



# Newsletter

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JUDY BURGESS WRITES

JANUARY 10, 1972

HOVEY AND I JUST RETURNED FROM A TWO WEEK STAY IN MOSCOW. WE WERE THERE CHRISTMAS WEEK DEC. 1971 UNTIL JANUARY 1ST. IN MOSCOW THERE ARE TWO PERMANENT CIRCUS BUILDINGS: ONE ON SVETNOY BLD. IS VERY OLD AND WAS BUILT IN 1880! THE DECOR IS QUIETLY ELEGANT - RED VELVET WITH MANY LIGHTS AND NEW YEAR'S DECORATIONS. THE OTHER IS BRAND NEW AND BUILT ON THE LENIN HILLS SECTION (THE SECTION WHERE THERE IS A LARGE UNIVERSITY AND RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET FROM A SUBWAY STOP!) IN CONTRAST, THE NEW BUILDING IS ALL GLASS AND STONE AND WOOD. ROUND, OF COURSE, WITH A CIRCULAR SET OF LIGHTS ON TOP WHICH SPELLS OUT THE NAMES OF THE ACTS APPEARING THERE. IT IS LARGER THAN THE OLD BUILDING, THOUGH I FELT ANY LACK OF INTIMACY WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT EVERYTHING WAS SO ULTRA-MODERN AND NEW. THE ADVANTAGE TO THE NEW BUILDING IS TWOFOLD: 1) THERE IS A WHOLE UNDERGROUND AND ABOVE GROUND COMPLEX ATTACHED TO THE RING BY AN INDOOR HALLWAY WITH INCREDIBLE SPACE FOR THE PERFORMERS AND ANIMALS. THERE IS EVEN A FULL-SIZE WARM-UP RING BACKSTAGE. 2) THE CIRCUS RING ITSELF IS ON A HYDRAULIC LIFT. DURING A PERFORMANCE THE RING CAN BE TAKEN DOWN AND AWAY AND REPLACED BY A WATER, ICE, CAGE OR MAGICIAN'S RING. (WE SAW THE MAGICIAN, BUT WERE TOLD THAT IN THE SHOW BEFORE THEY HAD SOME ACTS FROM THE "CIRCUS ON ICE".)

THE ONLY JUGGLER IN THE NEW CIRCUS WAS NIKOLAI OLHOVIKOVA, A JUGGLER ON HORSEBACK WHO CAME TO THE U.S.A. IN 1967. BUT HE DID NOT PERFORM ALL THE TIME, AND IN MOSCOW ONLY DID A VERY ABBREVIATED FORM OF HIS OLD ACT. HE WAS THE HEAD OF A NEW ACT OF YOUNG KIDS WHO DID TEETER AND SPRING BOARDS (NO JUGGLING).

IN THE OLD CIRCUS WE SAW 2 JUGGLING ACTS AND A LADY WHO DOES AN ACT BALANCING GLASSES ON TIP TO TIP SWORDS (A LA ROGANA). SHE DID SPIN SOME TRAYS ON HER FINGERS BEFORE ASCENDING HER LADDER BALANCING THE GLASSES.

Cont. on p.4

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Being a little slow on the uptake, I didn't realize until just the other day that this is the 25th anniversary of the founding of the IJA. I am postponing the special pre-Convention NL til the May issue so that if Doc Crosby and Mrs. Crosby and I can come up with something extra special over and above the outstanding convention already planned, I can tell you about it appropriately. I'm not guaranteeing we can come up with something, but we'll try.

Even though our tireless IJA supporters Doc and Eva Crosby were in on the beginnings of the IJA, their names are not among the eight people listed as our "founding fathers". Doc was very close to Harry Lind and says that Harry was the main instigator. Harry is gone now, and so are three or four others. We can't afford to subsidize their trips to Hartford, but it would be nice if the living founders could make it to the convention. George Barvin and Roger Montandon-can you come? Does anyone know where Art Jennings is working? How about Eddie Johnson? I don't even know if he is alive.

And speaking of guests of honor, I've been requested not to mention names yet, but one prominent IJAer is trying to persuade one of the greatest American jugglers of all time to come to the Convention. He is a modest person. To this man I say: You will be the hit of the convention, but please, please don't let that stop you from coming! There are many who would love to meet you and other new jugs who may not know you who will benefit by meeting you.

I have been asked why I don't print more articles that are of an instructional nature. The answer to that is simple-no body sends me any. Anyone care to contribute explanations of juggling tricks, tips for doing shows and the like? It is my personal opinion that the best way to learn juggling, though, is to see other jugglers. Watch for jugs on TV, at circuses and on stage shows. I also feel, and I've said this before, that a jug with less than 5 years of experience can pick up 5 years of juggling knowledge by attending one good IJA convention. If you are serious about juggling, a trip across the country is worth the expense to advance your skill. I talk and correspond with many jugglers, and they all say the same thing-big time juggling entertainment may be dying, but at the local level there is a crying need for juggling entertainment. Many IJAers make their living filling this need and many others earn good part time money. Ask Rob Blau, Ken Benge, Jerry Greenberg, Bill Gnadt, Danny Rees. Even jugs with only a couple years practice and tips from fellow jugs are cashing in on the local entertainment business.

Eastern jugs: Don't miss Jerry Greenberg's first New York Central Park Juggle-In of 1972 on Sunday, May 21. Same location as always-by the Sailboat Pond. Take the first path to the right after entering at 72nd St. and 5th Ave. Props will be flying by noon. Bet I beat you all there. In case of rain, come 2 weeks later on June 4. So much for now, RVD.

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LINDSAY LESLIE WRITES

MARCH, 1972

THANKS FOR PUTTING THE NEWS CUTTING IN JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER, JOHN AND STEVEN WERE QUITE SURPRISED WHEN I LET THEM SEE THE COPY.

SINCE I HAVE BECOME A MEMBER OF IJA I HAVE HAD THREE LETTERS FROM MEMBERS INQUIRING IF I KNEW WHERE TO OBTAIN JUGGLING CLUBS OVER HERE. I HAVE GIVEN THEM THE ONLY ADDRESS I KNOW AND AS I THOUGHT PERHAPS OTHER MEMBERS MAY WISH TO KNOW THE ADDRESS ALSO, I HAVE SENT A LETTER TO THIS FIRM EXPLAINING THAT IF THEY WISH, THEY CAN PUT AN ADVENT IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR \$10 A PAGE OR PRORATE FOR FRACTION (APPROX. SIZE OF PAGE 10"x7") BY WRITING TO YOUR ADDRESS WHICH I SENT THEM. HOPE I HAVE DONE THE RIGHT THING. ENCLOSED IS LETTER WHICH I RECEIVED FROM THIS FIRM ON REQUEST.

SORRY I CANNOT VOUCH FOR THE CLUBS AS I HAVE NOT BOUGHT ANY AS YET BUT I FEEL THAT IF A JUGGLER HAS HAD 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE HE MUST KNOW QUITE A LOT ABOUT CLUB MAKING. THANKS ALSO FOR SEPT. 1971 NEWSLETTER SHOWING 1971-1972 ROSTER.

YOURS FAITHFULLY, L. K. LESLIE

DOC CROSBY WRITES

FEBRUARY, 1972

SUNDAY THE 27TH DURING PLAYING IN THE PERCUSSION SECTION OF THE GOOD DELAND FLA CONCERT BAND AT THE INSISTANCE OF THE DIRECTOR, I JUGGLED DURING THE PLAYING OF THE KLAXTON MARCH. IT WAS NEXT TO THE LAST NUMBER.

THE CROWD WENT WILD OVER IT AND ALTHOUGH I DID LITTLE BUT THE STRAIGHT JUGGLE, THE ORLANDO PAPER GAVE ME A WHOLE PARAGRAPH AND THE HEAD OF THE ORLANDO CITY PROGRAM, CALLED ORLANDO PRESENTS, SAID THAT WITH A NOVELTY TOUCH LIKE THAT THE BAND IS IN AS A REGULAR FEATURE ON THEIR WEEKLY SUNDAY PROGRAMS. THE NEWSPAPER ESTIMATED AN AUDIENCE OF 4000. BOY, THIS SHOWS HOW STARVED PEOPLE ARE FOR NOVELTY ACTS.

GEORGE BECK WRITES

FEBRUARY 22, 1972

I AM INTERESTED IN OBTAINING INFORMATION REGARDING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PORTABLE WIRE OR ROPE WALKING APPARATUS. IF YOU COULD ENLIGHTEN ME IN THIS REGARD, OR DIRECT ME TO CONTACT SOMEONE WHO CAN, I WOULD BE VERY APPRECIATIVE.

SINCERELY, GEORGE BECK

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## JUDY BURGESS, CONT.

HERE IS THE UNICYCLIST JUGGLER'S ACT: 1) HE ASCENDED A HIGH UNICYCLE AND JUGGLED 5 CLUBS, THEN 4 CLUBS, THEN 3 CLUBS. WITH 3 CLUBS HE THREW CONSECUTIVELY UNDER 1 FOOT AND THEN HE MADE A FEW THROWS BEHIND THE BACK. 2) GETS OFF HIGH AND ONTO LOW UNICYCLE AND BOUNCES UPSTAIRS, JUMPS ROPE AND RIDES DOWNSTAIRS. 3) HE ASCENDS HIGH UNICYCLE AND KICKS UP 5 CUP AND SAUCER SETS WITH A LUMP OF SUGAR AND A SPOON AT THE TOP. HE WAS A YOUNG MAN, PLEASANT, WITH A VERY BIG SMILE. HIS CLUBS WERE SILVER GLITTER AND ALL OTHER PROPS WERE WHITE. THE PROP MEN PUT OUT A 4 PART WHITE ROUND PLATFORM AND THIS IS WHAT HE PERFORMED ON.

THE NEXT JUGGLER WAS OLDER AND WORKED VERY HARD DOING THIS DEMANDING ACT: 1) HE TWIRLED A SILVER BATON-STICK. 2) THREW STICK TO PROP MAN AND JUGGLED 4 LARGE BALLS. 3) THREW 1 BALL AWAY AND DID A 3 BALL SHOWER WITH THE LARGE BALLS. 4) THREW ONE BALL AWAY AND BOUNCED THE 2 BALLS WITH JUST HIS FOREHEAD. 5) GOT RID OF THE 2 BALLS AND DID A SHOWER WITH 4 BATON-STICKS (SILVER). 6) DID A 5 OBJECT CASCADE PATTERN WITH 4 STICKS AND ONE BIG BALL. 7) BOUNCED THE LARGE BALL ON HIS FOREHEAD WHILE HE JUGGLED 5 STICKS THROWING WITH ONE HAND BEHIND HIS BACK! 8) DID A 5 STICK SHOWER FOR MORE THAN A FLASH. (VERY PRETTY TRICK). 9) JUGGLED 7 RINGS (WHITE) ABOUT 21 THROWS. 10) 8 RINGS (A LITTLE OVER A FLASH). 11) HE JUGGLED 7 RINGS WHILE BALANCING A BIG BALL AT THE END OF A POLE ON HIS FOREHEAD. 12) JUGGLED 7 RINGS WHILE BOUNCING A BALL ON HIS FOREHEAD. 13) THROWS RINGS AWAY AND ROLLS BALL OVER FACE. THEN HE JUMPS ROPE, AND BALL ON HIS FOREHEAD KEEPS BOUNCING. 14) HE FINISHES WITH JUGGLING 5 FLAMING TORCHES WHILE RUNNING RAPIDLY BACKWARDS ACROSS THE RING.

HOVEY AND I ALSO WENT TO THE CIRCUS SCHOOL IN MOSCOW (FOR CIRCUS ARTISTS, CLOWNS, AND VARIETY ARTISTS). WE SAW SOME JUGGLING THERE, THE MOST EXCITING OF WHICH WAS YOUNG NIKOLAI ALEXANDREOVITCH KISS (THE SON OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS ALEXANDER KISS). THIS YOUNG 16 YEAR OLD LAD PRACTICED STEADFASTLY AND DILIGENTLY UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF HIS AUNT VIOLETTA KISS WHO USED TO WORK WITH ALEXANDER KISS. SHE USED TO FOOT JUGGLE IN A ONE ARMED HANDSTAND ON HIS HEAD WHILE HE ALSO JUGGLED. HE STILL WORKS IN CIRCUS, BUT VIOLETTA SEEMS TO BE A COACH TO NIKOLAI NOW. NIKOLAI, WHILE WE WERE THERE, JUGGLED 6 STICKS EFFORTLESSLY. LATER HE JUGGLED 7 RINGS INDEFINITELY AND 8 RINGS WITH A BIT MORE EFFORT AND TRIED TO FLASH 9. THE MOST OUTSTANDING THING ABOUT HIS JUGGLING IS THAT HE IS VERY SYMMETRICAL. HE IS FAST, TOO, BUT I BELIEVE HE WILL SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY BUILD UP THE NUMBER OF OBJECTS HE JUGGLES, KEEPING BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT HAND IN PERFECT TUNE. WHO KNOWS WHAT HE'LL BE DOING IN A FEW YEAR'S TIME!

WHEN WE GOT BACK TO N.Y. TOMMY CURTAIN CALLED US FROM KENNEDY AIRPORT ON HIS WAY TO LONDON. ONE MONTH BEFORE I WATCHED HIM TAPE WONDERAMA AND HE DID REALLY WELL - BOB McALLISTER (THE H.C.) AND ALL THE PROP CREWS (HAGGARD BY ALL THE SCREAMING KIDS) REALLY SAT UP AND CHEERED FOR THE I.J.A. CHAMPION.

NEW MEMBERS

GEORGE HERY 317 Central Ave., Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583  
 TIM KAPP 9 Ken Muir Ave., Morristown, N.J. 07960  
 STEVE MILLS 2 Kenmuir Ave., Morristown, N.J. 07960  
 C.E. SHANNON 5 Cambridge St., Winchester, Mass. 01890  
 (All the above sponsored by Ron Graham. Looks like his is out  
 canvassing the neighborhoods!)

PETER MEYERS Box 141 Wesleyan Station, Middletown, Conn. 06457  
 (sponsored by Ben Baldwin.)

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JOHN HOBBS WRITES FROM USS JOHN F. KENNEDY CVA-67  
JANUARY, 1972

I'M ON A 6 MONTH CRUISE NOW AND I JUST LEFT ATHENS, GREECE.  
 THE ACROPOLIS THERE IS FANTASTIC. WHEN I VISITED BARCELONA,  
 SPAIN I FOUND SOME SMALL BATS THAT RESEMBLED PINS. I JUGGLE  
 THEM BUT THEY ARE NOT BALANCED AND IT IS DIFFICULT. WOULD YOU  
 KNOW WHERE I COULD BUY A SET OF USED PINS. I GET TIME TO  
 JUGGLE ON BOARD AND IF I HAD SOME DECENT PINS, I COULD SERIOUSLY  
 JUGGLE WITH THEM. I'LL SURE BE GLAD WHEN I RETURN TO VA BEACH,  
 VA. IN JUNE. I'LL BE JUGGLING 2-3 HOURS A DAY. RIGHT NOW I  
 DON'T GET ALOT OF TIME BUT I DO JUGGLE. REPETITION IS THE ONLY  
 KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL TRICK. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TEACH A FEW  
 PEOPLE TO JUGGLE BUT AS YOU KNOW IT TAKES A FEW YEARS TO "TRAIN  
 YOUR ARM IN" SO TO SPEAK. I'VE BEEN LIFTING WEIGHTS AND PLAN  
 TO WEIGH 200 LBS. THEN I'LL TRIM DOWN WITH JUGGLING WHICH IS  
 NOT HARD TO DO.

A FELLOW JUGGLER, JOHN

PHILIP J. BERUBE (201) 988-7745



SIR PHILIP  
 BARON OF BUFFONERY

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