

HOBBY

C.H.S. Convention Special

Bandwagon

COLE BROS. CIRCUS



Coreaita Cristiani



Ruth Nelson

June 48 — The Circusiana Monthly — 15c

HOBBY

Bandwagon

(Formerly Hobby-Swapper)

122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio

June 1948
Vol. 3 No. 5

HARRY M. SIMPSON
Editor — Publisher

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SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank
Member of CHS and CFA

Camden, Ohio

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The Publisher Says



Like a circus train traveling from one city to another, when another train comes along, whether it be a freight, passenger train or hand car, the circus train must take to the siding regardless of time wasted by the circus. This month Hobby-Bandwagon must do the same thing with its regular columns they must be placed on the siding for something more important, or may we say, something that has the "right-of-way" that is the Circus Historical Society Convention.

This month, the convention at South Bend, is given the right-of-way and other columns must be placed on the siding. This is not "just another convention" but a great convention, because it was planned that way; planned by a committee that has worked toward one goal "the greatest convention ever held," and you will agree with me as you attend that they attained their goal.

The Circus Historical Society is indeed fortunate to day and date with "America's Favorite Show," Cole Bros. Circus. If it wasn't for the fact that a boy some years ago was lured into the circus profession by a litho being pasted on a barn, maybe we wouldn't be meeting with Cole Bros. Circus today, because that boy is now president and general manager Zack Terrell of Cole Bros. Circus, Inc. Zack Terrell came up the hard way and through years of experience he knows how to pick talent and the value of friends like the Circus Historical Society and other Circus Fan Clubs that is why you are fortunate to meet with "America's Favorite Show."

Whether you be at the convention or at home, let's give this convention committee a "big hand" for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Harry M. Simpson

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded In 1939

By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson Editor

OFFICERS

Bette Leonard President

Maurice Alaïre Vice-Pres.

Walter Pietschmann Treas.

John Crowley Secretary

William Green ... Election Comm.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith

Walter Tyson

Arthur Stensvard

John VanMatre

C.H.S. Convention Now Under Way At South Bend

Cole Bros. Circus Is Feature Attraction

The annual Convention of the Circus Historical Society is being held at South Bend, Indiana, the 19th, 20th and 21st of this month and is expected to break all records in attendance. Headquarters are at the Hotel Oliver, where circus fan Jack McNulty is assistant manager and has done a grand job with reservations and hotel arrangements. Cole Bros. will be the convention circus and are scheduled to arrive in South Bend sometime Sunday, June 20th and will show there June 21st and 22nd.

The convention will open with a business meeting at the Hotel Oliver on Saturday evening, June 19th, this will be followed with a banquet on Sunday evening, June 20th and Cole Bros. Circus June 21st. Music for the banquet will be furnished by C. L. Brown and his Circus Band.

The committee which has been responsible and has planned this "The Greatest Convention Ever Held," is as follows: Dr. Harrison Powers, chairman, Otto Schieffman, Robert C. King, Charles L. Duble, George G. W. Piercy and Chalmer Condon.

Old Time Circus Band

C. L. Brown of South Bend, and former bandmaster of Sells-Floto Circus Band, has organized an "Old Timer" Circus Band and will entertain members and guests at the banquet on Sunday evening. They play many "honest-to-goodness"

Future CHS Member



Above is attractive Miss Dorcas Condon who isn't afraid of the famous Terrell Jacobs lioness, "Sheba". Miss Condon is the daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Chalmer Condon of Logansport, Ind. Photograph was taken by George W. G. Piercy during the 1947 Fall Round-up at Peru, Ind.

circus numbers and may dedicate the Circus Historical Society March. This is certain to be a popular feature of the convention.

Movies And Color Slides

Following the banquet, members and friends will be entertained with movies and colored slides of the circus taken by members of the

Next Page, Please

Circus Historical Society. Provisions have been made for 8mm and 16mm movies and 35mm slides. These will be shown in a special room of the Hotel Oliver.

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Saturday, June 19, 1948

All day—Registration
7:30 p. m.—Business session

Sunday, June 20, 1948

Morning—Attend church of your choice.
Afternoon—Meet Cole Bros. Circus Train.
6:00 p. m.—Banquet at Hotel Oliver

Monday, June 21, 1948

10:00 a. m.—Tour of Notre Dame University
2:00 p. m.—Cole Bros. Circus
7:00 p. m.—Attending Cole Bros. Circus
Circusiana Exhibit open at all times.

Exhibition Room

The hotel has arranged to have a room for exhibit of Circusiana and photos brought to the convention for display. It is expected

that many members of the CMB&OA will exhibit their model circuses and wagons.

Church Services

Time has been set aside on Sunday morning for members to attend the church of their choice.

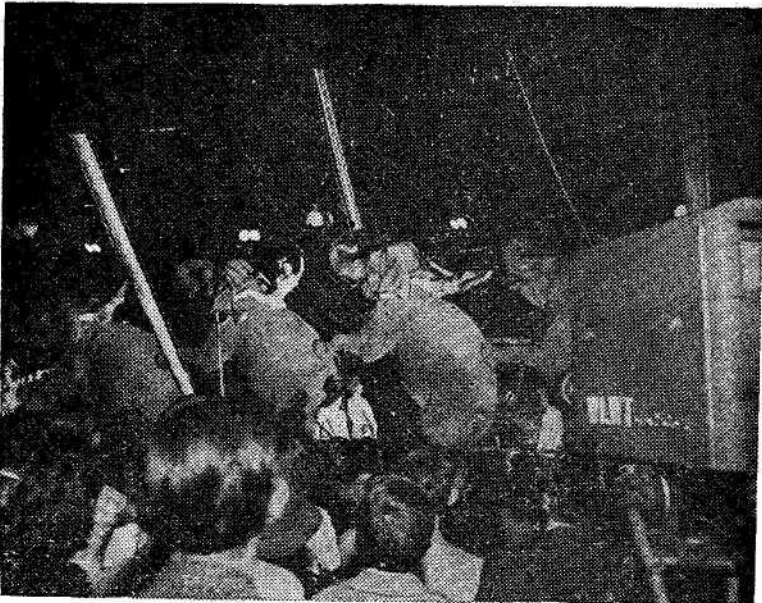
Tour Of South Bend

For those that do not care to watch the Cole Bros. "big top" go up Monday a. m., a sight-seeing trip through Notre Dame University has been arranged.

Cole Bros. Circus

Of course, the main event of the convention is **COLE BROS. CIRCUS**, "America's Favorite Show" that will show in South Bend on June 21st and 22nd. Members and convention guests will attend in a body on Monday night, June 21st. Cole Bros. Circus is scheduled to arrive in South Bend sometime Sunday, June 20th (an open date) and many will be on hand at the railroad tracks to greet their beautiful train.

Cole Bros. Circus have an outstanding program this year and opens with a historical pageant "Ponce De Leon and the Fountain of Youth" staged by Col. Harry Thomas, which is followed by an



Cole Bros. Circus added another chapter to circus history, when their entire two-hour show was televised over WLWT of Cincin-

nati, Ohio, Saturday night, May 15th. This was the first circus telecast in the Midwest.

array of stars as Paul and Ruth Nelson, The Cristiani Family featuring Lucio Cristiani, Miss Jinx Adams, The Great Davisos, Capt. John Smith, Mahlon Campbell, Bobbie Donovan, Marian Knowlton, Patricia Scott, Eugene Scott and the Cole Bros. elephants, Hubert Castle, La Louisa, Ortans Cristiana, Corcaita Cristiani, June Cristiani, The Flying Thrillers.



HARRY J. McFARLAN
Equestrian Director
Cole Bros. Circus

SHANK PHOTO

Clown Alley, headed by Otto Greibling, has been greatly improved this year featuring the newest laugh sensation "Wedding Bells." Other "kings of mirth" are Freddie Freeman, Lee Virtue, Horace Laird, Jack Crippen, Billy Griffin, "Huffy" Huffman, Kenneth Waite, Bob Lowrey, William Knight and others.

Another new feature this year is the English Ladies of the Ballet which consist of twenty-four young ladies from London and Australia, making their first appearance in America.

The Cole Bros. Band, under the direction of Henry Kyes, "The Paul Whiteman of the Big Top," is excellent and has that added snap needed in most circus bands.

The concert features "The Mask," the unknown wrestler that challenges anyone that cares to go in the ring. There is also the usual Wild West.

The side show, under the management of Arthur Hoffman, has a fine line-up of attractions, featuring Major Mite and has one of the best Colored Minstrels on the road.

All wagons and equipment have been given a new coat of paint and lettering and gives a fine appearance which is a credit to George Churchill, supt. of the Paint Shop. Zack Terrell, president and general manager, has ordered a new "big top" and if it arrives as promised, CHS members will get a chance to see this new white canvas for the first time this year.

Zack Terrell is president and general mgr.; Noyelles Burkhart is assistant general manager; James Gephart is general agent; Fred Schortemeir, general council; William J. Lester, traffic manager; Estrella Terrell, secretary; Robert DeLoche, treasurer; Paul Nelson, director of program; Col. Harry Thomas, director of performer personnel; Orville Stewart, general superintendent; Joseph Haworth, legal adjuster; H. E. Leeman, official timekeeper. Ora O. Parks heads the press department. Fred H. Donovan is chief of police; George Davis, steward; Gus Tallierro, supt. of programs and Charles Luckey is supt. of shops.

RECEIVES GIFT

Your editor now has a fine model circus wagon on his desk, the gift of Clyde Patterson, Cincinnati, Ohio. Mr. Patterson has a fine collection of circus photographs.

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C. SPENCER CHAMBERS

P.O. Box 722. Syracuse 1, N. Y.

BRITISH CIRCUS PHOTOS

SEVEN REAL POSTCARD-SIZE photos together with my interesting list of British Empire circuses. One dollar bill. Eddie Hawthorne, 48 Leander Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, England.

CHS DIVISIONS

Division 1—"United States Bandwagon", Mich., Ohio and Ind., has 46 members and Don F. Smith and Ed Meyers are directors.

Division No. 2—"Two Hemispheres Bandwagon," Maine, Vt., N. H., R. I., Mass., Conn., Del., Md. has 40 members and John Crowley and Allen Wescott are directors.

Division No. 3—"Five Graces Bandwagon," N. J., N. Y., Pa., Va., Ky. has 115 members and John Van Matre and H. L. Symons are directors.

Division No. 4—N. C., S. C., Ga., Ala., Fla., Miss., Tenn., Ark., La. has 16 members and Eddie Jackson is director.

Division No. 5—Wisc., Ill., Iowa, Mo., has 44 members and Bill Kaska is director.

Division No. 6—N. Dak., S. Dak., Nebr., Kansas, Okla., Texas, has 21 members and A. Morton Smith is director.

Division No. 7—Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Colo., N. M., Nevada, Utah, Ariz., has 1 member and Claude Elder is director.

Division No. 8—Wash., Oregon, Calif., has 20 members and Bob Taber is director.

Division No. 9—Canada has four members and Edw. Cripps is director.

Division No. 10—South America, and other countries have four members and E. Titus is director.

—o—

NEW MEMBERS

371—Warren Wood, 40 Fifth St., Cresskill, N. J.

372—Donald Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif.

373—Walter R. Lumb, sr., 12 Hall Ave., Saco, Maine.

NEW ADDRESSES

Ernest E. Brunette, 227 Prospect St., New Bedford, Mass.

Chas. E. Duble, 129 W. Market St., Jeffersonville, Ind.

Mark Anthony, Route 2, Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Gordon E. Borders, San Antonio, Hosp., Laundry Dept., Upland, Cal.

Robert O. Danner, 1149 E. Washington St., Muncie, Ind.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Leroy Sweetland.

NOTICE

Do you plan to move? Send us your new address to insure receiving your copy of the Hobby-Bandwagon.

"Two Circus Greats"



The above photo was taken recently when two CHS honorary members met. They are Chas. H. White, age 90, lion trainer with P. T. Barnum from 1872-78 and Jake Posey, age 85, the "Last of the Forty Horse Drivers."

CIRCUS PHOTOS

Post Card Size

Set No. 1—R B-B&B (1947) 16 @ \$2.00; painted sign board (N. Y.)—Midway (Miami)—Red ticket wagon—Polly Morrissey on bull—loaded train—3 backyard scenes—8 Cinderella Spec floats. Clear and sharp.

Set No. 2—R B-B&B (1947) 15 @ \$1.90; girls on bull—bull with unusual howdah—white ticket wagon—bell wagon—cookhouse—air calliope—stock cars—res. seat ticket wagon—Willie Carr, vet. 24 hourman—menagerie—2 back yard scenes—3 Cinderella spec. floats. Sarasota winterquarters set (bldgs. etc.), 15 @ \$2.00.

EDDIE JACKSON

Box 477, Macon, Ga.

P. S.—I do not exchange sets or sell individual pictures except in 8x10 size.

When the Steamer Royal Tar Burned with Burgess Menagerie on Board

By C. Spencer Chambers

When the snow drifts into miniature mountains, and the cold winds blow in from the sea along the rock-bound coast of Maine, it is the season of stories by seafaring men whose facts are more interesting than fiction.

Little children for over a hundred years have had a request number when on granddad's knee, and that story seems never to grow old or outlive its thrill—the burning of the Steamer Royal Tar with Burgess' Menagerie on board. The date was October 25, 1836.

The present day child psychologist would taboo the telling of this narrative after the sinking sun sheds its last long rays on the deep blue of Penobscot Bay. But to the contrary, the story has been told in twilight, daylight and the very darkness of the darkest night.

It was Friday the voyage of the Royal Tar was started. The new side-wheeler, notwithstanding its grandeur, was to substantiate the marine superstition that an undertaking on that day will meet misfortune—at least the fate of the Royal Tar was in keeping with it.

Its run was between St. John and Portland. When it steamed out, that 160 feet of vessel with funnels belching smoke against what Coleridge would call "a painted sky", was the pride and joy of Captain Reed who directed its short existence of less than twelve full moons. This day, its day of doom, it carried cargo; wild cargo from foreign jungles and primeval forests. On its deck were brightly painted cages and crates which held the wild life of Burgess' Menagerie. Things were peaceful and serene with the exception of a restless or chilled animal expressing its displeasure now and then to the chagrin of those who could not eliminate the condition of carriage.

The Royal Tar had pulled out of Vinalhaven, headed for the Isle of Haut. After a few miles out fire was discovered over the boiler un-

der the decks. Instantly the 93 people and the animals on board became panic-stricken beyond description. The appalling spectacle which the whole scene presented, with seemingly no hope of relief to be rendered, as a steady gale fanned the flames as they broke through the deck, made an inferno which Dante himself could not word-paint in its entirety.

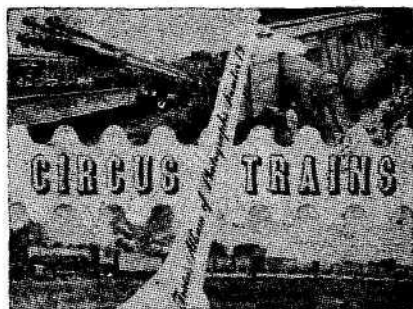
The cries of the beasts above the screams of the men on board, did not deter the keepers and trainers from releasing the animals from their cages, hoping that through some mysterious guidance they would reach the far-off golden strand which would be Vinalhaven. Then known as Fox Island, an appropriate name but of little value in this the hour of need.

Sad to relate only one animal of the whole menagerie reached land.

The belated revenue cutter Veto came to the rescue, plowing through an aquatic Zoo, composed of Burgess' unequalled collection of serpents, birds, a variety of animals, including an elephant, a

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royal Bengal tiger, two lionesses, two dromedaries, a gnu and six horses—a fine collection for that period. So, let it be said, when loyalty is depicted throughout the ages in some great mural yet to be painted, the faithful keepers of Burgess' Menagerie should loom up brilliantly in giant stature; for the delay caused by releasing their charges they went to a watery grave without a single exception.

Of all the animals on board, Tena, the noble elephant, gained the shore of Fox Island where she trumpeted and fell dead. There she was buried in an unmarked grave. But there is a monument erected for her, it is that monument that lives in the hearts of little children, and in summer when the balmy breezes have pushed back the winter blasts and kiddies with their spades and buckets play on the sandy shore of Fox Island, one can always find sand elephants moulded by tiny hands in commemoration of the noble animal of long ago.

This is the essence of the story upon which in its elaboration has been told, extending from minutes to hours by those who love the circus, the sea and the sand.

JOSEPH CONNELLY

Ora A. Martin reports the death of Joseph Connelly, age 95, famous Iowa showman, who resided in Des Moines. Connelly originated 60 years ago the running together of two locomotives as attractions at Fairs.

Mike Piccolo CHS and Don C. Hayman CFA, of Uniontown, Pa. caught Rogers Bros. Circus at Mantsontown, Pa. on May 30th.

Burns M. Kattenberg CHS, of Mansfield, Ohio, visited recently with Hi-Brown Bobby Burns, contracting press agent with Cole Bros. Circus.

Publication date of this magazine is the 15th of month issue.

WANTED—ROUTE CARDS. STATE what you have and price wanted. Harry M. Simpson, 122 S. Main St., Camden, Ohio.

1948

CIRCUS PHOTOS

15. **COLE BROS.** \$1.50
Loaded Train, Wagons, Lot,
Views, Etc.
20. **MILLS BROS.** \$2.00
Trucks, Band, Lot Views, Etc.

Johnny Vogelsang

713 Oak. Niles, Mich.

P.S.—Have very good 1947 Circus and Carnival Pictures of Cole Bros. Dailey Bros., Sparks and James M. Cole, Mills Bros., Hennies' Bros., Cavalcade of Amos' Mighty Hoosier and others.

Shop & Swap Guide

4c per word, three insertions of same adv. for price of two. Display adv. \$1.50 per inch. Remittance and reference with first order.

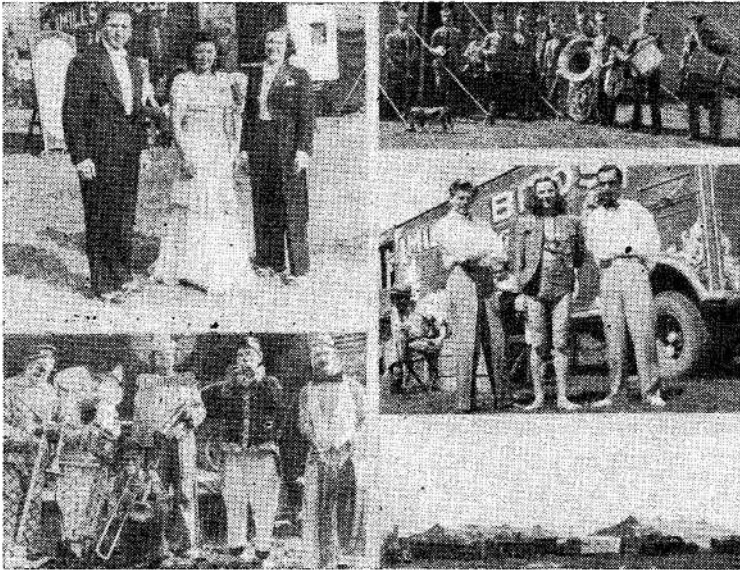
WANTED

WANTED — 1918 HAGENBECK-Wallace Circus program. Also any newspapers, photos, etc. pertaining to the H-W wreck at Ivanhoe, Ind. in June 1918. Chas. Kitto, Box 265, Beloit, Wis.

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MILLS BROS. 3-RING CIRCUS



Mills Bros. 3-Ring Circus opened their 1948 season April 17th at Circleville, Ohio, where they had wintered and was proclaimed by CHS and CFA members present as the greatest improved motorized circus of 1948. Jack and Jake Mills, the genial co-owners, have done a grand job in producing a top-notch circus.

The big top is a 100 ft. round top with three 40's, but a 120 with three 50's is expected to be delivered next month. They also carry a menagerie top, side show, cook house and dressing top and travel on 100 trucks and trailers. Equipment makes a flashy appearance, but a larger big top is needed to handle the crowds and performance. Harry Mills, a brother of the owners, is manager of the concessions.

Doc Waddell, the only pastor of the big top, is again traveling with Mills Bros. and is as much of the circus as the big top itself. Doc recently received world-wide publicity.

Robert A. Mills, no relation to the owners, heads the big top band which is composed of talented musicians, such as Jack Sweetman, the snare drummer, who has

Photo Credit—Above left, both photos by Clarence Shank. Above right, two photos at top are by Johnny Vogelsang, bottom photo by Michael Simpson.

travelled with many famous Minstrels including Al G. Fields.

The performance is very strong and will compare with that of the much larger shows with leading acts booked by Hans Lederer of New York. Big Burma, worked by Frank Noel, is the finest single elephant act of the road today.

Other members of the staff include Rose Mills, sec'y; Ida Mills, treas.; Ted Edlin, general agent; Charles B. Schuler, press agent; Burt Wallace, equestrian director; I. B. McCoy, announcer; Robert E. Boyd, cookhouse steward. Side show—Paul Hubbard, manager; and L. E. Collins, inside lecturer.

Mills Bros. Circus Program

Display 1—Opening Spectacle: On the Beach at Waikiki.

2—Big Burma in Hula Dance, presented by Frank Noel.

3—Introduction of Buffalo Ben—a man who is synonymous with our early American history, Buffalo Ben—the last of the original scouts, who was with Buffalo Bill

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in 1876. Ninety-four years of age.

4—Riding Dogs and Monkeys. Ring 1, Capt. Burt Wallace. Ring 3, Ed Mason.

5—Hand Balancing. Ring 1, Joe and Annette Dobas; Ring 2, Willie Clark; Ring 3, Bruna and Yolanda.

6—Single Trapeze. Ring 1, Josephine and Silverlake; Ring 2, Myrna Silverlake, assisted by grandfather, Archie Silverlake; Ring 3, Jonnie Mae Snyder.

7—Clowns: Hair-Growing Gag. Roy & Joy Thomas producing.

8—The Cathalas Troupe: May, Charles, Tony & Henry, from Copenhagen, Denmark, making their first American tour.

9—Spanish Web. Ring 1, Virginia Noel; Ring 2, Ellen Knight; Ring 3, Georgia Sweet.

10—Performing Dogs. Ring 1, Donna Drew; Ring 2, Josephine Silverlake; Ring 3, Jeannette Wallace.

11—First Concert Announcement.

12—Swinging Ladders. Ring 1, Willedean Black; Ring 2, Martha Alf; Ring 3, Margie Butcher.

13—Clown Wedding.

14—Teeterboard and Acrobatics. Ring 1, Rubyatte, acrobatics; Ring 3, Cathalas, teeterboard. Concluding with special announcement for Rubyatte, doing cartwheels around entire hippodrome track.

15—Tight Wire. Allen and Ellen Knight. Featuring a blind six-foot high jump.

16—Clown Crazy Number.

17—Liberty Horses. Ring 1, Spotted Horses, Jeannette Wallace; Ring 2, Dapple Grays, Capt. Burt Wallace; Ring 3, Black Horses, Ed Mason.

18—Clowns Number: Jargo. Presented by Brownie Silverlake.

19—Unsupported Roman Ladders. Rings 1 and 3, Girls on Ladders; Ring 2, Famous Medini Family: Bruno, Bruna, Yolanda, Michael and Petromille. Five high on unsupported ladder, completing a triple somersault from an unsupported ladder.

20—Second Concert Announcement.

21—Clown Band. Brownie Silverlake leader.

22—Flying Rings and Cloud Swing. Ring 1, Allen and Ellen Knight, flying rings; Ring 2, Jonnie Mae Snyder, cloud swings; Ring

3, Silverlake Trio, flying rings.

23—Clown Walkaround.

24—Pony Drill. Capt. Burt Wallace. Presenting on hippodrome track Jimmy, hindleg walking pony.

25—Joe and Annette Dobas, Perch Act. Featuring Annette, only woman in America supporting the perch.

26—Menage Horses. Ring 1, Georgia Sweet, Margie Butchers, Martha Ali; Ring 2, Jonnie Mae Snyder, Jeannette Wallace, Donna Drew; Ring 3, Ellen Knight, Eddie Mason. Concluding with dancing horses on the hippodrome track: Waltzing, Jeannette Wallace; Scotch Highland Fling, Georgia Sweet; After The Ball, Capt. Burt Wallace.

27—Big Burma—America's largest and fastest-performing elephant. Presented by Frank and Virginia Noel. Concluding with and featuring Virginia Noel in a head carry on the hippodrome track.

Equestrian Director: Capt. Burt Wallace.

Clowns: Roy and Joy Thomas, producing (Joy one of two female clowns now active in America); Willie Clark, Brownie Silverlake, Steve Crowe, Marcus Silverlake, Franklin Silverlake, Melvin Silverlake.

Concert: Featuring Buffalo Ben, 94-year-old original scout with Buffalo Bill. Lloyd and Willedean Black, knife-throwing and Australian bullwhip manipulation; Cowboys and Cowgirls.

—o—
Does your friend take Hobby-Bandwagon? Tell him about it.

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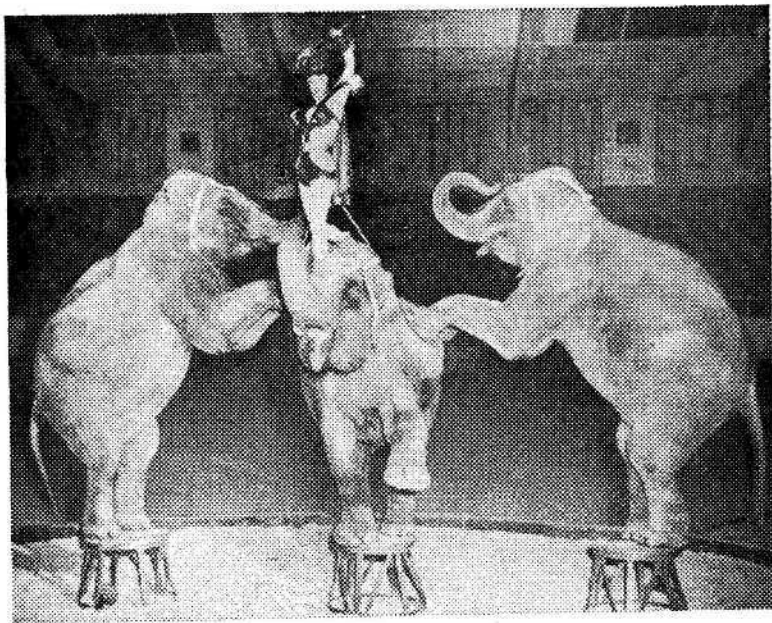
Rate—three lines for 6 months, no change in copy, \$3.00; or 12 months for \$5.00.

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**GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES
TO ALL — MALICE TOWARD NONE**



ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL TO—

Bob Stevens, of Bailey Bros. Circus; Buck Owens and Cy Rubens, of Buck Owens Circus; E. Don McCullough, of Eagle Bros. Circus; E. K. Fernandez, of Fernandez Circus, of Hawaii; William and Robert Garden, of Garden Bros. Canadian Circus for nearly four years of successful and profitable bookings.

To members of C. H. S.; C. F. A. and CMB&OA for their good will, fellowship and boosts along the way.

**DOLLY JACOBS and The
Twins "Punch & Judy"**

**EMPRESS, MODOC & JUDY
ELEPHANTS**

— With —

**Col. William Woodcock, Superintendent
and Trainer.**

Greetings!

to the

Circus Historical Society
1948 National Convention



C. Spencer Chambers

P. O. Box 722

Syracuse 1, N. Y., U. S. A.