



4th Year

June 16, 1975

Number 24

Unusual Mall Opens

Just outside Chicago a unique and unusual shopping mall has been opened. Called "Old Chicago" the exterior building resembles the 1893 Columbian Exposition, while all the interior shops are turn-of-the-century type buildings.

This is a combination Amusement Park and Shopping Center, created by Recreational Retail Builders, Inc., who also developed "Old Towne" at Torrence, Calif. Old Chicago consists of some 586,500 square feet of indoor space, with 283,300 sq. ft. for the amusement area and 303,300 sq. ft. for the shopping mall. The entire facility is open 365 days a year and it is completely climatized at 73 degrees.

The amusement park features 31 rides and attractions, plus six daily performances in the Vaudeville theatre. One price tickets covering everything are \$5.95 for adults and \$4.95 for children. Books of tickets with nine coupons are priced at \$3.95 for adults and \$2.95 for kids.

Acts appearing on the stage of the Vaudeville theatre are:

(Continued on Page 11)

Film Report

Famous author and screenplay writer Darryl Ponicsan, reports he has completed his book on the life of Tom Mix. The new volume is expected to be available in both hardbound cover and a soft cover version sometime about October 1975. It will be published by Delacourt Publications.

(Continued on Page 9)

home for sale

A three story home, built and occupied by a circus owner, at Peru, Ind., is up for sale. The home, a duplicate of the old governor's mansion at Indianapolis, was built in 1929 by Jerry Mugivan.

Mugivan built the home to make winter work for his circus employees, historians say, and some 350 men worked on the house at one time. The house was built to last, has 14 in. thick reinforced concrete walls, and each floor has its own electrical system, while each room has a telephone.

The house has a stained glass front porch canopy that is said to be worth more than \$12,000. The library is paneled with pearled walnut from Mugivan's private railroad car, and the basement is finished with hand-fitted Italian marble.

Two furnaces provide heat for the mansion, but because of the thick walls and its insulation, not much fuel is required. A tunnel connects the house to a two story brick building that served as a garage and servants quarters. Both buildings have an imported roof and are equipped with solid copper gutters.

The present owners - Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Greer - say they are having financial problems and must sell the house. They are looking for someone who will continue to maintain the home and who will not sell it to someone for space for a modern facility.

Their asking price is

A Texas Date

Writing from Texas, Joe Schmitt, Jr. reports he recently completed some bookings for Choice Presentations, of Fort Worth. He worked several Childrens shows, doing his magic and clown numbers.

My Dell Bros. Circus, says Joe, just completed a three show date at Possum Kingdom resort at Graham (Texas) to good business. The show ran about an hour and was well received.

Acts we featured were:-

Joey Judd - magic
 Joe Schmitt, Jr. - clown
 Parson's Canine Cavalcade
 Serpentina - snakes
 Mr. Bee - spinning plates
 Tommy Ross - unicycle
 Miss Electra's Chair of Death.

\$130,000, which is a whole lot less than the original construction cost of \$350,000.

..... Doc Miller

CASTLE AHEAD IN CANADA

Currently making its 12th annual tour in Canada, the Hubert Castle Circus has reported that business has been good at every stand. In some instances Castle has produced two shows at the same time, in which case he handles one unit and his wife, Mary, handles the other one.

The show's Regina date (May 5-8), always a big one, had some 36,000 people attending the circus, with eight performances. Prices were set at \$2.00 for the adults and \$1.00 for children, with no reserved seats.

Acts featured were:-

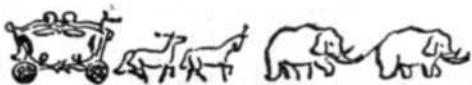
Joe Hartman - lions (4) tigers 2
 The Clowns
 Batman and Robin
 Miss Esmeralda - single trapeze
 Miss Janet - web
 The Saturnaires - flying trapeze
 Miss Evita - single traps
 Miss Irma - single trapeze
 Christopher James - tightwire
 Herman & Petunia - comedy riding
 Wilson's Pets - dogs and ponies
 Charmaine's Playmates
 Irene, Tongo & Co - gorilla com.
 Dale Harney - illusions
 Macias - equilibrist
 The Hermans - perch act
 The Zavattas - unsupported lad.
 Clowns - The Army
 Cycling Wizards - cycles
 The Esquedas - unicycles
 Frediani Troupe - teeterboard
 Dennie Pinson - elephants
 The Rock Smith Flyers
 Clowns - The boxing match
 Five Ronaldos - rolling globes
 Tony Fossett - bounding rope

PEOPLE

HENRY J. RECHATIN, French aerialist, recently walked a cable above Niagara Falls and then balanced on chairs, on a small platform above the falls.

WILLY LENZ has announced his chimps, truck and trailer are for sale. He and his wife plan to retire to a farm in Alberta, Canada.

EDDIE HOWE, Jr., who supervises the ups and downs of shows at the Anaheim (Cal) Arena has been assigned to work full-time with RBBB when the show arrives in August.



The Alejandros - tight wire
 Aerial Youngs - aerial cradle
 Esqueda & Irma - aerial cradle
 Oscar Macias - cloud swing
 Tibi & Eva - aerial cradle
 The Aerial Teds - aerial cradle
 Mel's monkeys
 Kastle's bears
 Miamba's baboons
 The Clowns - A Moon Rocket
 Miss Loni, Miss Barbara and Miss
 Lilian - foot jugglers
 Roger Zoppe Riding Troupe

KAYE OFF TO GOOD START

A recent AB report quotes Paul V. Kaye, owner of the Kaye Continental Circus, as saying "this has definitely been our best year so far and I think it's even going to be better."

In February the circus drew some 26,000 people for its Tucson date, despite some show troubles and bad weather. That city's Shrine circus chairman said "both attendance and grosses were about the same as last year. The 1974 gross was between \$35,000 and \$40,000."

Business at Syracuse (Apr. 3-6) was called "excellent", as was the engagement at Terre Haute (Apr. 11-13). At Omaha (Apr. 16-20) the show played to turnaway business, with an increase at Duluth (Apr. 25-27). Business was described as being "very good" at Shreveport (May. 2-4).

C&B Show

Spent all day May 19th on Carson & Barnes Circus in Hebron (Nebr.) and everything looked just great. Their performance is out of this world.

Then I visited the show again at Seward on May 23 and thought the big top looked small. Later I discovered they'd had a blowdown at Geneva (May 22) and missed the matinee that day. The winds were about 100 m.p.h. and struck about 45 minutes before show time and wrecked the top. However, they did the night show right on time.

..... Ron Sanford

W&R Notes

The Wallace & Rogers Circus has been enjoying good business and weather in Canada. Their overnight jumps are currently averaging 45 to 100 miles

Bob Enrico's big king snake disappeared and everyone thought it was lost. But three days later it crawled down from its hiding place in the roof of the truck.

At Kereamos (May 23) the show was hit by strong winds and as the tear-down was underway a sudden gust ripped the big top. As a result the next day was in the open and everyone has spent their spare time helping to sew up the top.

At Grand Forks the rear end on the seal truck went out and so it was being towed from one town to another. On one jump the truck overturned and was a total loss. Fortunately the birds and animals were saved.

The show day-and-dated the Tommy Scott Show at Princeton



THERE IS NO doubt about it, this year's American Continental Circus offers the biggest and finest program ever put together by Gatti-Charles Productions. The circus has impressed its sponsors and patrons and has been acclaimed by the press as "the outstanding circus of 1975."

The program is a fast moving performance featuring a galaxy of circus stars, with Bob Welz as ringmaster. The very capable band is directed by Herb Miller, who offers both traditional and current favorites for each act.

The circus is owned by M. J. Gatti, Patricia Gatti and Al Charles, while Chuck Burnes serves as General Manager. The Concession Dept.

operates under the direction of Red Gates.

Featured in the 1975 show are

Ada Smieya - lions and tigers
 The Gasperrys - knockabout
 Dockey's Basketball dogs
 The Clowns - A Boxing Match
 Los Turins - top spinning
 Ken Willer - one finger stand
 Dubicki & Co. - unsupported lad
 Amazing Alain - sword balance
 Jungle Fantasy - aerial ballet
 The Clowns - funny car
 Lemke's chimps
 The Clowns
 Margo-Temby dancers in a Western Pzazz number
 -- Intermission --
 Sebestyen's dogs
 The Clowns - levitation
 Miss Leicia and Miss Lucero - hair hang
 Aurora - iron jaw
 Rudy Dockey - musical clown
 Les Blocks - high wire
 Yehia Awada - throat juggler

Miscellaneous

RBBB's Circus World has received the 1975 Addy Award of the American Advertising Federation for its recreating of the old 1909 Ringling Bros. Circus letterhead, adapted for the Circus World.

Two Bengal tigers on the Hubert Castle Circus got into a fight at feeding time (May 12) and one of the animals was killed.

Oresto - foot juggler
 The Willettys - juggling
 Congo, the comedy gorilla
 Myna Moon - single trapeze
 Margo-Temby Dancers in a Fantasy in Pink
 The Clowns
 The Franciscans - teeterboard
 Barbara Tata - elephants (3)
 Bucky Steele - elephants (2)

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo
 Jun 17-18 Campbell, Cal.
 20-22 Cupertino

Beatty-Cole Circus
 Jun 16 Thomaston, Conn.
 17 Prospect
 18 New Britain
 19 Valhalla, NY
 20-21 Hempstead
 22 Elizabeth, NJ

Carden & Johnson Circus
 Jun 11-12 Durango, Colo.

Carson & Barnes Circus
 Jun 16 Ottumwa, Iowa
 17 Albia
 18 Mt. Ayer
 19 Osceola
 20 Corning
 21 Oakland
 22 Manning

Hubert Castle Circus
 Jun 16 Courtney, BC
 19 Abbotsford
 20-22 Vancouver

Circus Kirk
 Jun 16 Gillette, NJ
 17 Manville
 18 Bernardsville
 19 Needham
 20 Parsippant
 21 Wycoff
 22 Emerson

Circus Vargas
 Jun 18-22 Wheaton, Ill.

Europorama
 Jun 16 Olympia, Wash.
 17 Port Angeles
 18 Bremerton
 20 Spokane
 21 Coeur d'Alene,
 22 Moscow Idaho

King Bros. (Continued)
 Jun 17 Norwalk, Okla.
 18 Shelby

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
 Jun 17-18 Little Rck, Ark.
 20-22 Tulsa, Okla.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
 Jun 18-22 Okla. City, Okla

Royal Lipizzan Show
 June 17 Lincoln, Nebr.
 19 Salina, Kans.
 21 Denver, Colo.
 22 Colorado Sprngs

Schmidt Circus
 Jun 17-18 Kulm, N.D.
 20-22 Veblum, S.D.

Sells & Gray Circus
 Jun 17 Hamilton, Ill.
 18 Rushville
 19 Jacksonville
 20 Pana
 21 Taylorsville
 22 Pontiac

Shrine Circus
 Jun 17-18 Twin Falls, Id.
 20-21 Lewiston

John Strong Circus
 Jun 17-18 Birmingham, Ala.
 19-20 Atlanta, Ga.
 21-22 Chattanooga, Tenn

Wenatchee Youth Circus
 Jun 17 Portland, Oreg.

..... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
 June 24 Detroit, Mich.

Blue Devil Drum Corp.
 June 21 Concord, Calif.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
 Jun 18-28 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
 Jun 16-21 Hannibal, Mo.

James H. Drew Shows
 Jun 16-21 Richlands, Va.

Foley & Burk Shows
 Jun 16-28 Vallejo, Calif.
 18-22 Hayward

Kramien's Magic Capades
 Jun 23 Miles City, Mont.

Rose City Rides
 Jun 16-18 Owensville, Mo.
 20-22 New Haven

Tip Top Shows - Blue Unit
 Jun 19-22 West Allis, Ohio

Tip Top Shows - Green Unit
 Jun 19-22 Scandinavia, Ohio

PEOPLE

BOB and VI HOFMEISTER recently paid a surprise visit to BOB and ROSA GIBBS at the Circus World Museum. The Hofmeisters have their horses on the Diamond S. Rodeo now working in Wisconsin.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Merk and Mr. and Mrs. MARK SMITH visited the Hoxie Bros. Circus at Chattanooga, Tenn. on April 21st.

H. L. MERK visited and also helped book Lewis Bros. Circus at Jasper, Tenn. for April 29th. The show's sponsor was the local high school band's Booster Club.

SANDY DOBRITCH has been named Entertainment Director for Lion Country Safari Park in California and Florida.

22 Moscow Idaho

Fisher Bros. Circus
Jun 16 Jasper, Tenn.

Gatti-Charles Amer. Cont'l
Jun 17-18 Stockton, Cal.
19 Holister

George Matthews Circus
Jun 18-22 Mobile, Ala.

Hamid-Morton Circus
Jun 19-23 Norfolk, Va.
-- End of Tour --

Happytime Circus
Jun 16-28 Vallejo, Calif.

Holiday Hippodrome
Jun 16 Kokomo, Ind.
17 Connersville
18 Richmond
19 Hamilton, Ohio
21 Portsmouth
22 Wooster

Kaye Cont'l Circus
Jun 16 Ogden, Utah

King Bros. Circus
Jun 16 Bryan, Okla



ARE WE REALLY ANY GOOD, BERTHA? I NEVER
SEE A SINGLE ELEPHANT IN THE AUDIENCE.



The two circus beauties shown above were photographed on the Al G. Barnes-Sells Floto Circus of 1938. Here seated on the elephant Ruth, are Diane Lovett and Evelyn Burns.

Views Aired

California's controversial Animal Control Law was recently challenged on Los Angeles TV by 17 year old Kari Jones. Kari and her little elephant "Tika" appeared on KHJ-TV's "The Tommy Hawkins Show" to inform the public about the new law and how it will adversely affect California's professional animal trainers and owners.

Kari has been conducting an extensive letter writing campaign to the news media to protest this law, which threatens her ability to own and exhibit Tika. Impressed by her determination, KHJ-TV invited her to appear with Tommy Hawkins and be interviewed on his daytime talk show.

For more than 15 minutes, Kari answered questions on the Animal Control Law, bringing out such points as the law's ambiguous wording, difficulties in obtaining the necessary permits, the possibility of unequal enforcement and that California animal people will be required to sign a statement giving the state permission to seize and destroy their animals for the slightest infraction of the law.

Following the interview, viewers were invited to call the station and give their response on the air. Viewers response was 100% in favor of Kari and the

Important Note!

Roman Schmitt reports that he is not now and has no plans for touring with the Charles Bros. Circus. Earlier reports to that effect were an error.

PEOPLE

EDDIE DULLUM, clown, is staying off the road this year to care for his ailing parents.

URSULA BOTTCHEr, polar bear trainer in West Germany, will soon join the RBBB Circus for a two year tour.

BERNARD CARROLL wishes to thank all those circus friends and fans who sent cards and letters during his recent illness.

TOM MIX FILM (Continued)

Ponicsan is now finishing up his screenplay version for 20th Century-Fox Studios, who plan to release a major film version of the book early next year.

The studio will start shooting the picture this winter. It is still expected that they will use the George-Matthews Circus for those scenes involving Mix's life with the circus.

California owners and trainers.

Earlier Kari and Tika had appeared on NBC-TV to speak out against this new law.

..... Eric J. Beheim

SKY KING TO THE RESCUE!

Kirby Grant — hero to millions of kids when he played a flying rancher on the "Sky King" TV series a decade ago — has returned to ranching.

Only this time the 58-year-old actor's ranch is real — it's the 21-acre Sky King Youth Ranch in Winter Springs, Fla., where 13 teenage boys from broken homes live. And, Grant says, many more will live there when the ranch is completed.

"I'm more excited about this than anything before in my life," he said. "I've got great plans for this place. It'll be a spot where people can escape the city, visit with the kids, picnic and ride horses.

"But first and foremost, it'll be home for the kids. It'll be a place where they'll learn to love each other and find out what America stands for."

Except for a new wrinkle or two, Grant is as ruggedly handsome now as he was when he zoomed out of the sky in his twin-engine Cessna on "Sky King" from 1955 until 1967. He still wears a cowboy hat and he still loves to fly a plane, although he doesn't own one right now.

"When the 'Sky King' show ended in 1967, I became involved with the Carson-Barnes Circus in Oklahoma," Grant said. "I traveled with them for two years and made a lot of money, but it wasn't a lot of fun.

"Then I got involved with a small insurance firm and moved my family to Orlando. I became a special assistant to the president of the firm — sort of a public relations man who threw a few cocktail parties to get people interested in the company."

But the insurance company went broke and left Grant pondering what to do with his future. "That's when I told my wife I was going to take a



REAL-LIFE HERO: Kirby Grant at his ranch with teenage boys to whom he's given a new life.

risk and open a real 'Flying Crown' ranch (the name of Sky King's TV ranch)," Grant said.

"All those years I was on TV, people asked me why they couldn't bring their families out and visit my ranch. I felt terrible telling them I really didn't have a ranch and the idea of having a real ranch intrigued the heck out of me."

Grant, who says he's been interested in youngsters all his life, already has a boys' dormitory on his ranch. He's planning to add a girls' dormitory as soon as funds permit.

"Money's a problem right now," he said, "but we've had an auction, a donkey baseball game, a tennis tournament and a golf tournament to raise money.

"I'm sure that when the ball starts rolling, we'll have a really fine place here."

— JOSEPH CASSIDY

CASTLE NOTES

The Hubert Castle Circus played Grand Prairie (Albta) on June 2nd, showing in the old downtown arena. A new arena is being built at the high school and no doubt this will be the indoor show spot of the future.

Tarzan Zerbini wound up his stay with the circus at Edmonton. The show continues to offer a wild animal act with Red Hartman presenting the Castle owned lions.

A trailer attached to one of the Plunkett rigs caught fire enroute from Red Deer to Edmonton. Fortunately a passing motorist saw it and so they were able to get it unhooked before any additional damage could be accounted for.

Audition Time

Hopeful clowns will have an opportunity to audition for RBBB's Clown College on June 24, at Circus World Showcase in Fla. Those selected will receive eight weeks of intensive training in the art of clowning, plus attending lectures that cover everything about clowning and the circus.

This will be the eighth session of the Clown College, which has top name instructors. The college is held each year in the fall, at the circus winter-quarters in Venice, Fla.

R-B Pact

Both Ringling-Barnum and Capital Centre have announced the signing of a six year contract whereby the circus will play two week periods at the Landover, Md., building starting in October. The announcement was the end of a feud between the two last year, when Capital Centre produced its own circus.

The new agreement is not expected to affect the circus' annual engagement at the D.C. National Armory

OLD CHICAGO (Continued)

Antonucci's Hollywood Chimps
Ms. April - Aerial swaypole
Mr. Bell - balancing ladder act
Loreli - single trapeze
The Walters Family - trampoline
The Arwoods - dog act
The Kelly's - comedy rola bola
Stag McMann - comedian
Popularity - comedy musical act
Mister Magic - magic/illusions
Coleman's puppets and marionette
Cleo - Fantasy clown

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published every week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530. Subscription rates: \$5.00 for 6 months, \$10.00 per year. (Air mail service \$2.00 extra) Advertising Rates: Minimum ad is \$2.50; Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00