Showtime Follies on its 1980 spring tour were: The Ruwills, plate spinning and acrobatic adagio; Erik and Bobbi Adams, dogs and chimps; Tony and Iris Keppo, rolling globes and comedy; The Great DeMille, tightwire and juggling; Holveck & Co. magic and illusions, with Gary Holveck working as announcer and making the magic color book pitch; Florine Oler, organist; Joe Daniels, drummer; Wes Oler, show manager.

On May 19th, at Wichita, Kansas, the show personnel hosted a party and dinner to celebrate Wes Oler's birthday.

## In Memoriam

**JOHNNY (Speedy) YELDING**, a popular and all around circus performer, died in England on Jan. 4th. He worked theatres and with most of the English circuses.

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# PEOPLE

TED VIOLA, of Abilene, Kans., has been appointed general chairman for the Summer Meeting of Windjammers Unlimited, Inc., which will hold its meet in Abilene on Aug. 15-17.

BUCKLES WOODCOCK spent some off time last month visiting the zoo at Monroe, La.

JAMES 'Jimbow' DECKER and DAVE 'Skinhead' LEWIS, two Dallas clowns spent June 7th entertaining at the Old City Park, a cultural history museum in Dallas.

ROBINSON CORTEZ (10 yrs old) suffered heat stroke on the rigging of the family's flying act last month, while performing for Carden-Johnson. He has since fully recovered and is working regularly once again.

TIM BICKMORE, concessionaire with Circus Vargas, has left that show and is making plans to attend college in Arizona.

DAVE KNODERER is now the official sign painter and show decorator for the W. G. Wade Shows. His current project is a restored 1933 white "super-power" calliope truck which he says will get plenty of circus scroll

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work.

BOBBY YERKES visited Carden-Johnson Circus at Santa Fe, N.M., last month, where he was working on the film "The Long Ranger."

LOUIS GOEBBELS' herd of camels have been moved from the Los Angeles area to a special facility near Sacramento, Calif. The animals are being cared for by DICK McGRAW and HARRY SHANNON.

DAVE 'Skinhead' LEWIS, a clown from Dallas, won First Place in the Special Events portion of the City Parks and Recreation Parade in Irving, Texas, on June 7th.

ENGESSER'S EXOTIC FELINES day and dated JAMES PERKINS and DENNIS the Magician at Lincoln Land Amusement Park in Illinois, and enjoyed visiting with each other.

**AUSTIN MILES** scored an ultra feature story in the St. Louis Post Dispatch June 4th in connection with his appearance as ringmaster for the Moolah Shrine Circus at Busch Stadium.

**JAN** and **BILL BIGGERSTAFF**, along with **TOBY**, paid a quick visit to the offices of Circus Report when Circus Vargas was in El Cerrito, Calif.

**GRIFFIN** the escape artist gave a special performance June 10th at Riverside, Calif. for the Lions Club where he was successful in escaping from eight pair of handcuffs and a 15 pound ball and chain deadlocked to his ankles.

**WILLIAM C. SHOOP** (390 Tyler Ave., No. 2) Cape Canaveral, Fla. 32920) is busy organizing a new CFA tent which will be called the "Hoxie Tucker Tent."

**ANN PIKE** wrecked her trailer while in New Mexico and has since purchased a new unit from Joe Sharp - A. C. Nelson Trailer Sales.

**KEN "Turtle" BENSON**, and **JOHN HASSION**, of the Monroe, La. zoo and **BUCKLES WOODCOCK** visited the Sam T. Polack Circus at Shreveport. They visited with **LEE KEENER** and **HARRY THOMAS**.

## License Plates

Official Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus License Plates. Limited edition of 500. Bright colors embossed on sturdy metal.

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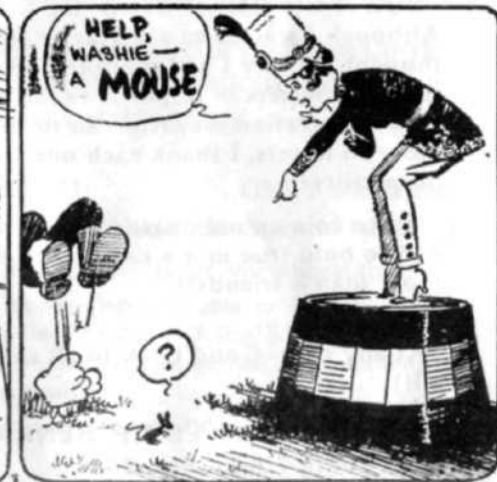
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**CLARK McDERMOTT** and his Cold Nose Five act worked a June 19-20 date at Poplar Bluff, Mo., after appearing in the St. Louis Shrine Circus.

**HOLVECK & CO.**, magic/illusion act will be spending the summer season at Pocono's Magic Valley Park in Penna. They'll be there until Labor Day.

**MIKE** and **SALLY LaTORRES** have been visiting shows this season and Mike recently made a quick trip to California where he visited on the Vargas show.

**MIKE GREER**, film star, was the guest ringmaster at Bentley Bros. Circus June 7th engagement in Los Angeles when the show was playing for the local area Gay organization.



## THERE IS GOOD NEWS – SOME VERY SAD NEWS AND “WIND OUT OF MY SAILS” NEWS

**FIRST THE SAD NEWS** – My friend of many years and benefactor to me for the many times I had it a little rough passed away June 1st at our home here in Phoenix after suffering a massive heart attack. This on the eve of my admitting him to the hospital for a prostate cancer operation. At his age he was very worried and concerned about this upcoming surgery but the good Lord works in mysterious ways and spared him that ordeal and he went very fast with no pain - with me holding his hands and comforting him to the end! I am so proud that I could do this for him for he was so fine and good and his many friends will be sorry to learn that he is gone now.

**DALE PETROSS** – you were a wonderful friend to me and my family and we will miss you more than you could ever know. God rest your soul dear friend!! His 85th birthday was last October and was a big event in his life!

**NOW THE GOOD NEWS** – Just completed my 6 week radiation therapy treatments and feel great and did not suffer the usual side effects from this kind of new therapy - so guess I will live for another year or two!

**NOW FOR THE “WIND OUT OF MY SAILS” NEWS** . Although I was quite a character for all my circus years, I thought for sure I had more than 8 friends who wrote me such fine letters in response to my request for mail after my cancer operation recently. So to those people who obliged me with letters, I thank each one from my heart for their hospitality!

So to coin an old phrase “Out of sight - Out of mind” that had to hold true in my case; but Hell - I sure thought I had more than 8 friends!!

At any rate - Good Luck to all and may the Lord Bless you all!!

**EDDIE HENRICHS**

8218 South 7th St., No. 80

Phoenix, Ariz. 85040

# REPORT

## CIRCUS VISIT IN BRITAIN

by James B. Alfredson

My wife and I spent three weeks in England where, among other things, we attended the 'Chipperfields Circus' in Hull (May 24) as the guests of British magician and circus fan Prof. Eddie Dawes.

The Chipperfield family has been entertaining the public for over 300 years in England. It was a dandy circus, quite different from our own, I thought.

It's a one ring affair and projects a very intimate feeling: you're very close to the acts and, fortunately for them, the British aren't so law suit prone as our patrons so they aren't as 'antsy' about keeping distance between the public and the performers - both human and four legged.

Noted for their fine animal acts, Dick Chipperfield, Jr., did an outstanding job with the big cats, as did his cousin John, Jr., with his polar bears, and the famous Chipperfield ele-

## Show Dates

Wenatchee Youth Circus

June 29 North Bend, Wash.

July 4 Othello

## PEOPLE

ERNIE BURCH and his wife MARAN (Blinko and Maran), currently performing at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, were visited by STEVE BAKER (Checkers of Patches and Checkers). Blinko clowns in the Midway area designed for children and is the Circus Circus goodwill ambassador, and a feature act in the Casino's stage show.

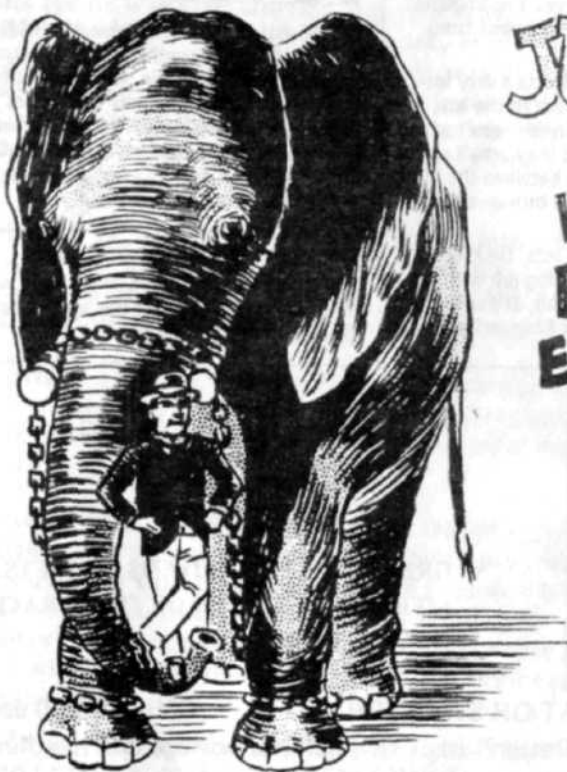
phants were most entertaining.

The clowning was a trifle weak when we saw the show, but all-in-all it was an outstanding offering in every aspect. Great fun!

# CIRCUS

# ATTRACTIONS

by MARIO DE MARCO



## JUMBO

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# KING BROS.

# CIRCUS

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**SPECIAL****TURMOIL CONTINUES**

This past week Otto Berosini called to report on the latest developments concerning his recent problems with the California State Fish & Game people.

His animals are still being held by the state and Berosini must appear in Court to answer charges on July 8th. The results of any decision made at that time will probably determine what the future will hold for the circus trainer and performer.

Berosini feels the future is going to be pretty gloomy for him. His lawyer has quit the case and reportedly "took my money and then just left me."

As a result, Berosini is looking for a new lawyer and at the same time finds himself in a difficult position as he tries to raise money for his defense.

**Acts****SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE SHOW**

Acts appearing at the April 25-27, Smithsonian Institute show in Washington, DC were: John Herriott and family; Mark Anthony; Jim Tinsman; Jay Marshall; Frank Dean; Miss Ethel; Cook and Brown; Bruce Steeg; Peggy Williams; Lou Jacobs; Glen 'Frosty' Little; Bobby Kay; Joe Negrelli, Jr.; Ward Hall; Melvin Burkhardt; Chris Christ; Connie Daugherty; Norbert Terhune; John Trower; Jack Woods; Robert Bruce.

Demonstrations were provided by: Johnny Meah, side show banner painting; John Buckholtz, clown shoes; Patricia Demary, costume work; Jackie Calhoon, tent making; Robert C. Robinson, circus models; Stan Nelson and Jane Pomeroy, circus printing.

# FOR SALE

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**PEOPLE**

**BILL BURGER**, of the Big John Strong Circus, reports he visited with Col. **GEORGE MORRISSEY** in Nevada. George was an usher on Ringling-Barnum, and has a tremendous circus collection.

**THE STARDUSTERS** (Hope and Mike Kent) worked the June 20-28 Red River Exhibition for *Stu McClellan Associates, Inc.* Winnipeg is Mike's hometown and after 42 years he finally played there.

**DAVE KNODERER** has been busy outfitting himself with equipment for next season, when he will display his horse 'Sir Bingo' and his calliope.

**BILL WALLACE**, a musician with **ROBY ENGESSER's Band** for several years, is Manager of Engesser's **Exotic Felines**.

**FRED VAN SANT**, of Bloomfield, NJ, visited The Great American Circus at Nutley, NJ, on June 7th. He reports **JOHN** and **BETTY STRONG** do a rope and whip act, and for-

**SPECIAL****SPECIAL SHOW PARTY**

Personnel of the Bentley Bros. Circus hosted a special party for Harriett Lee Wagner, show office employee, who was leaving the circus, at Los Banos, Calif., on June 2nd.

The party, held in a 17 ft. house trailer, had the following people squeezed into the trailer at one time: Harriett Wagner, Bruce Warner, Kim Copeland, Dion and Bevely Aumaier, Wini McKay, Chester Cable, Chuck Clancy, Butch Hale, Chris Hale, Laurel Alczar, Jo Ann Jennier, Jim Parker, Hans Winn, Karl Winn, and two members of the Tangier Troupe.

*Other show people arranged to attend the festivities and partake of the food at times when the trailer was not so crowded.*

---

mer rodeo star **DICK McALLISTER** is also on the show.

# REPORT

## KING BROS. CIRCUS

*After a two year absence from the American circus scene, King Bros. Circus is returning to the road - bigger and better than ever!*

The long established show title has been in use for the past 34 years. Beginning in 1946, under the 'guiding genius' of Floyd King, King Bros. Circus was built into a tradition of fine family entertainment.

Most recently, the show was owned by the McClosky-Collins combine, owners of the Betty-Cole Circus. After the untimely death of circus impresario Frank McClosky, Jerry Collins has been carefully sifting the numerous offers to purchase the venerable show title.

Always conscious of the need to provide quality entertainment to the public, Mr. Collins, the Florida multi-millionaire, considered the numerous proposals and chose Frank McClosky's nephew, Ned Toth, and his partner Curtis Lenz as the logical successors to purchase and operate the King Bros. Circus.

*Ned Toth, who brings an amiable personality and vast experience to the circus, gained much practical knowledge while manager of Betty-Cole under the able tutelage of his uncle. Toth's greatest ability lies in the quiet calm manner in which he analyzes the multitude of perplexing problems that confront a circus owner, and follows through with decisive directions facilitating the movement of the circus.*

Mr. Toth has assembled a knowledgeable management and marketing team to direct the super attraction. Frank Perry, show manager and John Hamrick, general supt., are Ringling alumnus and are actively involved in the re-vitalization of the physical equipment. Mr. Perry additionally, is spending long hours creating new and imaginative innovations to be incorporated in the show.

Associated in the past with the Tommy Hanford Circus as well as his many touring, family-oriented productions, Ray Winder, general agent for King Bros. Circus, has put together a top notch marketing crew. With bookings already well under way, dates for this premiere tour will include malls and shopping centers with the show under canvas on the parking areas, plus sponsored dates for

police, fire and civic organizations, and select engagements for indoor facilities.

To handle the enormous task of press and public relations, Mr. Toth has hired the well known performer, Mike Martin. Mr. Martin has been associated with Betty-Cole, Sells & Gray, King Bros. and most of the other major circuses both as a performer and in management positions. He brings much expertise in the field of radio, TV and print advertising to the new King Bros. Circus.

Additionally, Mr. Martin will be responsible for framing and producing the "specs" and performance, and will tour with the show as Assistant Manager and Performance Director.

At the Sarasota, Fla. winterquarters, a thousand and one tasks must be completed before the mid-August opening. Even the smallest details are given careful supervision by Mr. Toth and his capable crew. Sailmakers are steadily at work to create the acres of canvas needed for the mammoth big top and side show. Carpenters are constructing additional seating to accommodate the increased capacity of the enlarge tent. Hundreds of gallons of paint are being applied to the circus poles, props, rigging and the new fleet of trucks.

A well-balanced program is falling into place and will include all of the rich traditions of the old-fashioned tent circus - a dazzling aerial extravaganza, displays of dextrous feats of skill and balance, a veritable avalanche of capering clowns, beautiful show girls, the ultimate in performing animals plus a "super spec" described as a "colorful processional pageant of Kaleidoscopic Splendor featuring Spangleland Stars from around the world."

Tying the entire performance together will be the King Bros. Circus Band with six veteran circus musicians to add the necessary experience and gusto.

Likewise, the midway will be "all real circus". A huge side show and menagerie is being assembled and will be fronted by an authentic canvas bannerline. Elephant rides, a pit show, novelty stands, the office wagon and the concession dept., will fill up the remaining space.

In a period when other shows have folded and with the unsettling conditions existing in the world, Ned Toth was recently asked

(Continued on Page 25)

**KING BROS. (Continued)**

why he would undertake the monumental task of reviving the King Bros. Circus. Quite simply he replied, "There have always been problems and disappointments. I think we all need family type entertainment to take our minds away from those problems."

The need for quality entertainment, the type found at the traditional old-time circus under the big top, is a feeling shared by both Jerry Collins and Ned Toth. Working not as rival circus owners, but as dedicated showmen, they are perpetuating the clean and wholesome entertainment found under the big top - where the sights, sounds and smells mean that once again - The Circus Has Come to Town!

## Miscellaneous

The Carden-Johnson Circus had to cancel two days of shows at Grand Forks, Nebr., because of local tornados.

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## In Memoriam

JOHNNY NUGENT (65) died May 27th. He had worked and performed with swords, fire, knife throwing and snakes. He worked with quite a list of circuses dating back in the '30s and into the 1960's. He also had his own show for a few years called "Claws and Fangs". He was a veteran of World War 2, serving in the Air Force. He was a member of the CFA and Kay Bros. Tent. No. 21, of Colonial Heights, Va.

**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

dark and ever-so-handsome son TOMMY is now starring in DRACULA at the Universal Studio's new two million dollar playhouse, part of that famed tour. Judy says the set, the play, is fantastic and that Tommy is superb in his part. Which isn't mother-love talking because I've already read the glowing reviews. . . Bentley Bros. came up with the most sensational posters for their circus this year I've ever seen. CHUCK sent me one which I will frame. A rare collector's item. . . MISS LONI, after all these years, has her driver's license and a new El Dorado Cadillac, and was making a tour of dates for TNT filling in for daughter BARBARA with the Globetrotters in Europe. . . BETTY BRYANT's daughter MARY toured with the foot juggler to assist the act. The Bryants, by the way, at one time had one of those fabulous "showboats" and are theatre people. . . ALBANIS played part of the Hamid-Morton route. Daughter DARLENE is doing a single trapeze act.

HERTA CUNEO is house-bound nowadays baby sitting a white tiger cub until the animal grows large enough to do for itself. CLIFF VARGAS was a recent house guest before he trotted off to Europe. Word is the White Tiger act will be featured with Circus Vargas in 1981. . . THE FLYING LANES, laying over at Bill and Trudy's, had a chance to really practice and PAT LANE is now doing a double full with pirouette back and PATTI BONNELL is catching a one and a half. . . Producer WAYNE McCAREY flew into St. Louis to catch the troupe and offered them his Maine dates. It's a calssy act. . . JACK RYAN has been busy getting out the new ice show programs for the Ringling owned icers. Incidentally, it has been whispered that the Felds are fielding DISNEY ON ICE next season. . . Bix for Hoxie Bros. hasn't been too great, Numerous re-

ports indicate a 15% cut in salaries was made and several acts left. I hope biz picks up for the tenter. That show is not the only tenter suffering economic woes according to my sources, is, in fact, one of three having a tumultuous season.

**PALM SPRINGS TRAGEDY:** LONNIE McGEE, former concessionaire with Circus Vargas, and another man, were found shot to death in Lonnie's vacation home near Palm Springs. The house had been broken into and was robbed. RAY IRWIN, former auditor for CV, found the bodies when, knowing the two men would be at the house, called and could not get a reply. He then drove to the isolated house and came upon the tragedy. Ironically, Lonnie's partner, WES was killed in an auto accident less than a year ago.

The defunct Old Chicago Amusement Park will house by late summer what a developer describes as the nation's "largest factory outlet mall". Called the Mid-America Factory Outlet Mall, the center is expected to house up to 100 factory outlets and is expected to open in August.

Literary Agent CONNIE CLAUSEN, and author of 'I Love You Honey But The Season's Over' tripped several weeks ago while walking along a New York City street, fell, and broke her right shoulder. The fall was so severe the bone actually protruded. In addition to this painful injury the author/agent has been experiencing excruciating migranes thought to have resulted from the fall. When I spoke to Connie she was in such pain she could hardly hold a coherent conversation. Her son MICHAEL has been running the office and Connie expects to be laid up for some time.

**SNAPSHOTS:** BARBARA VAN is back from Europe which she was not too thrilled

(Continued on Page 27)

**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

about. . . Rumorhazzit the Hubert Castle Circus has signed Wichita for 1981. . . **QUASARS** and **HORWATH's** Chimps to play the route next season but the Quassars will only spotdate. . . **LOU ANN JACOBS** introduced her new half-twisting ankle catches in St. Louis. The trick was taught to the young aerial star jointly by yours truly and **TRUDY STRONG**. We both did the unusual trick back in the 50's. A sensational and daring new swinging trick will also be added to Lou Ann's routine which, combined with the usual assortment of tricks now being done will put the performer in a class by herself (and she is already unique and original).

Lovely, large-eyed **JANIE ZAMPERLA** marries **JORGE CORONAS** this winter and I wish them both well - both are nice kids. Janie's new **Doberman** dog act is very nice from what little I could see of it during the five dog act display at St. Louis. . . I have reams of information on that date and also from the **Hamid-Morton Pittsburgh** date which preceded it but I am already late with a deadline and will have to forego that information until next time around.

**WHICH** leads me to the following:

Please bear with me, dear readers, through this hectic season. Through no fault of my own, nothing in fact other than sheer lack of time, I will be unable to keep my column filled **EVERY WEEK** and while I will try to maintain my schedule there is no way I can keep it up each week. First of all, I have a heavy season, booked to the brim, deep into December; secondly, my first novel is being

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Other circus, tab, rep, Tom and Theatrical posters, contracts, books, etc. considered.

Especially interested in old trouper's collections.

**VIVIAN LATCHFORD**

Box 1487, Route Four  
South Starke, Fla. 32091

published, will be released in September and this necessitates an extraordinary amount of work on my part, especially since I have formed my own publishing company and am publishing not only my own books NOW but also those of other writers within the near future. As a publisher I must oversee every facet of the book's production and as its author I must exercise quality control, check galleys, book jacket, book format, printing, not to mention the promotion, publicity and distribution.

SO . . . all of you out there who promised to write Guest Columns for me this season, and who, other than Lee Maloney have thus far failed to keep that promise, if you want to see this column in print every week get with it and mail those columns into me **PRONTO!**

Meanwhile . . . see you down the road, luvs.