



4th Year

May 26, 1975

Number 21

JUST THE FACTS

The new California Wild Animal Control Law is the result of a series of bills that were passed, as they were introduced, during the year 1974. The basic purpose of these bills was to protect the so-called endangered species and to keep dangerous and/or unwanted animals out of the state.

Most of the "dangerous" and "unwanted" animals were those that actually are a menace to agriculture and the normal functions of the state. Included in these categories were those foreign animals that breed rapidly and therefore take over specific areas, thus endangering the future existence of agriculture, and natural state areas.

None of these original bills named or included animals which are commonly associated with circuses, petting zoos and private acts or trainers.

The bills were passed into law without fanfare and were turned over to the California Fish & Game Commission for enforcement. Once this was done The Fish & Game Commission a-

(Continued on Page 11)

A New Start

The new owner of the yacht "Zumbroto" hopes to make the big vessel a happy ship and figures she might make a little money at the same time. The yacht, berthed at Long Beach (Calif.) has already made several trips to sea, as a whale watching vessel, and is available for parties.

The "Zumbroto", which is

(Continued on Page 6)

Circus World Museum

A full day of entertainment awaits visitors to the Circus World Museum, at Baraboo, Wisc. The Museum opened for the summer season on May 10th and will remain open thru Sept. 14th.

The Parade

Flag Horse - Bobby Gibbs in an Indian Costume
 Drum Horse
 Band Organ with 4 horse hitch - Al Pierce
 Camel - Frank Nash
 Small cage wagon - 4 pony hitch - Frank Braun
 Pony Cart - Rosa Gibbs
 Small cage wagon - 4 pony hitch - Joe Smith
 Llama cart - Beverly Wazzan
 Mirror wagon - 4 horse hitch
 Two llamas led by Wazzan boys
 Single horse and rider (Wazzan)
 Elephants (3) - Steve Patton
 Motorized Organ truck - Miss Ethel at the organ
 Jimmy Williams - clown car

SHOW SCHEDULE

9:30 am - Museum Opens
 10:00 am - Animal Training Demonstration by Bobby Gibbs
 10:30 am - 8 horse team & wagon
 11:00 am - Big Top Circus Show
 1:00 pm - Ironjaw act over the River by Rosa Gibbs
 1:30 pm - Clown Capers
 2:00 pm - Daily Circus Parade
 2:30 pm - 8 Horse Team & Wagon
 3:00 pm - Big Top Circus Show
 4:10 pm - Demonstration of how circus train loads
 4:30 pm - Ironjaw act
 6:00 pm - Museum Closes

The Circus

Ethel at the Organ - Overture
 Paul Lucky - Show Announcer
 Bobby Gibbs - 6 white shepherds
 Jim Williams - clown comedy
 Antar & Beverly - revolv.ladder
 Cookhouse Pitch
 Bob Gibbs - liberty act - pony act (morning) mules (aftern.)
 Clown Magic Number
 Senorita Rosa - web/ladder
 Bumper Sticker Pitch
 Bob Gibbs - comedy mule in the morning, elephant in aftern.
 Comedy plate number
 The Wazzan Family - Arab tumb'g
 Bob and Rosa Gibbs - elephants
 Finale

Added Notes

Am working Charleston, W. Va., today (May 15) and this town seems to be a mecca for shows. At the present time the town has cards up for: Pugh Shows, James H. Drew, Thomas Joyland, Gooding and Deggeller Amusements.

Actually Deggeller is the only show using old-time billin' methods and plenty of lithos. We have a metal shed covered with a 21 sheet and 6 sheets, a real photographers dream.

..... Doc Miller

1776 Circus Makes Its Debut

The new 1776 Circus made its debut at Burien, Wash., on May 5-6, playing across the street from the former Gov Mart Bazaar. The show ran 1 hour and 45 minutes, but is expected to be trimmed down, and features the Mock and Jacobs families.

They are using an 80 x 100 ft top, with sidewall on three sides. The front end has a truck trailer and a semi with painted banners. Seating consists of 20 sections, each 10 ft. long with 5 rows high.

The show makes a nice appearance and features an impressive performance of quality acts. They also have several cages of animals on display for the circus going public. They use both lithos and radio spots to advertise the show.

The circus program features

Ponies
Circus Clown
Juggling Display
Trained Bear
Circus Clown
Dove act
Mixed animals (llama, pony,
goat, dogs, monkey)
-- Intermission --
Birds - Cockatoos and Macaws
Whips
Circus Clown
Banjo player
Trained dogs

..... Don Fairbanks

PEOPLE

RED GATES reportedly has the concessions on the Gatti-Charles Amer. Cont'l Circus.

The Reid Show

Again this year John and Bette Reid are presenting the Grand Circus Safari show, as a fund raiser for various organizations. The circus has a four week, early summer tour, with dates in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and the Los Angeles (Calif.) area.

The current program features:-

Dick Cross - circus organist
Ernest Rhodeen - ringmaster
Yvette's dogs and ponies
Rudy Arno - plate spinning
The Clowns - Tim Hill
Miss Ruthana - single trapeze
The Clowns - Jess Monefeldt
Faye Snyder - Rope spinning
Brian Fawcett - trained chimps
-- Intermission --
Faye Snyder and her Critters
The Clowns
Miss Lola - single trapeze
Paul and Yvette - illusions
Jim Dandy - unicycle/juggling
Garry Johnson - elephants

Order your own copy of Circus Report today - - -

Ice Capades

By KRIS SHERMAN
Staff Writer

Internationally famous figure skaters Jo Jo Starbuck and Ken Shelley won the hearts of a hometown crowd Wednesday night when they skated into Long Beach for the local premier of the Ice Capades' 35th season.

But a 14-year-old juggler, who kept as many as eight plastic rings in the air while skating backwards, stole the show.

Actually there were plenty of show-stopping acts in the 2½-hour extravaganza, but young Albert Lucas gained the longest round of applause from the crowd of 8,252.

HAD HE been a circus performer, the crowd probably would have reacted with awe to his juggling stunts, which included tossing objects under his legs, behind his back and over his head while keeping three or more in the air at once. The fact that he performed on ice skates—which require delicate balance and almost constant movement—made his act an incredible blend of dexterity and split-second timing.

His finale, juggling three lighted torches, added a bit of suspense and brought the crowd to cheering, boisterous applause.

But if young Lucas stole

the show, he didn't pale the performance of the rest of the Ice Capades, who used the shimmering ice stage to delight the crowd with precision skating, nostalgia, comedy, derring-do and Olympic-class ice ballet.

Miss Starbuck and Shelley, who began their skating careers as members of the Arctic Blades in Paramount, wooed the audience with their tandem act performed in a Spanish mood to "Malaguena." Shelley, a strong, masculine skater, led Miss Starbuck through several dazzling cartwheels and pirouettes. Miss Starbuck, her blonde hair blowing in the breeze of her own skates, skillfully blended her movements with Shelley's as they danced across the ice together.

WITH each spectacular cartwheel, the audience broke into spontaneous applause. Shelley and Miss Starbuck, in their 10th month on the 1975 Ice Capades tour, appeared to be enjoying the show, reacting to the audience applause with smiles and energetic skating.

The audience, also reacted warmly to long-time Ice Capade Freddie Trenkler, whose clowning and daring skating was particularly enjoyed by the children.

Lucien Meyer and his skating chimps also provided levity during the evening, while the 32-member Ice Capettes chorus served up a sample of precision skating and elaborate costuming.

Lighting and choreography, too were superb, but certainly one of the Ice Capades' trademarks that brings audiences back time after time is the built-in audience participation.

A COLORFUL production titled "It's Christmas Every Day" included skaters picking children out of the audience, lifting them into giant toy boxes and giving them a ride on the ice as part of the show. And the show's finale includes a singing "reach out and touch a hand" segment, where skaters walk through the aisles, shaking hands with members of the audience.

Advertised as family entertainment, the show is certainly that. But it's also much more.

Photo Title

The picture on the opposite page was taken long ago. It is Dorothy Barnett, with and without make-up. She was billed as "Jo Jo, the Clown."





Book

The new book "Careers in the Circus" by Karen Kelly, is basically a young person's text book, but may be of interest to Circus Fans and collectors. The volume has many pages of circus photos, including acts with the Hubert Castle Circus at Minneapolis in 1974. One photo is of the elephant "Tommy" just days before he broke one of his big tusks.

The book was published by Turner Publications Co., 241 First Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. 55401. It may be available at your local bookstore.

PEOPLE

CHARLES "Chuck" BENNETT played with the Carson & Barnes Circus Band at Blackwell and Kingman last month.

LOUIS V. "Teeny" LONG, of Seattle, Wash., won second place at the recent Clown Convention in Denver, Colo.

THE WAL-TIMS, risley act, will play the Del Mar, Calif., Fair before joining the Happy-time Circus for the summer season on the West Coast.

AL DAWLEY is currently the ringmaster on the Rudy Bros. Circus which just concluded an engagement at Sacramento, Cal.

CELIA GUIDA, billposter

PLEASURE YACHT (Continued)

105 ft. long and rated at 92 tons, was built in New York, in 1918, as a party boat for John Ringling, according to reports. The vessel, its present owner says, was named for one of his circus elephants.

Later on, says Sally Reichenbach, the yacht was used as a pleasure craft for such giants as W. C. Fields, Mae West and Jean Harlow.

When World War II came, the vessel was taken over by the Navy and given new engines and a coat of paint. Then it was given the task of delivering mail between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

After the war the yacht was sold to a new owner who renamed it "Vellron." Then eventually it was resold, used as a fishing vessel, operating out of Sar Pedro.

Last fall, Miss Reichenbach, a Burbank business woman, took a look at the vessel, decided she liked it and bought it. She spent \$25,000 remodeling it and today figures the yacht is well worth \$150,000.

with the Hoxie Bros. Circus, was the subject of a feature item in the State-Journal Register, of Springfield, Ohio, on May 14.

WALLY ROSS, elephant man, has reportedly rejoined the Circus Vargas after being off due to illness.

CFA's Produce Church Circus

A circus in the true tradition of sawdust and spangles was presented by a church in Mesquite, Texas. On Sunday, April 20th, "The Great First Presbyterian Church Amateur Three Ring Circus" was presented free to the public. Amateurs they may have been - but troupers they were - ranging in age from 12 up, they put on a show that entertained "children of all ages."

This reporter interviewed Jack Painter (former CFA President) and Arthur and Bea Stone (of Ruston, La.) who drove 540 miles to see the show. Arthur says, "we drove 270 miles to get there, then had to stand up for the entire show, but it was worth it, they did a good job."

The circus was filled with beautiful girls, funny clowns and circus music. Bill and Mildred Hooper, with the aid of Jeff Cromens, Elaine Cromens, Karl Uehlein, Glenda Uehlein, Betty leake along with Bonnie Hooper and Tiffiney Uehlein, performed in and produced this fine show.

Much credit and praise must go to Jackie Mitchell, of Dallas a former RBBB Clown College graduate, who trained over 16 church clowns. (Jackie trouped with John Strong and Lewis Bros. and is now a counselor for the Dallas County Rehabilitation Center for drug addicts. She holds a degree from Baylor University.

The program featured:-

Grand Entry - parade
 Karen Winipeg, Kathy White, Bob-
 by Buston, Paula Willie - in 3
 rings of trampoline
 Margie - Baton Twirler
 Aerialists on swinging ladders
 Suzanne, Bonnie, Kein
 The Clowns

Miscellaneous

Some 72 elementary school children, of Elk City (Kans.) recently toured the Lowry's Circus Room, at Sedan. The group was split into three tour parties.

Steve Cox - magic/illusions
 Tumbling display - 22 girls
 Mesquite Senior Citizens Band
 The Clowns and a big cannon
 Tiffiney Uehlein - aerial web
 Three rings of unicycles - fea-
 tured 10 riders
 Frank McSwain - A January Mule
 Bert Davis - juggling
 The Clowns
 The Bouncing Burkhalters
 Clowns - Rodeo and sharpshooters
 Bonnie Hooper - high trapeze
 Sheik Perry Frank and his Harem
 Vali Venner - baton twirlers
 Bill and Mildred Hooper - juggle
 A Bicycle Built Backwards
 Bonnie and Kathy - tight wire
 Clowns - Knockabout
 The Musical Family
 Pan, Robin, Lynde - aerial ladder

..... M. L. Dupont

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo
 May 30-Jun 7 Watsonville, Cal.

Beatty-Cole Circus
 May 27 West Chester, Pa
 28 Norristown
 29 Carlisle
 30 State College
 31 Williamsport
 Jun 1 Hazelton

Carson & Barnes Circus
 May 26 Bellevue, Nebr.
 27 Mo. Valley, Iowa
 28 La Vista, Nebr.
 29 Hamburg, Iowa
 30 Hiawatha, Kans.
 31 Holton
 Jun 1 Richmond, Mo.

Hubert Castle Circus
 May 26-27 Red Deer, Alta
 28-Jun 1 Edmonton

Circus Kirk
 May 26 Waverly, Va.
 27 Colonial Heights
 28 Williamsburg
 29 West Point
 30 Tappahannock
 31 Sterling Park
 Jun 1 Kensington, Md.

Circus Vargas
 May 27 Dubuque, Iowa
 28-Jun 8 Skokie, Ill

Mid America (Continued)
 June 1 Perkins, Iowa

Polack Bros. Circus
 May 26 Vallejo, Calif.

Rainbow Circus
 May 25-26 Oakland, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
 May 28-Jun 1 Providence, RI

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
 May 28-Jun 8 Philadelphia

Royal Lipizzan Show
 May 27 Grand Rapids, Mich
 28 Port Huron
 29 Lansing
 30 Muskegon
 31-Jun 1 Kalamazoo

Sells & Gray Circus
 May 26 Enid, Okla.
 27 Cleveland
 28 Bartlesville
 29 Okmulgee
 30 Wewoha
 31 McAlester
 Jun 1 River City

Shrine Circus
 May 30-31 Jackson, Miss.

John Strong Circus
 May 26 Tucson, Ariz.
 27 Safford
 28-29 Gallup, N.M.
 Jun 1-2 Tulsa, Okla.

.....MER ROUTES.....

PEOPLE

PARLEY BAER, of the Mid America Circus has been seen recently in a Crest TV commercial.

LOU JACOBS, FROSTY LITTLE, PEGGY WILLIAMS and IRVIN FIELDS were all interviewed on TV's "Tomorrow" show this past month.

DAVE KNODERER, formerly on Fisher Bros., Lewis Bros. Barnes & Daily now has his own liberty act, and is with Royal Bros. in Canada

TOM DeWITT is the newly appointed editor of the CMB magazine "Little Circus Wagon."

DR. J. Y. HENDERSON, of RBBB, was the subject of an article in the "National Enquirer" on May 27th.

SPARKY, the Clown (D.W. Washburn) and other members of Mid-America Circus recently visited with folks on the George Matthews Circus.

ART (Doc) MILLER and PAUL ROBINSON report they recently visited with show folks on the Royal Ranch Circus.

Europorama

- May 31 Santa Cruz, Cal.
Jun 1 Santa Rosa
- Gatti-Charles Amer. Cont'l
May 28 Napa, Calif.
30-31 San Francisco
- Hamid-Morton Circus
May 30-Jun 1 Trenton, NJ
- Happytime Circus
May 23-26 Vacaville, Ca.
- Holiday Hippodrome
May 26 Cedar Rps, Iowa
27 Fort Dodge
28 Marshalltown
29 Ottumwa
30 Muscatine
31 Galesburg, Ill.
Jun 1 Rock Falls
- Kaye Cont'l Circus
May 30-31 Jackson, Miss
- Lewis Bros. Circus
May 26 West Union, Ohio
27 Piketon
28 Hillsboro
29 McArthur
30 Pomeroy
31-Jun 1 Belpre
- Mid America Circus
May 26 Rock Island, Ill.
27 Burlington, Iowa
28 Enroute
29 Macomb
30 Decatur
31 Bloomington

America Concert

- May San Diego, Calif.
2 Las Vegas, Nev.
28 Salt Lake City, U.
30 Seattle, Wash.
- C.F.A. Convention
May 27-30 Providence, RI
- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
May 28-Jun 3 Chicago Hghts
- Century 21 Show - Red Ill
Jun 2-7 Quincy, Ill.
- Community Fair
June 4-8 Castro Valley, Ca.
- Discover America Conference
May 28-31 New Orleans, La.
- James H. Drew Shows
May 26-31 Oak Hill, W. Va.
June 2-7 Bluefield
- Murphy Amusements
May 28-Jun 1 Iowa Falls, Iw
- Elvis Presley Show
May 30-Jun 1 Huntsville, Ala.
- Rose City Rides
May 29-31 Bonne Terre, Mo.
- Seals & Crofts Show
May 26 Cullowee, N.C.
28 Memphis, Tenn.
30 Indianapolis, Ind.
Jun 1 Milwaukee, Wisc.
- Frankie Vallie Show
May 30 Hartford, Conn.
31 New Haven

Show Program

Among those who appeared on the stage show at the Porterville (Cal.) Fair, on May 15-17 were:

- Porterville Twirlerettes
Hoss McNutt and Horseshoe Benders - band
Miss Irene - single trap.
Bob Markworth and Mayana - bow and arrow act
Miss Astra - sponge dive
May Kovar - uncaged cats
Stan Sweet - fast gun draw
Flying Braytons - flying act
Chet Slusser - stagehand



threatened by law

New pending revisions of the federal Lacey Act Injurious Wildlife Regulations seriously threaten the future availability of animals for trainers, circuses, breeders, shows, etc., because they do not allow trainers and breeders to qualify for permits to import these animals.

The directors of the National Congress of Animal Trainers and Breeders Inc. (NCATB) have criticized the revisions for numerous reasons and have documented their charges in a five-page report recently sent to the director of the Fish and Wildlife Services of the Department of the Interior.

The NCATB directors are J. Thomas Wilds, Robert Baudy, Hal Haviland and the Rev. L. David Harris. The document was submitted by Wilds, NCATB president.

Wilds addressed himself to the fact that under the proposed new regulations of the Lacey Act, it is presumed that "all imported wildlife can be injurious to some interests." And on this basis, the new regulations would place all animals in a "high risk" category unless they have been specifically determined to be a "low risk" situation.

And importation of "high risk" animals would be forbidden without a permit.

The NCATB paper to the Fish and Wildlife Service notes the following criticisms and comments:

"The 'low risk' listings are inconsistent. For example, some species of zebras, rhinoceros, camels, etc. are listed as 'high risk' while others are 'low risk.' The report says the NCATB sees 'no way...these could possibly be considered injurious to named interests.'"

"Issuance of permits will be too

time consuming. The NCATB report requests that pre-issuance forms and guidelines for permits be distributed so those who wish to apply can apply - and at first efforts - give all information needed and receive the permits quickly. "This would enable qualified institutions and persons to set up transactions for the purchase or sale of animals and apply for and receive permits without the danger of losing the sale or purchase of the animals to other parties in other countries, due to the time lag in permit issuances," the document states.

"The law does not include categories for animal trainers and breeders."

The document states, "We feel that our multi-faceted, billion-dollar industry, which contributes greatly to the preservation of the animals of this world - and the education of the general public - should be recognized within the definitions of the granting of permits."

Under the law, permits will be issued for educational and zoological purposes.

Thus, the NCATB report proposes:

"That the section noting 'education purposes be changed to add: The public display of performing injurious wildlife in a traveling or permanent status for the education and enjoyment of the general public.'"

"That in defining zoological purposes 'that qualified breeders, game farms and preserves' be included in the definition."

Wilds states in the document, "Our membership cannot support a law that does not include provisions for the continued operation of their businesses. We feel emphatically that the changes, as outlined in this paper, are necessary for the

equitable implementation of this law."

The document concludes with a plea that the government consult animal trainers, breeders, etc., in the writing of future legislation and legislation interpretations.

Wilds notes, "The members of the NCATB Inc. have an endless supply of knowledge regarding the breeding, training, display and transportation of wild animals. We would like to offer you our assistance in any future matters beyond the Injurious Wildlife Act."

Other criticisms of the act - in addition to those of NCATB - have come from the Zoological Action Committee Inc.

These recent criticisms have included:

"The Department of Interior's 'insistence on maintaining the 'high risk/low risk' concept."

"The 'arbitrary and capricious assignment of animals to the low risk list with no apparent regard to the intent of the act.'"

"The reluctance of the Interior Department officials to permit public hearings."

In the committee's recent ZooAction newsletter, it was stated, "We will press for hearings at the earliest possible date and are prepared to take any action to stop the regulations from going to effect without such hearings."

The Department of Interior reportedly has declined to schedule hearings on the new proposed regulations, contending they are unnecessary since "full public hearings were held last year."

ENDANGERED SPECIES. Meanwhile, the NCATB board of directors has proposed major changes in the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The organization calls for amendments "to allow for unrestricted freedom of transportation, trade and sale of all captive born endangered species."

(Continued on Page 14)

CFA HOSTS SHOW FOLKS

Early this month members of the John Robinson-Loyal Repensky CFA Tent, of Cincinnati, Ohio, held its annual party for performers with the local Shrine Circus. Approximately 50 CFA members, plus 45 performers attended the May 9th party after a performance of the Syrian Temple Shrine Red Carpet Circus.

Through the courtesy of the Shrine Temple the party was held in the Cincinnati Gardens Annex, where the circus was performing. Honored guest at the late night lunch was Ralph Knie, of Switzerland's Circus Knie, who was in town to visit the show.

The Facts (Continued)

mended the laws to include all animals foreign to the state, and specifically named those animals normally found in the outdoor show industry.

This week new hearings will be held by the State Fish & Game Commission, at Sacramento (Cal) on May 30th. See "Selling Ban Sought" on another page)

This hearing is an attempt to prohibit dealers and pet stores from selling animals native to the state, and which reportedly are fast disappearing.

There is every reason to believe that once this regulation is passed into law, the Fish & Game Commission will also amend the regulations to include those dealers who engage in the sale and movement of animals associated with the circus and outdoor show industry.

While the basic idea behind these laws has been good, it is time that such laws be

Featured on the May 5-10 circus program were:-

Joseph L. Brown - producer
 Geo. G. Smith - musical director
 Kenny Milton - ringmaster
 Ernie Burch and Al Ross - clowns
 The Reynoso Bros. - aerialists
 Jeanette Rix - caged bears
 Al's Lemon-Zeen (Faye Alexander)
 Gus, Ursula & Son - juggling
 The Elkins Sisters - contortion
 The Palace Duo - aerial cradle
 The Canestrellis - trampoline
 The Great Alzana - high wire
 Flying Marilees - flying act
 Arturo Segura - bounding rope
 Johnny Luxem - Wheel of Destiny
 The Amandis - teeterboard
 Gee Gee's elephants (3)
 Diano's elephants (5)
 Rex Williams elephants (4)
 Nerveless Nocks - sway poles

..... Don Sandman

curtailed. A move must be launched to control the Fish & Game Commission, to prevent further continuation of its self-appointed role which is destroying the livelihood of hundreds of animal people and ruining the circus for all time!

Enforcement - N.J. law

Circuses or animal owners wishing to travel or exhibit in New Jersey must have permits or letters of authorization to do so.

A recent incident involving the fining of an animal trainer in New Jersey has brought attention to a new determination of New Jersey officials to enforce animal permit laws.

Circuses or animal owners who are non-residents of New Jersey must apply for "letters of authorization" to work in the state.

This involves not only animals on the endangered species list, but all "exotic animals"; that is, "animals not native to the state of New Jersey."

And this means "all" animal owners--thus, a traveling circus might have several "letters of authorization" from the state: A letter covering the animals the circus owns--and letters covering animals owned by individual acts working on the circus. And the acts--like the circus--must individually apply in writing for the letters of authorization.

Applications for a "letter of authorization" should be addressed to

State of New Jersey
Division of Fish, Game & Shell Fisheries

Ms. Thedora Moritz
Endangered & Non-game Species Project

P. O. Box 1809
Trenton, N. J. 08625

The application does not involve a fee.

The application letter should contain a complete inventory of all the animals the trainer or circus owns--excluding such domestic animals as horses, donkeys, house cats, dogs, rabbits and similar species.

But it does include virtually all other circus animals, birds,

mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

The application letter also should include copies of any other permits the animal owner, trainer or circus holds; that is, USDA Exhibitor's Permit, Endangered Species Permit from the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, etc.

Finally, the letter should tell the length of time the trainer or circus will be in the state.

Animal owners living within the state must apply for a permit to possess or transport exotic or non-game animals. This also involves a letter to the Division of Fish, Game & Shell Fisheries.

Following the letter an official from the Department of Environmental Protection will visit the applicant and make sure his animal facilities are within state laws--then a permit may be issued.

Animal owners not having "letters of authorization" or permits can be penalized. A recent state law provides for as much as a \$3,000 fine per animal for the owner who has not complied with the laws.

"We are not trying to make it difficult for circuses or animal trainers," Ms. Moritz said. "We charge no fee--a letter of authorization is not difficult to get. It doesn't even require an inspection.

"For non-residents, we simply require they have humane quarters for animals to get their permits.

"We will do everything we can to cooperate with circuses and trainers. We realize these laws affect how they earn their living and we are not at all trying to put anyone out of business.

"But these laws are on the books--and we intend to conscientiously enforce them."

The state has several laws which require permits for possession of many kinds of animals--and for various purposes.

For example, under state laws, provisions are given for the issuance of several kinds of permits:

-Humanitarian--for possession of injured animals.

-Game breeder captivity and game breeder propagation permits.

-Scientific collecting permits.

The law concerning exotic and non-game possession permits was recently enforced in the case of David H. Chovanic, of Bellevue, Ohio, who was fined \$400 for not having a letter of authorization or permit to possess exotic animals in the state.

Chovanic was exhibiting four lions at a Wayne, N. J., shopping center when state officials stopped his performances and in local proceedings he was fined \$100 per animal.

It was noted in the newspaper accounts that Chovanic had charges brought against him by officials of the state's Non-Game & Endangered Species Project and newspapers reported he did not have a permit for an "endangered species." This was not the case, however. Charges placed against him were that he did not have a permit or authorization for possession of "exotic or non-game" animals.

In police and game warden files on the event (which occurred March 12), it was reported that Chovanic was displaying African lions (two cubs, two adults) in the Wayne, N. J. shopping center.

Their reports note that he admitted to Ms. Moritz that he

(Continued on Page 13)

Visit to Rudy Bros.by DAVE TWOMEY

We certainly enjoyed our several visits to the Rudy Bros. Circus during their California engagements and found the show to be an interesting one. They offered a pleasing appearance with their blue and white big top and the entire program ran smoothly under the direction of ringmaster Al Dawley.

The circus program is backed musically by Miss Olen and her son, on drums and organ, with clowning by Audrey Celery, Herbert, Rosie and Michael Bongor. Presented in two rings the circus program featured: Joe Castevens and Esta on the tightwire; Joyce Rice, baton; the clowns; Cathy Hanneford, riding number; the Rummel Duo, aerial perch; the Grimaldis, musical comedy; John Medro, juggling; Scott's Unrideable Mule; the clowns; George Hanneford, elephants; the Cassidy's, rolling globes; John Medro, sword balance; Diane, single trapeze; the clowns; the Austins, plates; Scott's Football Dogs; Joyce Rice, whips and ropes, the Clowns; and the George Hanneford Riding Act.

The circus will soon be moving into the east where, it is understood they have some long engagements and an extended tour.

Miscellaneous

The Mid America Circus will take a two week vacation after their June 3rd date, then reopen at the Buffalo Bill Ranch grounds in North Platte, Nebr.

Royal Ranch Wild West Circus reportedly moves fast and is drawing good business at each date. The big show announcer is Joe Myers,

Enforcement...

drugged the lion cubs twice daily to "make them docile"—then children were allowed to pet them, and have their pictures taken with them.

It was stated that Chovanic originally was reported to the authorities because he had made his lions available for public handling, and persons knew about his drugging them.

However, he was not charged with mistreating the animals or endangering the public. Charges were placed against him for failing to have his permit or authorization papers.

Ms. Moritz defended the \$400 fine saying, "We really felt we were lenient. We could have fined him as much as \$3,000 per animal."

"The incident was very unfortunate," she said. "But it did bring to the attention of the public—and apparently the animal training and circus in-

dustry—that we do have these laws."

She said since that time several circuses and trainers have written for letters of authorization. "And we are cooperating in every possible way with them."

Another official, Joan Galli, a biologist with the Non-Game & Endangered Species Project, said, "We've had a knowledge gap for some time—people in the state and people who come through—they didn't know about our laws.

"But we're trying to get the word out to everyone. These laws are on our books and we're going to enforce them.

"We're not out to harass anyone—and we're certainly not trying to make trouble for circuses or animal trainers or rip them off.

"But we feel our laws protect both the animals and the public."

RECORD SET

A record attendance of approximately 54,000 people has been reported at Columbia, S.C. (Mar. 7-9) for the Ringling-Barnum Circus. The show's gross ticket sales amounted to some \$221,000.

The show's opening night, at the Carolina Coliseum, was a sell-out.

Polack Bros. CIRCUS

A special unit was put together by Polack Bros. to play a Shrine date at Little Rock (Ark.) on April 9-10, at the same time the full Polack Circus was playing Sacramento, Calif. The unit was managed by Sam T. Polack and played to good business at the Barton Coliseum for the Scimitar Shrine Temple.

Featured in the Little Rock show were:-

Albert Rix - bear act
Canestrelli Troupe - trampoline
Bucky Steele - elephants/ponies
The Fullbrights - horses/ponies
Adams and Antonucci - chimps
Pio Nock Troupe - high wire
Miss Isabella - single trapeze
The Jupiter Trio - double trap.
John Daley's gorilla parody
Eric Acadis - one finger stand
The Morrows - balancing ladder
Gee Gee Steele - pumas/elephant
Jimmy Douglas - announcer
Bill Browning - band leader
Jack Fullbright - property boss

Wild animal... (Continued)

NCATB President Wilds noted in a position paper: "The majority of captive bred rare animals are on the Endangered List and continue to breed well in captivity. They are, by no means, endangered within this country's captive state."

The NCATB paper asks for two changes in the law:

1) "The unrestricted interstate transportation and trade in captive born endangered species."

2) "The unrestricted exportation, importation, trade in and sale of captive born endangered species between bonified zoos, dealers, trainers, game preserves, scientific and educational institutions in this and foreign countries."

The NCATB also calls for an additional amendment which would read:

"Offspring of endangered animals shall herein be granted free movement both for interstate import and export activities including sale and trade. However, the importation of wild born endangered species shall remain governed under the existing law as enacted Dec. 28, 1973.

Wilds noted about the NCATB position:

"We believe these changes should give this federal law enough latitude for wild animal acts, breeders and zoos to operate successfully without harming the intended potential of this law... which is the protection of endangered animals in the wild - a matter of great concern to all of us."

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published every Monday by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Ca. 94530.

Subscription rates are: \$5.00 for six months; \$10.00 for the full year.

Selling Ban Sought

California native reptiles and amphibians are disappearing at an alarming rate, causing a group of concerned observers to hope the trend can be reversed by a strict ban on selling these animals.

"We're not against people owning reptiles and amphibians as pets—indeed some make reasonably good pets," stressed Dr. David A. Mullen, chief crusader for the ban. "We think every kid should go out and catch a frog.

"But we are against commercial exploitation."

Dr. Mullen, an associate professor of biology at the University of San Francisco, launched his drive against commercial collecting six years ago when he first began to notice many species were vanishing from breeding ponds and deserts.

He will testify for the measure before the Fish and Game Commission at a hearing May 30 in Sacramento.

He expects to face stiff opposition from pet store owners and animal dealers.

"But remember," Mullen said, "these are your animals. They belong to the people of

California, not just a few dealers."

Mullen said that a survey conducted by the pet industry among some of its 1,800 pet shops disclosed that 63,000 California natives are sold each year. Adding on 30 percent to account for deaths among the captive wild animals brings the total number collected to 90,000 annually.

The creatures involved include toads, tortoises, newts, salamanders, snakes, frogs and lizards.

"Large areas are simply denuded of their native fauna," Mullen said matter-of-factly.

"They are sold to people to go home and die in a terrarium."

Mullen said many California natives cannot withstand the pressure of such rapacious gathering. Many reptiles and amphibians reproduce very slowly.

The chuckwalla, for instance, may live to be 40 in the wild, but does not mate until it is 8 or 12, and then only in years of good plant flowering, a condition that

may occur only every three years or so. Thus, a chuckwalla—a type of lizard—may not mate more than seven or eight times in its life.

Mullen does not lay all the blame at the door of the pet dealers and cited such problems as habitat destruction, burgeoning population that intrudes into the wild and scientific collecting.

But, he noted, scientific collecting, unlike commercial collecting, is strictly regulated, requiring permits and licenses.

Mullen, a Berkeley resident, organized teams of USF students to track down abuses by pet shop operators in the importation and sale of animals, leading to one conviction for traffic in illegal species.

The educator, who will represent the academic community at the hearing this month, urged concerned citizens to express their view on the proposed ban by attending the hearing or writing to the Department of Fish and Game, 1416 Ninth St., Sacramento 95814.

In Memoriam

WILFRED H. CURTIS (71) a former concessionaire, legal adjuster and tent show operator, died April 20th at Cortland, NY. He was with Downie Bros, was a part owner and operator of the Totman Tented Shows, and a concessionaire. Twice he served as

president of the Valdo-Sautelle CFA Tent. Survivors include his wife, Thelma.

JAMES DUNCAN ROBINSON (64) former head usher with RBBB, died at San Diego, Cal. on April 23rd. He was known as "Ringling Bobby" and "The Great Bobby". He is survived by a daughter and a brother.