



6th Year

October 31, 1977

Number 44

BENTLEY BOWS

Bentley Bros. Circus made its debut at Johnstown (Pa) on Oct. 1-2 — the original August dates were cancelled because of the flood in that city — and was a resounding success. Box office and concession business was excellent.

The July flood had knocked out the boiler in the War Memorial building. As a result the building was cold and damp, compounded by chilly, rainy weather, neither of which deterred Johnstownians who turned out in droves; nor was the enthusiasm dampened for the Firemen sponsors who had nothing but praise for the circus and the strong clean promotion handled by M. Charles Promotions, Inc.

So favorable, in fact, was Johnstown's reaction to the circus that Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancey, co-owners/producers, signed the date back for two years, with the signing taking place between the second and third performance on the opening day.

Immediately after the date, Bentley and Clancey, enplaned to the west coast for a ser-

ies of Christmas show setups and a round of important business meetings pertaining to next season's route which will run at least 12 weeks, opening in California and extending deep into the east.

TV coverage was liberal, focusing on Vaclav Scheich (Vashek) who had performed a benefit on July 30th to aid the flood victims.

(Continued on Page 14)

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It's Cold

Until October 23rd, and since its return to the U. S., Circus Vargas has been huddled against a cold Autumn, compounded by gusting winds and heavy rains. Because of an extended Canadian tour and sell-out commitments in Wilmington (Del.) and Haverford (Pa.) the giant tent was compelled to linger overlong in the northern climes.

Business for the most part has been very good with turnaways recorded at Hicksville (L.I.) and at Yonkers (NY). Only Alexandria (Va.) came up a clinker, with two of the worst days (Thursday and Friday, Oct. 13 and 14) ever recorded in Circus Vargas history. The weekend picked up considerably with sunshine on Saturday, but was clobbered again for the third show on Sunday when, due to high winds, Vargas cancelled the performance mid-way, issuing rain checks. All rigging was immediately dismantled, the generator was left running through the night and security guards were placed inside the big top to sound an alert in the event of increasing wind velocity. At mid-day on Monday, the winds worsened and Circus Vargas was torn down and loaded.

The Vargas office has a direct line to weather stations in each city which Cliff says has saved his big top countless times.

Winds were so fierce across Canada the big top was "peaked" 22 times. So efficient has cast and crew become at "peaking", the entire operation can be handled in 10 minutes.

During the crisis on Sunday, Oct. 16th, one performer greeted this reporter by saying: "Hi, welcome to the fire drill!"

..... Billy Barton



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SHOW FOLKS

Circus Carol, sponsored by the Marin County Deputy Sheriff's Association, offered five performances at the Miller Creek School Grounds (Calif.) on Oct. 15-16.

The program featured: Spec "Mother Goose Land"; Bryan McMillan, tiger riding horse; Chris Christian, tight rope; Clowns; Miss Ironberg, dogs; Miss Roberta, slide for life; Hans & Hans, balancing; Clowns; Miss Loni, high school horse; Jeffrie's Performing Seals; John and Mike in the Death Walk on the high wire; Gary Johnson's elephants; Clowns; Anita Desmini, rolling globe; Western Paradox, whips and rope spinning; The Winn Troupe, aerial motorcycle.

The announcing chores were handled by Miss Carol. Clown Alley included: "Clown Soup" - Mesha T. Clown and Wheatstraw, plus Greg Dean and Mike Davis.

PEOPLE

BETTY WENDANY's Funs-A-Poppin Show recently finished a date at the Park Mall in Tucson (Ariz) where PARLEY BAER was finishing up a movie and stopped in to visit the show.

OLIVER REED, film star appearing in the new CBS-TV Special "Circus of Stars" behaved in a peculiar fashion just before his conjuring act with former actress ANNETTE FUNICELLO. He shared a bottle of champagne with an elephant in the show, then flung himself onto the stage and began to caress Annette's foot.

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ROUTES

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus
Oct. 31-Nov 1 New Iberia, La.
Nov. 2-4 Pascagoula, Miss.

Carson & Barnes Circus
Oct. 31 Berryville, Ark.

Hubert Castle Circus
Nov. 2-6 Kansas City, Mo.

Circus Vargas
Nov. 1-3 Chattanooga, Tenn.
4-6 Knoxville

Great Y Circus
Nov. 4-6 San Bernardino, Calif.

Hall & Christ Circus Unique
to Nov. 6 Phoenix, Ariz.

Hubler Int'l Circus
Nov. 5-6 Raleigh, N. C.

King Bros. Circus
Nov. 1 Naples, Fla.
2 Sarasota
3 Tarpon Springs
4 Clearwater
5-6 Tampa

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Nov. 3-6 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
to Nov. 20 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Hanneford Circus
Nov. 2-6 Baltimore, Md.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Oct. 31 Starkville, Miss.
Nov. 1 Atlanta
2 Lawrenceville, Ga.
3 Athens

Sells & Gray Circus
Oct. 31 Meridian, Miss.
Nov. 1 Columbus
2 West Point
3 Waynesboro
5 Demopolis, Ala.
6 Marion

Wonderland Circus Revue
Oct. 31 Denmark/Bamberg, S.C.
Nov. 1 Dalzell
2 Walterboro/Ridgeland
3 Varnville
4-5 Estiel

THE
WONDER
BEARS



OTHER ROUTES

Carmen Show (Int'l Entertainment)
Oct. 31 Taylor, Texas
Nov. 3 Bluefield, W. Va.
4 Beckley

James H. Drew Shows
Oct 31-Nov 5 Dublin, Ga.
- End of Tour -

Gong Show
Nov. 1-5 San Francisco, Calif.

Ice Capades
Nov. 1-6 Tucson, Ariz.

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Nov. 3-6 Christchurch, N. Z.

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BILLY BARTON....

FIGHTING A LOSING battle with the "flu" bug BILLY and BETTY EARL finally gave up and left Sells & Gray to return to their Florida home. The Earls have decided to remain at home for the balance of the season and next year will not go out on a canvas show, but will spot date circuses and fairs. They're a great team and should have no difficulty in having a good season on the spot-date circuit.

Lion tamer JEWEL NEW, currently at Circus World, will be with Ringling Blue next season. Taking his place at the Florida funspot will be URSULA BOTTCHEER with her polar bears.

Business for Circus Vargas in the Maritime Provinces has been reported as "mixed" with light to fair matinees and good to very good night houses, plus scattered packed houses. Apparently Canada's economy played an important factor in the fluctuating attendance.....CLYDE BEATTY Circus racked up fantastic business in Kokomo (Ind) but went to Louisville where biz nosedived. Despite the off-again, on-again, crowds, B-C plans to continue its shopping center format in 1978.

TOMMY BENTLEY phoned in that the Covington promotion for George Hubler, featuring Carson & Barnes, exceeded all expectations, was far, far ahead of previous years. Attendance broke all records, and the show was well received. Tommy says Dorey Miller would have a small Ringling show if he'd only flash it up a bit. He was impressed with the three flying acts, five rings of elephants, with 30 charging in for a long mount, the constant five ring displays, and a web number on the first set of quarter poles all around the big top.

SNAPSHOTS: Cuneo's new white tiger act played the Danbury Fair, Oct. 1-10....PATSY FRANK has been in Ohio helping son BRADD with his petting zoo in shopping centers.....JAMES M. COLE is booking his school route the easy way, by phone from Florida.....PELUZZA is actually producing a comedy production number for Ice Capades, has a contract running one full year.....JIM SWAFFORD just missed seeing GERARD SOULES with Ice Follies in L.A., which he regrets.....LILY YOKOI comes back to our shores to tour with the Globetrotters.....The WAZZAN TROUPE also played a string of dates for the Basketball Bouncers.....BILL BRICKLE finished up some spot dates for BILL KAY and SANDY DOBRITCH.....Clown DAVID CHABIRA and the FLYING RAULS visited Beatty-Cole in Louisville.....The FLYING FARRIAS, now with Ringling Blue, spent a day with Dobritch

Int'l after RBBB closed their run in Detroit. The two shows were day-and-dating with Dobritch lapping over one day....The FLYING ESPANAS will appear on all the SAM T. POLACK Spring dates - also making Polack dates will be IRENE and TONY FOSSETT, and PAT ANTHONY.

While I was in Foxboro (Mass) talking with ED MIGLEY by phone, wife CYNDY was having her first labor pains, went immediately to the hospital and gave birth the next day to a 7 lb. 15 oz. baby boy. The Migleys called while I was playing, left messages which were never given me. Sorry, Kids, but Congratulations.

Comments by Ringling Manager TUFFY GENDERS made newsprint from coast-to-coast. Tuffy, who spent 48 years as first roustabout, then trapeze artist and finally, manager, says he's glad the days of the big top (presumably Ringling's) are gone. Sez Genders: "It used to take 100 railroad cars to carry all that equipment. Now we take 35 cars. And, the weather! One day it would rain, the next day would be sweltering. It seemed the wind was always blowing and flapping through the tent, or the wagons were mired in mud, or the horses would kick up so much dust you couldn't see the show!" Ah, yes, Tuffy, BUT when we were young we took it ALL in stride!

BOUQUETS: To GEORGE DaDEPPO, a very clever and original artist-designer who has designed beautiful program covers and posters for Polack Bros., as well as great cover designs for White Tops. He showed us a portfolio of his work while visiting the Dobritch Circus in Detroit. Best of all, his prices are within reason. Long before Circus World was constructed George submitted a park idea to RBBB, the sketches and plans of which we were privileged to see. Too bad his plans weren't used -- they are far superior to the end result.

When the Landes Costume Shop went up in flames on July 4th, so did the costumes for the circus musical JUMBO which has been postponed until the winter of 1978. Joseph LANDES is executive producer of the musical.

Circus Creations have further modified their ingenious spec floats. The new units are so compact they can now be "piggy-backed" for loading and enable JIMMY DOUGLASS to take more floats on the road. ANNE HUBLER, wife of producer George, says I am the last "Aries" friend she has left, and that's because we live 600 miles apart. And she is a Libra! Astrology buffs, quick, to the rescue!

See you down the road, luvs..

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PEOPLE

JEANNETTE RIX and TONY SMAHA, Jr., who were married on Sept. 25th spent their honeymoon in Europe. At the wedding ceremony SUSAN RIX was the Maid of Honor and JIMMY HALL was the Best Man, while CHRISTOPHER RIX served as the Ring Bearer.

DOUG LYON, formerly with Circus Vargas, has joined the Beatty-Cole Circus as vice president of marketing.

JOE HEISER reminds readers that the movie "Berserk" frequently seen on TV features the Billy Smart Circus, of England.

JOHNNY DAY handled the announcing with the Kaye Cont'l Circus at Wichita - Oct. 13-16.

ANGELA WILNOW and her collies have been booked solid for Christmas shows in the Chi-

Merry Christmas

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cago area, including an appearance on the Bozo TV show, all booked by the Howard Schultz Agency.

BAKER E. BROWN, manager of the Ringling Red Unit, has been named overall manager of both show units.

BOB and SANDY MOMYER have taken time off from their "Magic International Show" and are on the staff of the Ringling Clown College where they are teaching magic and illusions. Bob also serves as administrator to Dean BILL BALLANTINE and Sandy is assisting in the clown wardrobe department.

AL and SUE DAWLEY visited friends on the Hoxie Bros. Circus last month enroute to a Sam Polack engagement. Al will serve as M.C. for the Sarasota Show Folks show and will be in the movie about KARL WALLEDA.

FAWCETT's "Jungle Jamboree Chimpanzees" will join Circo. Atayde this winter for a 16 week engagement.

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AND A CLATTER OF DOGS BEHIND.

I'm a free born man
of the traveling people
Got no fixed abode
with no maps I have wandered
Country lanes and byways
were always my ways.
I never fancied being cumbered.
Oh we knew the woods
and the resting places
And a small bird sang
when winter days were over
Then we took our load
and be on the road.
Those were good old days for a rover.
There was open ground
where a man could linger
For a week or two
for time was not our master
Then away you jog
with your horse and dog.
And nice and easy. No need to go faster
Now I've known life hard
and I've known it easy
And I've cursed the life
when winter days were dawning
But I've laughed and sung
through the whole night long.
Seen the summer sun rise in the morning.
All you free born men
of the traveling people
Every Tinker, Rolling Stone
and Gypsy Rover.
Winds of change are blowin'
Old ways are goin'.
Your traveling days will soon be over.

..... Irish Folk Song

IN MEMORY OF
JACK JOYCE

who died in Sarasota, October 16, 1977

Lee Donoghue, a friend

Performer Hurt

Ava Williams, sister of George Coronas, who fell from the Gyro-Space Wheel at Circus World in early October, told CR that it is a miracle her brother is alive.

The young man was doing the blindfold walk on the revolving cylinder when he lost his balance and fell backwards. Brother Charlie, Jr., who always spots him, happened to look away at that moment, which turned out for the best. George landed on his shoulder and flipped sideways. "Perhaps, had he been watching," said Ava, "he might have moved."

The young performer suffered a skull fracture in three places

Ava arrived 36 hours after the accident, flying to Florida from Yonkers where she was appearing with Circus Vargas. Upon arrival she learned that an operation had been performed to remove a blood clot from the brain, an operation that was highly successful. There is no brain damage.

Four days after the fall George regained consciousness and is now walking, eating and talking. The doctors are astounded at the young man's amazing "recovery", calling it a miracle.

DON'T FORGET

If you plan to place an ad in the DECEMBER issue of THE GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS DIRECTORY Deadline is the 1st of November.

P.O. Box 1616 • Sarasota, FL. 33578

Those wishing to send cards or letters to George may write him at the Winter Haven Hospital in Winter Haven, Florida. Room 207.

..... Billy Barton

Failing health forces me to dispose of my collection. However, I do not need any more friendly fans suggesting I'd better get my burial plot and offering to come here and take over my affairs.

FOR SALE

- 1 - 5x12 dodger Rat Sheet against Cooper & Bailey - Season 1876 \$ 35.00
- 1 - 4x14 dodger Rat Sheet by L B Lent & J M French against C&B \$ 35.00
- 1 - 6x20 L B Lent's New York Circus, with cuts, also 10 days route -
Well illustrated both sides \$ 40.00
- 1 - 6x12 dodger Barnum's American Museum 1864, penciled date. Has
hippo cut, also whale and ladies aerial ballet. \$ 40.00
- 230 snapshot negs. good condition, plus many extra not counted. Over
25 titles including Harris Nickle Plate, Chas. Lee, Great Zanger,
R. T. Richards, Hagenbeck (very choice), Downie & Wheeler,
James M. Cole, Christy Bros., Ringling Graveyard, etc. Misc.
snapshots tossed in. \$100 plus \$5 for shipping and insurance.
- 137 Carnival negs including titles Sheesley, Penn Premier, Gooding, Brown
& Dyer, Princess Olga, etc. - Shipped insured \$ 40.00

ART "Doc" MILLER, Route 3, Box 323-C, Starke, Florida - 32091

It's All Over

After five years of parades, Dick Sparrow is going to break up his 40 horse hitch. The famed Belgian draft horses will be sold at auction on Sparrow's farm, some six miles southeast of Zeating, Iowa., on Dec. 5th. The auction will take place at 11 a.m.

Sparrow was the first man to drive a 40 horse hitch after a span of 68 years. He assembled the group of horses at the request of the Schlitz Brewing Co. of Milwaukee, which underwrote the expenses for three years. O's Gold Seed Co. of Parkersburg then took over the expenses for a period of two years.

The horses are being sold, reports Sparrow, because he no longer has a sponsor.

The 40 horse hitch was a parade feature of the early day circuses, but disappeared after it was last used in 1904 by Barnum & Bailey. Sparrow and two assistants are the only ones alive who know what it's like to drive the 40 horse hitch — which is 80,000 pounds of horseflesh.

The contract with O's Gold Seed Co. expires on Dec. 31st, and Sparrow said no one else has expressed an interest in underwriting the team. "I could have gone ahead and looked for another sponsor, but I figured if anyone really wanted to sponsor the 40 horse hitch they could look for me.

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In Memoriam

GORDON BORDERS, well-known circus fan and historian, died at Ottawa, Kansas, on Oct. 17th. His collection and historical material were frequently reviewed by historians. He was one of the founders of the Al G. Barnes Ring in Los Angeles, Calif. Survivors include his wife, Daisy.

DON "Whitey" HAVEN (62) retired circus man and trucker, died of a heart attack in Phoenix, Ariz., on Sept. 23rd. He was with many circuses in the 1930's and 1940's and was superintendent of elephants and transportation with the Sparks Circus in 1947. He and his late wife, Helen, toured with the Wirth Circus in Australia and he was electrician on the Kelly-Miller Circus in 1953. After retiring from the circus he operated his own trucking firm, then later sold out to a large company who he continued to work for.

"You get a lot of dollars invested in this, and you can lose them if you don't get a sponsor... The timing seems right. Horses are bringing a good price right now."

He has declined to say how much is invested in this, or disclose financial dealings with the sponsors. "If you were going to buy the horses, equipment, trucks to move them and all, new, it would cost about \$500,000," he said.

Sparrow says 51 Belgian draft horses will go on the auction block on Dec. 5th along with his uniforms and the horses' tack. He will keep one stallion and 10 mares.

He hates to give up the popular parade feature, for it has been a family affair from the start, Sparrow, his wife, Joy, and their five children, have all participated in the work. They've also had help from friends and neighbors.

"there's no way you can travel the miles we have and do something you like as well as we have liked this, and not feel some regret when it comes time to sell the horses," Sparrow said.

But Sparrow says he is looking forward to getting back to showing horses again at the fairs and he will go back to concentrating on farming his 1,100 acres.

"It's with regret that we sell the horses, but it will be great to get back to farming and showing the horses again," he added.



Send your friends a Holiday Greeting via Circus Report - it's easy and you beat the high cost of the postage too.

Regular advertising rates will as there is no increase in the costs - Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half

Page \$15.00 and Full Page \$25.00 - but please, no color work.

The deadline is Dec. 1st, so why not send your copy today.

Don Marcks 525 Oak Street
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SPECIAL

A small variety show featuring Billy Grant, MC and balloon sculpturing; Zanita, rolling globe and juggling; Bobby Clark, magic and the Wheelers, musical act, has been playing dates in Central and Northern California, doing shows which are promoted for the benefit of the blind.

CHRIS KRINGLE can you please call me?

..... Don Marcks (415) 525-3332

Any opinion expressed in Circus Report at any time is solely the responsibility of the writer and it should not be assumed that such opinion is in any way shared by Circus Report or its editor.

PEOPLE

VIRGINIA LEE FENTON, organist with the Stebbing's Royal European Circus this season is now enroute to her home in California via New Orleans and Las Vegas.

BOB EMERICO made a quick visit to Oakland and San Francisco (Calif.) last week to set some dates for the Holiday season.

MIKE COCO, the stilt walking clown, did a quick fill-in for son Bruce at the Danbury, Conn. Fair. Bruce was recently injured in an auto accident. Coco was at Dorney Park in Allentown, Pa., for the summer season.

DON BRIDWELL (Whizzer the Clown) completed the Danbury, Conn., Fair Circus for JOHN CUNEO on Oct. 10th and will be doing fall and winter dates in Ohio and the Mid-west for Variety Attractions with his comedy magic show.

THE WHEELERS, marimba act, have more than 1,200,000 miles on their mobile home. The unit built on a Cadillac frame is now powered by a Chevrolet engine.

FRANK and BERNICE DEAN, western stars, were on a quick business trip to the San Francisco (Calif) area last week and visited with the Circus Report editor, DON MARCKS.

BILL WILLIAMS (Cotton Candy the Clown) worked a MacDonald's date last week in the San Francisco area.

NOTICE

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COLLECTORS ITEMS

Glenn Wade recently acquired a spec float that was used on the Ringling-Barnum Circus in '48. The Doll Family of midgets rode on this River Boat Float that year. Glenn purchased the old float from John Friend, of Madison, Wisc.

The circus float has been used in recent years in street parades in Iowa with an air calliope mounted on it. The calliope is one of only three built by the late Jack Schott, of Ft. Worth and is a 54 note machine, costing \$12,000.

Mr. Wade also owns a band organ which has been in the Wade family for about 40 years. It was used on the merry-go-round on the Wade Show until 1959, then was stored, until it was rebuilt by Jack Schott in 1964. The band organ is now mounted on it's own specially constructed trailer. It is a Wurlitzer 153 Model, which is a double track, etc.

Hopefully, Glenn Wade will show his units in Greenfield Village during the 1978 Circus Fans Convention in Dearborn, Michigan, July 2-5.

(As per James Elliott, CFA and ride foreman on the W. G. Wade Show).

..... George Da Deppo

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A Letter

In the Oct. 10th issue of Circus Report, on Page 18, you had a letter about the Ringling Thrill Circus. A lot of the debate about it is going to be just a matter of opinion - but one point in that letter which is not debateable is the statement "Any programs sold were from the 1976 Red Unit".

This is wrong. We saw the show several times and what we, and everyone we know, were sold were 1972 programs.

..... Bob and Pat Isсенmann

mail

Mail has been returned to Circus Report marked "Unable to Deliver as Addressed" for:

Joan Stern

Jacqueline Harmes

All mail sent out to the Circus Owners Association in care of its acting secretary has been returned by the Post Office marked "Unknown". It is not known if the original announcement regarding the formation of this group was a fact or merely a rumor.

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Guilty Verdict

A man and wife team of promoters was found guilty of fraud in connection with a circus promotion sponsored by the Guelph (Ontario) Police Association. The jury deliberated for more than 11 hours before returning the verdict against Melvin and Cathryn Strilchuk.

The charges were made after an investigation into the telephone soliciting operation the couple ran while promoting a n American circus. They asked people to buy tickets which would be used for underprivileged children.

The court was told that 32,000 tickets were sold for four performances, although only 16,000 spectators could be accommodated. The couple, it was charged, collected commissions of some \$22,500 on ticket sales of \$61,000.

The defense contended that no one was turned away from the performances because only one third of the tickets were used.



Flash!

On Oct. 20th, Clifford E. Vargas authorized the use of his name for a tent to be raised in his name as part of the CFA. Frank Ball, Jr., requested the permission for the tent which will cover the Washington, DC area.

Miscellaneous

The Moscow Circus, currently playing in Canada, traveled by boat from Mermansk to Montreal, then for most of its Canadian tour the show has been moving on eight 45 ft. semis. The show and all of its people and animals were flown from Toronto to Western Canada via a DC-8 cargo jet plane.

The American Cont'l Circus played to full house crowds at Las Cruces, N. M., (Oct. 20) for its final stand of the 1977 season.



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

In September of 1976, I was signed as producing clown for the Charles Germaine Circus in Connecticut and Virginia. I was booked through the Gilbert Miller Agency, for specific days of performance and specific towns.

I set a clown alley of 3 clowns besides myself, which clowns were hired by me for the same specific dates and towns.

Upon arrival at the first date, the dates were not as the contract stated, and one town had been added. As a result, I was unable to be at home with a seriously ill wife as had been planned, and I had to pay my clowns more in expenses to cover the change - and I lost another good date to boot.

I was advised by the show producer not to pay the commission to Gilbert Miller, as the variations on the contract were not as stated.

My wife and I have been constantly harrassed by Mr. Miller since being blacklisted, and even to the point of having my parents harrassed, for almost a year.

As a result, I just sent a check to Mr. Miller for a commission not owed, in order to continue unharrassed in a profession I have worked successfully in for over 29 years.

My lawyer has advised me that any further word from this "Artists' Representative" will constitute a libel suit, which I will definitely pursue.

It is unfortunate that such agents must revert to harrassing tactics such as this.

This is a paid advertisement, and the thoughts of myself, my wife and my lawyer, and not necessarily those of Circus Report.

Don Bridwell, "Whizzer the Clown, Columbus, Ohio

Q & A -

The following item has been taken from the Hy Gardner column "Glad You Asked that!"

Q: I was distressed hearing that Sally Rand, whom I first saw doing her famous fan dance in 1933 at the Chicago World's Fair, was hospitalized with a respiratory ailment. How much plastic surgery has she had to undergo to keep that youthful figure? L. D; St. Louis

A: "None," Miss Rand sallied. "Excepting for a face lift whatever you see is the original me!" About the body audiences still pay a 73 year old woman to reveal, the dancer who scandalized St. Louis society in 1934 by taking a Lady Godiva horseback ride credits her trim lines to Ringling Brothers. "Doing a trapeze act is a great exercise," she comments. "It helped make my breasts stand up and stay up."

To today's gals who don't mind showing all their assets, trouser Rand has some advice. "Don't show everything. Use wispy feathers."

In Memory
HARRY HOUDINI
 Died Oct. 31, 1926

Miscellaneous

A group of Ringling performers played soccer with the University of Illinois team last month and the Ringling team won - 5 to 1.

King Bros. Circus pulled good crowds for both shows at Elisabethtown (Ky) date on Sept. 4th.

Show Report

It was a real first for me to see two tented circuses — Sells & Gray and Kelly Bros. — playing in the same town on the same day. Both shows, were in Bloomington, Ill., on Sept. 10th and drew only fair business.

Sells & Gray came into my hometown of Decatur, Ill., on Sept. 17th and was the 6th show to play the city this year. They took my suggestion and played Sullivan, which hadn't had a circus for 22 years and they packed them in for both shows.

The Ringling Blue Unit stopped at Decatur on Sept. 6th, enroute from St. Louis to Fort Wayne to water the animals. When the train was being backed off the mainline to a siding, where they were going to unload the animals, the horse cars jumped the track and were pushed about a block where they hit a switch, broke a rail and jack-knifed.

The train arrived about 11 a.m. and it was about 5 p.m. before the cranes were able to get the stock cars back on the rails. The tunnel cars and other cars were unloaded without too much difficulty although they weren't able to spot the cars where they had planned to do it.

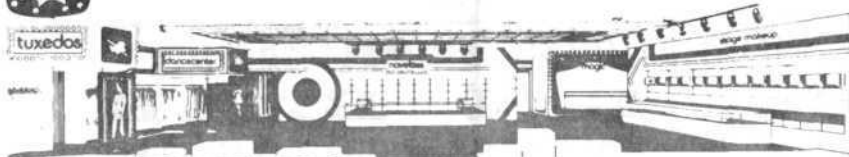
On Nov. 7th, the CFA's of Aurora, Ill., will be raising a new tent, called the Charlie Smith Tent No. 131. People from both units of the Ringling show are expected to attend the ceremonies and it has been indicated that several of the Washington, DC office people will also be attending.

..... Allen Babcock



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BENTLEY SHOW (Continued)

Bentley Bros. Circus featured the following program: Opening spec and National Anthem, led by Kim Kristensen, mounted and with the flag; Lilli-Ana's leopards; Miss Carol Wainwright, swinging trapeze; Rick Smiley & Co., clowns; Janet's dogs and ponies; Mark Allen, magic; Christopher James, tightwire; Clowns; Walt King's mixed group of animals; The Great Vashek, inclined wire walk; Prince Najvez, aerial.

The second half opened with the Wainwrights, comedy acrobats; Kim Kristensen's long reins dressage horse; Clowns; the Plunketts, trampoline; Burger's Comedy Chimps; Clowns; Walt King's elephants and the Vashek Duo on the high wire.

The show staff included: Tommy Bentley, executive producer; Chuck Clancey, executive director; Harriett Wagner, promotion/secretary; Mark Allen, ringmaster; Rick Smiley, producing clown; Wes Oler, act agent and lighting director; plus acting company manager; Bobby Davis, Jr., superintendent; George Hubler, concessions; Steve Stephanie, organist with Roy Houston on drums.

Center Ring

The program produced by Sam T. Polack for the show at Camp LeJeune, N.C., on Oct. 15-16 featured: Al Dawley, ringmaster/announcer; Bill Browning, musical director; Ron Kelroy, prop boss; John and Lorraine McKay, producing clowns with David Chabira, Michele Malvern and Les Schmitt.

Acts included: Miguel, tightwire; Lilli-Ana's leopards; Miss Lydia, single trapeze; Clown's boxing number; Karl's Poodles; Clown giraffe; Miss Margarita, hair hang; the Davis Duo, tramp-

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oline; the Burkett Duo, aerial perch; The Caroline Sisters; Clowns; Kim Kristensen, horse; Hap Davis and comedy car; Clown Wedding; Schmitt (Roman) elephant and rhino; Espanas Flying act.

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YEARS AGO

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus
Pittsfield, Mass. - June 24, 1932

The Ringling-Barnum Circus arrived here this morning on four trains, coming in from Worcester.

Section 1 - Arrived at 5 a.m. with 22 cars (3 horse cars, 15 flat cars, 4 sleepers and 61 wagons, 30 cages, 2 trucks)

Section 2 - Arrived at 8 a.m. with 22 cars (5 horse cars, 11 flat cars, 6 sleepers and 36 wagons, 4 trucks, 1 passenger truck)

Section 3 - Arrived at 8:30 a.m. with 22 cars (5 horse cars, 14 flat cars, 4 sleepers and 50 wagons, 3 trick cars, 2 autos on wagons)

Section 4 - Arrived at 9 a.m. with 21 cars (5 stock cars, 5 horse cars and 11 sleepers)

The animals consist of 42 elephants, 15 camels, 28 zebras, 130 ring horses, 364 baggage horses.

The tents are: 6 pole big top; 6 pole menagerie; 3 pole side show; 4 pole dining tent; 3 pole kitchen; 3 pole ring stock tent; 3 pole dressing room; two tents 3 pole for baggage; two candy stands; wardrobe; band; privileges; colored dining top.

The side show has four wagons for the front with 16 banners and the entrance has electric lights, with two bally stands and four ticket boxes. Inside are Bearded Lady, African Bushman, Sword Swallower, Ambassador from Mars, Armless lady, Head Hunter, Ugly Woman, Vegetable King, Midgets, Giant, Giantess, Revolving Head, Blue Man, Fat Girl, Knife Thrower, Snakes, Tattooed, Magic, Hawaiians and band.

The wagons are red, cages mostly white, the railroad cars yellow and sleepers green.

The big top has grandstands on both sides with chairs on the long side orange and on the short side chairs are green. The seats are 18 tier high with 16 seats to a section, with 23 sections, making 7,488 chairs for the grandstand. The blue seats are on both ends.

Some of the wagons are: 4 light plants, 6 tractor trucks, 6 cookhouse wagons, 4 wagons for front of side show, lunch wagon, 3 ticket wagons (white, red, yellow), big pole wagon, two quarter pole wagons, two stringer wagons, 2 sea lion dens, hippo cage, 2 rhinos, monkeys,

Theft Report

An elephant owned by an American firm was stolen from a work camp in Thailand on Sept. 20th and was reportedly being held for ransom according to reports from Atlanta, Ga. The Atlantic based Munford, Inc., said that police in Burma and Thailand had already arrested three men who were believed to have taken part in the case.

The elephant was taken by men using automatic rifles and hustled across the border into Burma. A ransom of \$1,500 was being asked for the return of the work elephant.

A company spokesman said he had no idea how many people were involved in the incident, or how they could conceal a 6 ton elephant. The animal, he added, is one of several the company owns, which are used to harvest rattan vines in the jungles of southern Thailand. The vines are used in the manufacturing of furniture.

The elephant is said to be about 12 ft. tall and is extremely well trained. It cost \$3,000 two months ago. Elephants are the work animals of Thailand and Burma and they are used in the forest much in the same manner that tractors are used in the fields in this country.



black panther, pumas, lions, tigers, deer, cranes, tapirs, hyenas, 3 wagons for giraffes.

The show was fully unloaded about 10:30 a.m. and everything was set up in time for the shows at 2 and 8 p.m. A fairly good crowd turned out in the afternoon and a good crowd was on hand in the evening.

The cookhouse and baggage stock tents were down and packed about 6 p.m. with the side show and menagerie packed and ready to go at 9 p.m. The night show was out about 10:30 p.m. and everything was off the lot by 12:30 a.m. The train was loaded by 2 a.m. and they left for Albany, N. Y.