



7th Year

April 31, 1978

Number 18

## MGM in Reno

Officials of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc., expect their new MGM Grand-Reno Hotel and Casino to be as successful as their Las Vegas operations. The new hotel facility in Reno opens this week (May 3) and it is located on 14.5 acres of land.

Frank E. Rosenfeld, MGM's president and chief executive office spoke about his confidence in the Reno operation at a recent meeting in Oakland, Calif. He explained that the Reno market is even more dynamic than Las Vegas and growing.

"Reno is currently in the throes of a building boom rivaling that which created the Las Vegas strip. There are now reportedly 10 hotel/casinos either under construction or planning major expansions in the Reno area.

"This activity will attract additional visitors to Reno and they will stay longer, since there will be more to see and do. Reno will achieve greater visibility, both nationally and internationally."

Even the airlines are acknowledging the importance of the Reno market, he said. In fact United Air Lines has received and put into operation its new, low-cost, high-frequency service to Reno from major California cities.

The two MGM hotel, together with MGM's

other operations, are expected to produce cash substantially in excess of the normal operating requirements of our businesses," he said. "This cash will be available for increased cash dividends, debt reduction and further corporate expansion."

The new hotel's casino will be the largest in the world, twice that of the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. The hotel has over 1,000 rooms on 26 stories and includes a 30 acre lake, and will provide employment for some 3,500 people;

## PEOPLE

**MIKE MARTIN** has joined King Bros. Circus for the 1978 tour where he will have the side show. Featured acts will include: El Charro, the fire eater; Serpentina, giant snakes; Miss Electra, Electric girl; Elastasia, the plastic princess; London Punch & Judy show; Prof. Marvel, magician, plus the animals and elephants.

**SIMONE FINNER** reports she caught Carden-Johnson, Hoxie Bros., Kool Aid, Hubert Castle, Voorheis Bros., Paul Kaye, Hamid-Morton, Circus Vargas and the Circus World Park, plus the Harlem Globetrotters, all within a two week period.

**LARRY RICH**, clown, has set fair dates in the Chicago area for the last week of August and is now looking to book open time after Labor Day.

## IN MEMORIAM

**V. F. GRANT** (77) inventor and supplier of magic tricks and apparatus for over 60 years, died at his home in Columbus, Ohio, on Mar. 1st. He was a close friend of all the well-known magicians and his magic shop was one of the largest in the world. The business will be continued by his daughter and son, and is called "Mak-Magic Co."

Survivors include his wife, Delores, daughter, Mary Ann King and son Joseph T.

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## MAILBAG

In the 'Pot-Pourri' section of your April 3rd issue of Circus Report it was reported "The Karinas Comedy Trampoline act will not play the All American Circus in West Orange reports agent Rose Adair."

This notation intimates that one cancelled on the other. I have been questioned as to the meaning of this report.

Please note in your next issue that we were never submitted for the date. I have never worked for the Rose Adair Agency and as of this writing, she has no authority to submit us for work.

Sincerely,

Karin Davis

Karinas Trampoline Act

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Saturday Evening, May 13, 1978

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GUEST SPEAKER — JOHN HERRIOTT

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John Boyle, c/o Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wisc. 53913

## Graduates

Graduation exercises were held at the Mid-West Clown College on April 10th, with the following people receiving a "Bachelor of Arts in Clownology."

Barbara Brasel (Tyke); Jan Brennan (Gunder-son); Ginny Brown (Cricket); Pamela Caldwell (Strawberry); Joan Chanclor (Toot-Toot); Rena Chengary (Snookie); Sharon Couch (Spunky); Ruth Dorta (Bee-Bop); Ronald Eckberg (Biker); Sr. Carol Goettl (Buttons); Leonard Isemonger (Dimples); Raymond Kisiel (Crisco); Iranaeus Kowalski (Icky-Ikey); Robert Lawrence (Peppermint); Joan Melnyk (Lemnyk); Sharon Smith (Sweetheart); Frank Payette (Francie); Mary Payette (Sha-Boom); Michael Puttkammer (Doctor Fumbles); Leonard Roll III (Bubbles); Samuel Soviensi (Gopher); Kathy Sullivan (Navillus); Sylvester Sullivan (Corky) and Eugene Ullrich (Circles).

## PEOPLE

TOM UPTON visited the Big John Strong Circus at several of the show's California Valley engagements this month.

JOHN OWEN has joined Famous Hunt Circus for the 1978 season. He will be in charge of the big top canvas.

MANUEL KING has reportedly joined the Davenport World Wide Jungle Circus, where he is operating a pit show and Moon Bounce on the show's midway.

## New Firm

The creation of a new corporation — Five Star Productions — was recently announced in Florida by Bob Dover, who spent some 32 years with the Ringling-Barnum Circus. The new organization, according to Dover, will not be backed by Ringling or by Mattel Toys, but he declined to name the people involved in the new business venture, which will include staging and marketing variety shows, ice productions and circuses.

Three companies will be set-up under the new corporation. One will be based in Venice, Fla., and is to be called "Bob Dover Productions" which will handle various productions. Another company will operate out of Westport, Conn. and will handle advertising, while the third firm will be based in Greenville, S.C., and is to handle promotions.

Five Star Productions will mean many jobs for American show people, Dover said. The offices of his operation will be in Venice, because "the circus belongs in Sarasota County."

Following the announcement Dover went to Miami, New York, Chicago and Wichita, visiting ice shows and circuses, enroute to California for business conferences.

He said that earlier in the year Five Star Productions had made an offer to buy Circus Vargas but the deal was turned down. That circus, he added, has the reputation as being the largest and best circus in the country under canvas.

# Show Dates

Clyde Beatty-Cole Br. Circus  
May 1-3 Lebanon, Pa.

Big John Strong Circus  
May 1 Monterey, Calif.  
2 Salinas  
3 Holister  
4 King City  
5 Pismo Beach  
6 San Luis Obispo  
7 Morro Bay

California Circus  
May 1 Richmond, Calif.  
5-6 Pleasanton

Carson & Barnes Circus  
May 1 El Reno, Okla.  
2 Moore  
3 Blackwell  
4 Wellington, Kans.  
5 Independence  
6 Chanute  
7 Emporia

Hubert Castle Circus  
May 3 Estevan Sask.  
4-7 Saskatoon  
6-13 Winnipeg, Mant.

Circus Vargas  
May Visalia, Calif.

Famous Hunt Circus  
May 5-6 Coatsville, Pa.

Great American Circus  
May 1 Williamston, N.C.  
2 Simsonville, S.C.  
3 Gaffrey  
4 Lancaster  
5 Monroe, N.C.  
6 Bennetsville, S.C.

Hamid-Morton Circus  
May 3-7 Boston, Mass.

Pickle Family Circus  
May 6-7 San Francisco, Cal.

Sam T. Polack Circus  
May 4-7 Toledo, Ohio

Police Circus  
May 7-9 Victoria, B.C.

Roberts Bros. Circus  
May 1 Weber City, Va.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
May 1 Washington, DC  
2 Baltimore, Md.  
3 Springfield, Ohio  
4-5 Dayton

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

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
May 2-9 New Haven, Conn.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
May 1-6 Humboldt, Tenn.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
May 1-6 Macomb, Ill.

Do It Yourself Show  
May 3-7 San Diego, Calif.

James H. Drew Shows  
May 1-6 Burlington, N.C.

Fred, the Cockatoo  
May 3-7 Mankato, Minn.

Doug Henning Show (Magic)  
May 2-3 Buffalo, N. Y.  
4 Erie, Pa.  
5-6 Pittsburgh  
7 Akron, Ohio

Ice Capades  
to May 7 Los Angeles, Cal.

Ice Follies  
to May 7 Seattle, Wash.

Kaye Hollywood Elephants  
to May 14 Circus California  
Enroute California

Los Latinos - Wire Act  
May 5-17 Philadelphia, Pa.

Victor, the Rasslin' Bear  
May 4-7 Sandusky, Ohio



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**CIRCUS GIRARD**, the new tenter produced by Gerard Soules, bows June 1st in Minnesota. A run of 14 weeks is planned in medium sized shopping centers under a red and white big top with seating for 600. **BILLY McCABE** will clown on the show, along with several others. Gerard is breaking two chimps which will be in the program along with his famed dog act, for many years a feature on ice shows. Music will be on tape.

**CIRQUE GATINI's** No. 1 Unit goes to Newfoundland for a reported lengthy run - more than half of its 18 week, 3 day tour, so I am told. The new unit, formed this season, will play the Quebec territory visited by the first unit last season. **GARY HENRY** will have a snake show on the No. 1 Unit, and his parents will also be on the show. Slated for a Gatini unit as well are **MIKE** and **PATTI WUDTKE**.

**OVER-RIDING** objections of Radio City Music Hall's management the city Landmarks Preservation Commission designated the showplace as an "interior landmark" and thus will not permit it's being leveled for use as a parking lot. Radio City closed its doors April 12th, removing from the entertainment scene, America's largest indoor theatre. More than 100,000 signatures were presented to the Landmarks Preservation Committee requesting that the Art Deco Entertainment Palace be preserved.

**PAUL V. KAYE** is producing a number of "Spectaculars" for General Motors. The Hollywood producer intimated that he **WILL** go to Japan this fall. **JOE LEMKE** received some splashy publicity in the Birmingham (Ala) News when a local woman, **MAMIE DYKE**, was tagged a "Monkey's Aunt" by the newspaper.

**BOUQUETS:** To Organist **LEE MALONEY** - a first rate, highly competent musician, who reads well, cuts cues like a knife, is extremely cooperative and works diligently for each and every act. Moreover he has a jolly personality, a sense of humor, and is great fun to be around. To the **FLYING LUNAS**, a new flying act with a leaper who catches the triple every show, even on opening day on an extremely sloppy rigging.

**SNAPSHOTS:** **EVY KAROLY** purchased a 22 acre ranch near Lake City (Fla) and intends to stay off the road - at least while young Mark is with the Hanneford Circus. **INGE WILLIAMS** is with Carden-Johnson for the season. **The TORREANIS** are with Showtime Follies, caught recently by **BILLY** and **BONNIE EARL**, who tell me that **SAMPION** and **MARIE FRANCE** are not with the show as was re-

ported earlier. Also visiting the Follies was **BONNIE BONTA** whose son is on the show. Bonnie goes to Canada to tour with the **MARTIN & DOWNS Circus** (a Canadian tenter). **MYNA MOON** is not with the Gatti show, but is playing with **TNT Olympic**.

**FLOYD KING's** daughter, Linda, is working in the office of the Peach State Fairgrounds in Macon. **JIMMIE COLE** was injured when a piece of rigging fell as it was being hung, struck the veteran showman on the head, resulting in a deep gash. Jimmie is OK now, back in Florida, resting up after his long, winter School Show tour. **BILLY EARL** bought **BONNIE** a "Big Egg" for Easter, a 31 ft Airstream. **HINES RUCKER** of Int'l All Star flew north to catch Nordmark's Magic Opus. **and GRACE MacINTOSH** and **CHUCK MARINE** visited the Harold Voise show in Lansing. Several reports, unverified, have caused me to believe that **GEORGE HANNEFORD, Jr.**, is very seriously ill. **JIM DOUGLASS** keeps adding to his collection of antique musical pieces (pipe organs, calliopes, player pianos, etc) for which he has very major (and very secret) plans.

**SANDY DOBRITCH** set the **MARQUIS CHIMPS** on the **CHUCK BARRIS Rah Rah Show** which seems to be turning into the Ed Sullivan and Hollywood Palace show of this decade. It certainly is the only honest-to-goodness variety program on the air and is as good as the Gong Show is bad. **SANDY** has the New Orleans date again in 1979, is also returning to Wheaton (Ill) and Wayne (Mich) and has picked up another major Police date for next season. Meanwhile his show at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg (Va) is very successful. **LILLI KRISTENSEN's** black panther is doing a unique 'corvette'. The sleek animal sits up perfectly motionless, then leaps, to sit again. **HOXIE TUCKER** bought a third bull to add to his big show herd, having lost sue. **LARRY KENT** and family expect to travel for two weeks with the Hoxie show this summer. **Due** to bad weather affecting his promotion, **ED MIGLEY** has switched his Providence date from May to mid-June.

**LEE MALONEY** described the wild birthday gift he gave **GEE GEE** last season, which he carted to Canada and retained for months before he gave it to her. The gift was certainly original and all I've got to say is **Gee Gee** must have the wildest bathroom on tour! **KAREN** and **HAPPY DAVIS** will play fairs for Gastoni again this season. **CHARLIE** Van Buskirk did the **Maine dates**, along with **Lilli Ana**. **The VAS-QUEZ Flyers** made Wichita for Paul V. Kaye (who told me that city finally built a large new building).

(Continued on Page 16)

## PEOPLE

RON WHITFIELD is featured in an article in "Motorland" magazine (March-April issue). The item is called "They Talk With Animals at Marine World-Africa USA".

DON WASHBURN and PHIL SHEAR, clowns, visited the Aden W. Lowrys while enroute to join the Carden-Johnson Circus at Hutchinson, Kansas.

CLAYTON MOORE (The Lone Ranger) has filed a law suit against the Wrather Corp., for what he claims was the unauthorized use of his pictures

## IN MEMORIAM

FRANK RYKEN (88) an old time song and dance man, died at Albany, Calif., on April 14. He and his late wife Mabel, were active in a variety of show business activities and he was featured each year in the Old Time Vaudeville Club's shows in Oakland (Calif.). Survivors include four sons and a daughter.

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## PEOPLE

VICTOR and LINDA FLORES recently purchased an African lion act from Safari Park in San Antonio (Texas) and are now touring with Bates Bros. Int'l Circus in Canada.

THE WHEELERS, musical comedy act, have been signed to work at the Los Banos Fair in California (3rd consecutive year) this May and they will also play some circus dates on the coast and in the mid-west.

PEGGY WILLIAMS "The First Lady" of Clown Alley on Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit, rode her 10 speed bike from Charleston, W. Va., to Huntington, W. Va. on April 6th.

This ride of 50 miles was on behalf of the Easter Seal Campaign, with Peggy taking pledges from the show personnel on a per mile basis, raising \$400 with the main office in Washington, DC matching this, for a total of \$800.

Peggy left the siding at Charleston as the train was made up, at 4 a.m. and arrived in Huntington at the time the train was being spotted, some five and a half hours later. She crossed Coal Mountain with most of the road being good.

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**CENTER RING**

by Joey Jordan

As objects stream across a sky  
of color and illusion,  
And more of them are sent to fly  
to greaten the illusion,

Silent, other inanimate objects stand,  
waiting, in utter peace, for their master,  
To spin upon his careless hand  
and blur as they glide faster,

At war against no enemy,  
To dance into a peaceful rage,  
To defy the laws of gravity,  
and live a dream upon a stage,

To bring to life small golden spheres  
and simply set them free,  
This brings upon a thousand cheers:  
To dare imposs-i-bil-ity,

To show the world the art you've learned,  
and feel happiness in giving,  
To hear the cheers that you have earned,  
that prove there's more to life;  
than living,

**Aerialist Hurt**

Sandor Franko, who works with his brother, Kornell, in a cradle act, with the Ringling-Barnum Circus Red Unit, was injured when he fell 14 feet during a circus performance at Rochester, N. Y., on April 12th.

It's sometimes tough to understand  
as flaming sticks of fire,  
Dare to near their master's hand;  
And prove logic as a liar,

To sweat and yet control with grace,  
And seems to always chance,  
To laugh at danger in the face,  
as the torches speed their dance,

Mystically hoops become living dreams  
and truth gives into lie,  
Center ring, still alone it seems;  
Beneath a spotlight sky,

The care to keep these spheres above,  
And the skill to set them free,  
Somehow fills one's live with love;  
As God wanted life to be.

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## From Florida

The Tampa Bay Area (Fla) has been a dream for a fan of the circus, or any circus goer who enjoys a good performance. This winter season America's biggest and best shows made their way through the Bay Area.

It all began in Nov. 1977 when the first show rolled in, which was King Bros. Cole Combined Circus. Sponsored by the Tampa Jaycees, the show set up on a nice smooth, grassy parking lot adjacent to Al Lopez Field and the Tampa Stadium. The show played a two day stand (Nov. 5-6) giving three performances, two on Saturday and one Sunday.

Following the King show, in the same month, Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. made a visit to Tampa with a four day stand (Nov. 24-27). The circus put up its tents at the Eastlake Square Mall, on the parking lot.

December brought the Chinese Circus Revue, which appeared at the Tampa Theatre, downtown. One show was given daily, Dec. 21-25, and that wound up the year of '77.

The new year started out just as exciting for circus goers, for the first big time show to hit the area in '78 was Circus Vargas, playing at Tampa's University Square Mall (Jan. 205). In all seven performances were offered.

At the same time, just across the bay, Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit started its tour, playing at the Bayfront Center arena in St. Petersburg. It was here that the TV special was taped. A total

## Miscellaneous

RBBB drew 92,981 people for its 12 performances at Norfolk (Va) this year (Feb. 28-Mar 5), as compared to 64,175 people for 14 performances last year (Feb. 23-Mar. 1).

of 14 performances were presented.

Later that month, in the same area, between St. Petersburg and Clearwater, the tented Great Ron Morris Circus played a two day stand (Jan. 15-16) then moved a short distance to Seminole for Jan. 17-18. Their big top and equipment had been leased from Hoxie Bros.

Going back across the bay and passing Tampa, the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit opened its '78 tour at the Lakeland Civic Center (Feb. 3-5), and in the same city the George Hanneford Family Circus played at the local fair, the week ending Feb. 11th.

Other shows due into the Tampa Bay Area are: Carden-Johnson at St. Petersburg (Mar. 29-30), then to Tampa's Curtis Hixon Hall for Mar. 31-Apr. 2; This event will be the 13th annual Egypt Temple Shrine Circus date, with five shows.

At the same time as the Shrine Circus run the Florida State Fair will be operating - Mar. 29-April 9, which will have its own circus produced by Eddie Zacchini. The show is called the Kool Aid Circus, sponsored by K-A, Inc. And the mammoth Royal American Shows are on the midway in Tampa.

... "Circus Joe" Valenciano

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1 9 7 8

March 31st thru April 2nd - Dobritch Circus - New Orleans, La.

April 6th thru 9th - Kaye/Midian Shrine Circus - Wichita, Kansas

April 17th thru May 14th - Circus California - Enroute California

May 15th thru 26th - Bentley Brothers Circus - Enroute California

May 27th thru June 8th - O P E N

June 9th thru 14th - Carden-Johnson/Shrine Circus - Denver, Colo.

June 15th thru 21st - O P E N

June 22nd thru 25th - Dobritch Circus - Wheaton, Illinois

June 26th thru August 9th - O P E N

August 10th thru 20th - Wisconsin State Fair - Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August 26th thru September 4th - Colorado State Fair - Pueblo, Colo.

September 5th onward - O P E N

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## School Show

Oak View Elementary School in Fairfax, Va., held its 10th annual physical education show in nearby Robinson Secondary School field-house on Wednesday, March 29th.

Six hundred students under the direction of physical education teachers Jim Moyer and Cheryl Thompson performed before an audience of 3,000 spectators.

The program consisted of tumbling, gymnastics, parachute dancing, rola bola, low tight wire, unicycling, German gym wheel, rolling globe, juggling, pyramids, plate and rope spinning, circus bicycle and rhythmical exercises.

## PEOPLE

MIKE SPORRER writes that ABC-TV will present the "Swedish Royal Command Circus" on Sunday, May 21st 7 to 8 p.m. HAL LINDEN is the TV host.

JOHN LIBERTY (Fumbles, the Clown) has been busy working school dates as well as several store 'Grand Openings' in Michigan.

## WANTED

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Send Photo, Work Record and Salary requirements to:

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus  
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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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ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$25.00

SHOW ORGANIST - Helen Wilson - Have own organ, Member AFM. - P. O. Box 1167, Concord, N.C. - (704) 786-4563.



Ringling Bros. Circus has taken delivery of several new railroad cars, at their Venice (Fla) winter quarters, and work is now underway, converting them to circus use.

Former New York Central pullman car 'Port Byron' is being converted to a laundry car for use on the Blue Unit. Another car, the 'Pond Point' (formerly with the Long Island railroad) is being made into a workmen's sleeper, with a diesel power generator (for the train) mounted in one end. Three other cars are in quarters, awaiting a decision on usage and unit assignment. They are 'Indian Scout' from the Santa Fe; the 'Monument Beach' from the New Haven RR, and 'Port of Buffalo' from the New York Central.

Other recent additions include a \$60,000 Kenmore semi-tractor for Sells Floto Corp. (the wholly owned subsidiary which operates the Ringling concessions), and a GMC Blazer all-purpose vehicle.

Charley Baumann's tiger 'Kismet', died recently in winter quarters. She was 17 years old and was the cat whom Baumann would kiss at the end of his cage act. She had only one eye and was very loveable and quite tame.

Crowds have been good and reviews excellent as the summer '78 season approaches at the Ringling-owned 'Circus World' near Disney World.

Ursula Bottcher has her polar bear act at 'Circus World', joined by the Axel Gautier elephants. An outdoor aerial rigging has been installed, and a 3-times-a-day parade now is scheduled, complete with marching bands, floats pulled by elephants and pretty girls. The new roller coaster is also scheduled for a June 1st opening, joining the 'Zoomerang', which is now almost a year old.

..... Larry Kent

Last week's 'People' magazine (the one with Pat Boone on the cover) has a story and several photos on Buckles and Barbara Woodcock, of the RBBB Blue Unit.

## THAT BILL.....

California Assembly Bill No. 2840, introduced in Sacramento (Calif.) by Assemblyman Henry Mello on March 13, 1978 reads as follows:

An act to add Section 3005.9 to the Fish and Game Code, relating to mammals.

Section 1 - Section 3005.9 is added to the Fish and Game Code to read:

3005.9 - It is unlawful to possess, or confine any live cat (familia felidae), except house cats, (Felis domesticus). Any cat possessed or confined in violation of this section shall be seized by the department.

The commission may promulgate regulations permitting the temporary confinement of cats, other than house cats, for the purpose of treating them, if injured or diseased, or for utilization in the production of motion pictures.

The following institutions, as defined, are exempt from the provisions of this section:

1 - Zoos or similar organizations which exhibit animals to the general public at regular specified hours, equaling at least 30 hours a week for 36 weeks a year, and whose animals, whether maintained for exhibit purposes or not, are not for sale to private individuals;

2 - Scientific institutions, including universities, colleges, governmental research agencies, and others, as determined by the department, engaging in scientific or public health research;

3 - Veterinary clinics and similar institutions, as determined by the department.

Subsection (a) of this section shall not prohibit the possession or confinement of any cat by a person who had lawful possession of such cat on January 1, 1979, pursuant to a permit issued by the department under Section 2150.

Progeny of cats exempted by this subsection shall, upon weaning, be released out of captivity into habitat native to the species or donated to a zoo or scientific institution as defined pursuant to regulations of the commission.

It shall be the responsibility of the adult female cat owners to comply with this provision, and no expense shall be borne by the State of California.

This section shall become operative on January 1, 1980.



The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has aimed its guns at the Ringling-Barnum Circus (Blue Unit) currently appearing in Madison Square Garden, in New York City. The Society says the seven circus children, all of whom are under 16 years of age, are doing work which is dangerous and harmful to their well-being and that the state law forbids it.

In an effort to prohibit the youngsters from working in the circus, the Society has taken their charges to court. Supreme Court Justice Hyman Korn is listening to arguments from both sides.

Among those performers that the Society does not want to see performing are:

Julio Farias (14), his sister Carmelina (9) and brother Tata (6). They all work in the family flying act, where their father is the catcher. Julio, at the age of 10, became the youngest flier ever to perform a triple somersault.

Also named was Pinky Bale (9), daughter of the show's daredevil performer Elvin and whose mother has a horse act. She has been in the circus since she was three and is a bareback rider.

The others are Shannon Woodcock (7) and his sister Delilah (6) who, along with their cousin Shane Williams (7), appear in the elephant acts, which are directed by their parents, Buckles and Barbara Woodcock.

"These children would be very hurt if they are forbidden to ride here," says Woodcock. "They have been looking forward to being here, and they think New York City loves them. They don't understand about courts. They would only believe that the people of New York don't care for them."

Section 2 - Notwithstanding Section 2231 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, there shall be no reimbursement pursuant to that section nor shall there be any appropriation made by this act because the Legislature recognizes that during any legislative session a variety of changes to laws relating to crimes and infractions may cause both increased and decreased costs to local government entities and school districts which, in the aggregate, do not result in significant identifiable cost changes.

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**Show Program**

The Kaye Continental Circus, produced by Paul V. Kaye, produced the circus program for the annual Midian Temple Shrine Circus at Wichita (Kans) April 6-9. Featured on that program were:

Blinko & Maran, Balloon-A-Rama; Circus On Parade, spec; Najean, trapeze; Ruth, trapeze; and four Loop-the-Loops; Pat Anthony, wild animals; The Pharoahs and The Kneisleys, aerial cradles; Baby Judy, elephant; JoAnn and Donald, horses; Baby Dolly, elephant; Mdme. Ruth Ann, sponge plunge; Andy & Andy, teeterboard; Vino Venito, sword balance; The Neil Troupe, trampoline; Anderson's Liberty horses; Philipe, Juan and Venicio, head balance trapeze stars; Sebestyen's Poodles; Johnny Luxem's Wheel of Destiny; The Five Flying Vazquez; The Kaye Hollywood Elephants; Harold Alzana on the high wire; Norbu, the almost human gorilla; The Quassars, aerial space ship; Salute to the Stars and Stripes Finale.

The show's staff included: Paul V. Kaye, executive producer and director; Norbert Kreisch, production coordinator; John E. Day, ring master/announcer; Jack Cervone, musical director;

**Hubler Date**

The 10th annual Mohassan Grotto-Circus was held April 8-9 at Rock Island, Ill. The show was produced by George Hubler, with Karen Davis serving as MC. Music was directed by Richard Roseo; clowns were Fred Lange and family; prop boss was Curt Mammel and the show manager was Happy Davis.

Acts on the program included: Lilli-Ana's leopards; Aerialetta; Edwardo, cyclists; Ethel's Greyhounds; Paulette Braun; Karinas, trampoline; Miss Evelyn "Girl in the Moon"; Le Gran Robert, cloud swing; Rose Marie; Sir Chadwick Chase and his Rolls Rotten; Jo Ann and Sunny seal act and the Sensational Swaying Stars.

..... Karin S. Davis

Ernie Burch, producing clown; Trudy Strong, aerial ballet director; James DeWine, electrician Rick DeWine, electrician; William Bannister, rigging and prop boss; Donna Mitchell, wardrobe and Dr. N. Kahanovitz, company physician.

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## Births

Leo and Klara Mascitto are the parents of a baby boy - Joseph Michael - born on March 3rd. The newcomer weighed in at 7 lbs, 9½ oz.

Tino and Olinka Zoppe are the parents of a baby girl - Andrea Zaira - born on Feb. 27th. The youngster weighed 7 lbs, 9 oz.

Vasek and Kathy Scheich are the parents of a baby boy - Vaclav William - born on March 23. The new arrival weighed 9 lbs, 5 oz.

Tim and Linda Holst are the parents of a baby girl - Megan Michelle - born on Jan. 17th.

## Fair Acts

A free circus was just one of many attractions offered at the Putnam County Fair, at East Palatka, Fla., during its April 17-22 run. Called "Superstar Circus" the shows were presented at 8 and 10 p.m. the last three days of the fair.

Acts featured in the circus program were: Sir Andrew, wire walker; Connie's leopards; Alberto & Rosita, plate spinning; The Almiros, juggling; Larry Rich, clown and Bob Top and Edna, roller skating act.



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AVAILABLE MAY and JUNE

## CLOWNS

Clowns appearing with the Paul V. Kaye Circus at Wichita, Kansas, included: Ernie Burch, Ed Ball, Tim Hill, Neil Kay, Fred Levine, Ken Miller, Claude Schmidt and Bill Vaughn.

### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

...and M&M's Plymouth (Mich) date, a first for the show was A-okay. . . Organist STANLEY FRIEDBURG will tour with Famous Hunt.

Crossing the bridge into Cincinnati, DAVID CHABIRA noticed the RBBB Blue Train, promptly pulled off to the yards and parked to visit friends. As he was visiting the train began to move, but, David, thinking the cars were only being shifted, went on gabbing. Suddenly he found himself clear across the city, had to taxi back to his parked car.

Some months ago I called the Vargas promotion office in Texas to check out a story on their office trailer buring down. The promoter who answered didn't seem to know anything about the fire. "Wait a minute," he said. "I'm looking at some tickets which are charred so . . . I guess it did!" And THAT, my friends, is how one tries to get a story.

See you down the road, luvs.

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THE TWO by Irving and Amy Wallace. Published by Simon & Schuster. The book contains 335 pages, with many photos and sells for \$10.95.

The authors have provided an excellent study of Chang and Eng, who were extraordinary human beings who were joined together for all of their lives.

This is the story of the two men and the adjustments that had to be made since the world looked on them as freaks. Most of the adjustments, according to the book, had to be made by the world because, as they grew up, the twins never really saw any serious problems in their union. It was Chang and Eng who put "Siamese Twins" in the vocabulary, having been born in Siam and joined together at the abdomen by a thick cartilage-like band.

They could run like ordinary children, swim, do acrobatics and when they grew up, get married and sire 21 children in all.

They had a quick sense of humor and enjoyed life, suffering the plight of being less than one foot from the other only in the latter part of their life when they wanted to spend more time alone with their families.

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**TV SPOT**

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, West Coast theatrical agency specializing in circus and novelty acts, for network television programs.

Scheduled to be seen throughout the country in May are: John Baldwin's Charming Chimps on "The Jim Nabors Show"; Ioni, the incredible acrobatic doll, and Les Quatres Illes Rose-ttis, French comedy acrobatic act on the 'Merv Griffin Show'; Les Romanos, French bicycle trio on "Chuck Barris Rah-Rah Show" and The Great Tomsoni & Co., Poland's Finest Magician on the "Donny and Marie Show."



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# SAWDUST TRAIL

The most often written about ringmaster in America today seems to be Al Dawley. Al who makes his home in Sarasota, Fla., has been featured in every newspaper that this reporter has seen from cities in which he works. He appeared on the front page of the Pine Bluff Commercial (Ark), at Louisville (Ky) there were two stories, at Canton (Oh) he was acclaimed by the media as the outstanding ringmaster, who made the show move smoothly, while at Wilkes-Barre (Pa) he was featured in a story about the late Karl Wallenda, which mentioned his work in the TV film "The Wallenda Story". He is hard-working and a skilled ringmaster, and is reminding of the days of yore when ringmasters had great booming voices.

Word has it that Mel and B. K. Silverlake opened a one ring circus on April 16th somewhere in upper Oklahoma. Fans will remember Mel as being the owner of Fisher Bros. prior to its being sold to Johnny Frazier. Earlier this year Mel was with the World Wide Jungle Circus.

In a report from Utah, Ken Benson writes that World Wide Jungle Circus is still drawing good crowds and that people are spending money. A new semi tractor has been added for the big top poles.

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. has a big new top, it is 150x300 and is blue and white, made by the Leaf people in Florida. Meanwhile Carson & Barnes has a orange and blue top - thanks to Tex Dreyfus for the photos of top and bulls.

Apparently Arnold Maley, long-time circus man is staying at home this season. For years he has been on Beatty-Cole and saying "this is

## IN MEMORIAM

W. B. (Bill) MYLER (86), former carnival and circus talker and show operator, died on Mar. 10th at Aransas Pass, Texas. He toured with Russell Bros., Yankee Robinson, Robbins Bros. and other shows and at one time toured his own girl show, playing fair dates. Survivors include his wife, Anna and a daughter.

my last year" only to return each year. He will be missed by those of us who visit the show along its tour, for he always kept the welcome mat out.

The Arthur Stones (Bea and Art) CFA's from Ruston, La. and now clowns in the circus world were the object of a recent article in Gritt (Mar. 19). Art retired as a drama professor and Bea was an RN.

Earl Allen, CFA'r of Sikeston, Mo., was the subject of a story in recent news reports, about his friendship with the late Karl Wallenda. Earl who is 83 next month, hears regularly from several old-time circus friends, from throughout the country. This writer is indebted to him for his many newsy letters and comments.

Tom Phelps, known as Happy the Clown, is working dates for Eddie Zacchini. Eddie reports he has almost 16 fairs set to work with the Kool Aid Circus, plus his regular Shrine show dates.

It is with regret that this writer noted that Ted and Lisa Stewart are retiring from the business. I remember them from the George Matthews Circus and other shows and they just don't come any finer.

.....M. L. DUPONT

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**FABULOUS YEARS**

by Lou Dufour with Irwin Kirby

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 midways.

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