

7th Year

October 30, 1978

Number 44

ELEPHANT SHOT

Pranksters shooting a high powered rifle wounded a 9 year old elephant at about 9 p.m. on Oct. 6th at the Lancaster, S. C. Fair. The animal, one of four owned by Remo and Irene Cristiani were appearing at the Fair with the World of Mirth Carnival.

Officials said the shot was fired from across the street and through a chain link fence, about 25 to 30 yards away from the elephants. About 150 children were standing around the elephants at the time, waiting to ride the animals.

The bullet struck "Schaunzi" passing through her ear flap and lodging in her shoulder. She collapsed immediately, but with the aid of a veterinarian and carnival workers the elephant got back up on her feet. About six hours later she collapsed again.

Then in the early morning hours of Oct. 7th (about 3 a.m.) all four elephants were put into a truck and taken to the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine at Athens, Ga.

After an extensive examination Dr. Thomas McDaniel said he would not try to remove the bullet. Probing for the bullet, he said, could do more harm than good. "Right now she is in stable condition and doing fine."

McDaniel reported that Schaunzi was

trembling and obviously in some pain when she arrived at the University. The pain, he added, was not enough to warrant pain killers, but anti-biotics (to fight infection) were administered.

Doctors were unable to get X-rays of the shoulder. Since they were unsure of just where the bullet was they were reluctant to begin digging for it.

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Miscellaneous

The Moscow Circus School is said to be the only one of its kind in the world. The school was started in 1926 and now supplies the Soviet Union's 80 circuses with its 6,000 performers. Graduates are guaranteed work and an above average salary for their efforts.



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SHOW FOLKS

by Clayton Wood

A new magic show has entered the Las Vegas scene in recent months. Jacob Stanic, whose wife works under the name of Aneta Vargas (one arm stand on slack wire) has, after many months, introduced his new illusion show at Circus Circus. He is being assisted by his wife and son, Phillip, and is working under the name of Vargas.

A year and a half ago, while performing at Old Chicago, Jacob and Phillip spent a lot of time conferring with Billy Bishop. In addition to being talent co-ordinator at O.C. Bishop has a magic shop on the mall one level above the amusement park.

The act plays 8 minutes and has a unique close. Jacob tells me magicians from all over the Vegas area have come in just to see the closing number. Jacob says he has never known of any performer using this effect: Jacob begins what appears to be a standard "Lady and Tiger" illusion. The gimmick is that Aneta disappears from the cage and both Phillip and a full grown leopard appear, together. The first time we have seen a human in the cage with a leopard.

In the Vargas tradition the equipment and wardrobe is superb. Much of it was especially built for the act in California with additional trim and flash added by Jacob.

Aneta is taking a short leave from the slack wire but will return in the near future. Jacob said they both worked acts for a time, but the pace was back breaking, so they dropped one.

Congratulations to Blanca Ibarra who returned to Old Chicago recently with a new husband. She appears with the family in the flying trapeze and the trampoline acts. Her husband, Joe Via, has been an elephant handler with the circus and he and Blanca expect to return to working with the big animals in 1979.

Ibarra has signed a contract with Circus Atayde in Mexico for 1979. They will open in mid-December after leaving Old Chicago.

Rehearsals for the Sailor Circus began Oct. 9th in Sarasota, according to Bill Lee who is in charge of the annual show. He said he expects about 250 students from the 4th to 12th grade to sign up for the 30 year old show.

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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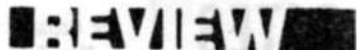
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AL AMIN SHRINE CIRCUS

by Jim Davis

Unseasonal cool temperatures and overcast skies greeted the Carden-Johnson and Clyde Bros. Circus to the Rio Grande Valley of South Texas for the 31st annual Al Amin Shrine date.

This year's event was again held at Fiesta Park in Harlingen on Oct. 13-14, with four shows. Friday evening performances were light, competing with local high school football and the Saturday night closer drew a three-quarters house.

The performance included: Happy Holiday spec; Red Hartman, cage act; Cavanaugh's cradle; Gilberto, bounding rope; a whistle pitch; Cuccillo, trampoline; Rueben and Miss Joyce, juggling; Armondo, hand balancing; Mogana, balance trapeze with a four girl aerial ballet; Llamas; Zapata Bros., high wire; Camels; Galumbo Duo, cradle; Elephants (3); Chin Biazé Troupe, balancing and the Flying Carrolls.

Mark Anthony head the Clown Alley, providing three numbers. Donny Johnson handled the announcing and Mike Pike was at the organ.

PEOPLE

FRED R. REED, CFA Western Vice President, and his wife, FIFI, are visiting friends and fans in the Kansas Area.

BOBBY GIBBS, currently with the No. 2 Unit of Carson & Barnes Circus, plans to go into Texas and his home when the show shuts down for the winter.

ALBERT BARNARD, Jr., president of the Bette Leonard CFA Tent, treated CLIFFORD VARGAS and his staff to dinner in Wichita. Some 38 Fans attended the event, with Mrs. BETTE LEONARD, an honored guest.

MARIO MANZINI, escape artist, is planning an escape from 10 pairs of handcuffs, plus a locked and sealed barrel that will be thrown into the Niagara River. He must escape before the barrel goes over Niagara Falls.

JEWELL NEW, lion trainer with Ringling-Barnum reports it took him 8 months to teach his lion to ride the motorcycle.

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SHOW DATES

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Oct 30-Nov 1 Valdosta, Ga
- Circus Vargas
Oct 30-Nov 1 Las Cruces,
N. M.
Nov. 3-8 Mesa, Ariz.
- Lin-Rich Animal Circus
Nov 3-12 Jacksonville, Fla
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to Nov 19 Chicago, Ill.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Nov 2-12 Cleveland, Ohio
- Royal Hanneford Circus
Oct 31-Nov 4 Baltimore, Md
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Oct 31 Starkville, Miss.
Nov. 1 Lawrenceville, Ga.
2 Athens
- Shrine Circuses
to Nov. 4 Ft. Worth, Texas
Nov. 4-5 Worcester, Mass.

---- OTHER DATES ----

- Blackstone, Jr. - Magic Show
Oct 31-Nov 5 Cleveland,
Ohio
- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Oct 30-Nov 4 Jackson, Ala.
- James H. Drew Expo Shows
Oct 30-Nov 4 Dublin, Ga.
- Grand Nationals
to Nov 5 San Francisco,
Calif.
- Holiday On Ice - Int'l
Oct 31-Nov 8 Green Bay,
Wisc.
- Holiday On Ice - Nat'l
Oct 31-Nov 8 Toledo, Ohio

- Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Nov 2-12 Toronto, Ont.
- Ice Capades - Western Unit
Oct 31-Nov 5 Tucson, Ariz
- Ice Follies
to Nov 5 Hershey, Pa.
- Kaye's Hollywood Elephants
to Nov 4 Charleston, SC
- Kramien's Magic Show
Oct 30 Milpitas, Calif.
- Los Latinos - wire act
to Nov 4 Ft. Worth, Texas
- Manzini - Escape Artist
Oct 29-Nov 1 Grossingers
Hotel, New York
Nov 1-5 Hyannis, Mass.
- Pa. Showmen's Convention
Nov 3-4 New Kensington,
Pa.
- The Sikorskys - Jugglers
Nov. 4 Hagerstown, Md.
- White House Model Exhibit
Oct 29-Nov 6 Emeryville,
Calif.



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THERE'S a simple explanation to the problems with the "front end" of the King show which caused that show to head for the barn early: There was no front end. Soon after the opening in Georgia (where biz was good) the show was faced with a 17 day lay off and thus began playing "lot and license" My source, on the show all season, remarks that manager WHITEY BLACK should be given a medal for keeping the show afloat.

King had only one pro-rated week, towards the end, when it had 6 days open. Throughout the tour, ALL animals, private and show-owned were well fed, the cookhouse continued to serve hearty meals, and the gas truck never missed a day.

A number of towns found billposters just hanging paper. Some towns never received paper. On many dates phone crews had only two or three days in which to operate and thirty-odd dates, booked in January, didn't get promoters until it was too late to work the towns, or in some instances, never got any promoters at all.

BAUER-HALL has been active setting acts for foreign bookings including: the Espanas, Les Castros, Miss Elizabeth (Bauer), Co-Co and Cristiani's trampoline for the BILLY SMART annual Xmas TV special taping Nov. 23-26. The CRISTIANIS will also appear at Deutschlandhalle and at the Royal Swedish Command Circus, Nov. 14-24, along with MISS LISA (trapeze). The Royal Command Circus plays 3 days in Stockholm, 3 days in Malmo after the TV taping. The Agency is also setting acts for Circus World Championships a TV special filmed in London under canvas. Taping is from Dec. 10 to 25th.

LAS VEGAS ITEMS: The gal who works with ORESTO broke her foot and he has a temporary replacement. . . PHIL & FRANCINE, with Baby Dondi, filled in at the Hilton Flamingo for a week when one of the specialty acts was ill. . . The STAN- EKS are rumored to be returning to Circus Circus (they are now in Europe). . . ANETA VARGAS does not do her wire act at CC during the winter months but is doing a magic act with her son. . . The RE- BOUNDERS, a new trampoline act from Canada, are at CC where there is also a new comedy dog act SHUPI, worked by ERIC BRAUN, once a clown on RBBB who has been in Europe. . . JACKIE BOST- OCK and Family are headed for Circo Atayde along with JOSIP MARCAN, the HARGITAS and the KNOPS (perch act). . . THE FERCOs, at The Dunes, have a new act with tigers. . .

Filming the CBS Annual Circus of Stars at Caesar's Palace Sports Pavilion (Las Vegas) were: Ron and Roxanne Whitfield, with 4 elephants, Gaylord Maynard, Bob Yerkes' flyers, Johnny Luxem, the Ferges, who now have a new musical group called

the Acrobats, who play guitars on the trampoline, and Phil and Francine with Baby Dondi.

The Gatti show was in town and attracted beau- coup visitors including Jim Swafford, Bob Dover, Senor Antonio, Peggy Williams, Feller Boys and Dodo, Sandy and Michelle Dobritch, Aneta Vargas, Yenda Smaha, Lubin Stoyonoff, Pauline and Andre Toth, Raul Prada, the Bickmores, Daniel Acosta, (now walking with a cane), the Chinese Acrobats from the Liberace show and scads more.

New performers on the Gatti show, which closed Oct. 12th at Las Cruces (NM) were: Marcan's lions, Ed Drake, elephants. I'm told that clown DEL MO- RAL will start up a new double perch act using a dwarf as a topmounter.

SNAPSHOTS: DUTCH CRAWFORD took over the Hoxie herd when JOHNNY WALKER, Jr. left the show. . . RAY DIRGO designed new letterheads for BRAD FRANK, who with SHEILA, visited the HERRIOTTS recently at Circus World. . . ALEX SE- BASTYAN plans to take his dog act to Europe. . . TREVOR BALE is recovering from a serious cancer operation. . . The GUNGAS are no longer with the Hoxie show and were replaced by the CAMPA family. REX HORTON's bears and GRANMAR were on the show filling in. . . DAVID CHABIRA did advance clowning for Bentley Bros. in Dubuque. . . The SHRINE CONVENTION in Indianapolis held a lengthy session over Animal Welfare Laws which I hope was effective. . . Femme clown MARY WISE is now reportedly connected with the National Gal- lery of Art. . . ANTA WAZZAN and family left Hoxie long enough to film the Star Wars Holiday TV special in Hollywood which airs Nov. 17th. . . GARY HENRY is on the Hetzer tour. . . Chances of a 3rd Gatini unit seem slim. . . DAVE MILLER will be the organist on RON BACON's holiday tour. . . Organist VIRGINIA LEE FENTON makes the Bentley Bros. Xmas shows on the West Coast and, finally, clown STEVE KNOTTS was seen on the Hoxie lot in Atlantic City.

SOME NEWS FROM TEXAS: GEORGE COR- ONA worked the Gyro-Wheel for the first time since his fall 11 months ago. . . GLORIA, ANITA and BONNIE BALE are presenting three rings of horse- manship. . . THE LIVING STATUES, from South America, painted silver, and performing slow-motion acrobatics on a stage which changes light colors, is a hit. . . WADE BURCK is using 7 roll-over tigers. . . BUCKY STEELE joined in Houston to replace an elephant act that had to leave. . . Some of the talent includes: Ruth Hill, Coronas, Fornarsaris, Aquilars, Vickinas, Franconi Duo, Dolly Sisters, Navarros, Los Latinos, Fossett's Swaying Stars, Rocket Car with

(Continued on Page 20)

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SHOW FOLKS

by Clayton Wood

Old Chicago amusement center has begun a policy of using name music groups each weekend in addition to the Circus, puppet show and magic show. Some of the upcoming groups include: Rex Allen, Jr.; the Kingston Trio; Andrea True Connection; The New Christy Minstrels; Peter Guerin and Ferlin Husky.

A new stage has been constructed for the groups with seating for several hundred people. All of the extra entertainment features will be included in the gate price.

Recent visitors at O. C. included the Bruski Family, and the Menendez Family, with Dino and Anita, who just finished a summer long tour with Gatini in Canada, and were on their way home to Sarasota.

Elenore and Lloyd Fengel recently returned to Oak Park (a Chicago sub) after spending a couple of weeks with Franzen Bros. Circus. Lloyd plays trumpet in the band and has been on and off the show several times during the season.

John Broeker, of Elgin, Ill., spent time with Franzen Bros. during the season, building props, doing electrical work and assisting Franzen in many ways including working "Oka" the elephant.

Franzen Bros. will reportedly play a long season, not closing until early December.

Mailroom

The Post Office this past week returned mail for the following people, saying they were unable to deliver it.

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Bob Welz
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PEOPLE

G. H. ROBBINS, who died at a hospital in St. Thomas (Canada) on Sept. 28th, was the last surviving witness to the death of P. T. Barnum's elephant Jumbo in 1885. The huge animal was killed by a passing train.

JERRY LIPKO reports he has purchased Charlie the TV chimp from Animal Kingdom in Chicago, which will enlarge his comedy act.

ARTHUR BARRETT was in Chicago (Oct. 6-9) to attend the tribute to James A. Bailey at the Cobo Hall Arena on RBBB's Red Unit. Art showed the new color book that he and GEORGE DA DEPPO are marketing and got great reaction from the circus concessionaires.

HELEN WALLENDIA is chairman for the Showfolks of Sarasota's Octoberfest which will be held at the Clubhouse on Nov. 4th.

MICKI FREEMAN recently spent some time visiting her son in Canada.

HUB HUBBELL and his trick horse "Okie" are in Montana working on a new movie.

GEORGE LINSEY, BILLY THUNDER CLOUD and LIPKO's Comedy Chimps were among those acts working an Oct. 15th date at Burlington, Vt.

JACK BENNETT visited Kelly Bros. Circus early this month and reports that JOHNNY MARIETTA was also on the show lot. Kelly Bros. closed for the season at Bristow, Okla. on Oct. 20th and went into the barn at Tulsa, Okla.

DOC HENDERSON, RBBB's vet, plus EMMETT and EVIE KELLY attended the October meeting of the Emmett Kelly CFA Tent at Hagerstown, Md.

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ANNETTE			TANYA		

PEOPLE

HELEN WALTERS writes she is planning to attend the Carson & Barnes Circus performances at Paris, Texas on Nov. 1st. She recently visited the Int'l All Star Circus where she visited with HINES RUCKER and JIM NORDMARK.

MARIO MANZINI, escape artist, was recently featured on the Guinness World Records TV Show and also worked a promotion at the Marriott Hotel in Hunt Valley, Md.

WALT KING and his elephants, plus PHILIP MORRIS, of Morris Costumes, received lots of publicity when the elephants arrived at the costume shop to be fitted for new blankets. Other animals being fitted were King's pony, llama and camel.

BABE WOODCOCK, mother of BUCKLES who is with the Ringling Blue Unit, has sold her home in Hugo, Okla. and moved to Ottumwa, Iowa, where she will live with two sisters and a niece. Babe and her sisters, NELLIE and GRACE, grew up on their folks show "Orton Bros. Circus." The town of Ortonville, Iowa, was named after their circus.

My Sincere Thanks

To all my dear friends, Brother and Sister Performers, Directors, Circus Fans, and Friends in many parts of the world.

THANK YOU ALL for the get well cards and lovely flowers, etc.

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He's Fined

A Provincial Court at Toronto, Ont., Canada, has found a circus promoter guilty of fraud charges. Gary Sanderson, of Toronto, was fined \$20,000 on Sept. 28th, with an option of two years in jail.

A spokesman for the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations said the circus promoter had operated in Toronto, Oshawa and Cambridge.

The circus reportedly was produced to raise money for service clubs. Phone calls were made to sell family tickets "to send underprivileged children to the circus." The spokesman, Larry Grossman, said "about 90% of the money collected never reached the service clubs, but instead was pocketed by the promoters."

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A Mix Up

Some 40 children were disappointed when they were unable to see the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit at the Seattle Center Coliseum last month, because of a ticket mix-up.

For the past four years, the Love Israel family has been taking children who can't afford a ticket to the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus at the Coliseum. The circus let them in free because the Love family, like the children, don't have much money.

When the religious family and about 40 children showed up for the 5 p.m. Sunday show, they were told tickets were not available. The group had originally planned to attend the circus on Friday night, but because of a mix-up decided to go on Sunday.

"There are some performers we know and they let us through another entrance," Serious Israel said. (the Love family members take a new first name and use Israel as a last name). "But the manager became really uptight," Serious said. "They told us if we didn't have the money, then we didn't get in."

Serious said that over the years the family has had

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a real nice relationship with the circus. We know some of the performers and they come to our place for breakfast. They have always managed to get some tickets for the children.

Some of the children had come from as far away as 50 miles, he added. "They were really disappointed. A lot of the performers were upset too," he added.

FLASH

The Nile Shrine Temple of Seattle, Wash., has announced they will return to a Shrine promoted Circus in 1979 and have signed a contract with Hubert Castle to produce the show on March 23 to 25th. The circus will be presented in the Seattle Center Coliseum.

NOTICE

LARRY JEFFRIES AND DON WOODS MUTUALLY ANNOUNCE THE SETTLEMENT OF THEIR PAST DIFFERENCES. THOSE DIFFERENCES RESULTED FROM A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION.

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TALENT

The program presented by the Royal Hanneford Circus at Knoxville, Tenn. (Oct. 6-8) featured:

Julie Ventura, slide for life; Circus overture; Star Wars opening; Princess Tajana, tigers; Pablo Rodriguez, aerial bars; Wally and Cheryl, wash gag; Baby Ina, Christina's Chimps, Sabu; Vince Carmen, magic; The Anthonys, comedy tables; The Olmedas, unicycles; Champagne web number with Lou Ann Jacobs; Les Blocks; Vero Vinito; the Dielkas Sisters; the Hanneford Family Riding Act; Irene, Tongo & Co., gorilla parody; The Wizard of Oz spec, featuring Nellie Hanneford as Dorothy.

After intermission came: Miss Elizabeth and Miss Deana, hair hangs; The Ventura Duo, aerial; The Olmeda's Spanish Horse Fantasy; Les Blocks, high wire; the Hanneford elephants; Mark Karoly, cannon act, Finale.

Miscellaneous

A circus fan arrived at Charlotte, N.C. to watch the King elephants as they were fitted for new show blankets and when he saw Philip Morris standing next to Walt King's camel, he remarked, "This is the first time I've seen a Philip Morris and a King Size Camel together."

ANOTHER CENTER RING ATTRACTION!

Yes, another all circus book, *American Circus Posters in Full Color*, by Chappie Fox. Not a lot of description here for the title says it all and words cannot adequately describe its outstanding color and all-around attractiveness. Just keep in mind it's by Chappie Fox so you know it's great. It's \$7.50 postage paid.

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Suit Filed

Actress Nanette Fabray, who was struck by an elephant while working on a film, has filed a suit in Los Angeles (Calif) Superior Court against the trainers and owners of the animals.

Miss Fabray, 58, was hospitalized with a severe concussion and back injuries after the Oct. 31, 1977, incident.

She was on location filming "Harper Valley PTA" when one of three elephants used in the scene struck her in the chest with his trunk and sent her tumbling backwards.

The suit filed by attorney Leo J. Biegenzahn claims the trainers and owners knew or should have known that the elephants, leased to April Productions, Inc., for the film, were "of vicious disposition and . . . were likely to attack and injure human beings."

Miscellaneous

The Budweiser Clydesdale team of horses recently made an appearance at the Warwick Mall, in Warwick, R. I.

PEOPLE

JEWELL NEW, Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit lion trainer, was featured in an article in the Denver Post (Colo) on Oct. 7th.

REX HORTON (bear act) visited Circus Vargas during that show's engagement in Oklahoma City.

JOE MYERS who clowned with Hix Bros. Circus reports that most people on the show received only a part of the money they had coming when the show folded. He and his wife spent the rest of the season with Roberts Bros. Circus.

STEPHANIE SHAW, of the Wallenda Circus, was featured in an article by MARK A. STUART in the Record, at Hackensack, NJ on Oct. 8th.

AUSTIN MILES, the show business chaplain, reports he plans to work as ringmaster for the Aut Mori Grotto Circus next year, which is held in March.

ALLEN BABCOCK, along with BILL and EDDIE BACKSTEIN visited the Carson & Barnes Circus on Oct. 4th, near Belleville, Ill.

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BAILEY MARKER

The program marking the dedication of the James Anthony Bailey historical marker at Detroit, Mich. was held at Cobo Hall on Oct. 7th, while the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit was playing there.

The event got underway with a cocktail party in the Banquet Room, which was decorated with circus posters and several floral pieces designed by CFA James Piehl.

The 6 p.m. dedication was held at the entrance to Cobo Hall, with comments by Jerry Roe, Michigan Historical Commission, Hudson Mead, past president, Michigan State Historical Society, and Irvin Feld, Ringling-Barnum Circus president.

The elephant "Nellie" directed by Gunther Gebel Williams handled the unveiling of the marker. Acceptance remarks were made by Charles Hagler, president, Michigan Historical Commission, Lt. Gov. Damman and Rep. Ernest Nash.

The dinner and program were presided over by the Honorable Peter B. Fletcher, with a prayer by Father J. Challancin. The group was officially welcomed by Jerry D. Roe, co-chairman of the James A. Bailey Society and Lt. Gov. James J. Damman. After the story of James A. Bailey was told by

Herman Brandmiller, immediate past president of the CFA, George DaDeppo, co-chairman of the James A. Bailey Society, introduced Irvin Feld who told about his experiences with the circus. Kenneth Feld also talked about the circus and its future plans such as the Monte Carlo Circus tour and the tented show that will tour in Australia.

Presentations were made to Mr. Feld by: Rick Simonson, administrative assistant to Sen. Donald Bishop, David Carpenter, Joel E. Warner Top CFA, and Jerry Roe. Mr. Feld also received a proclamation from Governor Milliken, presented by the Lt. Governor, and a Resolution from the House of Representatives, presented by Rep. Ernest Nash.

All members of the James A. Bailey Society received membership certificates and a commemorative coin. Following the program they attended the circus performance as a group.

Special acknowledgements go to: George DaDeppo, Bailey Society design work; Judge Dale Riker, decorations; James Piehl, floral decorations; Saralee Howard, Michigan Historical Commission, marker text; William Finan and Richard Zimmerman, Cobo Hall; Paul Howland, histories of Mr. Bailey and Mr. Feld; Rozanne Brown, Cobo Arena, and Nini Finklestein, Nat'l Press Rep., Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus.

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PRESENTS

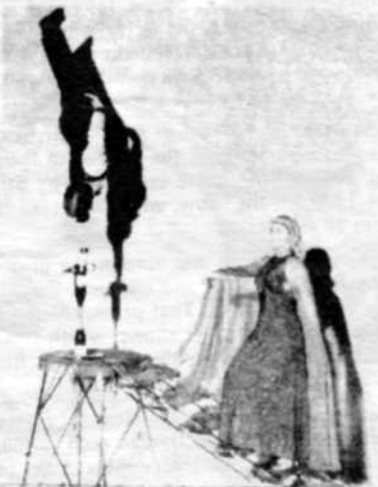
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Generally speaking folks tend to think of Madison Square Garden and the Ringling Circus as always having had a togetherness. However, it is frequently forgotten that other shows have played the Garden, many long before the Ringling Circus went there.

Madison Square Garden got its start in 1836 when the City Council of New York set aside 4½ acres of land at Broadway and 7th Avenue, as a park. It was named for James Madison, the fourth president of the United States, who had recently died.

The New York & Harlem Railroad used the park facilities to house their horses, later P. T. Barnum wintered his elephants there. Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show played an extended engagement in the park, even brought in a huge Minstrel type feature as an added attraction.

At one time the Forepaugh & Sells Circus called it home and even featured the Garden in their advertising. Special lithos were even made by Strobridge about 1900 for the show, which depicted the Garden in all its glory.

For years the Garden was used as the opening date for the Ringling Circus and one year Sells Floto Circus beat them to it. That prompted the Ringling purchase of several other shows, which eventually led to some financial problems for John Ringling, as a result of the depression.

Operating as a tent show the Ringling Circus always opened its season at the Garden each spring, then went on to play across the country under canvas. But when the "Big One" became an indoor show it continued to play the Garden, but but that date is no longer its opening engagement. Instead they open in Florida and the New York stand, though a long one, is just another stop on the route.

FLASH!

Bob Harrison, a program director with the Ringling Barnum Blue Unit, was injured along with four local citizens during the evening circus performance at Chicago on Oct. 18th. The injuries occurred when an elephant failed to make the turn at the end of the building and instead ran through a barricade and into a group of people.

PEOPLE

KRICKER JAMES will play the part of Barnum in a special Oct. 30th program at Worcester, Mass. The program, sponsored by the United Cerebral Palsy Association, is called "The Illustrious Return of P. T. Barnum".

WALLY LEE, STAN KRAMIEN and ORMAND McGILL, magicians, are working in the San Francisco/Oakland area during Halloween.

WAYLAND FLOWERS and his unusual puppets are appearing at the Sahara in Reno.

TINA LENERT, mime performer, DIANA, the Enchantress, magic, BERNIE BURNS, musical comedy and the DENNIS DONNEHEY DANCERS share the stage at Harrah's Tahoe Club in a review called "Sorcery '79" booked by BETTY KAYE, agent from Sacramento, Calif.

WES STALLINGS, ventriloquist, was featured at an evening service at the Calvary Presbyterian Church in Berkeley on Oct. 22nd.

The Garden has always been well known for its many sporting events, as well as such features as ice shows, political rallies and a host of other special events.

It is a focal point for entertainment and sports and to most people, at least in the East, it is and always will be "the center of the universe."



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Probably some of the most indelible memories that any adult carries with him from childhood are those of the world of entertainment—carnivals, fairs, plays, and novels. How clearly we remember the hyped-up atmosphere, the sawdust under our feet, the hot sun beating down on our heads, the "talkers" who made what lay mysteriously behind the curtain seem so irresistible that we had to give up a quarter to see the "Lobster Man" or a "Real Two-Headed Baby." Perhaps when we were a little older, we experienced the enchantment of plays and movies—a magical world more real than daily life.

Lou Dufour was one of the men who made these memories possible. *Fabulous Years*, written with Irwin Kirby, tells the story of his seventy-year career as a Coney Island hustler, traveling carnival owner, international showman, and Broadway and movie producer. He traveled in a world of people like himself, people with drive, guts, nerve, and a spirit of fun. He lived elegantly, exuberantly, and in this book he shares with his readers this spirit as well as some of his secrets for a long, happy, and thoroughly enjoyed life.

Fabulous Years makes delightful reading.

About the Author

Irwin Kirby is one of the most widely known personalities in the world of carnivals and fairs. Following a career on daily newspapers, he became a writer with *Billboard*, and for 24 years has been intimately identified with the outdoor amusement industry. Currently associate publisher of *Amusement Business*, for which he writes a weekly column of carnival humor, he resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a frequent speaker at seminars and conventions. A native of New York City, he has worked on newspapers in Bloomington, Indiana; Savannah, Georgia, and White Plains, New York. He holds memberships, both paid and honorary, in numerous show-business associations. Where other skilled reporters frequent the city pavements, Irwin Kirby for two dozen years has made himself at home on carnival roadways.

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Miscellaneous

The Great American Circus closed its 1979 tour at Cairo, Ga., on Oct. 25th, while the Hubert Castle Circus ended its current tour at Utica, N.Y. on Oct. 28th.

Ringling's Red Unit will complete its 1978 tour at Nashville, Tenn., on Nov. 19th, and the Blue Unit will close for the season at Nassau, N.Y., on Dec. 3rd.

Collectors and model builders will be interested in a new item appearing on the shelf in toy shops, hobby shops and other stores for the Holiday season.

A ½" scale model plastic kit of the Budweiser big Clydesdale team and wagon is now being marketed. The kit sells for about \$20.00 and consists of eight horses, all harness, a wagon, driver and dog.

Florida's Dade County Zoo has been negotiating with the S&H trading stamp firm about the purchase of three gorillas. They would like to obtain a male and two females for their new zoo.

Billy Barton (Continued)

Oscar Garza, Cuneo's wild animals and elephants, Carden-Johnson elephants, Cristiani's elephants, the Bale Sisters, Victor Julian, Rex Young (producing clown), Huberto, Dime and Connie Wilson, Joe Sherman, John MacKay, Fred Lavine and Chris Bricker, plus vocalist Ernie McLean and bandleader Al Youngman.

The Sells & Gray cookhouse was enroute to the Beatty show after its cookhouse burned, when the motor in the tractor burned out and finally the King cookhouse arrived.

NANCY GIORDANO, who appeared this season with Europorama, has had the steel rod in her leg and hip removed, and furnished me with this humorous account: "My doctor is a 'sourpuss', convinced that all aerialists are insane, so on the eve of my operation, with the stopper from a bottle of iodine, I drew lines across my rear where I wanted the incision. After all a girl must be careful of scars when she wears a bikini! They tell me hysteria erupted in O. R. No. 6 when the sheet was pulled back exposing my rear and Dr. Sourpuss FINALLY cracked a smile!"

See you down the road, luvs.

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RBBB's BLUE UNIT TRAIN

by Mike Sporrer

The following train order is the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit train as it arrived in Seattle, Wash., on Sept. 11 (9 a.m.) from Portland, Oregon, a run of 183 miles.

- 828 - Burlington Northern Motor Unit
- 800 - Burlington Northern Motor Unit
- 133 - Horses
- 132 - Horses
- 131 - Elephants
- 130 - Elephants
- 134 - Concession Supply and Laundry
(ex 148 - added in Oklahoma City)
- 135 - Concession Dept. and Ice Maker
- 136 - Shop Storage and Concession Dept.
- 137 - Animal Men
- 138 - Concession (aluminum car)
- 139 - Concession
- 140 - Performers (aluminum car)
- 141 - Foreign Work Men (Motor)
- 142 - Bulgarian
- 143 - Bulgarian
- 144 - Bulgarian
- 145 - Polish
- 146 - Polish

- 147 - Polish, Hungarian, Romanian
- 148 - Staff
- 149 - Performers - Show Girls and Clowns
- 150 - Performers - Show Girls and Clowns
- 151 - Pie Car
- 152 - American Work Men (Motor)
- 153 - Staff
- 154 - Woodcock and Williams
- 155 - Bobby Johnson and Bob MacDougall
- 156 - Charley Baumann and The Gaonas
- 157 - Baker Brown (Hickory Creek)

All wagon poles to engine -

- 120 - Flat Car (run car)
Green pick up
26 Rubber ring mats/arena cage
8 Clark
24 Aerial Rigging
38 Aerial Rigging
- 124 - Flat
52 Pie Car, Jr.
18 Wardrobe
15 Wardrobe
48 Spec Floats
16 Wardrobe and Office

- 123 - Flat
7 Clark

(Continued on Page 23)

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RBBB BLUE UNIT TRAIN (Continued)

- 30 Elephant and horse top poles/canvas
- 5 GMC Jimmy
- 22 Ring Stock Dept.
- 19 Elephant Dept.
- 122 - Flat
 - Clark (large)
 - 25 Ring curbs/flat rubber mats
 - 27 Wardrobe
 - Yellow bus
- 121 - Flat
 - Blazer
 - 50 Concession Dept.
 - 4 Meat Freezer truck
 - 51 Concession Dept.
- 127 - Tunnel Car
 - 14 cat cages
 - Bales Rocket
- 126 - Flat
 - 6 Clark
 - 23 Elephant Dept.
 - 28 Trunks
 - 46 Elvin Bales wheel (new logo)
 - 41 Wardrobe
- 125 - Flat
 - 17 Wardrobe

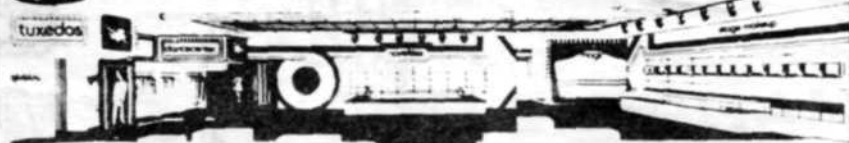
- 21 Wardrobe
- 20 Wardrobe
- 29 Clown Dept.
- Air Compressor
- 119 - Flat
 - Una Mug
 - 11 Shop (Old No. 43)
 - 42 Wardrobe
 - 37 Cat Props
 - 44 Spec Floats
 - Safari
- 128 - Tunnel Car
 - Spec Floats (9)
 - Generator (1)
 - 36 Elephant tubs
 - Wagon not lettered or numbered
- 129 - By-level car
 - Space for 5 cars
 - Cages (20)
 - 31 Cat props
- 10526 - Burlington Northern Caboose

The train make-up consists of: 8 Flat cars (119-126), 2 Tunnel cars (127-128), 1 By-level car (129), 4 stock cars (130-133), 1 Concession supply (134), 22 coaches (135-156), 1 Private car (157) - for a total of 39 cars.



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