



Newsletter

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

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Judy Burgess, IJA President, is now also acting in the capacity of IJA Secretary-Treasurer. She has agreed to take over the duties of Bob Geer, who is unable to complete his term of office due to pressure of his college studies.

SEND ALL MEMBERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE AND DUES TO:

JUDY BURGESS
319 E. 5th St. Apt.9
New York, N.Y. 10003

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

As usual, dues are coming in very slowly. If you haven't paid, up for 1972, please sit down right now and send Judy a check for \$6. "What you see is what you get".-This is the last Newsletter that will be sent to non-paid up members.

Sorry this NL is so late-I spent the month of March in the hospital for stomach surgery. I am recuping at home during April and hope to catch up.

My dear friend Homer Stack wrote me to report that his wife, Louise, passed away of a heart attack Feb. 27, 1972. This was very sad news for me and for the many, many friends and ex students of hers and Homer of which it seemed there was a steady stream visiting them at their home. Louise was a very dear lady whose great love of people was returned to her in admiration by many. I am proud to have known her. I called Homer when I received the letter. He is fine.

Doc Crosby reports the passing of members Bill Dunham (2/2/72), and Rudy Yung (9/5/71). Membership Correspondent Doc Crosby has spent a considerable effort to write a history of the formation of the IJA in a very unusual style. We hope you enjoy reading the first chapter in this issue and future chapters in subsequent issues. Doc also spent considerable effort and money out of his own pocket to contact a couple hundred ex-members to try to get them to re-join. Doc reports the project a failure. He received 10 replies and 5 people reinstated their membership.

Included with this issue is a special "long article" by Tommy Curtain we hope you'll enjoy. Right now I have two other such articles which will appear in the next few issues-one (maybe two) by Judy Burgess on their trip to Russia's circus schools, and one by Adrian Sullivan on Francis Brunn. So much for now-RVD.

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Karl-Heinz Ziethen Writes (1/8/72)

News from Europe:

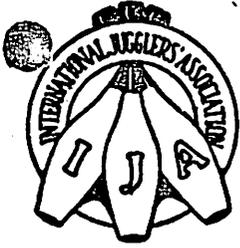
You can believe me she is one of the best solo-juggler in Europe. The Austrian Eva Vida come back from a seven-month succesful Far East-tour and was working in 'Red Rose' Nightclub in Western Berlin, in August.

This very nice woman had her own stil. She is dancing and with very much rhythmic juggled that she find a enthusiastic audience. Her costumes are splendid for the eyes.

Former pass through Budapest Artistschool is beginning her number with hat stick and gloves it's follow juggle with five balls. She catch the balls after his back in a little unvisible basket. Than she is juggling with 5, 6, and 7 hoops as well as 4 clubs. Unique and with so much reliability her last trick. She is juggling four clubs and let the fifth of the forehead fall down. Than she juggled the 5 clubs over and over again left and right under her legs. The end of the performance will be through that jugglen with three umbrellas. That is the coronation of the number. Let me still say that Eva Vida carries high-heeled shoes. She is a fanciful juggler full of glamour and novelty.

Besides 3. German-Soviet Artistball was ~~russian~~ invited russian juggler Ignatov. He come recently out of the Moscow Artistschool and was completed a three-month contract with circus Busch in the GDR. Ignatov is besides Abert and Pion-trovski one of the famous solo-juggler in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. His instructor was Violette Kiss. Rare is that jugglen with five and seven balls of middle-size catched in a basket. He droped several tours with 5 hoops which he after his back farther juggled. Furthermore droped he sure 7, 8, and 9 clubs. Seven droped Ignatov first perpendicular changed the tempo and droped than the clubs farther horizontal and catch the clubs with his head.

In September was in Red Rose Westberlin Kinito Rodríguez, Spain. He was working earlier with the Del Rey Bros.



International

ORGANIZED JUNE 1947 BY

Harry Lind
George Barvinchak
F. R. Dunham
Art Jennings

Bernard Joyce
Jack Greene
Eddie Johnson
Roger Montandon

Jugglers' Association

Chapter #1

HOW 'T WAS IN JUGGLE TOWN

By Doc Crosby

The Old Timer and I were sitting and chatting over that first fabulous BIG TOSS UP in JUGGLE TOWN.

One tail of his old costum coat was hanging down and his old Top Hat sat at a jaunty angle over that gray Thatched store house of Juggling Folk Lore.

In a burst of enthusiasm he suddenly flipped the old top hat from his head, caught it on his toe, kicked it up and with a flare of supberb showmanship caught it on his bent knee.

His artistry at his age thrilled me to applause, as I said, "GOOD TRICK and good old prop, - that old hat!"

"Yep, Juggie", (his nick name for me), and as he fondled the old Topper, said softly, - "Back of them foot lights, in them good OLD DAYS, -- The spot Light on ya, -- the show band a playin', the audience applaudin We toss'd them --- day after day."

Then with a longing look at his old PAL "TOPPER", HE said softly, "THEM OLD PROPS? -- an' Show Biz --- They're a livin' part of Me---".

Suddenly, and with a dreamy far off look, He EXCLAIMED, 'that's Magic in them Jugglin' Props"!

Startled I gasp, "You don't mean there's a"----But before I could finish He said assuringly,

"Yes, Juggie",--Why--"Who knows but all of a sudden some day when you're a jugglin', 'em, you'll see a halo 'round' 'em."

This seeming Psychic statement shocked me. Wondering whether age was getting to Him, I muttered, "A Halo" --- You think it's -- a ----"?

He! Ha@ HE laughed, as my puzzled amazement amused him, and in a more rational vain, said assuringly, "Yes Siree, Juggie, It's there---It's the Spirit of the Old Jugglers;-----The most Loveable Old Jugs Show Biz ever had".

Then with a skillful flourish of his hat as a reminder of His glorious past, he related, "Ya see, Juggie, back in them Marvelous days of Vaudeville, here and thar 'round the world a bunch of us Jugs 'ud be playin' Different Vaud' Houses in the same city".

"An' 'course that old Jug Spirit Dres us together, powerful fellin' of brotherhood- 'tis. Then, Boy, we'd have a rollickin' Jug Fest, an help each other to perfect them great old tricks an' wonderful acts." "When we got Tired a jugglin them old heavy props, we'd go fer a refreshin' snack, An', 'course we'd do more Jugglin' talk than eatin', an' afore we'd get through we'd get to wishin' fer a Juggler's Organization."

"What, -- You Jugs, -- Way back there -- wanted a juggler's Association," I ask admiringly?

"Sure did", He said assuringly, and continued, "an' that LUCKY OL JUG SPIRIT kept a handin' on down 'til at last---it found its final restin' Place."

In utter amazement, I muttered, "a Jug'd spirit's ---Home---where on earth could that be?"

Ha! Ha! he laughed at my puzzled countenance and said - "Why, Juggie, just where it belongs --- right here in our own great Juggler's Association".

Bewildered and unable to grasp it all, I stammered, "Well---how-did-that happen?"

"Oh, it was a natural course of events, sure as shootin', but it took some real doin's by some of the greatest Jug's you ever heard of, an' with all the facts an' figures tucked into it, it's a whale sputin' Story."

"A great story like that,---and I never heard it, how come, I ask?"

"By Jove, Juggie, we gotta change that, fer 'taint never been told. Tell you what; I'll set myself to thinkin it out straight, jes' like 'twas, so's I can reel it off to you, an' Juggie, you and me, we're goin' to write it."

"Great, I'm ready, lets go", I said zestfully.

He rose to leave, flourished the old topper, caught it on his head and as he stepped through the door, I heard his vanishing voice, say, half talking to himself, "Me an old Juggler a goin to go to writin', gosh, I can't hardly wait to read it myself.

So long Juggie - Be a seein' you! So as we'll get these writin' fixin's done for all my big Jug Family.

NEW MEMBERS

JOHN HOBBS VF-14 Paraloft, F.P.O. N.Y.,N.Y.

REINSTATED MEMBERS

FRANCIS BRUNN 11 Howard Ave., Rochelle Park, N.J. 07662
BERT HANSEN 89 Forrest Grove Drive, Daly City, Calif. 94015
LOU FOLDS Folds Ice Productions, 1893 Mentor Ave. Painesville, Ohio 44077
W.C. STUBBLEFIELD 2200 David Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76111
BILL METZGER c/o Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wis. 53913

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

KEN AND CAROL BERGE 6613 Scott Lane, Bldg. 8 Apt. 14, Hanover Park, Ill. 60103
ROGER DOLLARHIDE 873 West Blvd. Apt. 410, Hartford, Conn. 06105
ADRIAN SULLIVAN 180-16 Hillside Ave., Jamaica, N.Y. 11432

DECEASED MEMBERS

RUDY YOUNG, BILL DUNHAM

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NEW YORK CENTRAL PARK JUGGLE-IN MAY 21. 72 ST.-5TH AVE. ENTRANCE
TAKE FIRST WALK TO THE RIGHT TO SAILEOAT POND-LOOK TO THE LEFT.

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JEST
FOR
LAUGHS

TOMMY CURTIN

ENTERTAINMENT
IN THE JUGGLER VEIN

January 6, 1972

Dear Roger:

A while back I promised you that I would write up a review of the Russian Circus on Ice which played in the United States in 1970. My memory is a little hazy of the different numbers but I have movies of the juggling acts to refer to for details.

The show was excellent, especially from a juggler's viewpoint, as there were four different juggling acts. I might add that a number of acts were added to the show for the tour in the States and these additional numbers were performed on the floor. There was only one juggling act done on ice skates, that being the male Budnitsky and his female partner, Shayeuskaya.

Budnitsky begins his routine by entering with 3 clubs, tossing them while skating around the circular ice ring very fast. He throws continuous under the leg with one hand, while skating forward in a circle, then skating backwards ~~he~~ throws triples under the legs with both hands, juggles the 3 clubs over his head, then behind the back. Next alternates the throws, under his leg, around the back. Next trick he uses 6 rings, with a very nice finish by pulling 5 over his head, one at a time out of the juggle, the 6th ring which has been thrown quite high, comes down and hits the rings around his neck, dropping over his head to join the other 5 rings. His partner Shayeuskaya enters with 6 clubs, tosses him 3 and they pass 6 clubs while skating fast around the ice, she going backwards and Budnitsky skating forward. Next using 3 clubs and continuing to skate fairly fast, they do drop backs to each other, switching to side by side both juggling the 3 clubs, then fast take-aways. She retrieves 2 more clubs and while he juggles 3 clubs, she stands behind him and throws her 2 clubs through his pattern, so it appears to be 5 clubs. He then takes 4 clubs and juggles them while skating around the ring. Next he does 5 clubs, slowly skating he keeps them going for perhaps 15 seconds. He comes to a halt and finishes this routine by throwing the 5 clubs with several continuous behind the back throws, one club goes high and a pirouette before he catches the last high throw. The speedy finish to their entire routine has him juggling 4 fire torches in a shower, while the girl cascades 3 torches.

The second juggling act is that of Vera and Vladimir Deshchuk, who juggle atop rolla-rollas on a pedestal. The girl begins by balancing atop two cylinders, with a rolling cylinder between the two upright cylinders. She juggles 3 clubs while in this balance. Next Vladimir perches on the same arrangement of two upright cylinders, with one rolling cylinder inbetween. He stands with one foot on a small board atop the third cylinder...the whole arrangement looking very precarious. I might add that these cylinders were hollow, not solid. In the above balance on one foot, Vladimir uses the free foot to kick cups and saucers to his head, finally ending up with six cups and saucers, lump of sugar and the spoon. So we have yet another manner in which to work the familiar cups and saucers trick. Following this is another build-up trick, this time using 5 cylinders, 3 upright and two moving cylinders. Number one is upright, atop this number two is moving, third cylinder is upright, fourth one rolling, and final top cylinder is upright. Vladimir climbs atop a small board on the top and keeps the whole build-up in balance and under control. He makes the whole arrangement revolve as he turns around. Still up on this, he passes six clubs with Vera who is on the floor. This winds up a very difficult looking routine.

The third juggling act, the Yermakov Brothers, begin their routine with one brother entering by bouncing a soccer ball from knee to knee as he walks on to the performing area. Stopping, he keeps the ball bouncing from knee to knee, to feet, to heels.... at one point he keeps the ball behind him, bouncing from heel to heel, then bounces to front on feet, then to knees, to head, shoulders, catches on the back of the neck, flips it to foot, up to bounce off chest, back to feet where it is kept under perfect control as it jumps from foot to foot. He finishes this by doing a roll-over and catching the ball. Then he uses two soccer balls, bouncing one from knee to knee while the other ball is kept rolling across his arms, from one hand to the other. While he keeps this ball rolling around him, he flips the other ball to his heels and keeps it in constant motion behind him, then ball is kicked back to the front where he keeps it going from foot to foot. Second ball is still in motion and he switches these two balls, ball from arm roll goes to feet and vice versa and all this is continuous with no stops. Next he juggles three balls while the fourth soccer ball is kept bouncing from foot to foot, and he turns around while keeping all in motion. Follows this with the juggle of five full size soccer balls which he begins by holding four balls in hands and against arms, fifth ball is kicked up from foot. He keeps this going a long time, turning all the way around while the five balls are juggled. Following this very nice ball routine, the brothers end their act with some acrobatic tricks, sort of a parody on soccer players.

Final juggling act in the show is the Grachev Trio, one of the finest 3 person juggling acts I have ever seen. They begin their routine with two men passing six clubs, the third man coming in to do take-aways, then one stands in the middle while his partners pass six clubs around him. He moves and the others shower six doing shoulder throws and chops...the clubs always in motion during their entire routine, with always one or more juggling while the other positions himself for the next sequence of tricks. While two pass six clubs, the other man climbs a vertical pole, loops his foot in a rope, hangs ~~down~~ facedown where he is thrown the clubs and he and the man on the floor pass six clubs. They continue to pass six as the other partner climbs another pole where he loops his foot and hangs upside down. Now he does six clubs with his partner hanging from the other pole. Third man on the floor then gets three more clubs and they do a triangle formation, using nine clubs. Man on ground changes position and begins throwing from ~~the~~ inbetween his partners on the poles, so that he throws one club over his shoulder to a man hanging behind him, and one club to partner in front of him, alternating throws to each man. He keeps six clubs going with one of the hanging men, as the other climbs down from his perch. He then passes six with the man who remained on the ground, giving the remaining man in the air time to climb down. Now that they are back on the ground, they do a triangle formation, using nine clubs. From this directly into a eight club juggle, two persons. Third man brings in a ninth club from the back, doing more or less a take-away as he goes into a nine club juggle with other man. First time I have ever seen two persons passing nine (9) clubs. They are about ten feet apart and appear to use triple turns. Next the third man brings in three more clubs and they move into a line formation using twelve clubs. They are really stretched out for this, men on the ends being maybe twenty feet apart. They keep the twelve clubs going for about thirty seconds. With this trick they do stop and take a bow before getting into their last trick. For this one, the two men go back up the poles, hanging face down. This time a slack wire or rope has been suspended between the two poles, so the third man balances on this rope. He and one of the men hanging from the pole enter into a feed trick with the third partner hanging from the other pole. Stopping this the two men on the poles turn around, their backs toward the ground now, and they shower five clubs, at the same time their partner grabs the rope with each hand, still standing on it, and spins round and round. This literally winds up a very impressive juggling trio.