

INTERNATIONAL

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NEWSLETTER

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FROM HOVEY BURGESS

Last night I flew to Providence to catch the first performance of the fourth U.S. tour of the Moscow Circus. WOW!!! What a feast for the eyes of jugglers and juggling enthusiasts. SIX of the fourteen acts include juggling; these are:

1. VALENTIN FILATOV A Circus of Bears. One of the bears does foot-juggling; he spins a cylinder with his feet, then a barrel which he spins three different ways and finally another cylinder, flaming at both ends, in a black-out.
2. OLEG POPOV, Clown, Honored Artist of the USSR, Master of the Slack Wire. Does his familiar slack wire act which includes spinning a basin, a cloth on a cane and several rings while on the wire, on his arm, on his leg. Later he does a juggling act with kitchen wares: plates, a bottle, pots, forks, and potatoes.

VALENTIN FILATOV AND OLEG POPOV ARE ALSO THE ARTISTIC DIRECTORS OF THE CIRCUS ACCORDING TO THE PROGRAM.

3. IGOR PETRUKHIN AND VLADIMIR SMIRNOV Strongmen-Jugglers. Each juggles three large chrome cannon balls which they also pass. They pass weights with one of them making a 'blind' catch as a weight comes over his shoulder from behind. One catches the cannon balls on the nape of his neck.
4. VERONIKA BIRINA Equilibrium on the Ladder. Woman spins three squares of clear plastic, one on each hand, the other on a sword or stick balanced on the head. Then she does point-to-point sword balancing with a square of plastic and four glasses of red wine as she ascends the swaying ladder. She is a good showwoman with excellent wardrobe and props, but I must quarrel with the souvenir program's referring to her act as 'one of the most unusual balancing acts in circus annals'. THIS IS THE SAME ACT THAT JUDY (BURGESS) AND I SAW AT THE OLD CIRCUS IN MOSCOW LESS THAN A YEAR AGO. (See IJA Newsletter April 1972, Vol. 24, No. 4.)
5. VLADIMIR OSKAL*OOL TROUPE Jugglers and Rope-Walkers. An Oriental Troupe (from Tuva) juggles sticks, plates, and hoops. They also do tight-rope walking and dancing. Closing trick was a show-stopper that brought down the house: Oskal-Ool

(FROM HOVEY BURGESS CONTINUED)

catches about 25 plates dealt his direction rapid-fire from across the ring by about five other members of the troupe. I SAW THIS ACT ALSO IN MOSCOW IN MARCH OF 1970 AND IT IS ONE OF MY VERY FAVORITES. I've seen four editions of the Moscow Circus in Moscow and four in the United States just for the record.

6. SERGEI IGNATOV Juggler. I swear I saw it, but as I sit at my typewriter writing it, I don't expect you to believe me. HE ENTERS THE RING JUGGLING FIVE CLUBS RUNNING BACK AND FORTH RAPIDLY THEN STOPS JUGGLING; THEY INTRODUCE HIS NAME AND HE BOWS TO THE AUDIENCE. He juggles five balls the size of croquet balls--cascade, reverse cascade, shower-- adds two more balls the same size, and proceeds to juggle seven balls flawlessly as he turns 360 degrees. Six rings followed by a complete routine with five rings including throwing them all up, pirouette, and catching them juggling. Brilliant 5, 4, 3 club juggling routine including throwing five clubs behind his back continuously. His closing trick also brought down the house: He takes NINE RINGS, straps a double ring holster around his waist and places one ring in each holster. Now he juggles seven rings, solidly, then up into nine rings then whips all nine rings around his neck as they fall! I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO AND SEE FOR YOURSELF.

THE WAY THE BALL BOUNCES! by Roger Montandon

Speaking about the way the ball bounces, there is a cute pocket trick on the magic market called the KANGAROO BALL (Ed-also known as goofus ball) that could be used to advantage by Jugglers when called on to do something for newspaper publicity or an interview. I present it as a Jugglers' Aptitude Test. A small ball is shown and bounced on the floor and caught by the Juggler with a flourish. He explains to the testee that a Juggler must be able to bounce and catch a ball without missing and that this is one of the test for Juggling aptitude. "I'd like to test your skill", says the Juggler handing the ball to the testee. When he throws the ball down it only bounces an inch or so and the Juggler comments that he must not be cut out to be a Juggler!

There are a couple of other "tests" requiring some skill that have been used by some jugglers. One is the Vin Carey "two-ball shower". The move appears in the 1952 Jugglers Bulletin Annual. (Ed.-this great juggling book is obtainable from Roger Montandon, P.O. Box 711, Bixby, Ok. 74008). In brief, the move consists of holding a ball in each hand and crossing the hands at the wrists. The balls are tossed in the air, cross over, and are caught by the opposite hand without changing positions of the crossed wrists. While it sounds simple, it usually takes even an experienced Juggler a few tries to accomplish. And, that's the way the ball bounces!

THE KING OF CLUBS-by "Doc" CROSBY

Harry Lind was born of a Danish mother and a Swedish father on December 12th, 1879. He passed on April 15th, 1966. An 86 year old monument to club juggling throughout the world.

Harry Lind (approximate age of 15) saw his first club juggler in Jewels Delmar's theatre in the town of Celoron, a small village on Chautaugua Lake near Jamestown, New York in the summer of 1898. [ED-For a full account by Harry Lind, see the I.J.A. Newsletter, May 1961, Page 5.] During the following years the small shanty in the back of the Lind's home resounded with the thumps of Harry's improvised clubs. However, the clubs didn't hold up. Harry's father, Andrew Lind, was a bookkeeper in one of Jamestown's furniture factories and presented Harry's club problem to David Sundell, a wood turner in the factory.

Mr Sundell, unknown personally to jugglers, was a real mechanic, and taking a serious interest in young Lind, he designed and made clubs for him and taught Harry how it was done. And, an upholsterer in the factory taught Harry how to put the cloth covering smoothly on the clubs and how to cut the patterns for the decorations.

Now Harry had the props and with his tireless Scandinavian energy and his long hours of practice, he attracted the attention of Tom Davis. Tom, a bartender in the swanky Black Bear Saloon, had been a club swinger. Under Tom's guidance Harry mastered the artistic and complicated movements of club swinging with a smoothness that enhanced his straight club juggling. During those teen years, Harry and Tom saw all of the few jugglers who played Delmar's theatre.

At nineteen, this handsome young man was a polished, finished club juggler doing an excellent routine of club juggling and swinging. So, his showman's heart took him to Buffalo, N.Y. where he began his nineteen years in vaudeville.

In New York, Aimee Alaire interested him in club passing and Harry took to it with such dexterity that Alaire & Lind became an act. Later we find Lind in New York city where he formed club passing acts with Paul Stone, Henry Bussey, and eventually with Harry LaSalle, this act under the name of LaSalle and Lind was a fine act. Also during this time when Pat McBann (McGreavy) passed away in Europe, Harry McBann wanted Lind to take his place. This was quite an honor as the McBanns, in their day, set the standard for club passing acts.

However, it was not to be and one day Sol Kopy introduced Harry to Rose Sheldon. Rose, a petite and attractive girl had that unexplainable audience appeal. After long hours of practice Harry and Rose formed the Sheldon and Lind club passing act. Tripping about and giggling as they did shoulders, straights, and slap overs, the act had great success.

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(HARRY LIND CONTINUED)

The performers union at that time was called the White Rats and due to his loyalty to it during their strike, Harry was black-listed. In hopes that time would dim the stigma he went to work in a gun factory.

In 1919 he left the factory but before he could re-establish himself in show business, he returned to Jamestown where his brother, a theatre musician, was dying of tuberculosis. His decision to stay with his grief stricken and aged parents ended his performing days and was the active beginning of his long service to jugglers.

Harry set up shop in the barn on the back lot of his old house. Beset with problems and the determination to make a better club he was fortunate to obtain the help of Mr. Fardink, a saw mill and lumber man. With dried bass and birch wood supplied by Mr. Fardink, Harry made and discarded many patterns and clubs until he found a good body form and type of handle that balanced properly and juggled well.

Jugglers learned the genius of the man and began to want clubs of a special design, a balance and feel to suit their needs and individuality. Harry produced them with varying lengths of body and handle, but always with the floating power, and artistically decorated the the Lind club became known for. Open-faced clubs containing lights, large novelty clubs, phosphorus glow clubs, the junior size, specials for women, comedy clubs that fell apart at a touch, clubs that when opened contained baby clubs, bottle clubs...and many more came from his shop, and with the new square handle pin they were great. AND, Harry was the man behind them.

Harry also made plates, rings, balancing props, torches, knives...in fact, all articles and props the jugglers wanted.

In his worldwide business and personal correspondence he earned the good will and had the addresses of hundreds of professional and amateur jugglers. He taught juggling in his back yard and by correspondence---and all for free. He was one of the organizers of the I.J.A. and supported it throughout his life. His students, influence, and clubs can still be found throughout the world. Harry Lind was the KING OF CLUBS!

[ED-In the original of this article that Doc. Crosby sent to me, he made the statement, "Without Harry Lind there would be no Jugglers Association." I then wrote back to Doc on this statement "Maybe so, but there were others involved. Roger Montandon for example. His bulletins were published 3 years before the I.J.A. was formed. And they were published four years before the first convention." Doc wrote back and acknowledged that there were many active members such as Jack Green, Cal and George Kenyon, Mr. Jenkins, Lane Blumenthal, Bill Talent, and Bobby May who all did their part. However, he then went on to say "I was with Harry several times a week for 41 years. I know what he wrote, and too, I juggled with and talked to the many jugglers who came to visit him. I read

(continued on next page)

(HARRY LIND CONTINUED)

their letters and I know that without Lind, we would not have had the I.J.A. for some years to come, if ever." I didn't include this in the article itself as it is an opinion--- However, I am including it here in the notes as I believe it is an honest opinion.]

JUGGLING BALLS

The white Canadian Viceroy Official Lacrosse balls have been used for many years by jugglers. These balls are still available from:

Lords Sporting Goods, Ltd.
1485 St. Catherine St.
W. Montreal
Canada

The price is \$11.00 per dozen plus \$2.00 for mailing costs.

CORRECTION TO BOBBY MAY'S ARTICLE of last month

The names printed as Albuntus and Bantvan should read Alburtus and Bartram.

PAST AND PRESENT-BOBBY MAY

SINGING JUGGLERS

Years ago in Vaudeville there were several good juggling acts who also did singing in their act. Mowatt and Mullen. Also the Morton Jewell Troupe, 4 people, opened with a song and dance number. Jack Danger did very good tap dance while juggling 3 clubs and then finished singing. He had a fine voice.

There was an autobiography (check library) about Jimmy SAVO. He was a great pantomime comedian in musicals and Vaudeville. He also had a great tenor voice. Anyway, he started out as a juggler---and a good one!

OLEG POPOV

Saw Oleg Popov, the Russian Clown, do his juggling act on the Johnny Carson television show. A very fine performer and the detailed routining and finishes of the routines were smooth and impressive.

Popov did a short "Salerno" trick, Knife, Fork, and Patatoe. Salerno was interned in Russia during WW I. Russia was a great country for performers in Czarist times from what Salerno told me. It was nothing unusual for the nobility to give a diamond studded cigarette case to a favorite performer.

CORRECTIONS TO YOUR ROSTER

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Robert P. Britton
74 Tac Control Flight
Pope AFB, N.C. 28308

Roger Montandon
P.O. Box 711
Bixby, Ok. 74008
(only Roger's town & zip have changed)

EDITORS NOTEBOOK

Since our invitation that any of you are welcome to visit us at our new home, several people have written to ask where Hanover Park, Ill. is. Well, it is approximately 30 miles west of downtown Chicago, Ill. So, next time any of you are in Chicago, come on by.

Also Carol and I are going to Miami, Florida the first few weeks in January so your next newsletter may be a little late. We will get it to you as soon as possible.

While we are on the subject of late newsletters, your 1973 I.J.A. dues are due January 1, 1973, so why not send them in now to Judy Burgess, 45 1st Ave. (5k), New York, N.Y. 10003 to avoid missing any issues.

Ken Sherburne is busy with his unicycle-juggling act on Christmas dates.

Gil Dova just finished working the Nugget in Reno and is now scheduled for 3 months in Mexico.

Jerry Greenberg, according to Paul Bachman, is doing a good number of Christmas shows in the New York area. Also Paul himself will be working local Christmas dates here in Chicago.

All for now, and MERRY CHRISTMAS from us---and PEACE!

JUGGLING BALLS #2 (advertisement)

LAST CHANCE, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch white juggling balls-good bounce. 64 in stock, first come, first served. \$2.00 each plus postage. Earl W. Davis, 325 W. Hubbard Ave., Elkhart, Indiana 46514.

WHEN YOU MISS A TRICK

When you miss a juggling trick, pull out a pair of glasses and put them on. Then a little later miss again on purpose. This time take off the normal size glasses and put on a huge goofy pair of glasses that you can find in joke shops.

Another old bit that works well, is to have a sign on your stand that holds your props which reads: World's Greatest Juggler. Then when you miss a trick, flip a second sign over the first which reads: World's Second Greatest Juggler.

JUGGLING ACT REVIEW

BOBBY SMITH
Bozo T.V. Show
7-29-72

Umbrella & ball-string comedy ending

3 balls

3 around back start
one high
bounce off arms
bounce off elbows
bounce off head
bounce off head fake
shoulders
over one shoulder
over shoulder fake
throw to head balance
to ear balance
to other ear balance
back of neck catch

Diabialo

one high with pirouette
behind back
over one leg several times

Single ball manipulation (soccer ball size)

bounces on head
shoulder bounce, then back to head bounce
behind neck catch and up back to balance
jump rope of ball on head

Audience contest- contest between two kids as to who spins
a ball on their finger the longest. (One ball-two kids)

Mouthstick-kids throw ball and he catches on balance

spins ball on stick
head to stick
in air to back of neck catch
ball high in air, he does a forward roll and catches the ball
on the stick.

FROM KARL-HEINZ ZIETHEN

I will send you for a later issue a story of Francis Brunn.
Francis is touring after 30 years in Germany.

In October Fudi was in Berlin and is
coming back next year to Berlin. He is now in England. Also
at Christmas time Ugo Garrido is coming to Berlin.

KARL -HEINZ WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN I.J.A. NEWSLETTERS FROM JULY 1965
TO JULY 1969. IF ANY OF YOU HAVE A SET CONTACT KARL-HEINZ OR
KEN BENGE.

DUES ANNOUNCEMENT AGAIN

Within a few days EVERYONES 1973 dues of \$6 (or \$7 for family
membership) will be due. January 1, 1973 is the date. To avoid
a delay in receiving your 1973 Newsletters send in your membership
now to Judy Burgess, 45 1st Ave (5k), New York, N.Y. 10003.