



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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R. I. Civic Center Manager Guilty In Bribe Case

Harold C. Copeland, former executive director of the Providence (R. I.) Civic Center, has been found guilty of soliciting bribes for favorable show dates at the center. On Oct. 1st, Judge Anthony A. Giannini said "that in light of all evidence presented on both sides, the state had maintained its burden and proved Copeland guilty."

Judge Giannini said that in part Copeland's testimony was vague and lacked candor. He said that on the witness stand Copeland did not answer the testimony head-on.

The judge said that Copeland's direct examination testimony would have left some ambiguity had it not been for the cross examination. It was noted that the prosecutor had repeatedly asked Copeland about specific phone calls and finally Copeland said he could not recall having made them.

Copeland was indicted on Oct. 10, 1973, on charges that he sought bribes for a show date. Various defense motions and legal maneuvers delayed the trial. Then, just before the

(Continued on Back Page)

Mattel Hit By SEC

The Securities & Exchange Commission has asked the U. S. District Court to appoint new directors for Mattel, Inc., who would assume control of the company. In August the S&EC asked the court to name two directors and establish new committees to deal with the firm's financial problems.

The latest request was based on reports that Mattel had been inflating financial state-

(Continued on Page 11)

A NO. 1 SEASON

The 1974 season for the Europorama show was probably its most successful to date. Show owner, John Winn, had high praise for everyone with the show and said "they were a fantastic group to work with."

This year the show enjoyed an extended tour that took it into the mid-western states, after completing its usual west coast engagements. Good crowds were on hand for every performance, and throughout the tour there were many full houses and turn-away crowds.

The 1975 season will probably offer an even longer tour for the show, with dates in several new areas. The performance reports Winn, will offer some new and exciting acts, all in keeping with the thrill show theme of Europorama.

TRUCK OVERTURNS

A circus truck, carrying three big elephants, overturned early on Oct. 1st, near Mt. Vernon, Ill.

Police said traffic was backed up for about five miles by the accident. They also reported that one of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus elephants was pinned inside the big show truck.

..... Eric Wilson

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Writer Enthusiastic About Circus

The Hanneford Circus received an enthusiastic review in the Hillsdale (Mich.) Daily News of Sept. 24th, which included a four column picture of Tommy Hanneford, his mother and wife. The show was a grandstand feature at Hillsdale, presenting programs on Sept. 23 and 24th.

The circus performance was announced by Tony Flynn, while the band was directed by Jimmy Ille.

Busy Month

Southwest Ohio's circus activity last month included two shows - RBBB's Red Unit and the Beatty-Cole Circus.

The Red Unit played at Cincinnati (Sept. 18-22) for the second year in a row, and drew half houses for most of the performances. Local papers reviewed the circus and made note that it was the same circus as last year with little change in the format

It is still a good show with plenty of mighty fine acts. At the top of the list would be: Lu Jacobs, Wolfgang Holzmair, Gunther Gebel-Williams, The Flying Waynes and Flying Farfans, Elvin Bale, Victoria, Sarah Chapman, etc.

On Sept. 24th, the Beatty Cole Circus played Dave Hoover's home town -- Middletown, Ohio. It was a good day and they drew good crowds, while the papers made a flash about Hoover being back home again.

The program here featured: Dave Hoover - wild animals

Special acts mentioned in the review were: a trapeze performer; basketball dogs; Rosita, a contortionist; the unrideable mule; some Argentine acrobats; and Tommy Hanneford, comedy rider. Also mentioned was the fact that Mrs. George Hanneford had celebrated her birthday (85 yrs).

"From where I sat," wrote reviewer Geneva Gates, "this is one of the best grandstand shows offered at our fair in a long, long time,"

Phil & Francine - aerial cradle
 Elba & Rita - Aerial Glorians - cradle acts
 Ruth Herriott - dogs/ponies
 Drougetts and Graciells - juggle
 The Marios - comedy hats
 Diaz Sisters - unicycles
 Rodriguez Troupe - aerial bars
 Prof. Herriott - liberty horses
 Karen and Margaret - hair hang
 Ron & Mitzie - iron jaw
 Don Mauricio - unsup. ladders
 The Ferreiras - perch act
 Marlene - equilbrist
 John Herriott - High school hors
 Miguel Ayala and The Great Moises - tight wire
 Fred Logan - elephants
 The Flying Apollos - flying act

..... Don Sandman



In the picture above the late Clyde Beatty is shown welcoming a group of under privileged children to his Clyde Beatty Circus. The picture was taken at Chatsworth, Calif. in the 1940's.

PEOPLE

JENDA SMAHA's elephant "Tanya" died recently of a stomach virus. It will be replaced by a new baby elephant.

KARL WALLEDA and JACK LEONTINI will produce the Nov. 23-Dec. 1 Shrine Circus at New Orleans, La.

BILL DEDRICK and IVAN HENRY were among those who visited the Lions Club Circus at Riverside, Calif. last month.

JAY JONES, who suffered a broken leg while with Polack Br. at Las Vegas, will have to keep his walking cast on for another month.

JACK, JACQUELINE, CRYSTAL and TERRI LYNNE MESTER and JERRY JONES visited Polack Bros. at the Los Angeles County Fair.

DAVE KNODERER has his pony drill on the Voorheis Circus and also plays his calliope downtown each day. He plans to winter at Hugo,

Random Ramblings

.....by ART "Doc" MILLER

In one of your recent issues there was a reference to the old Charles Lee Circus. I am quite familiar with it, having been personally acquainted with Jess Bullock, who was in the office. Later Bullock was office man on the Kit Carson Wild West, Downie's La Tena and Walter L. Main shows.

Winter quarters were at the east end of Canton, Pa., and when I was last through there, some 10 years ago, one could still make out the word LEE in huge letters on the barn, which sits back from the highway on the south side.

The show was very successful and operated until 1901 or so when Lee passed away. To give an idea how well the show did and the sale of the show as a going concern, his widow lived in Canton, passing away about 1920, leaving an estate of some \$20,000 then, all money from the circus sale and earnings.

For many years the oldsters used to tell about the time Lee's heaviest wagon broke down the creek bridge at the east end of Troy, Pa.

George Bullock, calliope player on Al Wheelers railroad shows, used to cuss being too young to troupe with his daddy, Jess, on the Lee show. During the early 40's the late Spencer

Chambers, of Syracuse, located a Lee herald for George, which was his most precious treasure.

From my Lee show parade photos, the circus boasted of one elephant, a big brute, perhaps one of Pogie O'Brien's killers?

Silvan-Drew, Ketrow and all the other circuses that played Canton in later years would send their band out to play at the cemetery, as was the old custom. The last band to play there was that of Harris Bros. 5 Ring Circus.

Miscellaneous

This is the time or rumors and there's plenty of them going around right now. If only half are true we're in for some new shows and some major changes in the old ones.

We know that at least two shows are on the sale block.



ROUTES

Alazar Shrine Temple Circus
Oct 15-20 San Antonio, Tex

Allen's Pet Zoo
Oct 18-20 Borrego Spg, Cal.

Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct. 14 Pine Bluff, Ark
15 El Dorado
16 Greenville, Miss
17 Greenwood
18 Natchez
19 Brookhaven
20 McComb

Circus Vargas
Oct. 18 Decatur, Ill.
20-21 Springfield, Mo

Circus World on Parade
Oct. 19 Whitehouse, Tex.

Clark Bros. Circus
Oct. 6 Moline, Kans.

George Matthews Circus
Oct. 14 Jackson, Miss.
15 Petal
16 Pasagoula
17 Biloxi --
18-20 New Orleans, La.

Kaye Cont'l Circus
Oct 17-20 Wichita, Kans.

King Bros. Circus
Oct. 14 Kosciuska, Miss
15 Newton
16 Waynesboro
17 Bay Minette, Ala
18 Chipley, Fla.
-- End of Tour --

Polack Bros. Circus
Oct 19-20 Camp LeJeune, NC

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit
to Oct 21 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum Red Unit
Oct 16-27 Detroit, Mich.

Royal Lipizzan Stal. Show
Oct 16-17 Johnson City, Tenn
19-20 Indianapolis, Ind

Sells & Gray Circus
Oct. 14 Princeton, Ky
15 Benton
16 Dyersburg, Tenn.
17 Parsons
18 Jackson
19 Bolivar
20 Selmer

John Strong Circus
Oct 15-16 Thousand Oaks, Ca
17 Hacienda Hghts.
18 Redlands
19 Yucaipa
-- End of Tour --

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus
Oct. 14-15 Little Rock, Ark
16 Pine Bluff

Voorheis Bros. Circus
Oct. 14 Crosswell, Mich
15 Vassar
16 Millington
17 Fenton
19 Schoolcraft



If you are not now a subscriber or have not been one for a period of six months we have a special offer for you.

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COMING SOON

Many special features are planned for upcoming issues, you won't want to miss a single copy.

FAIR**CIRCUS**PRODUCED
BY *Polack Bros.*

The Polack Bros. Circus was offered as a free grandstand attraction at the Los Angeles (Calif.) County Fair during the week of Sept. 23-29. Admission to the fair grounds was \$1.50 for adults, 50¢ for children from 6 to 12 years of age, while those under six were admitted without charge.

ROUTES

- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Oct. 14-19 Atmore, Ala.
- Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Oct. 14-20 Gulfport, Miss.
- Roy Clark Show
Oct. 20 Raleigh, N.C.
- James H. Drew Shows
Oct. 14-19 Cordele, Ga.
- Expo Winter '74
Oct. 18-20 San Francisco, Cal
- Golden State Rodeo
Oct. 13-14 Indio, Calif.
- Holiday on Ice
Oct. 15-20 Canton, Ohio
- Ice Capades
Oct. 16-20 Albuquerque, N.M.
- Int'l Film Festival
Oct. 16-27 San Francisco, Cal
- Guy Lombardo Orchestra
Oct. 15 Oakland, Calif.
- Ukranian Ice Festival
Oct. 15-20 Cincinnati, Ohio

Read "The Circus Report" every week to keep up on what's new in the show world.

The program as presented at this spot included:

- The Laszlo Family - clowning
The Flying Gibsons - flying act
Carillo Bros. - high wire
Mickey Antalek - chimps
The Grimaldis - musical clowns
Pompon Donaho - baby elephant
Miss Francesca - single trapeze
Senor Navas - balance trapeze
Senorita Segura - balance trap.
Miss Antonia - foot juggler
The We Gets - hand balancing
Albarracine Duo - double trap.
Miss Lona - trained dogs
Tom Donaho - Polack Bros.elep.
Pat Anthony - wild animals

Music was provided by Don Heaston's band. Among those who were visiting the show were: Parley, Ernestine, Kim and Dale Baer and Larry Johnson.

..... Warren Wood

PEOPLE

DAVE TWOMEY and Family and FRANK and BERNICE DEAN will be working with one or the other of the JOHN STRONG Christmas shows.

MANDRAKE, KRESKIN, KRAMIEN, DELJONS and WARREN KELSEY (all Magicians) have worked at Expo 74 in Spokane this summer.

SHOW HAS NEW NAME

Wymore, Nebr., which hasn't had a circus since Little Bob Stevens' Sells Bros. played there in 1963, gave the Dailey Bros. Circus, which is now showing under the title "Al G. Clark & Bros. Circus", a full house for their first performance on Sept. I was unable to stay for the second show, but judging from the number of cars coming onto the lot the evening show must have been a good one.

The big top is a 60 x 120 and looks to be in excellent condition. There are about 25 people with the show. Gopher Davenport is with another unit, and Kenneth Benson is managing the show in his absence. He is also the producing clown, does the announcing and works a trained chimp in the big show.

CAN IT BE TRUE?

Early this month elephant trainer Bucky Steele took exception to a Sept. 28th A.B. story. The story in question was about Quacky, the Clown, who, it was said, passes out some 1.5 million balloons per year.

The balloons cost 2¢ each, according to Steele, and 4,000 of them would have to be given away every day of the year. The cost would amount to \$83.00 per day, he added.

To achieve this, says Bucky, the guy must be the highest paid clown in the business. The salary he must receive staggers the imagination.

Hustlers, says Steele, will have to take notice of this guy. They'll really have to work to keep up with this fellow.

Your best bet is The Circus Report - America's Favorite Circus Weekly, just \$10.00 a year.

Other acts include Julio and Rosa Castillio who do single traps, juggling, wire-walking and foot juggling. The clowning is handled by Benson (Turtle) and Chenti Castillio, while Jack Gobble works the big elephant "Tommy" and a baby bull.

Music for the show is provided by means of recordings.

Bennet also makes the openings for the side show, which houses the show's menagerie.

..... Bill Green

Letters

I can't settle down for the week until after I've received my copy of Circus Report. Renew my subscription at once.

..... William G. Bale

I am enclosing my renewal check for Circus Report. I sure enjoy the paper. It is the best news source I've ever found.

..... Paul Fitzpatrick



Two elephants shown above are taking a bath, with the aid of local firemen at Oakland's (Calif.) Lake Merritt. It was part of a publicity feature for Arthur Bros. Circus, which was playing the city in the middle 1940's.

THE LIONS' CIRCUS

The annual Lions Club Circus, at Riverside, Calif. (Sep. 21) was produced and MC'd by Bob Grant. The show was presented in front of the grandstand at Evans Ball Park and drew good 3/4 houses for a 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. program.

Acts appearing on this year's program included:
 Hawaiian Revue - local dancers
 Toni Madison - poodles
 Irene & David - aerial cradle

Miscellaneous

Student representatives of high school and college papers in Central Florida were the guests of RBBB's Circus World on Oct. 12th, to obtain a look behind the scenes.

May Noblitt - uncaged leopards
 Miss Loni - rope spinning, dog, pony and high school horse
 Patti and Mary - aerial cradle
 The Flying Vienna Troupe

..... Jack E. Mester

He Was Circus Trumpeter by NORMAN WILBERT

Wisconsin has produced many fine show folks and circuses, as well as talented musicians. In the latter group were Robert and Arthur Aschenbach, of Sheboygan. For many years they played together in bands and as a trumpet duet for special occasions.

Robert (1887-1961) was the son of German parents. During his early years he learned the fundamentals of trumpet playing from a Mr. VanderCook, of Chicago. He also studied at the Nelson Cornet School.

When he was 18 years old he toured with an "Uncle Tom's Cabin Show (1903). In April 1908, he joined Gollmar Bros. Circus band and orchestra, a job that called for parade and other duties at a salary of \$8.00 per week. The following year he was with the Parker Shows, then for the period 1910-1913 he traveled with Sells Floto, Barnum & Bailey and the Adam Forepaugh Circus. During the winter months he worked for the Western Electric Co. at Chicago.

On Oct. 24, 1914, Robert married Elsa Hidde, at Sheboygan and then toured with various dance bands and orchestras. Later when he returned to Sheboygan he purchased a cigar store, then managed a cigar firm with his brother. When he could no longer compete against machine made cigars he became a carpenter. During World War II he was a Sheboygan machinist.

His trumpet career never faltered for he played with the Maas Military and Schmidt bands.

In Memoriam

FRANK C. FISHER, 69, a former circus and cafe owner, passed away at Peru, Ind., on Sept. 24. Survivors include his wife Christina, a son and daughter.

ARTHUR CONVERSE, 74, a veteran side show operator, passed away at Houston, Texas on Sept. 12th.

HEINZ RUHE, a member of the famous animal importing family, and co-founder of the Oakland (Calif.) Baby Zoo, died in San Leandro, Calif. on Oct. 4th, at the age of 46.

He also helped to organize some local Wisconsin bands.

Mrs. Aschenbach, who is now 81 years old, enjoys good health. Her parents were Ernestine Lindemann and Carl Hidde. She has a nephew, Earl Radke, who with his wife once toured with the Fleck-Lange circus troupe.

(This article has been rewritten and condensed from a story in The Sheboygan (Wisc.) Press, dated Oct. 2, 1974).

Fight Bill - Plea

During the Great Lakes Shrine Convention, at Indianapolis (Sep. 20-21) the Shriners were urged to fight the Endangered Species Act (Public Law 93-20). Both circus producer Sam Polack and animal man Robert Baudy were on hand to ask for help.

Polack noted that the Interior Dept. may reclassify some animals to "threatened species", which would then permit the issuing of permits for transportation or importation of animals. In the meantime performers have been urged to obtain necessary permits and to keep these and other papers handy for inspectors, etc.

Baudy reported that two USDI counts against him are the result of his having shipped the hides of his own animals that died to a taxidermist, and then selling them. Even the buyer, he added, (Alton Braddock, of Hendersonville, NC) is facing various charges.

We are facing a dark age, Baudy said, if this law is allowed to continue unchallenged. There is reason to believe, he added, that monkeys and elephant will be added to the list of endangered animals, and if this happens the traditional circus will be in danger.

The law makes it a crime to move any "endangered animal"

MATTEL HIT BY SEC (Continued)

ments prior to 1973 by means of "bill and hold sales."

The Commission said the "bill and hold sales" were added to Mattel's financial reports even though the customer had a right to cancel such orders. As many as 80% of such sales were cancelled, they added.

The S&EC said Mattel used the system to inflate their pre-tax income and charged they logged the same sale twice, and that no correction was made for several months afterwards.

across a state line. Under this law an act owning such animals is subject to a fine of \$10,000 if they are caught taking an animal across a state line.

The law permits any member of the Dept. of Interior, the Treasury or Coast Guard to search and seize without a warrant. Confiscation is permitted under the law.

While there has been no action thus far on the part of the Shrine Clubs to fight the law, it has been reported they will start throwing their weight of some one million plus members against the law.

There are some 404 Shrine Circuses in the country each year. About 132 of these are produced by Shrine temples, the others are put together by various clubs and promoters.

A GUILTY VERDICT (Continued)

trial was to get underway, in late September, Copeland waived his right to a jury trial, but gave no specific reason for the action.

Copeland was charged with calling show promoter Robert Chernov on Feb. 2, Feb. 8 and Feb. 12, 1973, and asking for \$1,000 "under the table" for favorable dates for his production. The calls, said Chernov, were reported to the Attorney General and the Feb. 12th call was recorded.

The taped conversation was introduced as evidence and played for the court. Copeland did not deny that it was his voice on the tape, but maintained the whole thing was a joke, made in the context of a cordial friendship that had developed between him and Chernov.

Copeland said he could not recall the Feb. 2 and Feb. 8 calls, and if there was any solicitations, they were jokes. When asked why Chernov would purchase a tape recorder and have it connected to his phone if he had no reason to expect anything, Copeland said that, whatever the circumstances he had never been serious about soliciting a bribe.

Copeland was continued in personal surety of \$1,000 pending his motion for a new trial. Judge Giannini delayed a ruling until he could review the evidence again.