Film Plans Set

Reports that a major motion picture will be filmed on the Carson & Barnes Circus were confirmed last week by D. R. Miller, president and owner of the circus. Officials from an important Mexican film studio have been meeting with Miller, who says that he is almost 100% certain the deal will go through.

Two big American stars and several important Mexican stars will be featured in the movie. The story concerns a Mexican act that starts in a small circus and then migrates to the U. S. and is featured in a big American show. Basically the story is a rags to riches theme, and will include sex, mystery, love and lust, something that is expected to sell in a world-wide market.

The filming will cover a period of six to eight weeks during the 1978 season. The show title will be used and as a result none of the equipment will have to be relettered. Members of the Miller family and many staff officials will have parts in the film.

The project is being sub-sponsored by the Mexican Government. It will be made in both English and Spanish for full world-wide distribution.

INSIDE ......
Circus owner Otto Berosini is exonerated of all cruelty to animal charges. See story on Page 3.
U.S. Acts to Protect Captive Sea Mammals

The Dept. of Agriculture is proposing new regulations for the care and feeding of sea mammals in captivity. The regulations will cover polar bears, sea otters, whales, porpoises, seals, sea lions and walruses.

The Federal Marine Mammal Commission has recommended a set of standards that the department has proposed as Federal regulations.

The design and construction of tanks and other facilities are covered in detail, along with waste disposal systems, lighting, pest control, ventilation, the amount of salt and bacteria in the water and how much time the animals can spend in transit.

Comments are invited and should be sent to the Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Dept. of Agriculture, 6506 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

YEARS AGO

This week's Stark (Fla.) newspaper (Aug. 20) carries a four column illustration of the big 1903 Street Fair, with a carved band wagon heading the parade. A few small concession top tops are visible as are three one-sheet dates in a window for another show. A day and date for Jan. 18th.

The big attractions were "The Old Plantation" (minstrel show) and the Electric Theatre, presumably a movie of that era.

Many caravans did make a pretense of parading, the writer recalls the J. P. Murphy Producing Company making a downtown trip with a makeshift circus type band wagon and a local band tooting away at circus gallops.

... Art "Doc" Miller

FAIR ACTS

Acts appearing at the Erie County Fair (Hamburg, N.Y.) on Aug. 22-26 included:

Doubleday & Co., gorilla parody; The Burgers, chimps and dogs; Johnny Luxem, space wheel; Los Comancheros, double trapeze; The Stardusters, high act.

Music was provided by Florine and Phil Oler. The date was produced by Wes Oler.

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Berosini To Keep Animals

Circus owner Otto Berosini has been exonerated of all charges of cruelty to animals by Manatee County (Fla.) Judge Claflin Garst. A llama, camel, Siberian tiger and mule, plus several horses and ponies were impounded on Aug. 4, under orders from Boots Pallister, an agent for the Equine Rescue Service and Judge Garst said the animals must be returned immediately. The pet mule died of unknown causes while in the custody of the ERS.

After a two day hearing Judge Garst said he realized there had been conflicting reports, but "the vets and expert witnesses ... indicated that there was not any cruelty to animals or mistreatment to animals." The Judge ruled that Berosini is fit to have custody of his animals.

A variety of witnesses were placed on the stand and at least two of those appearing for the ERS admitted they had not seen Berosini beat his animals. Those appearing for Berosini included renowned trainer Jack Joyce, who said he had seen the animals working at the Circus Hall of Fame and reported the animals had responded well to their trainer. "I would commend him on his training," Joyce added.

Also appearing at the hearing were Mr. and Mrs. William Lee, co-directors of the Sailor Circus who said that Berosini does not beat his animals. Lee said he had gone with Berosini to visit the animals after they were impounded and all were friendly. "Berosini called to the tiger and he turned around with a gleam in his eye like 'welcome home, dad, when are we gonna get out of here?'"

Portuguese clown and trainer Joaquin Cruz also appeared in court on behalf of Berosini. He told the court that if Berosini had abused his animals they would not perform for him.

Berosini denied all the charges when he took the stand and he told the court how his family had come here from Europe and that he wanted to have his own circus. He and his wife purchased animals as they traveled, training them for various acts. He said he was born in the circus and is a jack of all trades.

"I love those animals," said Berosini, "the same as my own kids. ... If I didn't like them I could make money with my juggling and hand balancing act."

PEOPLE

CHUCK BURNES has spent a busy summer as company manager for the Ice Show Spectacular at Knott's Berry Farm. The show which has played to more than 310,000 people features: Kathy Steele, Willy Bietak, Julie Holmes, Scott Henderson, Lucien Meyer's Skating Chimps and a 12 member skating chorus.

ANDY SWAN, of the Swan Bros. Circus, won First Prize with his juggling routines on the TV show "The Gong Show".

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Phila. Morris

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**People**

Billy Martin has joined the Barry Miller Troupe which consists of Barry, Nancy and Norman Miller.

Allen Babcock has been visiting shows in Illinois and reports that fans in the state have recently enjoyed the All Star Int'l Circus, Carson & Barnes and Franzen Bros. Circus.

Fans seen on the lots included: Jack Rosenheim, Jim Moran, Mike Sorrell, Bill and Eddie Backstein, Merle Pepper, Jack and Cliff Albea, Max Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schlarbaum, Gerald and Edith Johnston.

---

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IT WAS ONCE HOPEd that CLIFF VARGAS’ successful “face-lifting” of the American tent circus would be contagious and other circuses would follow suit. Now, I am sorry to say, the majority of teners are regressing to shabby ways. Either we have a new “paint crisis” none of us has heard about or Sherman-Williams has closed its doors. Certainly a lack of paint on most shows would indicate this. While there are a number of shows actually famous for their ragbag appearance I was shocked to find it so prevalent on many of the “majors”. Come on, fellas, let’s clean them up. Paint covers a multitude of sins and there is a whole lot of sinnin’ goin’ on.

THROWING BOUQUETS: To BILLY and IVY GUNGA, nice people, excellent acts and outstanding wardrobe. An asset to any show, now touring with Hoxie’s Great American. To MIGUELITO, with Big John Strong, who does an unusually fine cloud swing, closing with a trick I’ve never seen before (and I’ve seen ‘em all), which is a swinging-back balance coupled with a roll-over to a one knee drop. Great!

SNAPSHOTS: During a recent get-together AERIAL-ETTA showed movies of the Polacck show during the 50’s which included priceless vintage shots of PRINCESS TAJANA in her first season, the great ROSE GOLD’s unduplicated cradle act, JANET BURGER, the FLYING HAROLDS (Voise), JENNIER’S SEALS, BARBETTE’S terrific productions, and a twin perch display featuring (are you ready?) MELITTA & WILSON on one stage, GEORGE & VICKI HANNEFORD on the other. Young performers standing around were oohing and ahhing in disbelief. Yes, Virginia, there once WAS a circus like THAT! But no more. In the first place we just don’t have that preponderance of talent and in the second producers are suffering from a severe case of the “cheapies”!

THE CAVARETTAS REVISITED: Recently divorced JIMMY married LAURA OLIN on July 16th. One of those Hollywood weddings rarely seen in our business. Hacienda owner (Terry’s beau) sent a Rolls limo to chauffeur the couple to church and back to the reception where Pappa VINCE cooked a meal for over 80 people. MICHELE DOBRITCH reports it was a glamorous affair with everyone diving into the pool and doing all sorts of Hollywood-ish things. Newly divorced KANDY is looking great and on the prow and cheese-caking the FLYING TERRELL’S Corral of Cuties which also includes TERRY and lovely LISA CANISTRELLI. JIMMY, the lucky lad, is catching all this pulchritude.

QUICKIES: KEITH KILLINGER, illustrious bandleader leader and musical arranger, busy playing dates for BILL KAY and EDDIE ZACCHINI this fall...ROYAL HANNEFORD starts up its fall tour at Muncie (Ind) Sept. 16....SHAPPI plays the Texas dates....JIMMY DOUGLASS clowns and lighting (overseen by VERN WERNER) to the Dobritch Int’l Circus in Detroit (Sep. 22-25), plus the FLYING RAULS....Dobritch booked new talent into the Spice On Ice Revue at the Hacienda and has upcoming dates in California in November....The LODI DUO purchased LILLI & SVEN KRISTENSEN’S original cradle rigging. The Kristensens were once famous as the PLATOS, a Ringling center-ringer....RALPH SCHAPPACHER is finishing up his Florida showplace and it’s a stunner!....JOHN LEWIS lives in a “Teepee”...Well! It IS on wheels!....Philly buff JERE ROHRBACH caught up with me on a visit to Great American, arriving in a wrecker! (His car obviously elsewhere)....PHIL CHANDLER kids that he will present MICHAEL CECERE in 1978 as “Lionella” (or maybe he wasn’t kidding?)....GIL MILLER and GEORGE HUBLER seen visiting Nordmark’s All Star and Sells & Gray....JIM SWAFFORD, making a whirlwind visit East, started at Circus World, noted the new production is less “Broadway” and more “Circus”, that Antoinette Concello, Harold Ronk and Bob Harrison were overseeing the new production and that Harold was at the microphone. Barbara Woodcock and Mike and Janice Arias were out of the show with injuries. Following his Florida visit, Jim spent four days at Niagara Falls with the Michons, the Cuneos, Jimmy Hall and Wade Burck...word has it that CIRCUS CAROL has a lengthy West Coast tour...
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Sept. 7-18 Melbourne, Aust.
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A. C. DATE

Hoxie Bros. Circus came to Atlantic City, N.J. on Aug. 18th and played to two straw houses. It was a clear crisp day and both Hoxie and Betty Tucker were pleased with the result. They left before the night show to head out for the Great American Circus, playing at Lewisburg, W.Va.

During the day most of the show folks were seen shopping on the Steel Pier where they also visited George Hanneford's Family Circus. That evening members of the Hanneford Circus were guests of the Hoxie show.

The previous night Mongo, the gorilla, put his hand through one of the plate glass partitions in his trailer. It cost $350 to replace the glass.

Visitors on the show lot included the writer, Jack McMillan and Pat Duffy.

..... Frank Hoopes

WANTED

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**Fair Acts**

The program presented at the Illinois State Fair (Aug. 11-12) featured: Al Youngman, musical director; Al Dawley, ringmaster; Al’s Liberty Ponies; Martin, juggler; Martin Trio, teeterboard; Guy Gossing’s tigers; Great DeMille, wire; Mr. Rythem, trained horse; the Lodi Duo, aerial cradle; Sabo’s Chimps; Jorge’s Unpredictable car; The Great Lamberti; The Flying Rauls and Vidbel’s elephants.

The program presented at the Maine State Fair (Aug. 14-20) featured: Charlie Slavin, announcer; Sylvia & Randy, perch act; The Amazing Fattasy Jugglers; The Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard and Angela Wilnow and her collies. All acts were booked by Al Martin and Gunnar Amandis.

The program presented at the Orleans County Fair in Barton, Vt. (Aug. 17-21) featured: Javanna’s Jungle Jubilee; Vicki Taylor, vent; the Aristocrats, trampoline; Johnny Miles, impressions/announcer; the Goetschi Brothers, music.

**TENT COMMANDMENTS...**

1. She is thy Lord. Thou shall honor Her above all else.
2. Thou shalt let nothing delay her rising.
3. Thou shalt not walk on canvas.
4. Thou shalt not endanger fellow canvas hands.
5. Thou shalt not stand idle and watch another man work.
6. Thou shalt not untie guy line to center poles unless commanded.
7. Thou shalt not damage her being.
8. Thou shalt not improperly lace tent sections.
9. Thou shalt not entangle guy lines.
10. Thou shalt not disobey canvas boss.

cal/comedy/unicycles; the Pisanis, acro; Prince Najvez, aerial; Mr. ‘Z’ organist and the Don Bailey-Tony Starr Western Jamboree, the show was staged and produced by Beverly Heigham and Rosemary Marino (Better Booking Agency).

**WANTED**

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It's New

A beautiful new full color window card was prepared by Ringling-Barnum for its Thrill Circus which was featured at the Ohio State Fair in Columbus. Two cannon acts and other features of the show are pictured on the card.

No extra charge was made for the circus after paying to get into the fair grounds, so the expense of printing the card was an extra tossed in by the show's management. Vice President Kenneth Feld was in charge of the thrill unit, with Tuffy Genders on hand to frame it.

Miscellaneous

The Early American Circus held an old-time circus parade in downtown San Mateo, Calif., on Saturday, Aug. 27th, at 12 noon.

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HORN PUT AWAY
Famed circus band leader Merle Evans has put away his cornet for the last time and says that while he won't be playing music anymore he will continue to direct orchestras several times a year.

Merle has cancelled 13 concerts that were set for the winter months. "It's too cold up North in the winter time," he said. I'm going to wait until it warms up."

Last month he shipped more than 3,000 of his band arrangements to the Circus World Museum in Baraboo. "I gave them all the music I used in the circus all those years," he said.

Evans, who was called the "Toscanini of the Big Top" left the circus in 1969 and since then has made guest appearances all over the country. He and his wife recently returned to their home in Sarasota after a motor tour through Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas.

"I figure it's time to give some of the younger folks a chance," he said. "Besides, I don't want to practice any more."

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In Memoriam
Gary Buggs (42), who was known as "Mr. Circus to one and all. Showfolks knew him for his photos, while circus buffs knew him as a vast storehouse of knowledge. Gary died of a heart attack on July 21st.

Emmons Howard Hugo (81), known as Capt. Hugo, the high diver, died July 19 at Kansas City, Mo. He had been doing a 100 ft. dive into a net for 29 years and at one time operated his own carnival.

James B. McBeth (90), a former circus musician and collector of circus music, died on July 14 at Mariemont, Ohio. Survivors include a son and three daughters.
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SHOW REPORT

Once again we were fortunate in having a circus come to town. The Royal Danish Circus appeared at the Genesee County Fair (Batavia, N.Y.), playing in front of the grandstand Aug. 15-20.

The show, produced by Albert Sahlstrom, featured: Dan and Baxen, clowns (John Hansen and Dan Rogers); the Almiros Duo (Rosita and Albert Sahlstrom), juggling; Bongo, Almost Human Gorilla (John Hansen); Miss Tina, single trapeze; Rosita and Alberto, spinning plates; Les Thinis, trampoline; Bilros (Dan Rogers and Delbert Smith) double sway poles. The show’s ringmaster/announcer was Albert Sahlstrom.

The Bilros act is a “Second Generation” as Dan has learned the routine from his father, Billy Rogers, and has also broken in Delbert Smith.

The circus then moved to the Michigan State Fair at Detroit for a Aug. 25-Sept. 5 date.

Also appearing at the fair, as part of the Coleman Bros. Carnival midway, was one of the nicest side shows around. The “Circus Side Show”, owned by Norman Brooks (Bella III Productions) has a canvas bannerline 27 ft. high and 116 ft. long. It is brilliantly lighted by

Billy Barton (Continued)

the show are reported to be the HANNEFORD FAMILY, with tent and equipment, and JIMMY DOUGLAS and Company.

The polishing that began on AERIALLETTA II this Spring by yours truly will be finished off by the redoubtable PRINCESS Tajana when the new aerial star joins ROYAL HANNEFORD for its fall tour. Miss Aerialletta couldn’t be in more illustrious hands!

See you down the road, luvs …

The Police Circus at Johnstown, Pa., postponed because of flood conditions has been rescheduled for Oct. 8-9. The indoor show is promoted and produced by Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy.

“several hundred” light bulbs and is well flashed. The performance is presented on two elevated stages in a 30 x 90 ft. red and gold top.

The performers are: Wayne LaCharite, inside lecturer and sword swallower; Pete Shook, fire manipulator; Floyd Cunston, human blockhead and nail board; and Donna Falzone LaCharite, Miss Electric, blade box and contortionist. David King is the outside talker.

….. Bill Galloway

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REVIEW

San Francisco's weekend Pickle Family Circus closed its third season with Saturday and Sunday matinees in Sacramento's (Calif.) William Land Park on Aug. 20-21.

For those who haven't yet had the very real pleasure, don't miss it next year. This is a real recreation of a one ring, sidewalled (red, yellow and blue) family show of a century ago - brought up to date. As an example, there's a six piece mod jazz and rock combo (guitar, bass, French horn, piano, sax and Leader Nick Saume on drums) in place of the traditional brass band - but it produces some real old-time circus sounds in addition to folk and more modern music.

Sparked by Larry (Lorenzo Pickle) Pisoni, the show this year played sponsored dates in Oregon and northern California. Equipment is carried in one nice looking truck, with show folks, who hold down other jobs during the week, coming along in campers, vans and VW-cum-tents.

Don't get the wrong idea - the Pickles may play to the tots in the audience, complete with free circus workshops in the morning, but this is no amateur aggregation. Berkeley fireman Glen Weller - as just one example - could get a job with any show in America, doing risley, single bar or hand balancing. Weller is backed by his family in an acrobatic act. Son Jeff, 14, is good, but at the Saturday matinee, 3 year old Kelley stole the show - perhaps because year and a half old sister Shannon was under the weather.

Part of the charm is real audience participation. With no animals to worry about, the kids can sit right up along the ring curbs (the stands will seat about 400 or so). Lorenzo, Ringmistress Sally Pickle, and producing clown Bill (Willy) Irwin, take pains to make sure the little folks feel included. Their elders also get into the act when they are invited to hold the ends of the not-so-tightrope for Sandy Counts, who, like Weller and the Pickles, could—if he wished hold his own under any big top in the nation.

If there was a surprise, it was the inclusion of what was once known as a "Jew comic" clown. Were, say, the Big One to present the same comic character, the Anti-Defamation League would be all over them, like fuzz on a peach. Here in Sacramento, no one seemed to mind; it may be the character just wasn't recognized for what it was, or maybe folks are getting over being super-sensitive.

Other clown productions included a huge balloon that got away, "magic trunks," and "The Wedding Photograph". Not quite a clown number - but just as funny - were Sally and Peggy Pickle, more or less in drag, juggling; they started with Indian clubs, eventually included their wigs, too.

The Pickles themselves dominated the juggling, (fast and funny), knockabout tumbling and Lorenzo more than delighted the kids by catching, with the appropriate portion of his anatomy, a series of hats tossed to him from the stands by Irwin.

Music, as noted, was good to excellent. The Grand Entry was traditional, with performers doubling in brass (plus, among other things, a concertina and a harmonica) to "Entry of the Gladiators". After 50 fast-paced minutes, there was a ten minute break, then, following an old-timers' sing-along, a half hour more.

Everyone got into the final act, a comedy skit featuring a widow with a waterbed, a stuffed gorilla that comes to life, and three of the funniest moving men since Smyth went smoother. If Mack Sennett had ever seen "The Ace Moving Company" he'd never have gotten around to the Keystone Kops.

Let no one doubt the circus lives! The Pickles and their performers - not to mention the children of all ages in their audiences - give proof it's alive and thriving. "Amateurs" or not, the "Pickles" are pros!

...... Phil Jordan

The staff for the Pickle Family Circus includes: Michael Nolan, promoter; Larry Pisoni, artistic director; Terry Lorant, tour manager and photographer; Zoe Leader, graphic designs; Peggy Snider, set and costume design; Peter Snider, Don McMillan and Jack Davis, technical directors.
ON THE ROAD

The Tent Troupe, a dramatic troupe touring in New England, moves on three rental trucks, one of which carries a light plant. The show is making its 8th annual tour and presents its various programs under an orange and white big top. They also have a concession trailer and a dressing top.

The Tent Troupe consists of young people who regularly present afternoon and evening performances in each town along the route. The afternoon program features "The Wonderful World of Hans Christian Anderson," while the evening show offers the three act play "Johnny Belinda."

The show's teacher/director is Roney Shawe who has been touring with Tent Troupe for seven years. Paul Bruening, who has been with the show since its start serves as technical director, canvas boss and truck driver. The show's cookhouse and dining room is supervised by Ellen Shaheen, while the concession dept. is directed by Dorothy and Joe Wiebush.

Show personnel includes: David Rutland, Sandy Gardiner, Les Olinger, David Sheets, Brad Bowman, Debbie Cox, Susie Dahl, Christy Foels, Mike Freas, Jacky Heinbaugh, Jenny Heinbaugh, Phil Kinney, Julie Kreh, John Lastova, Jean Moyer, Denise Perkins, Dennis Rutland, Kelly Ryan, Melissa Shawe, Ginny Smith, Chris Squires, John Tucker and Mark Unkenholz.

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