

CIRCUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

The logo for 'Circus Report' is a vibrant, stylized illustration. At the top, the words 'CIRCUS REPORT' are written in a large, bubbly, red and white font. Below the text, a central figure of a clown with a wide, open-mouthed smile is depicted. To the left of the clown is a circular frame containing a detailed drawing of an elephant's head. To the right is another circular frame containing a roaring tiger's head. A red and white striped banner runs across the bottom of the logo, containing the text 'AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY' in a simple, black font.

9th Year

March 17, 1980

Number 11



Joseph C. Reisinger

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HAL HAVILAND SEZ. . . .

Dog Catching has always interested me. So, I went to Broadway recently to catch two theatrical dogs from a front row seat.

Sandy, in the long running family-audience hit "Annie" and Louie in Sugar Babies. As a canine comic, Louie is top banana as part of comedian Bob Williams' great dog act spoof. And, Sugar Babies is a nostalgic burlesk musical theatrical production starring Mickey Rooney and Ann Miller. In the show there's a nostalgic tribute to Rosita Royce that brought back memories of by-gone days when Rosita was our headliner. After my act, I helped out by releasing the pigeons because - get this, the stagehands were afraid of them!

The old Howard Atheneum is gone now. So is the tiny alley, by the stage entrance, across from Joe & Nemo's, where countless performers slipped out between numbers for coffee and. Gone also is the breed of baggy pants burlesk clowns that worked there, too. Often there was fear of getting arrested if the show was too blue. At midnight rambles, the shows got bawdy - that seemed permissible, according to moral standards of the times.

Now times have changed. I attended Sugar Babies on a Wednesday matinee. The audience was mostly women - not the nearly all male audience that used to attend burlesk theatres. But, the burlesk theatre midnight rambles material was all there - even worse, almost stag smoker material.

Grandmas, elderly senior citizen couples, young matrons - the typical women's club matinee crowd - they all cheered!

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Acts

The following acts were set by Rose Adair, of New York City, for the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus date at Flushing, N.Y., on Feb. 1st.

Cimse's Wolfhounds and Pomeranians; Cowboy Joe Phillips & Golden Mist, dancing horse; Mr. Muttley (and Joe Phillips) the computer dog with the wonder dogs; Zippy, the TV Chimp; The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters; Miss Diana, foot juggler; Cowboy Joe Phillips, speedy gun draws, twirling; Ken Sherburne, unicycle, juggling, globe; Scalzo & Co., illusions and Sani Demon, fire, sword balancing.

WM. KAY CIRCUS AT MADISON

Acts appearing with the Wm. Kay Circus at Madison, Wisc., (Feb. 16-17) were:

The Laddie Family, unsupported ladders; Miss Diane, trapeze; Smidht's tigers; The Navarros, unicycle; Clowns with Miss USA; Susan Sheryll and her Royal Afghans; Johnny Luxem, aerial wheel; The Flying Valentines; Cook's Comedy Car; The Albanis, aerial motorcycle; the Wainwrights, trampoline; Clowns and Washer Women; The Dolly Sisters, aerial; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; Vidbel's elephants and Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball.

ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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SPECIAL

GRIMALDI — The Clown Who Couldn't Laugh

... by Mike Martin

Once every year in Holy Trinity Church, London, a Sunday "Clown Service" is held. To this service come the professional clowns, in make-up and mufti, in their annual memorial to the Great Grimaldi.

Joseph Grimaldi, the first and greatest of all modern clowns, was born in London in 1778. The son of an Italian dancer, he was introduced to the stage when scarcely more than a baby. Dressed in a clown costume, he mimicked his father's act.

Young Grimaldi became a performer on his own at the age of 10 when his father died leaving the small family in poverty. The boy worked hard at his new profession and excelled in the skills of pantomime. By the age of 20, Joey was famous at home and abroad, acclaimed for his ability to make people laugh.

Grimaldi's personal life did not reflect the success on the stage. Personal tragedies and professional disagreements followed him through out his life. Suffering many painful accidents his body was left weakened with severe spasms and cramps.

Continuing to perform, often in agony, Grimaldi transformed his suffering into art and continued to add new substance and depth to the role of Clown.

A story is told that in the early years of the last century, an Italian doctor, who treated exclusive diseases of the nervous system and the mind, was visited by a young man whose tortured face was a tragic mask of despair. The man told the doctor he suffered from extreme anxiety and even thought of ending his own life to escape the horrors of living.

Having heard that the doctor was famous for treating severe depression, the young man came seeking the doctor's help. After a thorough examination, the mental condition of his new pa-



CHIRON'S MAGIC MACHINE

Chiron's Magic Machine has just finished a successful opening of its 1980 tour, appearing in Rutherford County, NC, on Feb. 23rd with its 1½ hour show of magic and illusions and featuring Tommy Curtin, juggler and The Great Alex, plate spinning.

The show will be playing dates in North Carolina South Carolina and Virginia, then opens April 14th, and plays from Key West, Fla. to Charleston, SC on a three week tour with the Variety Show.

Acts featured on the variety show will include: Danny "Tex" Daniels, organist; The Sikorskys, juggling; Chiron, illusions; Giesepi's Pizza Parlor; The Wilsons, unicycles; Tazara, Gorilla parody; Show Clowns; Bobby Pleis, trampoline; Chris Alberti's Poodle Revue; Chiron, and The Royals, rolling globe.

tient was what needed treatment. Physically, he was in excellent shape. He needed to learn to laugh again.

There was a pantomime performance in town featuring the marvelous clown Grimaldi who convulsed the audience nightly with his zany humor. That clown could make anyone laugh. The doctor prescribed an immediate visit to the theatre.

The Melancholy man, his hopes dashed, his face sadder than before, said "This clown can not drive away my sorrow nor make me laugh. I know him well. You see, I am Grimaldi."

Joseph Grimaldi died in 1837, virtually penniless, physically crippled, sustained only through the efforts of fellow performers and a meager Theatre Pension Fund.

For all the alughter and happiness he brought into the world, Grimaldi - the model for successive generations of clowns, was sadly - the clown who couldn't laugh.

Show Dates

- Aut Mori Grotto Circus
Mar. 18-23 Youngstown, Ohio
- Beatty-Cole Circus
Mar. 19-20 Brunswick, Ga.
21-23 Charleston, SC
- Carden-Johnson Circus
Mar. 17 Joplin, Mo.
18 Miami, Okla.
19-23 Tulsa
- Hubert Castle Circus
Mar. 18-19 Eugene, Oregon
21-23 Seattle, Wash.
- Hubert Castle Circus (Blue Unit)
Mar. 23-29 Dayton, Ohio
- Circus Vargas
Mar. 17-20 Huntington Beach, Cal
21-24 La Mirada
- Cole All Star TV Circus
Mar. 17 Philadelphia, NY
18 Beaver Falls
19 Alexander Bay
20 Heuvelton
21 Ogdensburg
- Great All American Youth Circus
Mar. 21-23 San Bernardino, Calif.
- Hubler's Int'l Circus
Mar. 18-23 Youngstown, Ohio
- Jungleland Circus
Mar. 15 Cleveland, Texas
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to Mar. 23 Baltimore, Md.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Mar. 18-23 Knoxville, Tenn.
- Royal Hanneford Circus
Mar. 3-23 Chicago, Ill.
14-30 Detroit, Mich.
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Mar. 18-19 St. Paul, Minn.
20 Eau Claire, Wisc.
21 St. Paul, Minn.

----- MAGIC -----

- Amazing Conklins
Mar. 17 Parshon, ND
18 Grassy Butte
19 Golden Valley
20 Underwood
21 Mandan
- Andre Kole's World of Illusion
Mar. 19 Riverside, Calif.
21-23 Santa Barbara
- Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA
Mar. 17 Forsyth, Ga.
18 St. Simons Island
21 Milledgeville
22 Cartersville
- Felix Snipe - Magic/ESP
Mar. 21-22 Hollis, Okla.
- OTHER DATES -----
- Babes in Toyland
Mar. 20-29 Boston, Mass.
- Bugs Bunny in Space
Mar. 18-23 Long Beach, Calif.
- James H. Drew Exposition
to Mar. 22 Augusta, Ga.
- Globetrotters
Mar. 19 Norfolk, Va.
- Gutis Family - Jungle Parody
Mar. 23 Oneonta, NY
- Kaye Hollywood Elephants
Mar. 17-23 Eustis, Fla.
- Rolling Diamonds - Roller Skaters
Mar. 16-23 Dallas, Texas
- Sport Shows
Mar. 16-23 Dallas, Texas
19-23 Duluth, Minn.
- White House in Miniature
Mar. 22-30 Thornton, Colo.
- Hall and Christ World Attractions
Mar. 18-23 Kileen, Texas



ERNIE and MARAN BURCH flew into L.A. during the Super Bowl Game and couldn't find a place to stay so our Den Mother BETTY ESCALANTE kindly invited the couple to bed-down at her house, which they did, and which made their trek all the more enjoyable. While Betty was flitting around Sarafra over the Holidays it was JACKIE LE CLAIR who was her chauffeur. She wishes to thank Jackie publicly for his generosity.

BUBBA HASTINGS finally had a heart attack and dropped dead during a clown number. It wasn't that he was ill, it was simply that the clown number killed him. Since BUBBA has NEVER been a popular clown (in fact the whole world hated him) his only mourners were BILL GALLOWAY and JOE SHERMAN. (Okay you guys! Top That One!).

GOOD NEWS that BARBARA WOODCOCK, having re-injured her back in a mishap on RBBB last season, is up and about and rarin' to face the new season. BUCKLES bought the two elephants from MACK MacDONALD and has readied a new three act featuring the precocious ANNA MAY elephant. BENNY WILLIAMS has returned and he and Barbara will revive that great act with the Leopard and Anna May. They have purchased OSCAR CRISTIANI's semi in which to transport the animals. The WOODCOCK TROUPE will play Amarillo, Rock Island, Cedar Rapids, Belleville and Granite City for the HUBLER INT'L CIRCUS and George was so pleased at his coup in acquiring this glamorous aggregation he couldn't wait to tell me about it.

RON KELROY returned to the USA Jan. 12, after a speedy visit to Australia, New Zealand, and Africa, and is sending me a detailed report. Meanwhile he has formed his own producing corporation and has signed SUMMERFEST for this year and also a string of fairs in Mennesota and Wisconsin. He is working also with DOROTHY WINN and the team will produce the ST. LOUIS SHRINE date, Rockford, Poplar Bluff, and other stands. Ron indicates he has lined up a surprise route for 1981.

PLAYING Sport Shows in Harrisburg, D.C., Philly, Boston and Asbury Park, were the following: Pirates of the Sky, Plunketts, Chris James, Rolling Diamonds, Popcorn Sink & Co., and Vashek and Kathy. DAVID CHABIRA in from Philly called, JUNE PLUNKETT phoned

in from Asbury Park and ROSEMARY MARINO and BEVERLY HEIGHAM phoned to tell me they planned an "Outdoor Winter Barbecue" for the Plunketts when they hit Boston!

WES OLER has added a number of new fairs to his ever-growing route. Among them are the Emira (NY) Fair and the State Fair at Rutland (Vt). PHIL & CHRIS OLER opened with Holiday Hippodrome in Jan. for 43 weeks of one-nighters.

SNAPSHOTS: MERLE EVANS was hospitalized for a prostrate operation in Jan. was released quickly with a clean bill of health. . . JO ROSENER, company manager for the ALEX SMITH road show of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," came and collected BARBARA WOODCOCK to see the hit play during its Miami run. . . JIMMY DOUGLASS again provided production pieces for the Gatti show and Hoxie and odds and ends for Beatty-Cole. . . Everyone is raving over TRUDY STRONG's gorgeous new color pix of her recently developed smash Dalmatian dog act. They are really great and I have one framed on my wall. . . ED MIGLEY kicks off his run of college dates this month, starting in New York state and playing New England and New Jersey. Some of the talent skedded includes: The Gutis, the Rolling Diamonds, the Burgers, and Mister Sensation. . . BOOM BOOM BROWNING musical director for M&M, SAM T. POLACK and HUBLER having a more than busy season. . . Seems that many acts thinking about playing Europe this year are changing their minds and backing out - one reason is the unsettled climate abroad with rumbles of war and Americans not being the most popular people on earth. . . LOU ANN JACOBS playing dates for The Fleckles Circus (Winn/Kelroy) including St. Louis and Summerfest. Also booked for Summerfest is DARRYL WALLEN and the LEMOINES. . . FRANK & ESTRELETA will play spot dates for SANDY DOBRITCH, also the FLYING LANES, WALT and BARBARA KING and the GUTIS. . . PLUNKETTS double-dating the HUBERT CASTLE dates.

WORD IS that tiger trainer MICHON is now flying hither, thither, and yon on a tiger buying hunt for CIRCO ORFIE in Italy where he is to present a large group. My information is that 3 animals were acquired in Germany, 3 in Yugo-

REPORT

BEATTY-COLE TO FIELD ARENA SHOW

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus has announced plans to play in arenas, possibly as early as the fall of 1980. Jerry Collins, owner and president of the circus made the announcement in his offices in Orlando, Fla.

The circus doesn't plan to give up its tented format, but will go indoors during the late fall and winter, when it is too cold to play outdoor engagements. "This past season was our most profitable year since 1962," said Collins, "despite a drop in attendance on the heels of the gasoline shortage. We attribute the success to a stronger show and a solid marketing plan. We don't intend on giving up something as profitable as our tented season."

Last year the Beatty-Cole Circus played 80 cities on its, most of which were two, three and four day stands, with a large majority of these dates being at shopping malls. In the past they have played 250 one-day stands.

Collins foresees a great future for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus in arenas. "We have a strong

staff, which is the essential ingredient in the success of any new venture. John Pugh, vice president and general manager, moves the show. He's been with us for almost 20 years. There's no one in the business who knows as much about moving a show as John. Vice president of marketing is Tim Stinson, who has been with us for three years after ten years with Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Tim oversees the booking, advertising, publicity and promotion."

Stinson said the indoor operation will "give us more seating capacity to work with and the opportunity to do more business. It also gives us a longer season to offer performers and cut down on our winter quarters expense." He went on to say "we're at the mercy of the weather as it is, and extending the season under canvas is not a viable alternative."

Stinson cautioned that it "should be clear that the timing of our entry into the arenas is going to be directly dependent upon the support we get from the arenas themselves. If they want another family attraction, they are going to have to go out of their way to give it support, not just lip service. I have seen one arena show after another fold because of high operating costs. Requirements of unnecessary personnel and service are worse in the large cities, so we'll be very happy playing medium-sized halls with a minimum of local restrictions."

"We are willing to let the arenas co-promote the show, and if it works, look at long-term agreements. That also applies to local concert promoters, who have been buffeted by the vagaries of public spending on concerts. We will talk with established promoters who are looking for a stable attraction they can promote year after year in one or multiple markets. We will assist them with our knowledge of circus marketing when it's needed. When we find those arenas and promoters who are going to work for the long-term success of this show, they will not be dropped after two years to do it ourselves. We are not greedy. There's enough business for everyone to share in."

"If we do not get the support we need from the industry now, we are perfectly willing to stay under canvas another year. Jerry Collins has provided us with the financial resources to be able to take our time to do it right. Mr. Collins is a shrewd businessman. He is not going to put a lot into a project that arenas are not going to back 100%. We can still go on making money

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(Continued on Page 19)

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Second Anniversary

March 22 nd, 1980 is the second anniversary of the death of my late husband, Karl Wallenda.

I have been grateful for all of Karls and my acquaintances and their contact, one offer of help and friendship and then left the initiative up to me. It was family and friends of long standing that I needed and wanted to be with at that time. With them I felt comfortable and comforted.

I have given thanks many times that Karl and I chose consciously to stay "up to date" with our feelings and thoughts so that we never had unfinished business with each other - not before or after death. It was a lovely way to live together, and a grace-filled way to have parted at death.

Out of deep suffering, I learned deep compassion. Now I know from my own experience what depths of pain others go through, and I know how to be understanding alongside another who grieves.

My thanks go to all those who stood beside me during my grief, accepting me exactly as I was, offering comfort when I sought it, and in no way interfering with my grief process.

May God bless you.

Helen Wallenda



MAGIC LIMITED - LLOYD E. JONES - 4064 39TH AVE., OAKLAND, CA. 94619

... by LLOYD E. JONES

MUD SHOW, the 1975 book by author Fred Powledge has just been placed on the bargain counters and copies are available here for the price of \$4.95 (postage is \$1.03, insurance 50c and if applicable the California Sales Tax runs 30c). This is quite a drop in price as compared to the originally published cost of \$12.95.

It's a big book of 374 pages, about 6½ x 10 in. and has 74 photos with a very colorful dust jacket.

The writer tells about the Hoxie Bros. Circus tour of 1974, starting in winterquarters, going on the road and ending back at winterquarters. During that time Mr. Powledge made thirteen trips with the circus and gives non-circus people an inside look at life with a touring show. Well written and fascinating to read it is most revealing even giving a few circus secrets. Circus folks will find many people in the volume they know quite well.

Circuses and circus life holds a fascination for many, and reading about the trials, problems, successes and failures gives one a broad view of what that part of life is all about.

"Mud Show" a circus season, deserves a much wider reading than it probably has had.

Another book just placed on the bargain shelf is **THE MAGIC BOOK** by Karl Fulves, a well known magic author and writer in the field, especially about card work.

This over 8 x 11 in. soft covered book has a colored cover with 196 pages of text, is well illustrated. There is considerable blank space that could be used for making notes or additions to the material provided.

The volume covers a wide field of interest from

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PEOPLE

GRIFFIN, escape artist, recently worked for the California Town Meetings program in the Los Angeles area. He was also featured in the Redlands (Calif.) Daily Facts paper when he worked for the Press Club.

Mrs. INGEBORG RULON, of the Valencianos, paints brilliantly-colored blankets on miniature elephants, as a hobby. They are excellently detailed in the Ringling-Barnum fashion.

JACK and BRENDA PAYNE (The Saxons) entertained their fellow passengers aboard an airliner with their juggling act while enroute to a date at Rio de Janeiro at Christmas time.

JACKIE O'DELL, agent, is no longer with George Hunt, but is now with the Betty Kaye Agency out of Sacramento, Calif.

DAVE TWOMEY (Happy the Clown) worked the pre-show feature spot for the stage show at the Cloverdale (Calif.) Fair last month.

FROSTY LITTLE, RBBB Red Unit boss clown underwent an operation and has been recuperating at friends in Greensboro. He planned to be back on the show at Baltimore.

MURILLO & ULISES, balancing act, spent July thru Dec. 1979 touring with the Ala Lee Las Vegas Follies. In Jan. they worked the Anaheim (Calif) Sports Show and the Merv Griffin Show, then last month they filmed a TV show in Canada.

JACK KING visited **JIM ILLE**, who is back at the Show Bar on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Jim has one of the best and swingiest bands on the street, Jack reports.

HARRY GRAHAM, newspaper editor and author has rewritten his "Born to Fly: The Story of Tito Gaona." He reports several publishers have indicated their interest in the feature item.

close-up magic to gambling tricks and comedy. Puzzle: Can you give 100 words in less than a minute without using the letters a, b, c, j, k, m, p, q, or z? Wow! Very simple (see page 154). Not really intended for the magic trade, but for the general public this book has a surprisingly lot of new material that magicians need to know. Published for \$7.95, copies are now available at \$4.95 (postage 81c, insurance 50, Calif. sales tax 30c).

PEOPLE

JOE McKENNON has worked more than 15,000 hours as a volunteer with the Ringling Museum in Sarasota, where he does a little of everything. Joe is currently working on a new carnival book.

CLARK McDERMOTT and his "Cold Nose Five" dog act will be working the St. Louis and Poplar Bluff Shrine Circus dates in June.

TOM OGDEN, magician, is on a European lecture tour covering most countries in Europe. His tour runs Mar. 12-April 27.

ELLEN LEACH, a zoo keeper at the Cleveland Zoo was attacked and bitten by a hippo that she and two other keepers were moving from one cage to another.

Notice

MICHAEL McCARTHY
Important that you call me
Immediately

CHARLES GERMAINE
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Leave Message, I will call back

KIM DIXON, magician, presented two shows at Ukiah, Calif., on Feb. 28th, sponsored by the local Ukiah Lionesses.



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in the NEWS

SUIT FILED IN NEW YORK

D. C. Comics, a subsidiary of Warner Bros., has filed a suit in New York Federal Court against Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus for unauthorized use of its Superman character.

The comics group, which owns the character and trademark of Superman, has charged the circus with copyright infringement and unfair competition when it permitted Marco Canestrelli to fly through the air in the Superman costume. D. C. has also asked for damages for use of the Superman character in the circus program book.

D. C. Comics is asking the Court to award it \$150,000 on each count for the copyright infringement and other damages. They have also asked that all unsold copies of the program book be delivered to them for destruction. The suit also seeks to enjoin Ringling from further use of the Superman segment.

WANTED

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FLASH

George Hubler and Mac McGuffin have signed Johnny Jordan's new motorcycle thriller for the circus at Youngstown, Ohio, Mar. 18-23rd. The 15 ft. steel globe breaks down into some 28 pieces and will be billed as the "Sphere of Death."

Johnny purchased the rig from Pete Luvas, of Texas, and returned there following Hubler's Cleveland date, to put the finishing touches to the act.

John's 12 year old son is a partner in the act that will climax with two Hondas criss-crossing vertically and horizontally, while erupting streamers of fireworks.

Youngstown will be the premiere performance for the act which is scheduled to go into Circus Circus at Las Vegas in June for six months.

WANT

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SPECIAL**RINGLING TELEVISION SPECIALS**

... by Mike Sporrer

For the past 25 years circus fans have been given a special treat in seeing "Highlights of the Greatest Show On Earth" on TV. In reading the Billboard and TV Guide I have been able to compile the following list.

- 1955 - 85th edition - Mar. 29 - NBC - New York City - John Daly
 1955 - 85th edition - Dec. 16 - CBS - Sarasota, winterquarters - Charlton Heston
 1956 - 86th edition - Apr. 3 - CBS - New York City - Robert Cummings
 1957 - 1964 - No Programs
 1965 - 95th edition - Nov. 18 - NBC - Seattle, Wash. - Ed Winn
 1966 - 96th edition - Apr. 7 - NBC - Greensboro NC - Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
 1967 - 97th edition - Mar. 16 - NBC - Greensboro NC - Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
 1968 - 98th edition - Mar. 22 - NBC - Baltimore Md. - Mike Douglas
 1969 - 99th edition - May 26 - NBC - Baltimore Md. - Arthur Godfrey
 1970 - 100th edition Blue Unit - Jan. 27 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Dale Robertson

BETTY WENDANY'S FUNS-A-POPPIN

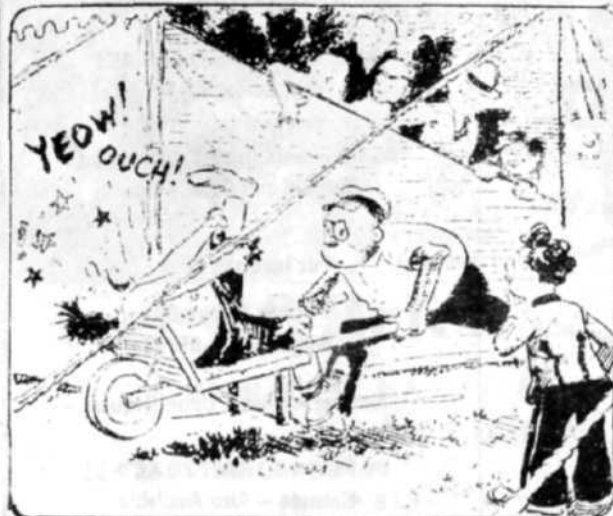
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- 1971 - 101st edition Red Unit - Jan. 29 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Jack Cassidy
 1972 - 102nd edition Blue Unit - Feb. 27 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Dick Shawn
 1973 - 103rd edition Red Unit - Feb. 25 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Loren Green
 1974 - 104th edition Blue Unit - Feb. 14 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Flip Wilson
 1975 - 105th edition Red Unit - Feb. 16 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Bill Cosby
 1976 - 106th edition Blue Unit - Feb. 18 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Johnny Cash
 1977 - 107th edition Red Unit - Mar. 15 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Gene Kelly
 1978 - 108th edition Blue Unit - Mar. 8 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Dick Van Dyke
 1979 - 109th edition Red Unit - Jan. 31 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Danny Kaye
 1980 - 110th edition Blue Unit - Feb. 1 - NBC St. Petersburg, Fla. - Michael Landon and Family

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

MONTE CARLO CIRCUS FESTIVAL . . .

1975 and 1976 - First and Second Year not on Television

1977 - Feb. 16 - CBS - Chad Everett

1978 - Jan. 18 - CBS - John Davidson/Brenda Vaccaro

1979 - Jan. 10 - CBS - Telly Savalis

1980 - Jan. 23 - CBS - Telly Savalis/Linda Carter

LORD OF THE RINGS - Special program with Gunther Gebel-Williams

1977 - Nov. 25 - CBS - Tony Curtis

CIRCUS SUPER HEROES - Program on Ursula Botther, Carillo Brothers, Tito Gaona and Elvin Bale

1979 - Feb. 1 - NBC - Bruce Jenner

PEOPLE

JACK ATKINSON and HERBERT FRIERSON hosted a party for several RBBB Blue Unit personnel at Birmingham, Ala. Among those show folks in attendance were: Axel, Donna, Michael and Kevin Gautier, Ursula and Monfred, John, Betty and Mario Zoppe, Ronald Drum and his wife and Harold Ronk.

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ATTENTION

An error appeared in the address of the recent advertising for "Dwight Damon". The address should read: Lane Manor, Box 685, Merrimack, N.H. 03054. His phone number: 603-424-3341.

In Memoriam

MARIE SHREVE BALL (88) mother of Frank L. Ball, Jr., of Arlington, Va., a lawyer and circus fan, died at her home, the Glebe House, Arlington, Va. on Feb. 20th. In addition to Frank she is survived by three daughters, a sister, several grandchildren.

By Crane



PEOPLE

DAVID COPPERFIELD, illusionist, was featured on TV's "The Big Show" the night of March 11th.

BOB (Hi Fi) EMERICO and HARRY ROSS, clowns, will tour with Reid Bros. Circus in the Pacific Northwest this spring before joining the Bentley Bros. Circus for a California tour.

GUNNAR AMANDIS has been keeping up a frantic pace commuting from Sarasota to Bert Reynold's Ranch in Jupiter, Fla. Gunnar has been contracted by the studio to supply all animal sequences for the new movie "Smokey and The Bandit No. 2" which will be released in approximately 3 months. Some of the film's stars are Bert Reynolds, Jackie Gleason, Dom Del Luise, Sally Fields and Paul Williams.

VAN JOHNSON will host a new TV show called "GI Jive" which will feature performers who worked in "stage door canteens" during World War II. The new series is to be aired this month.

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SPECIAL

BIRTHDAY PARTY

A surprise party for Leslie Brooks, on his 76th birthday, was hosted by Karl and Sheila Winn at their home in Medford, Oregon, on Feb. 29.

Leslie is a retired clown, who appeared with the Gatti-Charles Circus, Hamid-Morton and other shows. He came to the U. S. from England with the Cary Grant troupe in 1917.

Retired show people from throughout the Oregon area attended the party, including Bob and Sue Chase, plus Bob Emerico and Danny Ashley who arrived in full clown make-up.



HEAVY SKATER - Baby Tarra, a 3000 pound elephant from Ojai, Calif., wheels her way along the street on special roller skates. Her owner and trainer, Carol Buckley, who raised the elephant, says Tarra is still growing and that her skates cost \$500.

REPORT

MORE ON THE MONTE CARLO FESTIVAL

... by James A. Conley

After reading the letter from the General Secretary of the Monte Carlo Circus Festival, I realized that I had failed to cover many of the interesting aspects of the festival other than the acts.

Willy Togni and Edjie Murilla do an extremely professional job of what in the U.S.A. we call the performance director. They see that the props and riggings for the acts are in place and are struck in a timely manner. This is particularly difficult when you realize that each performance is an entirely new show put together that day. Eddie Murillo is well known to American circus folks as he spent a number of years traveling in the U.S.A. with a variety of acts before he went to Europe to work with Togni.

The Circus tent is a beautiful blue top with red and white striped side-walls on the exterior, while inside, the top has an attractive red, white and blue design. The tent is made of heavy plastic which is quite waterproof. It is warmed by two wagon-mounted heaters which blow in warm air from the rear of the tent. I have heard that this great tent is held in reserve by Togni for use of the Circus Festival. At any rate, it looks each year as if it were brand new. The wagon-mounted generators are displayed behind plate glass in the front of the circus tent and they are attractively painted and very clean in contrast to the usual American generator truck.

The Festival Circus attracts a sophisticated European audience who often attend the Gala performance in evening dress. No food is sold inside the tent in keeping with the class presentation of the whole operation. Outside are stands which sell alcoholic drinks but no 'peanuts and pink lemonade'. The most popular food item is crepes, made while you wait, and generously laced with Grand Marnier liqueur.

One other interesting aspect of the Festival is the keyed-up tension that exists in the minds of the performers. Because this is the outstanding event in the circus world, a performance before European royalty, performers want more than ever to do their best. This frequently provides the ultimate performance by an act. Some of the acts have told me that they have never had "butterflies" as severely before a performance as they have at this event.

To sum it up, the Monte Carlo Circus is prob-

weddings



JEFFERY WAYNE EARL, son of Robert and Doris Earl, was married to Virginia Ehler on Saturday, Feb. 16th at the First Brethren Church in Sarasota, Fla.

Jeff is a partner along with his father in the Roberts Bros. Circus.

The couple met when Ginny answered an advertisement for big top help that Jeff had placed in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune prior to the 1979 season. Ginny was hired on as a Generally Useful employee. Two weeks later she was working in a swinging ladder routine. The daughter of a career serviceman, she also helped out in the cookhouse and took responsibility for putting up the sidewall. Prior to this, she had never even seen a circus.

Among those attending the wedding were: Wilson, Dorothy and Tina Storey; Oscar Macias and Family; Stan and Sue Mulford; George Rowe; John and Christa Dubsky; Ron and Arlene Morris; Larry Dean; Lee Merritt, and Larry and Karen French.

The wedding toast was given by Bunny Perez Bartok, who said, "May you always perform in the center ring, may you never trip on a stake, and may you never blow an arrow."

On The Cover

The drawing on this week's cover was done several years ago, especially for Circus Report, by Robert Barbour Johnson, of San Francisco and Monterey, Calif.

During his younger years Bob Johnson toured on the Christy Bros. and Lee Bros. Circus.

He was both an artist and author and in fact earned his living by writing for numerous magazines.

Many of his circus stories were printed in the old "Blue Book" magazine. Each of these included some of his pen and ink drawings.

Only a few favorite friends were allowed to acquire his colorful circus drawings and fortunately we were included in that group.

We have a number of these drawings and for the next several weeks we're going to feature them on the front page of Circus Report - a tribute to a good friend and a fine artist.

ably the most exciting annual event in the international circus world. It is well worth attending, as any circus fan who has been there will attest.

Notice

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Contrary to reports now circulating Lucky L-arabee is not planning retirement at the close of this year's Hubert Castle Circus tour, but will be spot-dating during the year through Amandis Entertainment, Inc.

BEATTY-COLE (Continued)

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REPORT

BLIZZARD STRIKES SHOW

An unexpected blizzard that dumped 14 in. of snow on the streets of Norfolk, Va., caused problems for the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit as well as its patrons on Sunday night, March 2nd.

A state of emergency and ban on traffic was put into effect by Norfolk officials and by the time the circus performance was over the spectators found they were unable to leave. They were told that they'd have to spend the night with the circus.

Most of the people were good natured about the incident and settled down in the seating area, to get comfortable and to watch circus employees take down the rigging and pack things up in preparation for the trip to the next town.

Some news sources reported that earlier in the day churches cancelled their services because of threatening weather. The circus, they said, decided the show must go on and went ahead with its performances.

The 2,300 spectators who spent the night at the circus were able to head for home on Monday, and the circus though late, left for its next show engagement.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

slavia, 3 in Holland and 5 in Czechoslovakia. Evidently the Dutch trainer is to return to the US in the fall for business reasons.

OTHER NEWS from the Animal Kingdom is **WADE BURCK** has added a leap-frog tiger routine to the **CUNEO WHITE TIGER FANTASY** . . . and word is, unofficial of course and certainly not confirmed, that **YOLANDE ZOPPE** will not tour this year with **JIMMY HALL's** Bear Act. Sorry to hear that **JOE LEMKE** was hospitalized in Las Vegas with ulcers in Jan. and hope he is better by the time this column sees print.

NEWS FROM CIRCUS VARGAS: All reports are favorable about Cliff's new edition, being touted as the most ambitious Vargas offering to date. The flying acts are working lengthway on the track, an improvement, and the show is heavy in the air with two single trapeze acts, three cradle acts, two cloud swings, and an incline motorcycle. Eight production girls have been added for a web number, unveiled in Hollywood. The girls also work in the elephant production. Seven clowns are in evidence, with more to join. The European horse trainer arrived and a California girl is featured in the Horse Fair number doing fast and dangerous trick riding on the track. The band, under the baton of David Eperly, had at this report, four men but more were to be added. New security measures are enforced on the lot - this on a show which has always been "tight" at the back door.

Program kicks off this year with the **KNOPS** perch act, an outstanding act, and has many more displays than ever including a three ring juggling melange.

There are no more "free tickets" for kids. A new format of half-price tickets has been introduced. Scale is \$8.50 tops which is a front track box seat.

The Special Gay Night Gala Benefit Performance, instituted last year during the Hollywood

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CIRCUS QUIPS . . . by Karl J. Bischoff

A NEW CIRCUS EMPLOYEE was heard saying to his new employer "how come so many towns are named after the water towers?"

IF YOU ARE NEW in circus business, don't be afraid to ask dumb questions, they are easier to handle than dumb mistakes.

GIVE CREDIT to the so-called hick circuses, they are the chestnuts from which great shows grow.

ONE THING IS for sure, you can't drown a good concessionaire, he can't keep his head down.

JACK be thrifty

JACK be slick

JACK knew how to make money quick

JACK is now looking for another show
TO do another trick.



run, was given again this season with the performance (not advertised) starting after the regular night show, at 11:30 p.m. This is a great ego-trip for the performers who received a far more enthusiastic reception than from the regular show-going public.

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

The Encyclopedia of Stage Illusions



Edited by
Ormond McGill



By
Burling Hull

Over a decade ago, Burling Hull started the Magic World with the appearance of his "Encyclopedia of Stage Illusions". The entire edition shortly sold out. Ormond McGill was contacted to rewrite the entire book plus enlarge it and bring it up-to-the-minute to produce the greatest encyclopedia assembly of stage illusions ever offered the magic profession. The book has literally doubled in size and presents 240 of the greatest stage illusions of all times. Jammed-packed within these pages are the masterful illusions of Thurston, Dante, Leon, Goldston, Blackstone, and the great illusionists of the past on to stellar stars in modern illusions as Siegfried and Roy, Henning, Blackstone, Jr., etc. And the book is wonderfully embellished with full page pictures of these illusionists in stage performance of their greatest illusions.

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REPORT

FOLLOW-UP ON ANIMALS

... by Linda Winer

Two weeks ago, an article in Arts & Fun raised moral and possibly legal questions about the treatment of animals by the "Harry Blackstone Magic Show" at the Studebaker Theatre.

Since then, officers from the Animal Welfare League and the United States Dept. of Agriculture found no legal violations in the 45 ft trailer behind the theatre, where the show's tiger, elephant, camel, donkey and birds have been kept since the Jan. 8th opening.

Also, Blackstone is within his rights when he gives away a baby rabbit to a child in the audience at each performance. The Cook County Animal Control Ordinance only prohibits giv-

ing away live animals as prizes or inducements to enter. Since Blackstone does not advertise his pet give-aways, they are legal.

Whatever the legal technicalities, however, a number of humane officials have voiced regret over the situation - particularly the rabbit give-away - and the requirements for animal care on the road in general.

"We don't like to see animals confined like that" said Allen Glisch, manager of the Animal Welfare League, which checked out the show for the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture. "But they are in good physical condition, have sufficient food, and meet the federal Animal Welfare Act. We can only go by the laws we have to work with."

Robert A. Brown, executive director of the Anti-Cruelty Society, believes the publicity "raised a little consciousness. It takes a long time to educate people about our responsibilities to animals."

Dr. Robert Keough, administrator for the Cook County Animal Control Dept. is especially concerned about the legal limitations covering the rabbits. "We wrote the ordinance to prevent rabbits and other animals being given away like this. Blackstone may not be breaking the letter of the law, but he certainly is circumventing its intention. I wish we had some way to stop him."

Harold Ruther, inspector for the Chicago Commission on Animal Care and Control, agrees, "I don't like the rabbit idea, but there's nothing we can do about it. The situation for the large animals is not ideal, but it is better than some circuses. This is becoming a bigger issue in the major cities now, though. At least I hope it is."

The show closes its successful run today and continues on the rest of a nine-month tour, which began in Los Angeles more than two months ago. Meanwhile, Glisch, who is "100 percent against the giving away of rabbits," adds: "I hope people who don't want the baby rabbits have the sense not to turn them loose in a park or woods."

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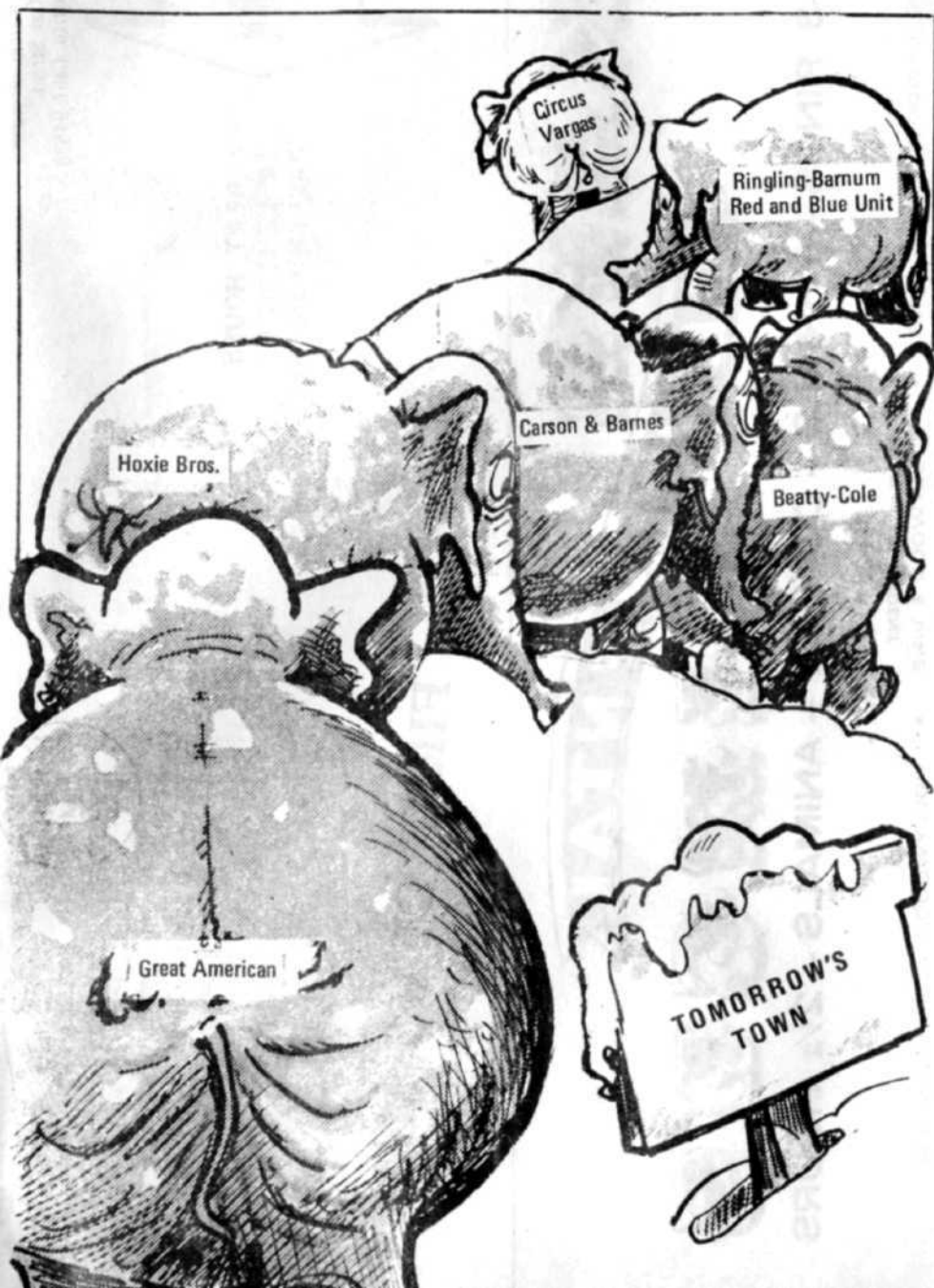
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