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## Four Die In Circus Train Fire

Four persons died when fire swept through a sleeper car on the Ringling-Barnum Circus train as it rolled south through South Carolina on Dec. 3rd. The damaged car, Associated Press reported, was owned by the Seaboard Coast Line and was located in the middle of the long circus train.

The county coroner (Guy. T. McIntosh) at Kingstree, S.C., said the bodies of three men were found inside the car. He said a woman died when she apparently jumped from the moving train in an effort to escape from the flames.

The circus was Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit which closed its final engagement for the season at New Haven, Conn., on Dec. 1st. The train, which includes some 30 cars, carrying animals, performers and equipment, was en-route to the circus winterquarters at Venice, Fla.

A spokesman for the circus reported that none of the dead people were circus performers, but rather they were part of the show's "support crew." The names would not be released, he added, until the families had been notified.

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### BODY SOUGHT

Members of Edouard Beaupres family have asked for the return of his body so it can be given a decent burial.

Beaupre, who died in July 1904, at the age of 23, was a feature attraction with the big Ringling Bros. Circus and the St. Louis Fair.

When his family failed to raise enough money to ship his body to his Canadian home, promoters took the body and placed it on exhibit. Later it was given to the University of Mon-

(Continued on Page 4)

# ROUTES

Kramien's Magic-Capades

- Dec. 14 Kelso, Wash.  
18 Lincoln City, Ore.  
19 Canby  
20 Portland

Royal Lipizzan Show

Dec. 20-22 Miami, Fla.

## Miscellaneous

Three shows were scheduled to play Sarasota (Fla.) in December. They are: Beatty-Cole; The Sarasota Showfolks Circus and Int'l All Star Circus.

The Happytime Circus worked with Bing Crosby on a Christmas Show in San Francisco (Cal) today (Dec. 16).

## FOR SALE

One only - RED WAGON - 1899 Ringling (official) season annual paper (in good condition). Has scotch tape in a few spots.

MAKE OFFER

15 issues of the 1960 Billboard, plus a few White Tops magazines from the early 30's.

Send 50¢ for a Xerox list of all circus goodies - refundable.

CLAUDE TONOLLI  
19600 Bassett St.  
Reseda, Calif. - 91335

## SATISFYING SHOW

A variety Christmas Show presented as a benefit for the blind, at Palo Alto, Calif., on Dec. 3rd brought out a good crowd. Only one performance, at 7:30 p.m., was presented in the school pavilion.

Featured in the show were:

Bob Emrico - MC and Clown  
Jim Dandy - Unicycle/juggling  
Dwight Moore - Mongrel Revue

If you hurry you can still get your 1974 Christmas Greeting ad in the upcoming Holiday special. Rush your order at once. Don't forget the cost is as low as \$2.50



## AVAILABLE

Facilities for boarding hoof stock of all kinds.

CHARLIE ALLEN, P. O. Box 91  
Pixley, Cal. - 93256  
Phone: (209) 757-3501

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**RINGLING BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY**

## To Salute U S Birthday



The all-new 1975 edition of Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus, its 105th production, will pay tribute to the nation's 200th birthday. Rehearsals for the upcoming circus performance got underway early this month at Venice, Fla.

The lavish Bi-centennial edition, produced by Irving and Kenneth Feld, will feature five new Specs. They will include the show's entire company of performers and animals in a star-spangled, red, white and blue salute to America

Gunther Gebel-Williams will head the international company of circus performers. Eighteen

acts will be making their debut in America with the big show, including French highwire performer Philippe Petit, and acrobatic cyclist Barry Lappy. Other big show stars will include the lion trainer Wolfgang Holzmair and aerialists The Flying Farfan Troupe.

## ROUTES

- Allen's Xmas Zoo  
to Dec. 24 Oxnard, Calif.
- American Circus Poster Expo  
Dec. 22-Jan. 22 Miami, Fla.
- Big John's Eastern Unit  
Dec. 16 Cincinnati, Ohio  
17 Louisville, Kty  
18 Enroute  
19 Kansas City, Kans.  
20 Enroute  
21 Irving/Ft.Worth, Tex  
22 Oklahoma City, Okla  
-- End of Tour --
- Big John's Southern Show  
Dec. 16 Phoenix, Ariz.  
18 San Diego, Cal.  
20 Garden Grove
- Big John's Western Show  
Dec. 17-18 San Francisco, Cal.  
19 Santa Cruz  
22 San Jose  
23 Oakland  
-- End of Tour --

## SHOW Called Off

The announced appearance of the Hanneford Circus at Canton, Ohio, on Dec. 7-8 was cancelled due to lagging ticket sales. A spokesman for the sponsors, the Canton Jaycees, said that all money received for advance ticket sales would be refunded.

This is going to disappoint a lot of people, he said, but we will try to replace the event with some local community projects.

Several circuses have played in Canton this year and the city has been hard hit by the big car industry layoffs.

## Tourist Park Shuts Down

One of Southern California's major tourist attractions - The Japanese Village - closed its doors for good on Dec. 2nd. Officials of the park said they were forced to close down because of "shrinking attendance and continued unprofitability."

Some 200 persons were employed at the 32 acre park, and it was hoped that other jobs could be found for them. In the meantime only a handful of maintenance people remain at the park to close down everything.

The park was operated by Six Flags, Inc., who have several successful operations in other states. They also own the Movieland Wax Museum in Southern California and have announced a June opening for their newest facility in Florida.

The park was originally opened as the "Japanese Deer Park and Village" in 1967. It and the wax museum were sold to Great Southwest in 1970 and operated under Recreation Environments, Inc. until coming under the control of Six Flags.

Trainer Dave McMillan and his 15 tigers are expected to be moved to another of Six Flags facilities. The other animals are expected to be absorbed by various parks and marine plants.

### BODY SOUGHT (Continued)

trear, where officials there say they are considering the request.

Beaupre, who stood 8'3" in height and weighed 375 lbs. is one of the five largest men ever known.

## New Show Due

A new touring show, called "The Dusty Rivers Wild West Show" is expected to debut on June 1st. Rivers, a well known stuntman, says his show will be playing fairs, arenas and stadiums in the mid-west and Canada.

The show, which will run one and a half hours, will feature Rivers, plus three other stuntmen, a female singer, a country band, eight horses and some clowning. The program will offer a behind the scenes look at how stuntmen handle their dangerous jobs.

Personnel on the show will vary depending on the TV and movie commitments of the performers. The show will be self-contained and is expected to travel on two pick-up trucks, each pulling a horse trailer; sleeper units; a prop truck; and a flatbed truck to carry the stage coach. The show will be represented by the Tom Drake Agency of Kansas City.



## PEOPLE

DR. GEORGE W. T. BOYD, an old-time circusman, was recently elected Mayor of Lancaster, Cal. He has hopes of bringing in a couple of shows next year in an effort to raise funds for the Antelope Valley War Memorial.

THE AERIAL LEIGHS will perform on their revolving high act at the Royal Easter Show in Auckland, N.Z., this spring.

JOLLY, the Clown (Art Petri) who is resident clown at "Jacks or Better Restaurant" in Wauwatosa, Wisc., is busy every day this month working as a clown or Santa Clause. Between he and his father (Arnold Petri) they can account for 75 years of being Santa Claus.

PAT and VIVIAN GRAHAM have wound up their 1974 tour. They

sold their glasshouse in the Pacific Southwest area. They want to locate some back issues of Circus Report (1972 and 1973).

HARRY CHIPMAN recently won a contest between ten newspaper ad men and came off with the top money.

MARTHA HUNT has been getting lots of newspaper publicity on her plans to take Hunt Bros. Circus on the road in 1975.

TARZAN ZERBINI was featured in last month's Shrine Circus at New Orleans. He opened the show at each performance.

BOBBY GIBBS will take his animals to Puerto Rico where he will work from Jan. 20 to Apr. 20

ART "Doc" MILLER will start his 1975 tour with the Deggeller Shows in early January. They'll stay out until early December.

MARVIN BUSCH was featured in a write-up in the Moberly, Mo. newspaper recently. The story

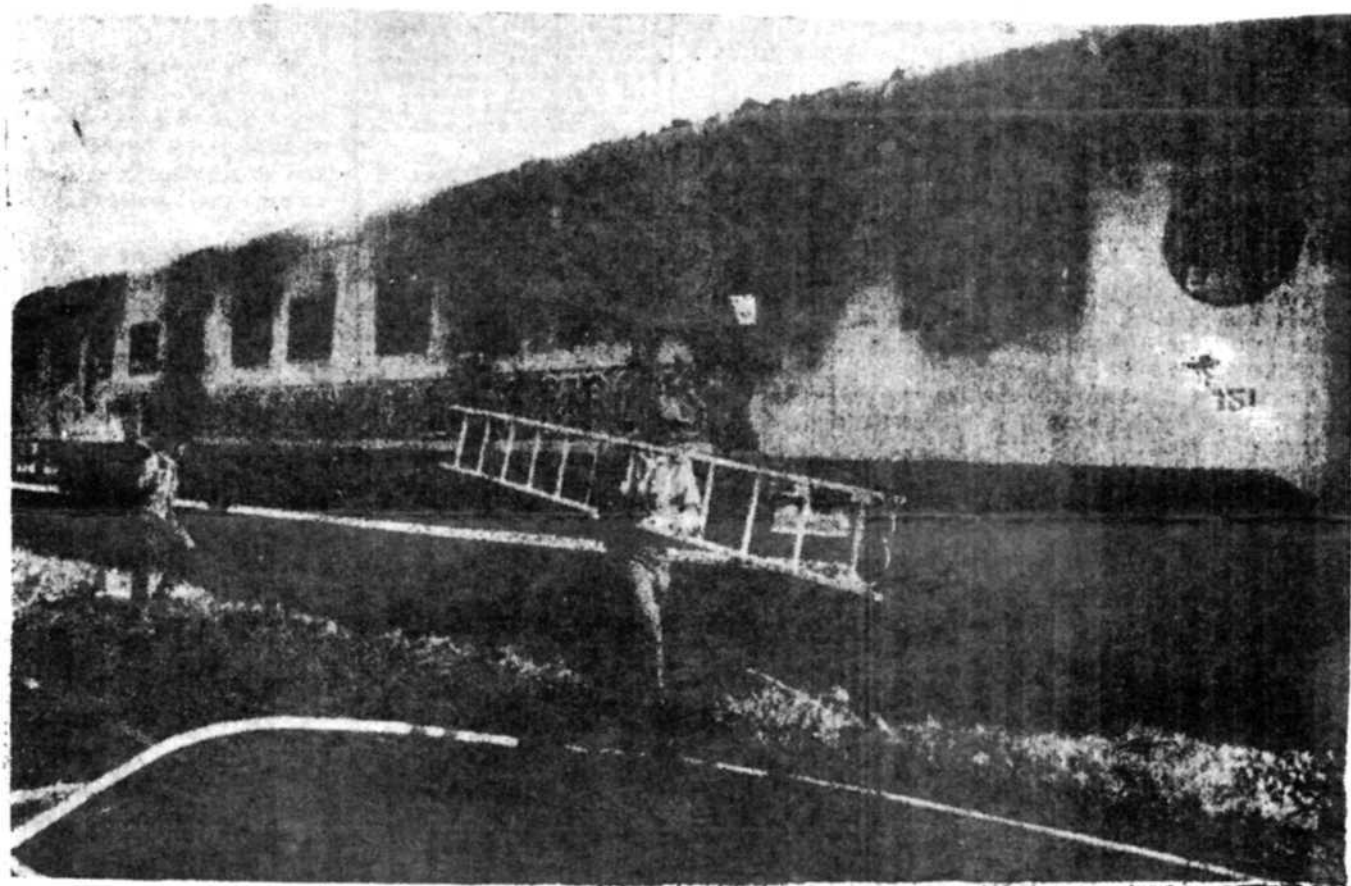
told about his interest in the circus and his collection which literally fills the house.

DON MARCKS has been handling some MC work during the Holiday time, including a JC's benefit show.

THE GREAT MONAHANS worked a Christmas date near San Francisco last week.



KUBLA KAHN DRESSED HIS 5000 ELEPHANTS IN PURE GOLD! —AND RODE IN A MINIATURE PALACE ON THE BACKS OF FOUR OF THE HUGE BEASTS!



Firemen are shown here walking alongside the charred sleeping car of the Ringling-Barnum Circus' Blue Unit, which burned, causing the death of four people, on Dec. 3rd, as the train was enroute home to winterquarters. Cause of the blaze has not been determined. Several occupants of the car escaped into other cars which were in the train.

## Circus Collection Going To Fla. Museum

The Ringling Museum of the Circus, at Sarasota, Fla., has agreed to accept the collection of Harold Dunn, owner of one of the largest private collections of circus material in the world. Acceptance of the Dunn collection, says James C. Clark, chairman of the Museum board, is contingent upon suitable housing for it.

Included in the 1975-76 Ringling Museum budget request to the State is a fixed capital outlay appropriation of \$1.6 million for Phase II of the new Circus Museum building which would house the Dunn collection.

Highlight of the Dunn collection is a mechanized, miniature circus that has toured the country and was featured in Life magazine. The model circus covers an area 110' x 35' and is valued at about \$2 million. The collection also includes rare circus lithos, posters, route books and photographs which together are reputed to be the most complete pictorial history of the circus.

### RINGLING TRAIN FIRE (Cont'd)

The fire broke out about dawn, but the train traveled 15 miles before the engineer discovered the blaze. The train then had to be backed up to a point where rescue workers could combat the blaze.

The fire was confined to the one car, which was removed from the train. An investigation is now underway to determine the cause of the fire.

Send "Circus Report" to a friend for just \$10.00 per year.



## FLASH

Kathleen Stevens and James Davis were married at Edinburg, Tex. On Dec. 6th.

Kathleen handles the office on Fisher Bros. Circus, while Jim is the show's superintendent. She is the daughter of Clara Stevens and the late Robert (Little Bob) Stevens. Her late father owned Stevens Bros. and Sells Bros. circuses.

## Mauled By Lions

A 26 year old mechanic was mauled and killed by lions at the Port of Spain Zoo (Trinidad) on Dec. 5th. Police reported the man was known only as Humphrey and that he died while enroute to the hospital.

A zoo official said the man apparently tried to free the lions when they attacked him. A card he carried in his pocket read: "God is love and love is life. Animals should be free."

# RANDOM RAMBLINGS

Old Ed Snyder, ex performer and circus grifter, legal adjuster, etc. often told about his early teens.

When just a youth he learned to do a barrel jumping act. He dyed some long underwear for tights and joined one of Walter L. Main's two car shows.

The show did good business but come payday all sorts of excuses were given to keep from paying the help. When everyone was out of money and the show was loaded one night, Main sent his burly boys to tell everyone the show had closed and they'd best get their luggage off the train. In the mad rush there was no time for anything except rescuing the trunks, etc. and so the train pulled away leaving a group of stranded performers on the depot platform.

The next day someone located a current Billboard and eagerly scanned the Help Wanted Ads. One caught their eye for it was a show wanting to enlarge and it was only a short distance away.

Putting all their money together they were able to get to the show town, then to their dismay found it was the show they'd just left, using a different name.

....Art "Doc" Miller