

THE
**CIRCUUS
REPORT**

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUUS WEEKLY

OUR 11th YEAR

Number 25

June 21, 1982



ANNOUNCER **JON FRIDAY** RINGMASTER

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Show Acts

The Nur Temple Shrine Circus at Wilmington, Dela., May 27-30, featured the following people and acts.

"Boom Boom" Browning, musical director; George Benson, ringmaster.

The Valla Duo, low wire; Javanna's Jungle Jubilee, baboons; Clowns (Terry Parsons, Mike Naughton, Tom Sink); The Davisons, rola bola; The Francarros, foot juggling; Miss Janice, Golden retrievers; "Ernie" Hall

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comedy cyclist; The Kents, balancing; Intermission.

The Patricks, juggling; Frank & Estreleta, aerial perch; Clowns; Aria's Bears; The Claytons, whips and ropes; Clowns; The Bertinis, cyclists, and "Daisy" baby elephant of Carol and Steve McAuliff.

Show Dates**Beatty-Cole Circus**

Jun 21-22 Fall River, Mass

Carson & Barnes Circus

Jun 13 Creston, Iowa

14 Perry

15 Fort Dodge

16 Algona

17 Spencer

18 Sleepy Eye, Minn.

19 Marshall

20 Brookings, S.D.

21 Montevideo, Minn

22 Morris

23 Wahpeton, N.D.

24 Fargo

25 Crookston, Minn.

26 Karlstad

Circus Knie

Jun 21-24 Neuchatez, Swt

25-27 Chaux-de-Fonds

Circus Vargas

Jun 21-23 Antioch, Ca.

24-27 San Jose

Hamid-Morton Circus

Jun 24-27 Norfolk, Va.

— End of Tour —

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Jun 21 Randolph, NY

22 Olean

23 Wellsville

24 Dansville

25 Bath

26 Elmira

27 Ithaca

Pickle Family Circus

Jun 24 San Fran, Ca.

26-27 Nevada City

Police Circus

Jun 26-27 Portland, Ore.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Jun 24-27

Oklahoma City, Okla.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Jun 22-23 Lexington, Ky

25-27 Memphis, Tenn

Roberts Bros. Circus

Jun 24 White Haven, Pa.

25 Blakeslee

26 Stroudsburg

Wenatchee Youth Cir.

Jun 26 Moses Lake, Wash.

Zerbini/Castle Circus

Jun 24 Bellingham, Wash

--- OTHER DATES ---**Burr's Fun-O-Rama**

Jun 21-26 N. Bedford, Ma

Circus Auction

Jun 27 Baraboo, Wsc.

James H. Drew Exposition

Jun 21-26 Oakwood, Va.

Elliott Amusement Co.

Jun 23-27 Detroit, Mich.

Douglas MacValley StuntsJun 12-Sept 12 No. 2
Storytown, NY**Scott's Medicine Show**

Jun 21 Glenwood, Minn

22 New Ulm

23 Fairmont

24 Spencer, Iowa

25 Storm Lake

26 Cherokee

27 Sioux City

Tent Troupe

Jun 25 Dickerson, Md.

Tip Top Shows

Jun 25-27 Eagle, Wisc.

--- MAGIC ---**Harry Albacker**

Jun 21-27 Wilkes Barre, Pa

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Jun 20 Newark, Ohio

22 Philippi, W. Va.

23 Weston

24 Elkins

25 Grafton

Clown Special

Circus World, in Florida, hosted the International Shrine Clown Association Contest on June 16th, an event attended by some 800 association clowns from the United States, Canada, the Panama Canal Zone and Germany.

The participants were competing for three special awards from Circus World and for 30 trophies presented by the Shriners.

Clowns from Circus World served as the judges. Categories included White Face, Auguste, Tramp, Character and Individual Parade Ability. There were also categories for two to four man skits and skits with a minimum of five men.

M&M Acts

The Tehama Shrine Temple Circus dates at North Platte, Grand Island, Hastings and Kearney (Nebr) were produced by Grace McIntosh, of M&M Productions. All dates were presented during the month of May.

Acts appearing on the dates were: Arturo Ramos, cat act; The Obandos, rola bola; Manuel Ramos, hand balancing; Zellmar's Liberty ponies; The Stronganoff's, comedy acrobatics; The Oscarrians, risley; The Boyay's, bar act; Poppino & Co., wire; Don Phillips & Co., unicycle/juggling; The Cossack Elephants presented by Roy and Elaine Wells; The Flying Aztecas; Alicia, hair hang; Brenda, web; The Cycling Van Noys.

Clown Alley consisted of Vern Woerner, Don "Whizzer" Bridwell, and Rick Legg.

Jim Douglass handled the announcing and Jesse Griffiths provided the organ music. Concessions were handled by Donny and Ione McIntosh.



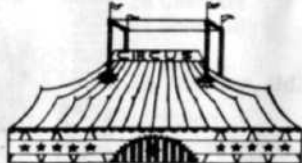
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Correction

In regards to two of your previous articles about the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, I would like to make a correction concerning the painting.

It is true that Roger Boyd did the lettering on the six front end trucks and his lettering is very outstanding, but the rest of the trucks, including the eight panels on the banner line were painted and signed by Robert Rawls.

..... John Pugh

Houston Date

Arabia Shrine Temple of Houston, Texas, held their annual circus in the Spring this year (Apr. 29-May 9), differing from their usual fall dates. Crowds were reported to be good and the show had a successful run.

The show was produced by Bob Atterbury with music under the direction of Keith Kilinger. Property Boss was Frank Galumbo, wardrobe mistress was Eetty Huber and the clowns included Gene Randow, the Galumbo boys, Don Young and Jo McMillan, Senior Rai was the announcer.

After the grand entry the program was: George Barrera's lions; Johnny Luxem's Wheel of Destiny; perch display with the Aguilers, the Pueyrrdons and the Argentinos; unicycle-bicycle display with Diana and Athena, the Navarros and the Van Noys; Tommy Hanneford Riding Act; The Living Statues, and aerial display featuring Miss Evita.

After intermission came the Gaona Flying Act; the Althoff Bears; an aerial display with Danuta, the Dolly Sisters, David and Rebecca Smith and the Munoz Sisters; teeterboard

display with the Aguilers and the Franciscos; Rosaire's Pokes; Clown car display with Don Young and Terry Parsons; The Gauchos; elephant display with the Hanneford elephants, Cristiani elephants and the Hawthorn elephants; and cannon act with Capt. Circus.

The show closed with a finale of all performers, featuring a salute to Kate Hanneford and a special presentation to Mrs. Hanneford on Mother's Day.

HOTLINE

May 27 - Mason, Ohio - A 22 yr. old woman was credited with saving the life of a fellow park ranger who was attacked by a lioness at Kings Island amusement park.

Patricia Richmond, an animal ranger, hit the lioness over the head until it released its hold on Terry Raitt, 34. Raitt was attacked while cleaning cages and was listed as having suffered a torn trachea and cuts.

Showtime Follies

by *JIM (Happy) RIDENOUR*

This writer had the pleasure of catching the Showtime Follies in Harriman, Tenn., May 24th. As usual these folks do things right. They have a nice backdrop, proper lighting, great music, etc. When I say great music I'm referring to Florine Oler at the Hammond organ and Morgan Ashton on drums. Talk about style, these two were bursting over with energy and class.

Dorian Blake as MC introduced the opening act. Michael Ashton's foot juggling turn was well accepted and fast moving. The human dummy bit is cute.

Next was Mr. Blake with illusions. Before I go any further let me mention the wardrobe for everyone on this unit. It is simply fantastic. Everyone looks great. Mr. Blake makes several costume changes. Nothing shabby here.

Blake produced doves until I lost count. Lots of nice magic finishing with the Hindu Basket, a nice turn. Danny Carey and Randa were next with hand balancing and showing lots of talent here. The young lady was working with a sprained ankle. I knew it, but the audience didn't. These two are real pro performers and look like Vegas stuff to me.

Next was supposed to be the dog act, but they had truck problems, so on to Popeye plus Brutus, Olive and Sweet Pea. This clever novelty turn was a crowd pleaser. The Morgan Ashton Family, from down under, have put together a knock-about, musical, you name it, variety turn that can click anywhere in the world. I laughed 'til I hurt. Perfect timing from these old pros.

Next was Mr. Blake with an audience parti-

cipation magic turn with two boys. This led into a magic pitch and intermission.

The Vidbel Dog and Chimp act pulled up during intermission and the props were rolled in by the entire cast. These folks work together in harmony as a team. It shows.

The second half got off to a fast start with Mr. Blake with more illusions, finishing up with the sub trunk. They move with style and grace and do a "bang up" job.

Next was a fantastic rola bola turn with the Carey Brown Duo. These two know their stuff and it shows. The audience loved it.

A magic gag by Mr. Blake followed while the chimp props were set. The Vidbel chimp act was well received. The chimp strip act and the 13 ft. stilt walk were a real show stopper. These troupers had a bad day with truck problems but the show must go on and it did. They are to be commended.

The Morgan Ashton Family from Australia closed the show with a four star performance that made my day. These old timers know their stuff and their stuff showed skill and speed and was simply spectacular. They will be in Mexico for the summer. It was a fast 90 minutes of first class stuff.

This was the 3rd year for Mr. English and the local Jaycees.

The entire show was loaded in 25 minutes and everyone made a mad dash for Myrtle Beach for three days off. I was a little disappointed they had to miss the fair in Knoxville, as I am a firm supporter of this fine effort.

Well folks, this old 40 miler will be on the Hoxie show by the time you read this. Just 30 years ago I ran away with Bud Anderson and his Wallace & Clark Circus. Now after 22 years in the Army, I'm doing it again.

PEOPLE

JIM and BEVERLY ROYAL, who were with Carson & Barnes Circus, opened with the Sally Chipperfield Circus in England on June 13th, for a twelve week tour. Jim will be doing the announcing and Beverly will work in the aerial numbers.

FRANCIS and HAL FISHER have their animal acts with Eddie Burlingame's 'Pride of Texas' shows, which plays Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas. They are featured as a "Free Act" on the show.

DON BRIDWELL (Whizzer the Clown) recently visited with former Carson & Barnes drummer ROXY (Null) MUIRFIELD and Circus Fan/Author BILL GREEN, as well as RON SANFORD, when the M & M Circus was in the Iowa and Nebraska area.

FRANK & ESTRELETA, aerial perch act, will return to Kennywood Park in Pittsburgh (Pa) for the first three weeks of June.

WANTED

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In Memoriam

THELMA CLYDIA FLOYD (80), widow of the late Wm. Ray "Red" Floyd, died on May 9th at Jacksonville, Fla. "Babe" as she was known, was a member of the Riding Guices for 25 years and traveled with John Robinson, Sells Floto, Sparks and Ringling circuses.

Survivors include her daughter Mrs. Avis Hart, of Elkton, Fla., four grand children and eleven great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were held in St. Augustine, Fla., with burial at Palms Garden Memorial Cemetery in Sarasota.

John Strong Date

by FRED REED

One of the finest entertainment packages ever put together by John Strong was presented in Phoenix (Ariz) on May 25th. Two performances under the control of the master of ceremonies Rolick "The Swami" Montbanc delighted the large audiences.

Using the title "Circus Variety Show", a great group of young but talented people was presented.

Opening the show and appearing several times to include their excellent juggling act were Flippo (Phil Kavanaugh) and Chryssi (Rosa Douglass). This team is rapidly becoming one of the finest of its kind.

The Rolling Diamonds, super-fast acrobats on roller skates, held those in attendance spellbound. The foot juggling of Diana with her fiery finish was spectacular.

Hunt Bushnell with his amazing birds and oversize and unusual puppets was a great crowd pleaser. His work in the audience with a large, green, puppet rattle is show business at its best.

"Swami" amazed everyone with his sword swallowing. His work is a fine example of a more or less routine act being upgraded to a thrilling attraction.

The routines of Mike Martin, magician, were smooth and flawless. His new assistant, Lynn Williams, appearing in only her third performance, presented a striking, poised appearance.

Roulette on single trapeze continues to grip the audience with her audacious and daring routine. A bonafide show-stopper was Roulette's 2½ yr. old daughter, Ginger Anna. Billed as "Slink" the world's youngest acrobat, this future star had the audience cheering.

The show was backed up by Neil Armstrong and his fabulous music, this was a

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super attraction.

With no stage help available, this talented group handled their own props and still presented a smooth, well paced performance.

Mail Returned

This past week the Post Office has returned Circus Reports addressed to the following people.

Alex & Nancy Torres

Col. E. T. Bale

Dominique LeForte

C. 'Hap' McGrath

Mike Cappi

Wondercade

by HUGO MARQUARDT

The Hall and Christ "Wondercade" opened in Palatka, Fla., May 18-19. The superb physical appearance of the show: white and blue top, lights atop the four centerpoles, entrance through a semi with the front an approximate duplicate of the ad, the elephant ride, office wagon, novelties and two grabs formed a pleasant midway with reasonable prices.

Entering the big top one was impressed with the stage and seating and you could not help but realize that many towns and cities do not have decent stage facilities as are provided under this top.

Beautiful girls, gorgeously costumed; a dazzling number of select illusions skillfully presented by Roy Huston; exciting novelty acts brilliantly routined throughout the show make this show exciting, fresh, and best of all it is live entertainment. Specifically, the bird act of Ms. Torres, wire act of Elizabeth Campa, aerial act of Miss Jana, the juggling of Elizabeth Campa and David Maas, elephant act of Mike Torres, Vent act of Ward Hall that turns into a smooth magic pitch, are so interspersed amid the choice illusions presented by Roy Huston that the audience is held spellbound throughout the show, which truly lives up to the ads as having "all the thrills of the circus . . . the lavishness of Las Vegas and the enchantment of magic . . ."

Business here was not great, the local paper had the ads but neglected to include the show in its "Funlander" supplement that has a directory of things to see, although they did run the bird act on the front page.

A car dealer promotion had set up a tent on the parking lot directly in front of the show front somewhat blocking the view



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from the Mall entrance.

The art work of Johnny Meia and the 3 piece band that cut the show must also be mentioned as adding to the overall perfection of the show.

Correction

TOM INABETTE states he is not on the road with any show as was previously reported to Circus Report.



ABOUT BILLY BURR and carnivals:

Circus acts used for advertising promotions with traveling ride, game, show and food concession units have always been useful if properly exploited.

Geo. W. Burr, affectionately called "Billy" is proprietor of a New England carnival operation known as Burr's Fun-arama. His experience is considerable regarding proper use of circus performers with his specialized amusement enterprise. His friends are legion Billy enjoys an enviable reputation for fairness and integrity in his business dealings.

He's a nice guy and a contradiction to the idiotic idea that nice guys always finish last. It's nice to travel with great show people and a great boss! So it was during a recent sortie aboard Fun-arama with Carla Wallenda's Aerial Thrill Show & Family Circus.

Carla Wallenda has plenty of name recognition with the news media and a sensational show that is backed by organist Mike Morgan, daughters Valerie and Laray, clown Jerry Alan and aerialist Renaldo Fernandez.

For the Fun-arama dates, my pony act was used, too. However, my main responsibility was keeping Carla on TV news, radio and on the front pages of local newspapers.

At Pawtucket, R.I., the efforts of Helen L. McDonnell were of great help with the media.

35 years ago: The week of May 14, 1947, Sammy Ross and yours truly worked at the Olympia Theatre in Miami, Fla. The week

of May 14th, this year, we appeared in the Al DeLage and Margaret vaudeville show, on the same bill, at Baltimore and Annapolis, Md. Also on the DeLage bill was Mary Jane, a sensational, svelte acro dancer.

New England Notes: Emmett Kelly, Jr., has a 3-ringer, for a private party in Vermont on June 12th - I've been invited.

Magician John Calvert is still shaping up another glamour mystery show - destination is still the biggest mystery.

A sad note - Oscar Swartz, producer of the annual Grotto Circus at Worcester, Mass., just went upstairs the last week of May.

Seeks Info

CHARLES EUGENE KELLY, is looking for information that could lead him to his mother, who he has not seen in several years.

His mother's name was Emma Bennett, a trapeze performer known as Bee Bennett, who was with Ray Folger and the Great Northwest Circus and Carnival. She is described as having red hair and green eyes.

Anyone with information about Emma Bennett is urged to contact: Charles Eugene Kelly, 1720 Cherry Ave., Apt. B, Long Beach, Calif. 90813. Phone: 213-434-2364.

Combine Plans

America's two largest family owned midway companies have combined in a joint venture, creating an arsenal of over 200 portable rides including a massive array of spectaculars.

Carl J. Sedlmayr, Jr. and Rod Link announced the joint venture, pointing up the fact that it is a joint venture and not a merger or acquisition.

The Sedlmayr family owns and operates Royal American Shows and the Link family owns Amusement Corporation of America (A.C.A.), which operates Link Shows and three units of World of Pleasure Shows.

The new venture will service over 70 engagements this season including six state fairs.

No new titles will be used, with Royal American Shows appearing under its' title at its' dates and Link Shows flying its' banner at its' engagements. The most noticeable change will be the additional midway power to be attained by judicious routing of the

plethora of spectacular rides of the combined shows.

Creative Outlet of Largo, Fla., has been engaged to handle publicity, marketing, advertising and promotions.

Rod Link, A.C.A. Board Chairman and C. J. Sedlmayr, III, said specific details and staff assignments will be released shortly. The duo are presently working on routing plans and feasibility studies for the new operation.

In Memoriam

LARRY PICARD (40), died April 26th, on the road someplace in Ohio of a heart attack. Larry was a trucker and the brother of Circus clown Tom Pepe Piccard. He was a great fan of the circus and circus people. He often traveled hundreds of miles off his route to see a circus or his brother.

FUN HOUSE FOR SALE

Due to death in the family must sell small compact horror fun house. Loaded with 5 bells and buzzers, 16 turns around strange hallways, etc., mirrors, skulls, full size mummys, vampires with stakes in chest, imitation wax figure of Hitler being hung, black lights, etc. Originally wanted \$5,000 now asking \$3,500 or best offer.

Can be seen working in Maryland, Picture \$1.00. Ray-Mond the Magician, P. O. Box 12, Westminster, Md. 21157. Phone: 1-301-848-3998.

A Special Day

by KEVIN MENARD

Again this year Billy Burr's Fun-O-Rama show sponsored 200 handicapped kids to a day at the carnival, with free hotdogs, popcorn, soda, cotton candy and balloons.

The special event was held at Pawtucket, R. I.

Mr. Burr's Magic Circus show included Wayne Wade, Flights of Fancy Classic Dove Magic, assisted by Capt. Don Leslie, and Joe DiFrancesca, Happy the Clown (Jerry Alan), and his trained skunk, Hal Haviland and his trained pony, Laray Lawson's Fashion Show and Dog Review, Ronaldo Fernandez and Valerie Wallenda, hanging perch

Special thanks to Norman Brooks and to Carla Wallenda for the show, to Mr. Mike Morgan, organist and announcer.

Extra Special Thanks goes to Mr. Billy Burr and all the ride jocks that got up before 10 o'clock to run the rides and help the kids get on and off the rides. You all show the true spirit of the circus.

PEOPLE

KATHY and LEE MERRITT are the parents of a baby girl - Leesa Marie Merritt - born May 27th at 12:26 a.m. in Kankakee, Ill. The new arrival weighed in at 7 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 21½ inches tall.

BILLY FORD and DONNI STAMBAUGH visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at Willingboro, NJ, last month and dodged raindrops.

Coronas Circus

by RICHARD C. JOHNSON

Look out world, you haven't seen nothing yet. Here comes a winner - The Coronas Circus of Hollywood. They recently played the Shrine dates in Jackson, Miss. The Coronas have rebooked every date they have played so far and some for two years and have added another day to the Jackson date.

How about that. Are you impressed? Well, I have more. George Coronas said they will bring their orange and white tent which has only been up 7 times. They have people working on these dates now and then the taping of the "Circus of the Stars." Well, maybe I haven't told you anything you didn't already know. Everyone knows the Coronas Circus is great.

Now, on with the show. The presenting of the Shrine Colors, the Circus Overture directed by David Pryn along with the circus band. Ringmaster/announcer, Sebastian Adriani, whose theatrical voice keeps the excitement of the circus moving. A ringmaster's ringmaster. A true pro.

First: an aerial display featuring Miss Bonnie Bale on the cloud swing - a very exciting act. The Jupiters on the double trapeze and Ilone Lucia, balancing trapeze. Second: Rix Bears - always a crowd pleaser. Third: the Young troupe, a six member teeterboard act. The best I have seen in a while. They do 12 minutes of fast paced tricks including a four man high with comedy added. A very talented group. Watch for them. Ring two: the bicycle artistry of the Kursawes. Ring three: the Pietro Cannestrelli Family, teeterboard

wizardy. Clowns: Dime and Connie Wilson. They did balloon work in the audience before each show.

Next, My Imbas Baboons, a very unique act. It is well staged. The props show a lot of imagination and what they do with five baboons is unbelievable. A great act. Then, the gyro wheel presented by Mr. Serge Coronas - always a thriller. Three ring display: ring one: Janies Dobermans, Ring two: the Bales uncaged leopard, Ring three: the Katinikas poodles. On to another three ring display. Ring 1, the Golibs, comedy knock about. Ring 2, the Dormingo clown. Col. Trevor Bale does a most entertaining comedy bicycle act. I didn't know he did such an act. I know Col. Bale as a great animal trainer. What a pleasant surprise. A very versatile showman. Ring 3, Freddie's plate spinning high into the air. The Albullet Brothers on the wire. A truly magnificent act of circus artistry from start to finish. One of the best wire acts performing today. Intermission.

Ring 1, Col. Trevor Bale, Ring 2, Bonnie Bale, Ring 3, George Bale, presenting three beautiful Arabian horses. The end rings show long reins and Miss Bonnie Bale riding her mount. Three very well trained horses. Col. Trevor Bale told me they were all young horses and had only been in training a short time, but it shows what a master can do. He said that he has trained every type of animal but snakes. A fine gentleman. It is a showman like him that keeps the circus alive.

Can you believe another three ring dis-

(Continued on Next Page)

New Penna. Law

The State of Pennsylvania has passed a law (House Bill 1776, Act No. 60) that prohibits the exhibition of any wild bird or wild animal in either a performing act or menagerie. The term "wildlife" is used to mean any wild bird or wild animal wild by nature whether or not such birds or animals were bred or reared in captivity.

This law in effect prohibits the exhibition or performance of Bear Acts, Chimpanzees, Elephants, Tropical Birds, Kangaroo Acts, etc.

The only exceptions written in the law are:

1 - "Nationally known circuses."

2 - or, if as owner of the animal, you are a resident of the State of Pennsylvania and can comply with the provisions for housing and caring for such wildlife as established.

This law could virtually prohibit the appearance of any animal acts (not appearing with a nationally known circus) in the State of Pennsylvania, with the exception of Dog and Horse acts.

For further information contact: Mr. Jerry Wendt, Pennsylvania Game Commission, P. O. Box 1567, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120. The phone number is: (717) 787-5740.

CORONAS CIRCUS (Continued)

play? Ring 1, the Juggling Jewels, a fast paced club passing and five torches with acrobatics. A super exciting act. Ring 2, the Riccardo tight wire, Ring 3, the Angela Duo rola bola. Center Ring, Serge Coronas presents two show owned elephants with a third one already purchased and will be added to the show soon.

Elephant rides were offered before and after the show. The final act was the Nock Brothers sway pole. An amazing display of aerial artistry.

Visiting the show while in Jackson was the Canadian prince of the air, Jay Cochran, who does a breath taking sky walk and a break away sway pole act. I'm sorry we didn't get to see him in Jackson but maybe next year. He will be appearing in up coming Coronas dates and in the big one in St. Louis.

I love the circus. Don't you?

Miscellaneous

The Karl King Model Builders Exhibit is scheduled for June 5-6 at New Hampton, Iowa. The program will include a band.

SAWDUST IN THEIR BLOOD

VETERAN CIRCUS star Hoody Ashton earns his living kicking his children around ... and his two beautiful daughters, Zynda and Renee and their brothers Cappy, Douglas and Frankie, love it.

Together they form the Six Ashtons, Ashton's Circus' top acrobats. But instead of using all-too-familiar props such as balls and cylinders they lie on their backs and toss each other around in space.

"It's a funny way to earn a living, kicking your kids in the backside," says

America, where Hoody went 33 years ago for a "short season" with the original Flying Ashtons acrobatic troupe.

Their tour included a record-breaking two years at the plush Latin Quarter nightclub on Broadway and seven appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show.

There Hoody met his wife, a Latin Quarter dancer and one of Ed Sullivan's resident beauties, and stayed.

He still recalls the thrill of appearing on the Ed Sullivan Show with their children — 15 years after his appearances with the Flying Ashtons.

But after his marriage Hoody wanted his children to have a settled life, so he gave up showbusiness to run a restaurant in Chicago — until the day he found Zynda secretly practising acrobatics in the garden.

"I said to my wife, 'If they want to do it that bad, let's do it properly'. So we did and here we are," explains Hoody.

The Six Ashtons represented America at the Circus World Championships in London, and were booked for Australia by Hoody's cousin, Doug Ashton, who now runs the world renowned circus.

They've been back nearly a year, and are busy polishing their act for Ashton's 150th Birthday Celebration to be held in Sydney over Easter.

Zynda, who has studied the family history, recounts that when Ashton's first opened on the site of Sydney's Central Station in 1832, a reporter discovered an ancient mariner in the audience who had sailed as a ship's boy under Captain Cook.

Years later, a man called Ned Kelly watched two shows in succession in Benalla.



Hoody Ashton (above) is back in Australia and back in business.

Hoody with a leathery grin, "but it's cheaper than using props — they might get bruised but they don't break."

The seventh generation of Australia's, and the world's, oldest circus family, Hoody's children have the circus in their blood.

So although, unlike the rest of the Ashton family, they were brought up far from the bright lights and sawdust of the big top, they were eventually drawn back to the exciting world of their forefathers.

All five children were born in

(Continued on Next Page)

THE ASHTONS (Continued)

"Tell you what," says Hoody. "Don't believe all those things they say about circuses being a thing of the past, we'll be around for the next 150 years — these kids will make sure of that."

Story by **GERALD LYONS**
Photos by **PAUL WOODLAND**

At the Fair

Carlota Robinson, manager of the Gulf Coast State Fair, Biloxi, Miss., Oct. 26-31, has announced two more additions to the "Animal Fair" portion of this year's event.

Jonny Rivers' High Diving Mules have been inked for the event along with Barbara Dudgeon, dressage, and her 5-year-old daughter, Maria, performing pony.

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BOB YERKES who just finished filming "Star Wars III" (Revenge of The Jedi) dashed off to Las Vegas to film Celebrity Daredevils, after which he will return to California to start training the stars for the next "Circus of the Stars" show.