

# CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

9th Year

Number 45

November 10, 1980



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## HOTLINE

Oct. ? - Fredericktown, Mo. - A truck carrying six elephants to a circus overturned in a ditch. Authorities said neither the driver or elephants were hurt.

The elephants were reloaded into another circus truck and continued on their way.

## PEOPLE

JOHNNIE and HELEN MARIETTA hosted a get-together for circus friends and fans at their Pittsburg, Kans., home, where those attending recalled the old days of Baraboo and Sarasota.

KEN "Turtle" BENSON has been working at the Urban Cowboy Clubs in Monroe, La., with his rope spinning and knife throwing acts. He is also featured in a Ford Motor Co. commercial spinning a "big loop" around a Ford Mustang.

JERRY GOODSPEED, ventriloquist, is appearing at the Club Ibis in New York.

ALBERT LUCAS and JOEY JORDAN, both ice skating jugglers, met recently on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Albert was headed west and Joey was heading east.

WES BARTON, who in past seasons has operated a snake show on Carson & Barnes, is now working at the Monroe, La., Zoo, in the primate dept.

PATRICK JORDAN, 11 year old juggler, will perform at Disney World, in their annual Christmas Show.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$15.00 for the year, Overseas rate via surface mail is \$20.00 a year.

ADVERTISING RATES: (Per issue on a first come basis) Minimum Ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$20.00; Full Page \$35.00

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## REPORT

### MAGIC and VARIETY SHOW

BY BOB SWANEY

Omaha's Music Hall was alive Saturday, Oct. 25th, when Big John Strong's Magic and Variety Show played to a house of wildly enthusiastic youngsters.

The show's headliner was Max Hapner who, with his lovely and vivacious wife Sally, kept the audience spellbound with a full array of superbly staged and executed illusions. Their every word and movement spelled "magic", particularly the levitation which left the audience scratching their heads.

Rounding out the show were expert juggler Lenny Mazel, Dracula's Brood of performing Dobermans and Mario Von Albert with feats of gymnastic balance.

Magician Kim Dixon served as MC/Magician and really got the kids going with his Die Box and Zombie Ball routines. Pootso Kodini handled the clowning while Neil Armstrong (organ) and Rick Jones (percussion) provided the vivid musical backdrops for each number.

Sponsor for the event, which was in the best tradition of Big John, was the Charles Williams Post No. 30 of the American Legion. Promotion was handled by Mark X Productions.

Max, Sally and Kim are masters of their craft and left magic alive and well in Omaha.

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# Show Dates

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Nov 11-13 Lexington, Ky.  
14-16 Louisville

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue

to Nov 16 Rosemont, Ill.

## Ringling-Barnum - Red

Nov 12-16 Nashville, Tenn.  
- End of Season -

## Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Nov 10-11 Mobile, Ala.  
12-13 New Orleans, La  
16 Baton Rouge

## Texas Shrine Circus

to Nov 15 Ft. Worth, Tex.

## Wonderland Circus Revue

Nov 10 Denmark, SC  
11 Norway/Springf'd  
12 Wagner  
13 Blackville  
14 Swansea  
15 Williston

## ---- OTHER DATES ----

## Century 21 Shows

Nov 13-23 West Palm Bch,  
Fla.

## Michael Baldrige

Nov 10 Philadelphia, Pa  
11-12 New York, NY  
13 Baltimore, Md  
14 Stony Brook, LI  
15 Wenham, Mass

## Liberace Show

Nov 11-17 San Carlos, Calif

## Los Latinos

to Nov 15 Ft. Worth, Tex.

## Prf. Miller Magic Time USA

Nov 16 Richmond, Mo.

## Tom Ogden

Nov 15 Mt. Bethel, Pa.

## Mr. Sensation

to Nov 15 Ft. Worth, Tex.

# SAMANTHA



Gollys, the first time I ever rode an elephant it was real scary, but now it's fun and I enjoy it - more so than some of the other work I have to do.

It's nice to chat with y'all and I hope you'll hang around for my next big number - y'all will really be surprised.

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# Billy Barton

**DATELINE - Greencastle:** Owing to the critical illness of my mother who, at this time remains in serious condition, I was forced to fly out of San Antonio on opening day. I will, however, fly back to Texas to finish the route which includes Fort Worth and Dallas.

I appreciate the understanding of General Circus Chairman JIM GULLETTE and also appreciate the concern of my many friends on the show. Thanks to those people who have sent flowers and cards to the hospital and a special thanks to KATHY KILLINGER for getting me to the airport on time.

Although I had filed a column from Houston, that column was filed mid-run and immediately after it was mailed a series of incidents occurred and a number of new visitors arrived. So, this will be a wind-up column on the Houston date.

A small boy (about 11 years old) who had been getting into mischief around the coliseum all week and who was trying to get one of those helium balloons which always seem to get away from young hands, finally climbed into the girders after one and plunged through the false ceiling 51 ft. to the chairs below. His body was broken in countless places and it took two hours for officials to locate his parents.

A surprise visitor on Friday, Oct. 16, was TARZAN ZERBINI, in from Utica where the Castle show had just opened its weekend run Johnny sat in my dressing room and I took notes on our conversation for at least an hour GARY THOMAS is now working 15 tigers and was working the act in Utica. Next year the Castle show will feature two cat acts, Tarzan's lion act and the all new tiger act. Currently JAMES ZOPPE is on the show with his riding act, replacing the ZERBINI act who were there most of the season. James has three other riders in the act.

The Castle show will open its 1981 season at Saginaw on Jan. 17th. JON FRIDAY will be the ringmaster on the full route and LUCKY LARABEE will emcee the double dates. New on Castle's route next year will be the Wichita Shrine date.

Some of the acts set for the main show tour are: The Pietro Canestrelli Family, Les Blocks, Marie France, Sampion, Olmedas, Kolmedys, Horwarth's Chimps, The Rodriguez Troupe

with a new flying act called the Volantes, along with their other acts, a 14 girl aerial ballet in a jungle-themed production which will open the show, an Elephant Disco production and a Viva La Vegas number to introduce JACKIE ZERBINI's trapeze act. Incidentally, Tarzan intimates that 1981 may be Jackie's last season with an aerial act as

pelvic injury has worsened. Repeating the route will be: Capt. Circus, the cannon act performed by BRAUN REINHOLD who will be doing a cradle act also, with his wife. TOBY BALLENTINE will head up Clown Alley.

Acts double-dating include the Quassars, the Nocks, Cuneo's Elephants worked by Joanne and Pee Wee Pinson, along with their own animal acts, the Smahas, Erik Adams, Jr., the Burgers, the Gauchos, Wiregard's Breakaway pole, Aerial Paulsons, Dionne Troupe, Hernandez Troupe (Flint only), the Tony Diano Elephants and the Cristiani Family.

ITEMIZING: TONY SMAHA, Sr. improving slightly, sez INGA. . .BOBBY HUBER now on the Texas dates, in from a season with the ZOPPE RIDERS and with a new girl friend. . .Playing a shopping center date in Oklahoma City were PAT and GWEN DAVISON, The SHAPPIS, EARL MICHAELS and CAROL ATTERBURY. . .REX YOUNG goes golfing every chance he gets. . .BETTY HUBER busy having dinner parties at her home during the Houston run and bringing food to us starving ones on those 3 show days. . .Speaking of food it took me a while but I finally taught CHASS BEASLY how to make grilled cheese sandwiches. Chass Beasly is the Neasly name for MARCELLA who never says 'yes' she always says 'chass'. . .One of the Shriners gave CAROL ATTERBURY a clock with a glass dome which she showed to HERTA CUNEO and me and which took the combined efforts of Carol, Herta and a passing Shriner some 25 minutes to get back into its packing case.

PAMELA PERRY suffered a serious eye injury when gas spilled into her left eye during Ron's wire act. She is a-okay now. . .DEBBIE VALENTINE visited, so did PAT and GWEN DAVISON from the King Bros.

(Continued on Page 30)



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## in the NEWS

### ALBINO ANIMALS

Chinese scientists believe they have found the world's highest concentration of albinos - white animals - in a forest area in western Hubei province.

The official Xinhua news agency reports the animals include white squirrels, white vultures, white musk deer, white Asian deer and white bears.

They note that the white bear is not of the same species as the white polar bear, but instead is similar in features to the black bear.

The scientists said they did not know why all of these animals have the white coloration - actually an absence of pigmentation - or why so many different species of white animals have been found, all in the same general area.

### LIONS KILL MAN

A man was killed by three rare Asian lions at the Los Angeles Zoo last month. The victim apparently climbed up a tree to reach a 14 ft. stone wall. Then he either jumped or fell into the lion area. The male lion has been on loan from the zoo in Colorado.

Zoo officials said the lions weigh about 250 pounds each and describes them as being a "vanishing breed." According to reports there are only about 250 such Asian lions left in the world.

## REPORT

### SOME TEXAS NOTES

BY BOB STODDARD

Rosalie (Superstar) Perryman, of the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85, was featured on the front page in full color on six newspapers in the Dallas area.

Anneta (Jingle) Moerbe won a blue ribbon at the State Fair of Texas for three years in a row.

The Gutis Family's Jungle Parody still rolls them in the aisles. The act is always popular at the State Fair of Texas and this year was no exception.

Eight Alley No. 85 clowns agreed to help out with a video tape promotion produced by Paulo and Phillippe (Paul Niebauer and Phil Shear).

The group rehearsed in the ring of the Gil Gray Circus at the Texas State Fair grounds between the 6 and 8 p.m. shows. This rehearsal went so well that the producing clowns, Checkers and Patches, decided to remove one of the clown acts and do the taping during the 8 p.m. performance. The results were excellent and everyone had a great time.

The Alley No. 85 clowns were: Anneta (Jingles) Moerbe, Cheryl (Cookie) Rogers, Poppy (Poppy) Benner, Becky (Lady the tramp) Eskew, Lanea (Kimbo) Ramos, James (Jim bow) Decker, Jerry (Rosco) Throneberry, and Vince (Superman) Gaines.

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## MAILBAG

### FROM WILLIAM WOTSCH

Marabel Vinten, who lost out to Sonja Henne at the 1932 Winter Games at Lake Placid (NY) was a popular and good figure skater. In July 1939, we had the Poultry Congress Convention at the Cleveland Arena and a big rooster was painted on the ice, with all of its feathers in different colors. We froze the big

## Acts

### OLYMPIC INTERNATIONAL CIRCUS

The South Carolina State Fair Circus (Oct. 17-25) was presented at the Columbia, S. C. Fair grounds and produced by the Olympic International Circus.

Acts listed on the program include: The Great Armando; Francarro; Dime Wilson's Clowns; La Gilda's Leopards; Al's Lemonzeene; Frank & Estreleta, aerialists; The Cristiani Brothers, trampoline; Dime Wilson's Clowns; Hugo Zacchini, cannon act.

The circus staff consisted of: Eddie Zacchini producer; Jon Friday, Ringmaster/Announcer; Al Vernon, Musical Director; Dime Wilson, producing clown and Carl Stephens, Scenery and lights.

painting in the ice, then built up ice on top of it.

S. Owens and Marabel skated, dressed as Gauchos. (They were husband and wife). In 1961 she was coach of the United States Figure Skating Team, then lost her life in a plane crash near Brussels, Belgium on Feb. 15, 1961

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# REPORT

## KING BROS. CIRCUS

BY RICHARD C. JOHNSON

The King Bros. Circus appeared in Yazoo City, Miss., on Oct. 8th. Two performances were given - 4 and 8 p.m., with good crowds in attendance.

The circus was loaded with talent. The following is a list of the acts which appeared in the circus.

Eddie Schmitt, tigers; Nancy Giordano, aerial lyre; Pachincka (Paula Bertloff), single trapeze; Clowns CoCo II, CoCo III and Piz-za (Graham and Michael Ahrhart and Arthur Rescigno); Mike Rice, pony and horse; Sabrina Kaiser-Perry, head balance trapeze; The Gaonas, trampoline; 1/2at Davison, rola bola; Mike Rice, elephant; The Albuget Bros. on the high wire; Pat Davison, juggling; The Flying Gaonas, flying act; The Great Sebastian, bullet catch in teeth and illusions; Co Co II and Co Co III, stilt walk; Mike Rice, Chimps; Ray "Twine" Watson, loopless web and iron jaw; Scotts Royal Boxers.

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The show's staff consists of: Ned Toth, producer; Jutta Toth, secretary; Nancy Giordano, treasurer; Frank Perry, general manager; Ralph Gauge, prop boss and rigger; Dave Le Blanc, canvas boss; George Scott, performance director; Pom Pom Donoho, concession manager; Charles Schlarbaum, band master and Sebastian, ringmaster.

Two acts that I think should have special recognition are Pat Davison's rola bola and the Scott's Royal Boxers, which are outstanding acts.

In talking with Ned and Jutta Toth, producer and secretary, of the King Bros. Circus, they stated that lots of plans are being made for next season. For example, lettering on all trucks and a larger tent, plus a new ticket wagon.

## PEOPLE

DANNY CHAPMAN, TOM 'Peppy' PICCARD, JOE SHERMAN and upcoming clown FAY SWARTZ, worked a show for the Whirlpool Corp., along with the Hanneford Circus in Palm Beach, Fla. Oct. 25th.

# ANIMAL ACTS

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**in the NEWS****PAINTING EXHIBIT**

The National Gallery of Arts in Washington, DC, was putting together an exhibition of the circus pictures of Pablo Picasso, in honor of the 100th anniversary of his birth, when someone remembered that two of the artist's contemporaries had once remarked that the painting called "Family of Saltimbanques" (which means tumblers or acrobats), had been repainted several times.

X-rays proved this was true. Beneath the surface were two works long considered lost "Circus Family," a 12-figure group scene, and "Two Acrobats".

Experts said that Picasso was so poor in 1905, that he couldn't afford to throw out an 83-by-90-inch canvas. So if he no longer liked the work, he would paint a new one over the old one.

**NEW RECORD**

The 53rd annual Los Angeles County Fair at Pomona, Calif., ended its 17 day run on

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**RAISES OSTRICHES**

Lloyd Tillet, of Lovell, Wyo., raises ostriches on his ranch. The male is about 9 feet tall, he says. Each bird consumes a gallon of a corn and oat mixture, 10 gallons of water, part of a bale of hay and any fruit they can get, each day.

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# REPORT

## MATTEL REPORT

*Six months Ended Aug. 2, 1980, compared to Six Months Ended Aug. 4, 1979.*

Net sales increased \$108,072,000 or 35% from \$309,633,000 in fiscal 1980 to \$417,705,000 in fiscal 1981. Approximately 71% of the increase was attributable to Western Publishing Company, Inc. ("Western") which was acquired by Mattel in June 1979. Excluding Western, net sales increased 12%, with the majority of the increase produced by the Toy Products group's hand-held electronic games volume and the introduction of Intellivision, the computer-based home entertainment video system. Entertainment and Hobby group combined revenues also increased over the prior period. Entertainment revenues increased as a result of the Ice Shows which were acquired in March, 1979.

Cost of sales increased \$59,043,000 or 30% over fiscal 1980. Expressed as a percentage of net sales, cost of sales decreased to 62% from 64%. Principal factors contributing to the improvement over the prior year were

the additional volume of electronics products and the absence in the current year of the continued operating costs of Metaframe which was sold and the start-up and high operating costs of the Monte Carlo Circus.

Selling and administrative expenses increased \$36,128,000 over fiscal 1980. Approximately 60% of the increase resulted from the acquisition of Western and approximately 16% of the increase was attributable to higher advertising expense. The remainder of the increase was required for the expansion of the Toy Products group, principally electronic games and Intellivision, and general Corporate expenses.

Approximately three-fourths of the increase in interest expense of \$8,271,000 resulted from the acquisition of Western and the Ice Show operations. The remainder was due principally to a higher bank prime interest rate and a higher level of seasonal borrowings.

The fiscal 1981 currency translation loss of \$757,000 resulted from fluctuations in the values of foreign currencies of the countries in which the Company operated. Most of the loss occurred in Italy and Japan.

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## PEOPLE

**SANDY KAYE**, a Beatty-Cole Circus clown is featured on the cover of the Nov. 1980 issue of "Camera 35" magazine.

**LEE MAJORS** has reportedly turned down an offer to star in the road company of the musical "Barnum."

**JIM HOYE** showed circus movies at the recent dinner meeting of the Father Edward Sullivan CFA Tent. Special guest at that meeting was author **ADAM BARDY** whose book about his circus life has been gaining real interest.

**THE NICOLODIS FAMILY**, acrobats, and **MARTIN LAMBERTI**, juggler, are featured in the "Heat's On" show at Harrahs in Reno. Also appearing in that show are **THE STUPIDS**, acrobats, who will soon appear in a new Broadway play.

**BETTY ESCALANTE** has returned to her Los Angeles home after visiting her mother in Roswell, N.M.

**WADE BURCK**, wild animal trainer, was featured on TV's "P. M. Show" about the middle of October.

**SEBASTIAN**, illusionist, has left the King Bros. Circus. He reports that **DONNA** and **ALICIA** are doing the illusions on that circus now.

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## Notice

### WANTS INFORMATION

Mrs. Pearl S. Davis (Box 56, Main St., Con-toocook, NH 03229) is anxious to locate the source of the wall paper of a circus nature that includes her parents ads which appeared while with the Buffalo Bill Show and Barnum & Bailey. On the back of a portion of this wallpaper is the No. 39241, which may or may not refer to the paper's file number. Kar-Mi, Prince of India magic is shown in several forms of publicity as is his wife the Princess Selma, America's first sword swallower.

A restaurant in Philadelphia reportedly has one wall covered with this show-type paper and the Strong Museum in Rochester, N.Y. is understood to have a poster or two on display.

Any readers knowing about the wall paper and its source are asked to contact Mrs. Davis. She will appreciate it.

**REPORT****MISSISSIPPI STATE FAIR**

BY RICHARD C. JOHNSON

The Mississippi State Fair was held in Jackson, Miss., on Oct. 3 thru 12th. This year they presented a free circus which ran the full ten days of the fair, giving two performances each week day and three on the weekends. The free circus had a top notch line-up of acts.

The show started with Joselito Barreda, a virtuoso of the high wire. He brought the audience to the edge of their seats with his incline walk to the top of his rigging. Joselito performs many difficult and dangerous tricks. He concludes his act with a walk-back-down the inclined wire. After witnessing a performance by Joselito, it is understandable why he is considered one of the ten top wire walkers in the circus world.

The second act, which I had heard about and wanted to see, was the very beautiful and talented Miss Lou Ann Jacobs on the single trapeze. Miss Jacobs enters the ring in a blaze of elegance and glamour. It has been said that she is sheer poetry in motion and one can see how this really applies with the fluid and graceful movements she performs from start to finish. Her act starts with a very unique contortion presentation on a revolving platform on top of the rig-

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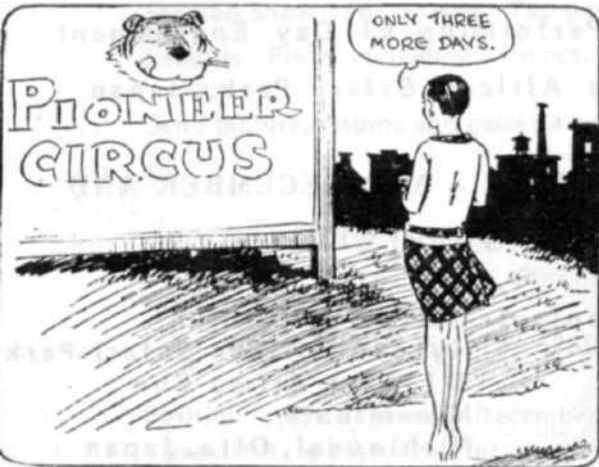
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ging with changing lighting and running lights down the sides of the rigging. The second half of the routine was done on the trapeze bar with several difficult tricks.

Act three presented Jorge Barreda and his African lions - a top lion act. He puts his lions through very difficult routines but makes them look quite easy which only comes through great training.

Act four presented Alonzo Magana (Pancho) with an outstanding whip act. Pancho starts his act with two whips at the same time and then cuts paper and does several difficult and unusual tricks, not only with whips but several rope spinning tricks. Alonzo Magana ends his act by snipping out a row of lights with his whip.

The final act was presented by the Flying Lantons. They have a beautiful act with the triple somersault climaxing the act.



# SPECIAL

## BIRTHDAY PARTY

The invitations read "come help celebrate my 85th birthday" and a big turnout of friends and show business people were on hand at the Formosa Restaurant in Los Angeles on Oct. 12th, to honor and pay their respects to Abe "Corky" Goldstein. Some of those guests included:

Jimmy Moffitt and family, of the Tom Mc Cann Shoe Co.

Parley and Ernestine Baer, movie and circus performers.

Jimmy McClarnin, ex-world champion fighter.

Mike Mazurki and wife, ex-world champion wrestler and movie actor.

Ms. Miller of the Merv Griffin Show

Willa Levolo, former circus performer

Kid Chisell, movie actor and boxer

Maria Bernardi, lady champion wrestler

Vince Lombardi, famous movie star

Murray D'Atley and daughter, movie producer.

Angelo - famous midget

Johnnie - circus midget and clown

Jimmy Caesar and family, club performer and impressionist.

Bernie, movie actor

Happy Hall, club performer and clown

Sammy Wolfe, comedian, formerly with Milton Burle and Ben Blue shows.

Earl Theroux, musical comedy star and a movie actor

Paul Kaye, circus producer and agent.

The party was arranged and produced by Abe's wife, Kathy, as a surprise party. Jack Stanley served as master of ceremonies.

# AVAILABLE

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## in the **NEWS**

### NEW IDEA FOR CIRCUS WASTE?

Officials of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus are hoping they can produce power from the waste of their many animals.

Harvest Energy, Inc., plans to produce a device that will break down organic wastes and turn it into energy. The system, would reportedly be mounted on a circus flatcar, and the digester would produce gas to heat live stock cars, run generators for electricity or provide bottled gas for cooking stoves.

**MAIL**

**FROM 'CIRCUS JOE' VALENCIANO**

I enjoyed the write-up recently about clown Bumpy Anthony. He really is an old-time circus clown and a good friend.

That write-up was in the Oct. 20th issue of CR and just a few weeks before that issue, there had been a group photo of the Tom Mix Circus personnel in CR, and in the front row of that picture, the 5th clown is Bumpy. (Photo is in the Sept. 8, 1980 issue of CR, Page 18-A).

A kind of sad note. As of mid-October The Circus Hall of Fame in Sarasota was still standing. All empty and quiet, all of the buildings where people once walked to see and enjoy the circus exhibits and programs seem strange and alone.

Now, I guess, even the big circus sign outside could be placed in a Hall of Fame. I'll miss it since my family (The Valencianos) worked there in '67, and ever since then I made annual visits to the museum.

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**CIRCUS QUIPS . . . . .**

**BY KARL J. BISCHOFF**

**IF THE WORLD IS GETTING SMALLER** as they say . . . how come the cost of postage stamps keeps going up?

**OVERHEARD** a showman's wife say . . . "her husband is as useless as a water tower beside a railroad track."

**WOULDN'T TODAY** be a great day to change tomorrow?

**A SHOWMAN** with a large family said he "has never listened E. F. HUTTON or read the stock market" . . . he has all of his money in counter investments . . . **GROCERIES!**

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Prineville, Ore. - Central Oregon Shrine Club

1958 - Apr. 8 - Ken Jensen  
1959 - Apr. 14 - Ken Jensen  
1960 - Apr. 26 - Ken Jensen  
1961 - Apr. 18 - Ken Jensen  
1962 - Apr. 23 - Ken Jensen  
1963 - Apr. 29 - Ken Jensen  
1964 - Apr. 28 - Ken Jensen  
1965 - Apr. 16 - Ken Jensen  
1966 - None  
1967 - Apr. 19 - Ken Jensen  
1968 - Apr. 8 - Ken Jensen  
1969 - Apr. 8 - Reppines Int'l  
1970 - Apr. 13 - Reppines Int'l  
1971 - Apr. 9 - Reppines Int'l  
1972 - Apr. 13 - Reid Bros.  
1973 - Apr. 12 - Reid Bros.  
1974 - Apr. 24 - Grand Circus Safari  
1975 - May 15 - Grand Circus Safari  
1976 - May 19 - Grand Circus Safari  
1977 - May 12 - Grand Circus Safari  
1978 - May 11 - Grand Circus Safari  
1979 - Apr. 19 - Grand Circus Safari

(Note: All of the above dates, 1958 thru 1978 were played at the High School Gym. In 1979 the show moved to the fairgrounds).

**PEOPLE**

WADE BURCK was in Los Angeles late last month with the Cuneo White Tigers to film a segment for the TV show "Those Amazing Animals."

KEVIN MENARD, served as chairman for "National Magic Week Celebration for Seniors" in Rhode Island, which commemorated the 54th anniversary of the death of Harry Houdini.

# REVIEW

## FUNTASIA

BY FRANK HERMAN

"Funtasia" starring Devante the Magician, appeared at North Bend, Ore., on Oct. 11th sponsored by the Organization for the Blind. Admission was \$5.00 and the house was full.

The show was worked on the high school gym floor, had elaborate boxed set, scroll set pieces with chase lights, flash pots, super spotlight and a monumental sound system.

Featured were: Flash appearance of Devante, Modern Cabinet to produce two Space Creatures in expanding costumes, Huge square circle, doves from boxes and tubes, a cage vanish, Clown with comedy tightrope routines, Botania, production of clown in comedy lion costume from cage, paper hat, Zig Zag, Needle thru balloon, Visible levitation of a girl, Rabbit from box, Three people from triple screen, Vanishing fish bowl, a thin model sawing in half, Dive to rabbit, Temple of Benares, Sword Box and closing with Fly-to Vanish of Girl from Suspended Box.

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The show was brilliantly costumed and lit, but, tons of illusions and flash do not make a great show. The unit is sorely in need of a stage manager and artistic director. Far too many stage waits, missed curtain cues and the uncertain delivery and disposal of small props and livestock.

Devante has not found his character niche. He is at home on the stage and varies from Oliver Hardy, Jackie Gleason to Charles Laughton. Too often he just goes upstage and ho-hums through an illusion. He did a fine presentation of the paper hat trick with a spectator and handled the faulty wireless mike with aplomb. After these flashes of showmanship he reverted to just running through the tricks.

He has a marvelous levitation and thin sawing but made no attempt to sell them. None of the magic was bungled, but all seven people on the stage looked worried. No one was having fun doing "Funtasia".

The show started at 8:10 p.m. and finished at 9:35 p.m., with a ten minute intermission. No concessions or pitch were made in the break.

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### FROM LLOYD E. JONES

Reports are that the BLACKSTONE Show was scheduled for an October opening in England, then goes on to the Olympia in Paris. In 1981 the show is set to play dates in Hong Kong, and Japan, returning to the USA some time in 1982.

By the way, he has five children: Harry III on the way; Cynthia 18; Adrienne 13; Tracey 12; and the baby born earlier this year. Wife Gay is a former ballerina and show dancer.

Members of the London Magic Circus in the USA, who are usually Associate members, are receiving shocking increases in their dues now amounting to \$30.00. In 1972, the dues were \$4.50. How's that for inflation?

By the way, have you renewed your subscription to Circus Report? Better do so before editor Don feels the pressure even more than he does now!

The long awaited list published by BYRON and BARBI WALKER is now available. It also features gambling material and various collector items. It is a huge thing and a bargain at \$2.00 (overseas \$3.00). They buy as well as sell, so if you have magic items to dispose of why not contact them at: P. O. Box 3186, San Leandro, Calif. 94578.

A gang of daytime burglars broke in to the home of ARNOLD FURST in mid-October, while he and his sister were shopping. Stolen were TV, stereo, projectors, cash and various other items in a vandalizing few minutes. And would you believe it, the Los Angeles police captured the gang and the stuff was returned

by evening. The cash? Who're you kidding?

Arnold postponed a trip to Japan to see that new locks and protection were added, thus helping to secure the house when he is away. Since then he has left for the Orient where he will visit friends.

A hot rumor is that a Magic Castle-type operation is being developed for Newport Beach (Cal). This rapidly growing area must have a lot of moneyed residents since the membership fee is said to be \$1500. MARTIN LEWIS, it is said, will be in charge of the magic arrangements.

The Magic Lounge in San Diego is reported on the downgrade since J. C. WAGNER left it some time ago, and magicians now use a Comedy Store in Mission Valley as the hangout. Wagner moved to Los Angeles and continues his magic bartending on the Sunset Strip.

More news: Jack Malon, New York old-timer magician and wife Beatrice were passengers on the Prinsendam, the Holland America cruise ship that caught fire off the Alaskan coast, and they were among the 533 passengers rescued by life boat. Two New York papers had photos of a tearful Mrs. Malon being greeted by a smiling daughter, Lisa. Of course, like everyone they lost all they had.

Publishers of that M.C. BIT book (\$5.00 with 59c postage) says I should check one. "Shocked, Surprised, Sick to the stomach, Glad, Unsure, All of the Above." When they tell me a sequel is underway! When, next year? That's a long time to wait, meanwhile I'll just enjoy the visuals in M.C. Bit.

Also enjoy Calliope, the organ of the Clowns of America, Inc. and I hope you are too. This is one publication a clown can't do without.

**SPECIAL****QUEEN OF THE OOM-PAH-PAH**

BY BOB STODDARD

My vote for the "Queen of Oom-pah-pah" would have to be Helga Beckman, of Fort Worth, Texas.

*This lovely blonde charmer was born in Weisbaden, Germany, to a musically talented family and has been performing professionally since she was six years old.*

Helga, and her band, serves up a variety of international funfare which, to many, would make her the Queen of 'schmaltz' and 'corn' but her audience eats it up.

She calls the tune, and they dance; she dances, and they tear the house down. She plays Bavarian Cow Bells, yodels, and leads community singing - all to the delight of her audiences.

Even the instrument she plays is different, it's an 'accorgan' which is a new, custom made electronic organ/accordion.

In her professional career, she has danced in



German and Spanish operas and has, for the last twelve years, performed as a soloist with the Fort Worth opera company.

At the third annual "Oktoberfest", Oct. 24 thru 26, at Trader's Village in Grand Prairie, Texas, - in a circus tent, 210 ft. long - this effervescent blonde bombshell with a shade of "Charro" proved again that the purpose of the entertainer is to entertain and she certainly does just that!

**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

Circus playing nearby. . . *The Houston band had two drummers, the show drummer STEVE LOCKWOOD and also JAY BURMAN who for years worked the date under IZZY CERVONE. . . MEL HALL was also on tap looking quite well and then proceeded on to San Antonio with son IRVING. . . JOHN and HERTA CUNEO came in on the weekend, John went home but Herta stayed on to drive INGA SMAHA to San Antonio. . . SLICK VALENTINE, now divorced from Debbie, was on tap and is an agent. . . I was startled in the basement shower one day when I heard (quite clearly) ROBERT GOULET singing "On A Clear Day" right above my head. I had forgotten that show was next door. . . MAE WEST at home and resting after her recent stroke. . . BILL and TRUDY acquired two more Appaloosas for their projected liberty act. And . . . most of us thought they had the balloon concession - every night it seemed a stray balloon would attach itself to their rocket ship. . . On the last show ALBERTO ZOPPE and his family arrived from Las Vegas where they'd just filmed 'Circus of the Stars' and now were enroute to Canada.*

Latest rumor buzzing is that PATTI GATTI has signed the New Orleans Shrine date for 1981. This, of course, is only a rumor but at least five different people have told me about it.

**SNAPSHOTS:** HEIDI KRAUSE's boy friend came in from Las Vegas to visit. He's a magician. . . BRIGET BALLENTINE and PICASSO made an obvious twosome during the last days of the date. . . MISS LONI called to say she is filling in for a pregnant BARBARA now on the TNT and Olympic dates

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and that Barbara is assisting Loni in the act. *The baby is due in December. . . CARLOS FARFAN was on the show for a few days and told me he built the second flying rigging for the ESPANAS to be with Circus Vargas in 1981. . . He also built a new rigging for the FLYING GERREROS. He also showed me pictures of some of his clever designs and special effects, also a new table for the Espana Girls' contortion act. Very nice. . . J. R. GIBBS (No relation to BOBBY) who is part of SWAT had a real*

(Continued on Page 31)

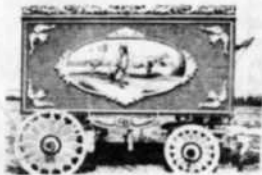
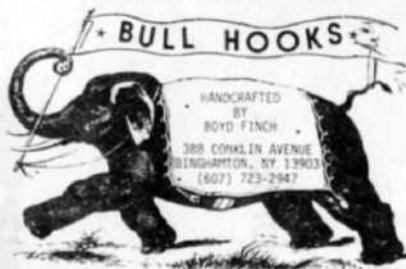
**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

Texas Barbeque for those of us who chipped in and he barbequed delicious brisket of beef, and sausages which we gobbled up along with German potato salad, baked beans, etc. Those gobblers included: Rex and Sandy Young, Bobby Davis and me, Bill and Trudy, with David and Steven, John and Sarah Zoppe, Davide Zoppe, Bucky Steele, Lee and Jeanette Keener and Irving Hall, plus a few others whose names I do not know.

THE DRESSING ROOM situation in Houston is certainly not the most ideal and my side was a real traffic jam consisting as it did of Shrine Clowns, the Demolay, the Provost Rooms, and countless others with what seemed like HUNDREDS of men and women and kids milling in the area all the time constantly eating and drinking. Getting to and from the back curtain or into the other hallway was a battle. On the last show SUSAN SHERYLL was fighting her way thru with her Afghans begging people to move when one woman quite arrogantly refused to budge until the Afghan neatly took the sandwich from her hand in one bite!

Next time perhaps that woman and others like her will get out of the way of busy people trying to put on a show!

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

**CIRCUS TYPE GIFT**

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**MAILBAG**

FROM TROY METZLER

On Oct. 13, 1980, I was reading one of your articles. The title of this article was "Animals Pay The Price." Well, after reading this, it really made me hate some of the people who are doing this to God's animals.

I'm one of the world's best animal lovers, and I was planning on going to college to take Animal Husbandry for exotic and endangered animals, but I wasn't really sure if I could handle all the hard work, and I just couldn't make up my mind what to do. When I got done with this sad story it made up my mind for me. I am now going to definitely pursue this course in college, and you better believe I'm going to pass every course I take.

We can NOT let them kill all of animals like this, someone has to do something about it. That's why someday I am going to own my very own animal breeding farm. But I can not do it alone, that's why I pray to God so he will help me achieve my goal in life.