



4th Year

December 8, 1975

Number 49

Show Set For '76 Debut

An all new show - Circus Galaxy - will make its debut next April, followed by a tour of some 150 cities in the Central and Eastern states. All engagements will be sponsored by fraternal and civic groups, with direct promotions planned for some major cities such as Minneapolis, Houston, Fort Worth and Chicago.

Circus Galaxy will offer a three ring presentation, with 24 displays and five major production numbers. The show has been designed to offer the American public the type of productions they have come to expect from TV programs and road shows. Some 60 performers have been signed for the tour, along with a production staff of 20 people.

Glory of the Past

Some eight members of the "little people" brought to the U.S. for the New York World's Fair (1939-40) still live in Flushing, N.Y. They've made their livelihood doing TV commercials, vaudeville, circus and even as Disney characters.

Four different troupes - English, French, German and Russian - were brought over for the
(Continued on Page 2)

The multi-facet corporation Great American Marathon, Inc., of San Antonio, Texas, is the parent company of the new circus. The firm is headed by R. D. "Dee" Collis, who has an extensive background in theatrical promotion. The company is active in the field of radio, plus
(Continued on Page 4)

PEOPLE

WALTER STIMAX and MILDRED HALL (clowns) will be with the Polack show in 76, and will also work dates for Kaye Cont'l.

GLADYS BLACK, recently divorced from B. H. WHITEY BLACK, will handle promotions and office work for Carson & Barnes from her Hugo (Okla) home.

BILLY BARTON is in Florida collaborating with KEITH KILLINGER and JERRY MAAS for music on a web production number "Salute to Hollywood" for the Detroit Shrine Circus.

KENNY IKERT, elephant man for D. R. MILLER, and formerly on Hoxie Bros. has been hospitalized. Write him at: Veterans Hospital, Ward 3, Room 323, Bonham, Texas - 75418.

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You'd better get your reservation in the mail for a Circus Report Holiday Greeting.

Space is limited and Dec. 17th is the deadline date.

PEOPLE

BOB EMRICO, clown and magician, is busy working Christmas dates in the San Francisco (Calif.) area.

BOB GIEYER is looking for clown props, make-up, etc. Contact him at: 312 West 10th St., Covington, La. 70433



THE LITTLE PEOPLE (Continued)

fair. They lived in a special "Miracle Town" built for their size, and presented stage shows each hour of the day.

Today, things are different and the demand for little folks isn't like it used to be. But they are managing and all of them say they wouldn't have passed up the opportunity to come to this country.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., San Francisco, Ca. 94530.

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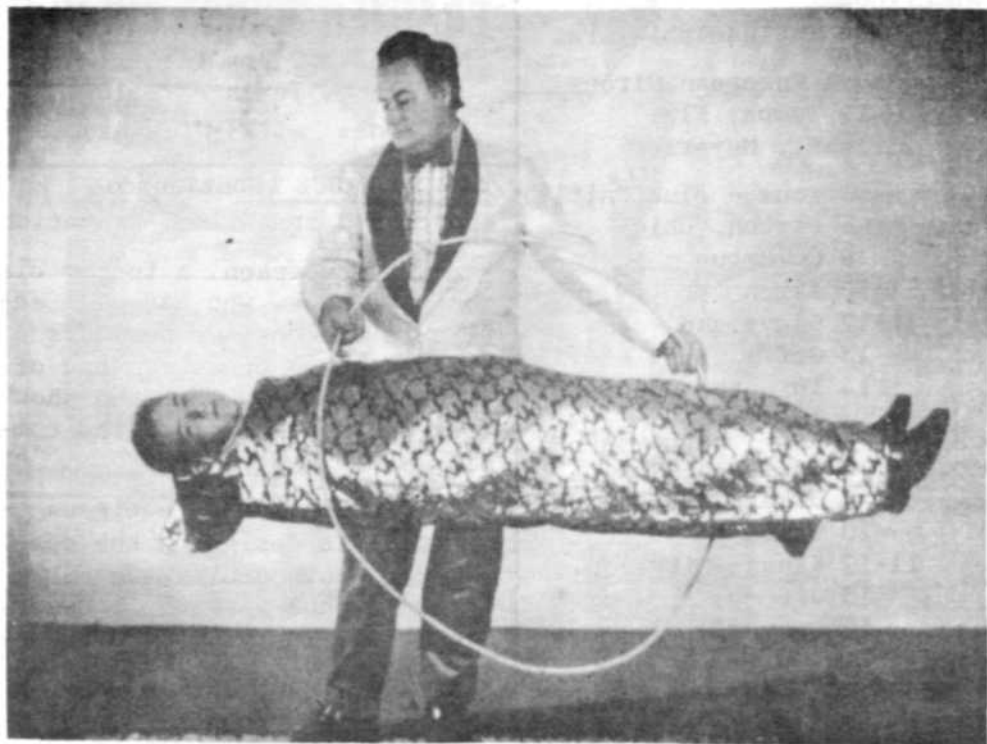
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Dec. 8-12 Tampa, Fla.
13-14 Ft. Meyers
- John Strong Circus - Blue Unit
Dec. 8 Dayton, Ohio
9 Columbus
10 Akron
11-12 Cleveland
13 Off
14 Toronto, Ont.
- John Strong Circus - Red Unit
Dec. 8 Dallas, Texas
9 Oklahoma City, Okl
10 Tulsa
11-12 Kansas City, Mo.
13 Off
14 Denver, Colo.
- John Strong Circus - Western Un.
Dec. 14 Stockton, Calif.
- Circus Vargas
Dec. 12-16 Visalia, Calif.
- OTHER ROUTES
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Dec. 9-14 San Francisco, Cal.
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Dec. 8 San Jose, Calif.
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NEW SHOW DUE (Continued)

sports and theatrical promotion.

Gary Peterson, a former circus performer, who has been active in the costume business and telephone promotion end of circuses, will direct the show's tour and promotion for the company.

Donna Peterson, a circus veteran, is designing the costumes and overseeing the building of circus wardrobe and sets. Jimmie Collins will be overseeing the administrative duties of the circus and supervising the accounting systems of the firm.

Bette Midler Show

Dec. 10-12 Seattle, Wash.

13-15 Portland, Ore.

CIRCUS SENTINEL

..... by BILLY BARTON

Greetings from Sarasota, the circus capital of the world. I am here to siphon off a few gallons of gossip!

Encountered JOHN CUNEO enroute and he confirmed the story that he has leased a lion act to the Garden Bros. Circus for one year with an option, and that JUNIOR, late of Hoxie and Circus Vargas, will work the act under personal contract to Mr. Cuneo.

Cuneo and HERTA KLAUSER go to Circo Atayde for ten weeks, after which they will be with Hamid-Morton and then return to Marineland in Niagara Falls, Ontario, for the summer.

When the Washington, DC Zoo remodeled they shipped their white tigers to the Cincinnati Zoo, where CUNEO has sent one of his three for breeding. In addition to Herta's bears, John transports a lion, 21 tigers and 8 elephants. Herta presents the unique white tiger riding the elephant.

ELIZABETH CLARK, mother of ERNESTINE BAER, suffered a heart attack and is in a convalescent hospital in California. JUNE WOOLRICH is now out of the hospital, has been visiting shows in Florida. There are three criss-crossing each other Stebbing's European, Beatty-Cole and Royal Hanneford.

DATELINE MIAMI: The Board of Realtors made elephant BABY IRENE an honorary member after she plunged thru the Realtors plate glass window in the course of running amok (spooked

by a train). The Realtors invited the elephant to their Awards Luncheon where she was given a scroll and a 25 lb peanut cake. Baby Irene's spree cost the Hoxie Circus \$7000 in damages.

Acts playing the Orange Bowl Notre Dame-Miami Game, carried over NBC-TV, included Royal Hanneford Elephants, Tommy's Boxers and Wally & Cheryl who stopped the show with their zanny routines.....JOHNNY CANOLE who keeps us in fountain pens, reports that the State of Georgia is putting out a new Freedom Train for a 90 day run. With it will be Matchez, Ken Murray and Leonard Simons.

Now to the local scene: LAURA HERRIOTT is a new bride.... SVEN and LILY KRISTENSEN return to Carden-Johnson in '76 but first make the Lansing date for VOISE.....With a long-term contract tucked in his lioncloth TARZAN ZERBINI sprints to Castle Int'l.....OSCAR's ELEPHANTS to Gatti-Charles.....Once his '76 contracts are honored JOHN CLINE will sell his elephants to

(Continued on Page 15)

Visit to.

. by ALLEN BABCOCK

Spent the weekend of Nov. 22-23 visiting Polack Bros. at Springfield (Ill.) along with my friend Norman Schuller. Other fans at the show included Jack Albee, Dave Orr, Merle Pepper, Bob Phebus and Mike Sorrill.

The final show for the year (Nov. 23) was really something to watch. If you say it was a bit "loose" that would almost be an understatement. The program got started when someone pinned a sign to Don Nothdroft's back saying "Kick Me" and he didn't discover it for quite some time.

At the conclusion of their acts performers rushed over to kiss Don and then when he and Francesca were doing the trunk illusion, Don was coming out of the trunk, when a performer was waiting for him, and wham, he was hit with a creme pie. At another part of the program Robert Hynds and a prop man rode the aerial motorcycle's trapeze up the wire and performed rather well.

Part of the clowning around was the usual end of the season antics, but it also served as a means of telling Don Nothdroft "goodbye and good luck". After spending 12 years with Polack he is joining the Ringling show and next year will be on the Red Unit, as assistant to Bob Dover.

The program here featured:-

Rudy Dockey - clown warm-up
 Johnny Jordan's leaps
 Jeanette & Albert Rix - bears
 Phil & Francine - aerial cradle
 Great De Mille - tightwire
 Pom Pom Donoho - baby elephant

PEOPLE

PERCY TURNER, of the Turner Bros. Circus, is recovering at his San Diego (Cal.) home after a recent heart attack.

JOHN HERRIOTT reportedly will join a show going into Venezuela for an extended tour.

DAVE McMILLAN and his group of 12 tigers are being featured at the Hyatt Hotel at Lake Tahoe as part of the floor show.

STU MILLER is taking his illusion show into Canada for a tour of some 20 weeks.

Rudy Dockey - musical clown

Pam Rosaire - trained dogs

Geronomo - sponge dive

-- Intermission --

Hans Winn Troupe - walk of death

Baron Von Uhl - wild animals

Rudy Dockey - clown dance

Miss Francesca - single trapeze

Don Nothdroft - trunk illusion

Pam Rosaire - trained chimps

Jordans - upside down unicycle

The Donohos - elephants

Winn Troupe - aerial motorcycle

STARTS RIGHT

The Jaycees at Troy (Ohio) report they were really pleased with the Hubler Int'l Circus last month and they hope to have the show make an annual visit to their city. The circus played at the Hobart Arena, before good crowds, on Nov. 22-23.

The show's staff included:
 George Hubler - producer/announc
 June Mills - choreography
 Florine and Phil Oler - music

The program featured:
 Overture and Nat'l Anthem
 Grand Entry - all performers
 The Davidsons - rola bola
 Danny Carey - rola bola
 George Barrada - African lions
 The Curtis Duo - aerialists
 Carl Gray & Co. - clowns
 Cuccilo - trampoline act
 Hubler Sisters - aerial ballet
 Anden's Poodles
 Andres Duo, Sensational Sebring
 and Pat & Gwyn - juggling
 Kaylena - dove act (14 doves)
 Clyde Bros. elephants
 -- Intermission --
 The Jumping Jacks - trampoline
 Toth Troupe - teeterboard
 Prof. Dailey - comedy bike
 The Clowns - teeterboard
 Kirby Family of Chimps
 Mimi Zerbini - single trapeze
 Gargo - Gregorious gorilla
 The Flying Dells

..... Don Sandman

PEOPLE

THE AMAZING MONAHANS, risley act, are currently working the Moulin Rouge in Vienna. They go to the Belle Vue Circus, in England, for Christmas.

D. R. MILLER recently took delivery of three new elephants giving him a current total of 38 elephants.

RUDI and SUE LENZ will be with RBBB's Red Unit again next season.

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The Beatty Circus

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus played Bradenton (Fla.) Nov. 20th, to a fair matinee crowd and a good 3/4 night house.

Despite a minimum of billing, this show as always gave a banner performance to an appreciative crowd. The new big top was erected here for the first time, although they had been trouping it since Pensacola. The canvas looked good and was the main topic of conversation for the day.

The show was excellent with perenials Dave Hoover, Fred Logan and Ron and Mitzi, however, a new motorcycle act, using the Elvin Bale equipment, John Herriot's family and Chief Hofmeyer and his liberty horses were among those who had joined in mid-season.

Jimmy Ille continues to lead a terrific group of musicians, who play a variety of circus and show music.

Immigration officials forced the Las Verdus rolling globe act to leave the show, and this feature will certainly be missed

Fred Logan has trained the three punks to do a nice act in the center ring, and Gary Thomas does a fine job of presenting two Sells & Gray and one King bull, after the truck wreck that sent Topsy, Freida and Jewel back to quarters.

Stu Miller does a good job at the Side Show, back after an absence of several years. The knife-throwing act, left earlier in the season.

SAWDUST TRAIL

A new show is coming out of Tarpan Springs (Fla.) this next spring. The route is being set up now, with several CFA's asked to assist them.

Michu, the world's smallest man and his soon to be wife, Juliana, were recently featured in an AP photo release. Their wedding will be a feature of RBBB's 1976 tour.

The Hanneford Family Circus plays for the Hall of Fame, in Florida, starting Dec. 17th.

Earl Allen and wife were recently pictured in a Sikeston (Mo.) newspaper story about the couple's circus room. Earl is known as "Mr. Circus" in the Missouri area.

.... M. L. Dupont

All-in-all it was a good show and many Ringling people were visiting on the lot, since their train had arrived at Venice just the night before.

..... Chris Berry

C&B Highlights

(Excerpts from a story by Glenn Cox, of the Hugo (Okla.) News, relayed to Circus Report via Helen Walters, of Hugo and Eric Wilson, of Sarasota).

After 15,691 miles on the road, 210 working days, 424 moves and 200 towns, the 1975 circus season, budded, bloomed and withered. Carson & Barnes is now dormant in its winterquarters in Hugo, Okla. Of the total number of days on the road, there were only four days off. Three had been scheduled, and the other was in Louisiana where the lot was under water.

Ted Bowman, general manager, describes one bad day (May 22) at Geneva, Neb. It was a "blow down." The sky had been looking bad before the afternoon show so a low-boy trailer was driven over a ditch to form a storm shelter.

Just prior to the matinee, owner D. R. Miller told Bowman he had better check on preparations. As he opened the trailer door, he sighted a funnel cloud on the ground, headed their way.

He gave the alarm, and it was amazing how many people were able to get under the trailer. After some fierce winds, they checked the big top and found one side in ribbons. The matinee was lots, but the top was packed that night.

For the next five days, everyone who could sew worked on the canvas until it was all back together.

Many humorous incidents were related. In Arizona, a bus

load of workers was following a truck carrying a bear. The cage door came open and the bear got out, unknown to the driver. The men stopped, coaxed the bear into the bus and carried it to the next performance town.

Later, in Minnesota, Don Carr, animal trainer, was driving a truck when he saw a bear at the side of the road. He stopped and got out to arrest the second-time offender. The bear was not cooperative.

Carr chased him and then suddenly saw the circus bear truck passing, with the bear in his cage. It was then that Carr realized he had been trying to catch a wild bear. The circus, it seems, was passing through a wildlife refuge.

Bowman reports the season was fairly good business-wise, considering economic conditions. Inflation nearly doubled the cost of operation in the past year.

The 1975 season was the
(Continued on Page 15)

TO ALL OUR ASSOCIATES - WE WISH A

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ANIMALS ARE HIS FRIENDS

There aren't many commercial zoo operators around, and one of the most successful of them is Lutz Ruhe, owner and operator of zoos at Oakland and San Jose (Calif.) It's sort of a break-even thing now, he says, and there's a definite squeeze on because of the constantly rising costs.



Ruhe is the fourth generation of his family to be engaged in the animal business. He came to the U. S. some 21 years ago, from Germany, and continues to carry on the family tradition.

The family's animal business got started in 1843, by exporting canaries from Germany to America. In 1865, his great uncle, became ill aboard a ship carrying canaries to the U.S. He sold the animals

to pay his expenses, then decided that business was so good he would stay.

About 1900 the family began handling big, exotic animals for zoos and circuses and other shows with the German operations providing most of the breeding stock

By the time Ruhe came to the U. S. a drastic change was starting to effect the business. The family was specializing in importing and exporting animals, it often took six weeks for a baby elephant or tiger to arrive by ship. When shipments started to go via jet plane in the 60's all the years of experience that the Ruhe family had lost its importance. That changed the family's business.

Deciding they wanted to stay in this country, Lutz and his brother developed a mobile baby animal zoo in New York, in 1960.

They played Boston, Cape Cod and Los Angeles before selling the zoo. Then after the mobile unit passed through several hands it ended up in San Francisco and Ruhe used the proceeds to build his Oakland Baby Zoo, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Dec. 15th.

Attendance that first year amounted to 266,000 and the peak was reached in 1971-72 with a total of 325,000 visitors. This year Ruhe figures some 270,000 people will visit his Oakland zoo.

One of our problems, says Ruhe, is that we have to change the animals frequently and the trouble is there's no place we can sell off the animals. Under a new state law we aren't allowed to sell animals, except to another zoo.

(Continued on Page 12)

In Memoriam

JIMMY TROY, known as the "Comedy King of the Air", died on Dec. 1st, as the result of a fall while performing for a children's show in Chicago.

Miscellaneous

A one hour special of Magic has been scheduled as a TV Special the night of Dec. 26th, be sure to check your local listing for time and station.

ANIMALS ARE HIS FRIENDS (Cont'd)

A baby lion or tiger is good for three or four months in Ruhe's zoo, while a llama or burro may only last a month. With elephants it depends upon their disposition.

Ruhe says the San Diego Zoo is the only one he knows of that has adequate financial support. King of astounding when you look at 1974 zoo attendance figures in the U. S. of 140 million compared with 120 million for all professional sports.

FOR SALE

The following items are available at \$1.25 each, includes the postage. Order one or as many as you want.

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Aug . . . 1947	Sept. . . 1952
July . . . 1947	May . . . 1953
Jan. . . 1948	June . . . 1953
Feb . . . 1948	Oct . . . 1953
March . . 1948	April . . 1955
April . . 1948	Sep/Oct . 1955
May . . . 1948	Dec . . . 1955
June . . 1948	May/June 1956
July . . 1948	July . . 1956
Feb . . . 1949	Aug . . . 1956
May . . . 1949	Sept . . 1956
June . . 1949	Dec . . . 1956
Sept . . 1949	Nov/Dec 1958
Oct . . . 1949	July/Aug 1959
Nov/Dec . 1949	July/Aug 1961
Apr/May 1952	May/June 1962
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SOUTHERN SAWDUST magazine

Aug. . . 1964	Feb. . . . 1970
Nov . . 1964	Aug . . . 1972
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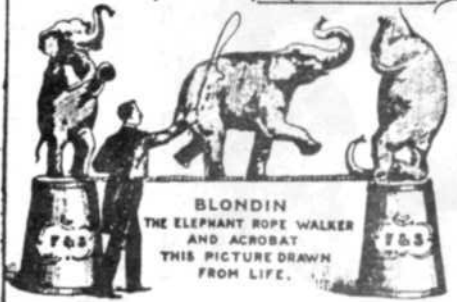
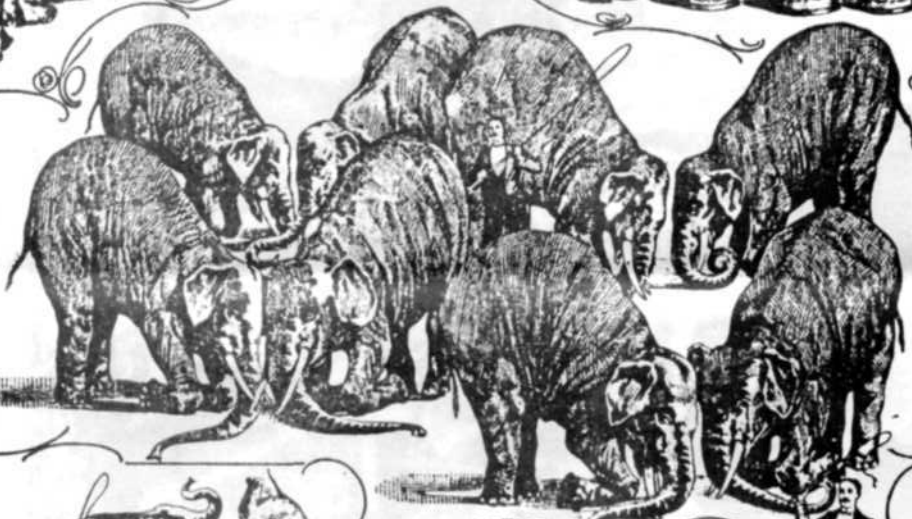
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URSALA BOTTCHER, pictured above, arrived in the U. S. on Dec. 1st with her 10 trained polar bears to join the Ringling-Barnum Circus for its 1976 tour. Both the animals and their petit trainer came into the U.S. at Port Elizabeth, N.J., arriving there aboard the Atlantic Container Lines' vessel "Atlantic Song."

Ursala Bottcher and her bears will be featured in the 106th edition of the "Greatest Show on Earth" when it starts on tour in January.

This page is an early reproduction of a Forepaugh litho



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Circus Sentinel (Cont'd)

a circus in Brazil.....FLYING ARMORS to Spain for Xmas..... Beatty-Cole sporting a new blue and white striped big top..... JERRY MAAS off to Nebraska to visit his ailing mother....Chicago newspaper carried a story, since syndicated, on BILL BALLENTINE of RBBB.....24 hour man STEVE GRANT heading home to Albany, hoping to make it in 24 hours, natch!

For Trivia Buffs: In the old days when the circus arrived the Sheriff and his men moseyed down to the lot to remove the nuts from the vehicle wheels. Once the local merchants had received their various payments, the nuts were returned; hence the expression "making the nut!"

JOHN COLLER of Moslem Temple (Detroit) in Florida, conferring with producer HANNEFORD..... Three tigers trucked in for TAJANA's cage act.....Russian aerialist MARINA perfecting an Iron-Jaw ascension for her act. Her drop from toes to knees on the steel hoop, a distance of several feet, is outstanding... ..Tony Fossett, Herta Klauser, John Cuneo, Cline's Elephants in New Orleans for Wallenda.

The Saga of Frog - Kool Kat
Late one night a circus was starting its 250 mile over-nighter when Cheryl, of Wally & Cheryl, spied the shadowy figure of a man creeping into an Airstream.

C&B HIGHLIGHTS (Continued)

39th consecutive one for President and Director Miller. Formerly he had the Al G. Kelly & Miller Bros. Circus.

Miller and Bowman said the circus will be bigger and better in 1976. It is now the largest motorized show, moving on 44 trucks and carrying what is perhaps the largest big top.

Miller says that he plans to celebrate his 40th year on the road in 1976, with a parade of 40 elephants.

HISTORICAL FACT
Pittsfield, Mass. July 23, 1925
Ringling-Barnum Circus

The Ringling-Barnum Circus went through here this morning in four trains, between 5 am and 8 am, with one train at 6:30 am. They are enroute from Springfield to Albany, N.Y.

Her scream sparked a hubbub of people running and a thief fleeing with Kathy English's purse. Meanwhile at the Stewart's camper their cat FROG departed on an unauthorized nocturnal stroll which now sparked a second "man" hunt.

FROG was apprehended first sitting in a nearby clump of bushes, guarding the money and contents of a hastily discarded purse. The show made its move and FROG is now King of ALL Kats!

See you down the road, luvs