



4th Year

June 9, 1975

Number 23

New Animal Law Study

The California State Legislature is currently studying a bill that will prohibit the charging of admission to view any film or other presentation "which depicts the actual and deliberate killing of an animal for the purpose of making such a motion picture or other presentation." Violation of the proposed law would be a misdemeanor.

The Motion Picture Association is against the bill, but it has not yet made any public statement on its stand.

Bob Selig, president of the National Association of Theatre Owners of Southern California, says his organization "hasn't taken any official position," but he doesn't think that animal cruelty should be "imposed on a patron."

According to Selig theatres have very little control over production or the actual pictures, and therefore can only
(Continued on Page 2)

Views Aired

Southern California animal owners and trainers went on the offensive against the new California Wild Animal Control law by voicing their objections on NBC-TV.

Spearheading the drive was 17 year old Kari Jones, daughter of "Smokey" Jones, who had written to NBC and informed them about the law and its implications to California animal exhibitors.

When the NBC news staff contacted Kari and asked her to
(Continued on Page 11)

SHOW DATE

Members of the Al G. Barnes Ring of model builders attended the 1975 opening of Gene Moreland's miniature circus, at his home in Van Nuys, Calif. on the evening of May 17th.

Guests at the combination circus/dinner/talk affair were Lagay (Gee) Wallenda, a member of the famous family of high wire performers. She talked of her circus experiences on various shows and about their fall in Detroit.

Another guest was Joie, the Clown, who is currently celebrating his 30th year as a circus clown. He used to be with the Circus Krone, of Germany.

ANIMAL STUDY (Continued)

express their views.

The bill would also require that any motion picture that purports to "show or simulate the killing of an animal" be accompanied by a certificate from the American Humane Society or an affidavit from the producer or distributor that no animal was killed.

The certificate or affidavit would have to be filed with the Attorney General prior to the showing of the film.

DON'T FORGET

Keep the news and route data coming, we need it each week.

★ HOXIE ★ BROS. CIRCUS

Just last month I drove 90 miles to Mt. Vernon (Ill) to visit the Hoxie Bros. Circus. This show is, without a doubt, the friendliest and cleanest show to play this area in a long time. It is no wonder that everyone thinks so highly of this circus.

They almost had a straw house and those in the audience I talked with really enjoyed the performance. It sort of reminds me of the old Gentry Bros Circus because they offer acts that everyone can see and enjoy. Their round tent is certainly a step in the right direction -- making the circus enjoyable for all its patrons.

The John Herriott family is the highlight of the show, with some beautiful acts. However, Lindy Dwartte has a great band; Phil Chandler is one of the better announcers and Roger Boyd, Jr. is doing an excellent job.

.... Joe Williams

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NEW SHOW DEBUTS

A circus, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, and various Art Councils, is now on tour in North Dakota. Owned and operated by Byron Burford, an art professor (University of Iowa), his wife, a son and five art students, the circus is certainly unique and interesting.

Called the "Great Byron Burford Circus" the show offers a most unusual performance, plus a display of art work, in a separate tent. Owner Burford says it is an opportunity to get art out of museums and into places where people can see it. The circus

plays at shopping centers, art centers and parks.

Visitors to the circus find they can get pop corn and peanuts, but can't feed the elephants. However, they are treated to a delightful and appealing performance.

Burford has constructed and painted all of the circus characters, most of which actually perform. Everything is mechanized and as they move under colored and changing lights, the aura of an actual circus is created. (Continued on Page 5)

In Memory Of

Robert and Gracie Gibbs

Died - May 1969



Their Children

**Bobby, Patt, Casey, Rose Ann,
Buck, David**

3 KING BROS. CIRCUS

cus has been out since March 21st, playing every day and already has bookings into August and later.

The show's admission prices of \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children have been the same for the past six years. Their side show/menagerie is priced at 50c.

May Wirth

May Wirth, regarded as the all-time great of women equestriennes, now lives in retirement in Sarasota, Fla.

Over 80 yrs old, she is a vibrant, lively lady who recalls her days with the big circuses. She was a featured performer on Barnum & Bailey and later with RBBB, starting at the age of 13.

It has been more than 45 yrs since she performed a feat no other rider ever accomplished -- a back backward somersault, which began with her back toward the head of the horse. She threw herself contrary to the forward motion of the horse, somersaulted and twisted so she landed facing forward on the second horse

..... Eric Wilson



A RECENT interview by AB's reporter Tom Powell quotes King Bros. Circus manager Harry Rawls, as saying that business this year is well ahead of last year. The cir-

Circus operating costs continue to climb, says Rawls, and "if inflation continues, it's really going to put a dent in the circus business." According to Rawls the show has been playing to good business, although some areas had as much as 28% in unemployment.

The circus uses an 80 ft. big top, with three 40 ft. center sections. Seating is available for some 2,000 people. The side show top is an 50 ft. with three 20 ft. centers.

Key personnel includes:

Harry Rawls - general manager
 Mari Jo Couls - office manager
 Tex Clayton - purchasing agent
 Mary Rawls - concession manager
 David Rawls - side show
 George Buttery - canvas supt.
 Charles Rex - mechanical dept.
 Donald Riley - electrician
 Bill Addison - cookhouse
 Ira Lackey - prop boss
 Carl Conley - horses/ponies
 Bob Cline - elephant supt.
 Vince Seyfried - musical direct.

EUROPORAMA - PLEASES

Another strong show program has been put together by John Winn for his 1975 "Europorama" tour, which is set to keep the show on the road for its longest run yet. Both sponsors and audiences have been pleased with the show program and in its opening weeks "Europorama" has been drawing exceptionally well.



The show has a brand new nylon backdrop (red, yellow and white, with the word "Europorama" in large black letters. In the center is a canopy for the five piece band (drums, trumpet, guitar, electric piano and trombone).

Flags and pennants are attached to each guy line and add to the colorful and festive appearance of the show. Costumes look new and flashy and add a great deal to each number. All rigging is set up so the act can be seen clearly, yet does not interfere with other parts of the performance.

The program currently being presented features:-

- Los Arturos - trampoline
- The Rosell Troupe - high wire
- Miss Elizabeth - hair hang
- The Jesse Trio - rola bola
- Clowns - Tug of war (4)
- Wolfgang Becker - hand balance
- Web production (6 girls) plus two slide for life numbers
- Intermission --
- Ross Martin Flyers - flying act
- Mr. Henry - Death Walk
- Clowns - The Prize Fight
- Los Rodriguez - high bar act
- Arturo Segura - bounding rope
- Jorge and his Funny Car
- The Three Lemoines - aerial motorcycle act
- Finale - entire personnel

New Show (Continued)

Many of the characters are representative of real circus people, whom Burford came to know when he played drums with shows in Iowa. He has been a professional musician and at one time had his own jazz band, but he decided he liked art better than anything else.

Burford's made circus figures for years and his first circus presentation was at Coe College in Grand Rapids (Iowa) two years ago. The Iowa Art College wanted to put the show on the road, but the threatened gas shortage prevented the tour.

This is the show's first tour and already they've encountered problems faced by the big ones. For instance just recently a storm damaged their big top, and their bus was lost, so now the show is moving on rental equipment, until new units can be purchased.

.... Harold Flint

ROUTES

Allen's Per Zoo
 Jun 10-15 Chico, Calif.

Carson & Barnes Circus
 Jun 9 California, Mo
 10 Fulton
 11 St. Charles
 12 Palmyra
 13 Kahoka
 14 Ft. Madison, Ia.
 15 Fairfield

Hubert Castle Circus
 Jun 9 Vernon, BC
 10 Kelowna
 11 Chilliwack
 12-13 Victoria
 14-15 Nanaimo

Circus Kirk
 Jun 9 Wormleysburg, Pa
 10 Linglestown
 11 Shoemakersville
 12 Enroute
 13 Montvale, NJ
 14 Tenafly
 15 Freehold

Circus Vargas
 Jun 9-17 Cicero, Ill.

Clyde Bros. Circus
 to Jun 11 Denver, Colo.

Kaye Cont'l Circus
 to Jun 10 St. Louis, Mo.
 Jun 13-14 Salt Lake City,
 Utah

Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus
 Jun 14-15 Chicago, Ill.

King Bros. Circus
 Jun 9 Huntington, Ind.
 10 Decatur
 11 Vern Wert, Ohio
 12 Genoa
 13 Defiance
 14 Fostoria
 15 Sandusky

Lewis Bros. Circus
 Jun 9 Shinnston, W.Va.
 10 Jane Lew
 11 Sutton
 12 Clay
 14 Boomer

Polack Bros. Circus
 Jun 13-15 Las Vegas, Nev.

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit
 Jun 10-11 Evansville, Ind.
 13-15 Memphis, Tenn.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
 Jun 12-15 Huntsville, Ala.

Royal Lipizzan Show
 Jun 10-11 Waterloo, Iowa
 13-15 Kansas City, Mo.

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit
 Jun 10-15 Sheboygan, Wis

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit
 Jun 10-15 Mukwonago, Wis

PEOPLE

HAROLD FLINT recently visited the Circus World Museum (May 23) and that evening he visited Hoxie Bros. at Janesville, Wisc., where bad weather forced them to cut back on the night show.

JOE LEMKE had added a new baby chimp to his group now working on the American Cont'l Circus.

TONY NOCK has reportedly left the George Matthew Circus, leaving LU ANN JACOBS carrying on with her various aerial numbers alone.

JIM PERRY, magician, serves as chaplain for the Hoxie Bros. Circus. He is a Lutheran minister.

SANDY DOBRITCH has reopened his own booking agency which is based in Las Vegas.

Europorama
 Jun 9 Grants Pass, Or
 10 Roseburg
 11 Coos Bay
 12 Corvallis
 14 Vancouver, Wash
 15 Kelso

Gatti-Charles Amer. Cont'l
 Jun 13 Oakdale, Calif
 14-16 San Jose

George Matthews Circus
 Jun 9 Beaumont, Tex.
 10 Lake Charles, La
 11 Lafayette
 12 Baton Rouge
 13-16 New Orleans

Hamid-Morton Circus
 Jun 13-14 Cumberland, Md

Happytime Circus
 Jun 11-15 Hanford, Cal.

Holiday Hippodrome
 June 9 Columbus, Ind
 10 Evansville
 11 Vincennes
 12 Terre Haute
 13 Lafayette
 14 Anderson
 15 Marion

Hoxie Bros. Circus
 Jun 9 Sugar Grove, Oh
 10 Bellefontaine
 11 London
 12 Washington Crt
 13 Chillicothe
 14-15 Huntington, W. Va.

Schmidt Circus
 Jun 10-12 Casseiton, N.D.
 13 Tower City

Sells & Gray Circus
 Jun 7 Lexington, Mo.
 10 Chillicothe
 11 St. Joseph
 12 Maryville
 13 Clarinda, Iowa
 14 Creston
 15 Ottumwa

Shine Circus
 Jun 13-14 Gnd Juctn, Colo

John Strong Circus
 Jun 9-10 San Antonio, Tex
 11-12 Houston
 13 Enroute
 14-15 New Orleans

..... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
 Jun 12 Indianapolis, Ind

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
 to Jun 15 Gary, Ind.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
 Jun 9-14 Keokuk, Iowa

James H. Drew Shows
 Jun 9-14 Grundy, Va.

Murphy Amusements
 Jun 13-15 Dike, Iowa

Rose City Rides
 Jun 10-14 Sullivan, Mo.

Seals & Crofts Show
 June 10 Rochester, NY

Miscellaneous

Six Flags, Inc., has taken over operation of the Houston AstroDrome theme park

Circus Vargas got some nice newspaper publicity for its engagement at Skokie, Ill.

DUSTY EBERHARDT has taken over the duties of show announcer on Circus Vargas.

JOHN MacKAY (Yoho, the Clown) is currently touring with the Europorama show.

The Magic Circus and Self Healing Medicine Show gave two performances in San Francisco (Cal) on May 31 and June 1st.

An unknown circus played in a Napa (Calif.) football field for four days early in May.



Sir Robert Fossett's Circus

Possibly the oldest established circus in England, Sir Robert Fossett's Circus opened its 1975 season at Knutsford, Cheshire, on March 17th. Weather conditions were deplorable for the first three weeks or so; at Cheshire it became necessary to build fires inside the tent in order to melt the snow which threatened to tear the canvas. Despite the weather, business was good -- it seems as if the English public is anxious to get out and enjoy itself, taking its mind off the present gloomy conditions.

I saw the show at Shrewsbury and at Cheltenham. By the time the show reached the last named town, weather conditions had improved, and the old two pole top, brought out while the new four pole tent was in the factory, made a pleasing old-fashioned picture of a traditional circus.

The program features:

Joe Berry, Derrick Rosaire and
Brenda Haeni - high school
horse act
Stella Fossett - big and small
horse presentation
Hungarian Clowns (2)
Anton and Manet - trapeze
Victor, Carl, Christina - clown
space ship number
Los Alamos - western act
George and Brenda - elephants
-- Intermission --
Joe Barry - Welsh ponies (8)
Victor and Emily - Tonga, the
comedy gorilla
Derrick and Valerie - camels,
llamas, donkey, guanacos
Les Brumbachs - sword balance
Duo Mariano - jugglers
S. Kuryakin - tigers (5)
The Six Dodi - swingboard acro

MEXICO TRIP

The Clyde Bros. Circus has announced that Owner-Producer Howard W. Suesz, will take his Royal International Unit to Mexico this fall. The show is set to open at "The Arena Mexico" on August 8th for a minimum of five weeks.

The Royal International Unit, is comprised of Clyde Bros. regular Blue Unit animal attractions, plus many other special acts. It will be the largest and most spectacular circus ever produced by Mr. Suesz.

SKRBY

This show is owned by Bailey and Mary Fossett (brother and sister). Young Robert Fossett (son of the late Robert) has just finished school and is busy lending a hand throughout the show, and an avid juggler.

This is the show that donated its tableaux wagons to the Circus World Museum, in Baraboo, where they have been completely restored.

..... Jack Niblett

Midwest Report

..... by CHUCK BENNETT

Circus activity has been picking up in the Oklahoma/Kansas area, and in the last two weeks we've had three tented shows.

Carson & Barnes played Blackwell, Okla. (May 10), Kingman, Kans. (May 11) and Norton, Kans. (May 16). Dorey Miller really has a block-buster this year with 27 bulls and a 2 hour performance, under a 6 pole big top. The show features the Oscanian Troupe with their excellent numbers and the program is backed by a hard working band, directed by Emil Hahn.

Wardrobe on the show, both for individual acts and production numbers, is excellent. The main spec "A Circus Trip Around the World" was well costumed, and authentic. The aerial ballet has 10 girls in the air.

Business early in the season was excellent, but has declined some here of late. Blackwell drew two fair houses, Kingman was poor and Norton drew a 3/4 house. Word has just now been received that the show had a blowdown at Geneva, Nebr. on May 22nd, doing much damage to the big top and inside rigging.

The George Matthews Circus was visited at Tulsa, Okla. on May 17-18, where they gave some eight shows in three days. Most people think of Tulsa as a poor show town, but they turned out to see this circus.

The circus has some real quality acts, a stand-out being the Dy-mecks, a trio who work on a horizontal bar, similar to a Ringling feature some years ago. For a closing feat the girl does a double sommersault on the bar.

In Memoriam

REV. R. T. CARR, of Santa Cruz, Calif., and a member of the CHS, CFA and CMB, died on May 5th. He was an ardent circus fan and a friend to show folks everywhere.

Survivors include his wife, Vivian and a son Richard T.

The show looks good, using last year's orange and white top which is still in fine shape. The band, directed by Jim Gibson, consists of nine people and they really play the music.

Playing at Stillwater on May 24, the Sells & Gray Circus had a small matinee crowd, but a big evening attendance. On May 25th at Perry, they drew a "big straw house" for their one show only on Sunday.

The show's performance is not as strong as in the past and they're using recorded music for all numbers. The canvas is showing signs of wear and the equipment too, looks as if is ready for a new coat of paint

CHS Meet

The Circus Historical Society has announced that its annual convention will be held at the Circus World Museum, in Baraboo, Wisc. On Aug. 1-2. Named as co-chairman for the affair are Stuart Thayer and Tom Parkinson.

G - M NOTES

Recent visitors to the George Matthews Circus included: Howard Suesz, Walter Stimak and Mildred Hall, The Nerveless Nocks, Johnnie Zoppe, Malikova, the Murillo Family, the Rosales Bros., Chris Holt, Boom Boom Browning, Betty Bell, Mel and Aurelia Hall, Jack and Velma Harrison, Gee Gee Powell and son plus Rex and Ava Williams.

Theives broke into Billy Barton's truck at the Will Rogers Motel in Tulsa and stole headresses and wardrobe valued at \$2,000. Luckily some of the headresses were in the trailer at the lot, plus the remainder of the act wardrobe now costuming three people. Saved was the original white headress belonging to Princess Tajana, that Barton carries for good luck.

The circus has been plagued by muddy lots and bad weather, including a tornado at Oklahoma City. The top was saved but the shows were cancelled.

The Dallas stand was for seven days, with full houses the last four days covering the Memorial Day weekend, with nine shows in three days.

C V NOTES

Circus Vargas was just missing the mid-west storms last month and was packing them in at Dubuque (May 27). The show just recently added a new 250 KW generator and a horse truck and the new big top is expected late this month.

When the circus moved into the Omaha area many performers picked up or ordered new trailer homes. Among them were: Laceys, Billy Baker, Harry Thomas, the Parkers and Vasheks. The show's big top supt. bought a 25' motor home and Floyd, of concessions, purchased a custom built 5th wheel trailer and the next day it blew up, due to a faulty propane connector, there were no injuries.

Wally Ross has rejoined the circus and Dick Drake, who was handling elephants while Wally was away has left, along with Larry Joyner, who will help Dick get his Wild Animal Menagerie and Picnic Park started at Tehachapi (Calif.)

Continuing his efforts to fight current animal legislation showman Cliff Vargas has already collected some 40,000 signatures on a petition to oppose the new animal regulations.

SHOW SHUT DOWN

The Big John Strong & Son Circus got plenty of newspaper coverage in conjunction with its May 20-22 El Cajon (Calif.) engagement. The circus, which had set up at the Parkway Plaza, was ordered to shut down its activities and leave town by the City Council.

The circus was booked into El Cajon under the sponsorship of the local Calif. Division of Forestry Employees Assoc. All proceeds from the circus were scheduled for the local Burn Center and Kidney Unit of a local hospital.

The problem started when a city business license inspector, shopping at the Plaza, watched the circus being erected. He dashed back to City Hall, checked the files, and found no record of the circus having applied for a license. Other violations were also noted - the fire marshall had not given his approval for the circus and the show was setting up in an area that was not zoned for such activities.

A last minute plea, as the circus performance was getting under way, failed to sway the City Council, who voted to shut down the circus. Later one Councilman said the circus would probably have been allowed to operate at the Plaza, if they had applied for a permit prior to the actual show time.

Police were ordered to the circus lot, to prevent further operation and see that the circus left town.

The circus then moved to the San Diego County Fairgrounds parking lot, just outside the city limits. Performances were presented there, without the tent.

IEWS AIRED (Continued)

appear in a filmed interview on May 30th, Margaret Holter graciously made available her Movieland Animal Ranch for the occasion.

Despite the holiday, a number of concerned owners and animal trainers turned out at the Holters' to give their views on the controversial law and how it will affect their livelihood.

In addition to interviewing Kari and trainer Ray Chandler, NBC also filmed Kari working her little elephant Tika.

Owners and trainers on hand for the film interview included Margaret Holter, Smokey and Kari Jones, Eugene Johnson, Ray Chandler, Bobby Holter, Fay Gordon, Charlie Franks, Carol Weinhart, Bob Pruwitt, Tony Gentry and Clark McDermott.

..... Eric J. Beheim