Giraffe Deaths Probed in L.A.

A citizen's group has asked for an investigation into the deaths of two giraffes at the Los Angeles, Calif. zoo.

A spokesman said slippery floors in the giraffe house may have been responsible for the deaths. Answering the charge, assistant zoo director Ralph Crane said, "we just don't go along with that theory."

A male and female Angola giraffe valued at $9,000 each, died early this summer from effects of a tranquilizer after they fell in their stall and were unable to get up.

The Unjustified Raid

A group of carnival workers went on a rampage during a rock concert (Aug. 29) firing guns and beating up those in attendance. The workers were at the Harrison County Fairgrounds in Missouri to set up a carnival for the opening of the fair.

About 40 police were called in to stop the riot, which ended with the arrest of four men.

Sheriff Smith said he would ask the courts for an injunction to see that the men were moved out of town and also asked that the carnival be stopped.

New Protests

Rodeo events are not a tradition of the Old West, says a recent Humane Society report. "Most of the events have been developed solely for the purpose of entertainment," the Society said.

After a two year study of rodeos, the Society states the animals are injured. Calves when roped are subject to ruptured blood vessels, neck hemorrhaging and inflammation of the larynx. In steer busting the contestant has an advantage if the animal is temporarily knocked unconscious when it hits the ground. Bucking horses and bulls, they said are reacting to pressure caused by the cinch strap on its flanks.

The Society urged its members to protest rodeos scheduled in the communities where they live. Public officials should "prohibit performances of rodeos that permit roping of animals and the use of devices to make animals react violently," they said.
The Master Entertainer

When Irene Jones wrote her review of the Ringling Blue Unit at Salt Lake City, Utah, she had nothing but praise for the entire show. Her review appeared in that city's Tribune shortly after the circus arrived for its Aug. 22-28 stand.

The Flying Gaonas were grand, she said, and their trampoline act even drew more applause than their triple somersault.

Most of the acts were rated as being "excellent" by the reviewer. You have to see Pablo Noel and Charley Baumann to believe them, she added, as well as Michu, the Hungarian midget.

Closing the Door

Last week the Contra Costa County (Calif.) District Attorney's office asked the courts for a permanent injunction to stop the sale of circus tickets. Earlier Judge Thomas McBride had issued a temporary restraining order against a promotional firm which was selling tickets for the State Forestry Firefighters, who are sponsoring the circus.

District Attorney William O'Malley charged that phone salesmen failed to comply with state laws requiring ticket sellers to explain to potential buyers what percentage of the purchase price goes to sponsors. He said the promoter's contract gives "only 50% of the net" to the sponsor. From past experience, he added, we know the sponsor usually ends up with only 5% after expenses are deducted.

Lou Regan opened the show with his 7 tigers and about halfway thru the act suffered a heat stroke. He held onto a prop and managed to remain in a standing position until the cage boys could get the cats back to their dens. Then he had to be carried from the arena.

The show pulled about a 3/4 house for the matinee, with a smaller crowd for the night show. During the latter show it rained.

. . . .H. T. Dreyfus

The Monster Sun

Both Harry Kingston and I saw Clyde Bros. Circus at Beaumont, Texas on Aug. 26th. The show was presented in the rodeo arena on the fairgrounds, and temperatures were well above 95 degrees.

Animals and performers were all suffering from the heat, but still gave a good performance. Lucky Larabee is a good announcer and works hard as performance director.

Lou Regan opened the show with his 7 tigers and about halfway thru the act suffered a heat stroke. He held onto a prop and managed to remain in a standing position until the cage boys could get the cats back to their dens. Then he had to be carried from the arena.

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THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak Street, El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.

Subscription rates: $1.00 per month $5.00 for six months; $10.00 a year

CRYSTAL UPTON

Died

Aug. 30, 1973
CIRCUS Show

The Ringling Museum of Art at Sarasota, Fla., will feature an exhibit called "The Circus Through The Centuries" on Dec. 13-Jan. 27th. It will include a display of rare and historical material of prints, engravings, lithos, photos, films and illustrations concerning the progress of the circus from Rome to the present time.

YEARS AGO

Christy Bros. Circus 1922 - Some of the performers traveling with this show that season were:

Jerry D. Martin, aerialist; Kinko contortion clown; Ray O'Wesney, a horse trainer; Ray Wood; Josephine Martin; Mabel James; Harry James, well-known trumpet player; Charles Nelson and Shorty Evans.

Barnum & Bailey Circus 1891 - The show's No. 2 billing car carried a crew of 14 men. The group was a fighting crew that worked against opposition, often jumping long distances to get up show paper.

JUST NOT SO

Two rodeo groups have denied charges recently made by the Humane Society concerning cruelty of animals in rodeos. Both the Int'l Rodeo Assoc., and the Longhorn Rodeo have stated there is no proof to the charges.

The Society condemned rodeos as cruel to animals and urged its members to oppose any such events in their areas.

An easy guide

Manufacturers of motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment, other than tires, may be required to use an identification code in order to fulfill their identification, certification and labeling responsibilities, if the Federal government accepts a proposal by the National Highway Safety Administration, a division of the Dept. of Transportation.

In a notice of proposed rule making, the NHSA advocated an organized code numbering system of identification which would be more suitable for computer applications, and would aid the retrieval of identification data for defect notification.

The proposed code would consist of one letter and four non-significant numbers. Each manufacturer would make written application for such code numbers to the Associate Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC.

NOTE

Due to last minute non-renewal of contract option with Miller-Johnson Circus, Bob Gibbs has open time between Sept. 8th and December, offering performing elephants, ponies and dogs.

Write: Bob Gibbs, Route 4, Box 550, Mission, Texas - 78572
**ROUTES**

**Beatty-Cole Circus**  
Sept. 10 Phoenix City, Ala.  
11 Albany  
12 Tallahassee, Fla.  
13 Panama City  
14-15 Pensacola  
16-17 Mobile, Ala.

**Canadian Circus**  
Sept. 10-12 Kitchener, Ont.  
13-16 Toronto

**Hubert Castle Circus**  
Sept. 11-12 Allegan, Mich.  
15-17 Minot, S. D.

**Clyde Bros. Circus**  
Sept. 10 Big Spring, Tex.  
11 Sweetwater  
14-16 Alexandria, Va.

**Diamond 'S' Wild West**  
14 Waukegan, Ill.  
15 Pekin

**George Matthews Circus**  
Sept. 10 Brandon, Canada  
12 Regina  
13 Moose Jaw  
14 Swift Current  
15 Medicine Hat  
16 Lethridge

**Happytime Circus**  

**Los Muchachos Circus**  
Sept. 11-16 New York, N.Y.

**Miller Johnson Circus**  
Sept. 12-15 New York, N.Y.

**Ringling's Blue Unit**  

**Ringling's Red Unit**  
Sept. 11-16 San Diego, Calif.

**Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show**  
Sept. 10 Fairmont, Minn.  
11 Windom  
12 St. James  
13 New Ulm  
14 Montevideo  
15 Marshall

**Wallace & Rogers Circus**  
Sept. 10-11 St. Helens, Ore.  
13 Lincoln City  
14 Florence

**OTHER ROUTES**

**Bugs Bunny Show**  
Sept. 10 Trenton, N.J.

**Disney on Parade**  
Sept. 11-16 Syracuse, N.Y.

**Who's Who**

RAY HARRIS recently returned from Guatemala where he visited the Jack Blunders Circus.

MICHAEL SPORRER visited RBBB's Red Unit in San Francisco, Calif. last week.

A. W. KENNARD, husband of DOROTHY HERBERT, is in Valley Hospital at Van Nuys, Calif. following surgery.

LARRY LEWIS, a 106 year old former circus trouper was guest ringmaster for the RBBB show in San Francisco.

CHARLES COX, former circus announcer, is now Public Relations Director for the Safari Park in Puerto Rico.

LINDA KARL and PHIL CHANDLER (King Bros. Circus) will be married on Nov. 24th.

GERARD SOULES is working his poodle review on the Holiday on Ice Show this year.

BOB MATTHEWS, well known showman and a past president of the Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club, has been confined to Hollywood Community Hospital after suffering a heart attack.

TIM HOLST, RBBB ringmaster, is a native of Anan, Utah.

MEL OLSEN, editor of The White Tops magazine, is elected president of the CFA.

OSCAR CRISTIANI left the Miller-Johnson Circus last week for free lance work.

THE WENDANY FAMILY has joined the John Strong Circus for the remainder of the season.

DAVE TWOMEY reports he visited the RBBB Blue Unit at Portland, Oregon during some of their off time.

BILL BURGER recently visited with CHARLES HILL (Tom-
14 Florence

OTHER ROUTES ...

Bugs Bunny Show
Sep. 10 Trenton, N.J.
Disney on Parade
Sep. 11-16 Syracuse, N.Y.
Holiday on Ice
Sep. 13-22 Salt Lake City
Holiday on Ice (Int'l)
Sep. 12-16 Utica, N.Y.
Ice Capades
Sep. 6-12 Dallas, Texas
14-19 San Antonio
Ice Classic
Sep. 12-14 Aurora, Colo.
Indian Rodeo
Sep. 14-16 San Fran, Cal.
Nat'l Air Races
Sep. 14-16 Reno, Nev.
Renaissance Fair
Sep. 14-16 Novato, Cal.

CARNIVALS ...

Ja: Bella Amusements
Sep. 10-15 Tarboro, N.C.
Bella City Amusements
Cepell Bros. Shows
Sep. 13-22 Salt Lake City

Thompson Bros. Amusements
Well Shows
Ralph Wagner Shows
Sep. 11-16 Brenham, Texas

NOTE

Four different circus business forms for just $1.00.
Write to: Circus Memories Museum, Fryeburg, Me. 04037

DAVE TWOMEY reports he visited the RBBB Blue Unit at Portland, Oregon during some off time.

BILL BURGER recently visited with CHARLES HILL (Tommy Burke) former circus man who is gate keeper at White Rock hunting preserve in Carmel Valley, Calif.

FOY & FAYE, juggling unicycles, worked the Farmers Fair at Hemet, Calif. last week.

IRVIN FELD, RBBB president and producer, will be a guest speaker at the Emmett Kelly' CFA Tent's 30th anniversary on Oct. 20th.

W. T. RANDOLPH, of Dallas Texas, visited the Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club recently.

CRAIG RYAL, magician and clown, was featured at the Susanville, Cal. fair.

4 Days THU. 28
Comm. APR. TWICE DAILY — 2 & 8 P.M.
AL G. BARNES
and Sells-Flooto
Combined CIRCUS

This ad was used in San Francisco, Calif. in 1938
CIRCUS FESTIVAL
by WARREN C. WOOD

During my visit to the Circus City Festival, at Peru, Ind., I found that trainer Joe Anderson is well suited for his work. He is a wrestling teacher and coach at the local high school and works extremely well with the youngsters, who love and admire him. Incidentally, he was trained by Paul Pugh of the Wenatchee Youth Circus.

Practice for the show is started in April. About 300 apply for participation in the circus and 120 are accepted. There is no charge and costume needs are taken care of, but they must work hard to perfect their numbers.

The circus program is presented in a large building, which seats 2,200 people. The seats are bleacher style and prices vary from 50¢ to $3.00. A 46 page pictorial program book is also available.

Eventually banners will be put up alongside the building. At the moment there is the ticket office, rest rooms, museum and some circus wagons. Across the alley is a big building which houses a work shop, dressing rooms, first aid room, clown alley, prop storage, etc. In the arena is a balcony for the big band. This band, consisting of 40 or more members, is directed by high school teacher Tom Custin.

The show opened with an overture, a high school drill team and introduction of the circus king and queen. The first act was a casting number, highlighted when two kids did a back flip from the same bar at the same time, they are caught on a bar held by a catcher and then return.

Unicycles and rolling globes followed, then came a large group of clowns, after which three single trapeze acts were presented, along with a hanging parch number. This latter act finished with a double iron jaw spin. A Roman ladder act on the track and a clown walk-around followed.

High wire, tightwire and a bounding rope number were then presented at the same time. The high wire act was very good - they did unicycles, bicycles, stilt walking and a pyramid. Four trampoline acts followed and each closed with a double somersault.

After intermission an exciting high casting act was presented. A clown walk-around followed and then came three single trapeze numbers - all synchronized.

Tumbling on the track followed and then roustabouts carried in a huge shoe that housed 12 girls who did web numbers. This number ended with a giant whirl in the center ring.

Juggling and a whip act were next and the show closed with a flying act (a 12 yr. old did a triple) and a parade of all the performers, to a standing ovation.
Pot-Pourri

The American Horseman magazine for Sept. 1973 has a story "Horses and the Big Top" by Georgia Rogers.

Emmett Kelly Jr's Circus played at Shelby, Mich., on Aug 31-Sep. 2.

The Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club will celebrate its birthday on Sept. 26th. The organization was founded in 1961.

During its San Francisco, Cal., engagement the RBBB Red Unit held auditions for show girls, who had dancing experience.

Kay Bros. Circus played the Nevada State Fair at Reno on Sept. 5-9.

Rumor has it that the Ringling show will bring a great many new foreign acts to its two units for the 1974 season.

The Lakeport, Calif. Fair (Aug. 30-Sep. 2) used the theme "Greatest Show on Earth". Their midway attractions were provided by the Butler Amusement Co.

A group dedicated to saving the carousel will hold an organizational meeting in Mass., on Oct. 20-22.

The Circus Report is good reading no matter where you are. Keep on the bright side, order a copy now.

Send $10.00 to: Don Marcro, 525 Oak Street, El Carrite, Calif.

In Their Own Defense

Late last week the Oakland (Ca) Police Officers Assoc. issued a statement expressing its "shock and disbelief" at charges the organization had illegally solicited patrons for a benfit show on Sep. 2nd.

The OPOA said the country music show was being presented in good faith and that a business license had been obtained. Advice from an attorney had been obtained in advance, they added, and the whole operation had been reviewed with the district attorney.

The city attorney reports that two of the six purposes for which the solicitation was being made are charitable. Two others reportedly involved "substantial misrepresentations."

The OPOA has acknowledged that some solicitors had acted improperly, but said they had been fired.

The two purposes for the show which were questioned had to do with providing sickness and injury assistance for officers and legal fees in suits brought against them.

The OPOA statement said: "Efforts of the city attorney's office to cast a shadow of doubt on the integrity of these brave men will not be successful."

Historical Fact ....

In 1935 Allen King was a half-owner of the Rice Bros.-Allen King Circus. He also presented his big wild animal act at every performance of the circus.
The Circus Deport

NORMAN WILBERT

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus pitched its tents in Sheboygan, Wis. for two shows on Aug. 24. Some 3,000 people turned out to see the thrilling performances, sponsored by the "Accents for Sheboygan" group.

As usual, Wayne Bolz was in the thick of things, helping the sponsor and circus. He has devoted many hours helping to promote circus events in this area. He and his family attended the matinees and his two children even got to ride an elephant.

FRED LOGAN

Fred was born in Winnipeg, Canada and came to the U.S. in 1941. Before becoming an elephant trainer, he worked with lion acts. Fred credits the late Terrall Jacobs with help and guidance during his early days in show business.

MANAGER SEWS

There was some delay in getting the big 150 x 300 ft. top into the air because the spool truck had tipped over on its way in. When the wagon was righted and the canvas spread out it was discovered there were several holes in the tent. Those who could, even manager Paul Pugh, sewed up the tears so the top could be set-up.

LES BLOCKS

Visited with Les Block, who organized the famous high wire act that bears his name. This spine-tingling act consists of five performers -- Les, Alan, Gerard, Rita and Gilda. Les, whose given name is Gerhardt, was born in Germany and has been performing on the high wire since he was 11 yrs. old. He was in East Germany with the Circus Zerbini in 1945, then came to the U.S. in 1968, where his act first worked on the Hamid Morton Circus. They have been on the Beatty-Cole show for the past five years.

THE OSCARIIONS

It is always nice to visit with Ramos Oscarion and his risley troupe. This is their fourth year on the circus and they have a real center ring number.

OTHERS

Boss canvasman Andrew Smallwood has been on the show for five years. He was appointed to his current position just this year.

The ten cavorting clowns add immensely to the performance and work well under the direction of Kenneth Dodd. The band plays great music, which is a credit to Charles Schlarbaum, the director. A calliope offers some nostalgic treats for the circus-goers.

For several years Robert D. Qine and Robert E. Kline (not related) have worked the elephants who assist in getting the tent into the air. They also assist in the performance, guiding their pachyderms through their paces.
On Top Down Under

The widely advertised "Circus Circus 1973 Extravaganza", which recently played Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney (Australia) was a merged presentation by Ashton’s Circus and Circus Royal. The shows are now going their separate ways for the remainder of the season.

A carnival midway filled the entranceway to the circus. Behind it was the big top and a two pole menagerie tent.

A large stage extended across one full side of the tent, while a standard circus ring was placed in the center. Box-style seating extended down to the ring curb, with traditional circus seating in the back. The stage was surrounded by colorful circus posters, and a colorwheel played continuously on the stage curtains prior to the performance. Music was provided by Albert Cerbes at the organ and "Happy" Gill on the drums.

Following an announcement byyllias Ashton, the circus program started with a parade of all acts. As they exited, three girls remained to do single trapeze numbers. Ringmaster Joe Buchal then introduced the rest of the show, which featured the following:

Los Tenaris - balancing
Clowns - a comedy car
Lorraine Ashton - liberty horse
Jan Ashton - bareback rider
The Grants - rolling globes
Clowns - the flaming sword
Fraspa - single trapeze
Ten girl dancers on stage followed five girls on web

people

ALAIN ZERBINI will add a balance feat to his act next season.

BILL BIGGERSTAFF has returned to Southern California after vacationing with Miller Johnson Circus.

THE BARETIS, sway pole act, were featured at the Shasta, Calif. fair last week.

CLIFF VARGAS, owner of Miller Johnson Circus, and program director PARLEY BAER visited the RBBC show at Anaheim, Calif., and also viewed the model circus displays there.

GLENN HARRISON, CFA secretary in Southern California attended the recent CFA convention in Seattle.

ALBERT LUCAS, juggler, is working with the Ice Capades this year.

Fanny Espinosa - lions
Ioneas & Gaye - iron jaw
Mervyn Ashton - slack wire
Renarto - camels and pony
Lorraine Ashton - whip
Frank Gasaer - plate spinning
Stefan Krajcik - elephants
The Zacchini Trio - clowns
The Flying Ashtons and Flying Fernandos
Finale - Entire company

The two flying acts worked side by side, thus competing for attention with each trick. The lion act is from Spain and quite good, with one cat walking a tightrope.

Backstage staff for the show includes: Margaret Drake, stage manager; Paul Firman, stage director; Frank Gerard, electrician, while publicity was handled by Kevin, Trevor and Annette Young.
SHOW BOWS

A new circus bowed last month (Aug. 25) in the Los Angeles, Cal., area. The show was organized by Lee Noblitt and George Bruno, and is currently being called "Royal European Circus."

The date at Carson, a suburb of Los Angeles, was presented in the High School Athletic Field. The weather was warm and business was "Quite good."

The program, as reported by Bill Dedrick, included:

- Miss Astra - Sponge dive
- May Kover - leashed leopards (3)
- Aerial web - (2)
- Clowns - George Perkins and Jack McAfee
- Yvette's Poodles
- David & Irana - cradle
- The Clowns
- Tom Johnson and elephant "Spot"
- Yvette's Critters - mixed animals
- The Flying Braytons
- The Clowns
- The Noblitts - trampoline
- Princess Nahama - riding horse "White Cloud"

Staff for the show includes:

- George Bruno - producer and equestrian director
- Lee Noblitt - co-producer
- Tony O'Hara - comptroller
- Betty Escalante - musical director
- Lee Noblitt - general supt.
- Sol Lightner - electrician
- Arthur Longover - transp. supt.
- George Perkins - producing clown
- Jack McAfee - assistant prod. clown
- Henry Cruwell - supt. of props
- Lew Foresite - general agent