

Mich. Gov. Asks Grand Jury Investigation of State Fair

LANSING, Mich., Sept. 29.—A grand jury investigation of the Michigan State Fair has been asked by Governor Williams. "A series of incidents has come to public attention which tend to arouse suspicion concerning the fair," the governor said in a letter to Attorney General Millard. Listing the "incidents," the governor said:

FBI Snatches Coin Rotaries And Diggers

Grabs Made in N. C.-N. J. Under Johnson Law

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—Field offices of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) last week began picking up Rotary and Digger coin-operated machines under the Johnson Law which specifically bans the interstate shipment of gaming machines, heretofore interpreted as meaning bell machines only. While confirming the picking up of the machines nationally, the Justice Department said that no itemized accounts of the seizures have been filed here. However, press dispatches quoting Di-

(Continued on page 87)

Donaldsonville Ups Attractions For Four-Day Run

DONALDSONVILLE, La., Sept. 29.—South Louisiana State Fair will open its four-day run here Thursday (4), with one of the most ambitious attraction programs the annual has presented. In addition to Buff Hottel Shows as the midway attraction for its fourth consecutive year, the annual's night grandstand show will be one of its largest. Booked thru the Ruth Tibbler Theatrical Agency, New Orleans, acts will include Sky-High Alcides, high act; Smetona, perch; Emil and Evelyn, teeterboard; Alfredo Landon's Midgels, Gene Schaefer at the organ, and Emile Parra, emcee. Paramount Fireworks Company will wind up each night show with pyrotechnics. Annual, which operates with a free front gate, will be opened by Gov. Earl K. Long.

Royal Expo Preps For Milledgeville

VIDALIA, Ga., Sept. 29.—J. P. Bolt's Royal Exposition Shows open Monday (8) for a week's run at Middle Georgia Fair, Milledgeville, marking the fourth consecutive year the Bolt organization has played the annual. Special events have been arranged by Paisley Davis, fair secretary, with national, State, school and farm organizations co-operating in contests, prize drawings and other mediums to bring what fair officials hope will be record attendance. A highlight will be J. H. Ennis Day, honoring the fair's ex-president and former member of the Georgia Senate. Many improvements have been made on the fairgrounds, including free parking facilities for more than 1,000 cars.

High Costs Close 6 Aussie Tracks

SYDNEY, Sept. 29.—A driver-demand for additional prize money on top of a 25 per cent increase made last year, plus the continuation of the 20 per cent entertainment tax, has resulted in the shuttering of six Australian speedways. Also affecting the presentation of fender-bender events are increased advertising costs and wages for maintenance and operational employees.

"In the summer of 1950 a long-time member of the State Fair Board resigned his office while his conduct was under investigation by the attorney general. "A short time later the death of a former employee of the fair in an airplane crash gave rise to much newspaper publicity reflecting upon the integrity of the fair's operation. "In October, 1950, Attorney General (Stephen J.) Roth stated publicly that he had turned over to the Federal Bureau of Internal Revenue certain evidence which appeared to indicate violation of federal income tax laws in connection with payments made for concessions at the fair. "On or about September 10 of this year, you (Millard) were quoted by the newspapers as saying that you had evidence leading you to suspect illegal activities in connection with the State fair. "These newspaper accounts quoted you as saying that the State fair was 'cloaked with criminal activity' but that 'we can't get proof because certain people won't talk.' "The situation should be cleared up without delay. Those public officials connected with the State fair whose conduct has been honest and faithful to their trust should be cleared of suspicion. "If, on the other hand, any person connected with the fair has been engaged in any illegal activity, he should be exposed and punished according to law, no matter who he may be."

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Dell, Terrell Units Contract Winter Dates

CHATTANOOGA, Sept. 29.—Tom and Janette Terrell, producers of Dell Bros.' Circus under police union auspices here October 5-7, said this week that they will operate two circus units this winter. Dell Bros. will be their Southern unit, and the Northern unit will be known as Terrell Bros. Henry C. McCoy is booking dates for Dell Bros. and William H. Breese is agent for the Northern unit, they said.

Edmondo Zacchini's cannon act and the Buck Steele Rodeo are among acts booked by Bob Adams, member of the Terrell staff, for the Chattanooga date.

Oklahoma City Gate Tops Peak '47 Pace In First Six Days

Midway Dips Below '50; Night Grandstand Firm, Days Are Up

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Sept. 29.—A record-breaking attendance pace was set by Oklahoma State Fair here thru Thursday (27), sixth day of its eight-day run. C. G. (Pete) Baker estimated that the gate was up about 10 per cent over last year and running ahead of 1947 attendance, the peak year, when the final count was slightly over 350,000.

Given good weather thru the final two days, the fair should top 1947, Baker said. The first four days of the current run were marked by hot weather and the following two by cloudy skies.

While attendance was up, business on the midway was down slightly from last year. Royal American Shows' ride and show takes for the first six days were about 5 per cent under those for the corresponding period last year. Baker ascribed this dip to the fact that money is tighter in the Oklahoma City area, and he cited the fact that more people attending the event are carrying their lunches with them.

Grandstand Biz

Night grandstand business is running about even with 1950. Increased daytime grandstand business is being chalked up, with Baker crediting the horse races for the increase. The hay-burners were in for three afternoons, starting Thursday (27) and on the first of the three days raced before 6,000 for an increase over last year when a motorized attraction was presented.

Aut Swenson's Thrillcade was in for the first three afternoons and played to crowds that matched the 1950 turnouts for thrill shows. Big car auto races, staged by National Speedways (Al Sweeney and Gaylord White), were the features Tuesday and Wednesday (25-26), and also were held before good crowds that equaled the auto race throngs of last year.

A Barnes-Carruthers revue, in for six nights, ending Friday (28), played to about the same number of people as last year in the first five nights.

Opening night grandstand attraction was an all-Indian variety show, a new feature that scored big. An estimated 6,000 persons

saw the performance, in which about 400 Indians participated. Fair will throw open its gates and grandstand tonight for a "Crusade for Freedom" show that will offer local talent and a speaker, with the annual knocking off the admission as its contribution to the Crusade.

Lone Ranger Sparks N. Y. Rodeo Opener

Promoters See Panacea to Box Office Lag in Moppet Star, Tonto and Silver

By JIM McHUGH

NEW YORK, Sept. 29.—Western gents, with a liberal sprinkling of their synthetic Eastern counterparts, returned to Madison Square Garden Wednesday night (26) in a thrilling cowboy spectacle, the 26th annual World's Championship Rodeo. On tap were the usual wild horses and steers, a goodly number of variety acts and the featured and moppet-idolized Lone Ranger in a first-time role.

It could be that the masked hero, his pal, Tonto, and their equally famed horses, Silver and Scout, may be the answer to the corral epic's dwindling attendance in the past several years. If so, they have only 12 days to do it in, since Vaughn Monroe and his musical range hands will be featured during the last half of the run.

Liberal Paper

The liberally papered, the largest opening night crowd in many seasons was on hand and the reception accorded the TV-radio hero was enough to warm the cockles of the promoter's heart. Gene Autry, who had taken on perennial status as feature-partner in the extravaganza, bowed out after the 1950 edition, convinced no doubt that his presence contributed only low-voltage impact.

Rodeo management wisely stimulated the juvenile enthusiasm by inviting the moppets to crowd the arena rails to shake hands with their heros. That's

HARPO MARX SET AS NAME DRAW FOR CHI RODEO

CHICAGO, Sept. 29.—The second edition of the International Championship Rodeo will get under way in the International Amphitheater here October 11 for 11 days with Harpo Marx, movie comedian, as its name attraction.

The rodeo will again be sponsored by a group of stockyards officials, and will be produced by Leo Cremer, Big Timber, Mont., promoter. Events will be under auspices of the Rodeo Cowboys' Association. Tickets are scaled at a \$3 top for boxes down to \$1.20 for balcony ducats.

As an added attraction in the west hall of the building, seven kiddie rides will be operated by Tommy Sacco, Chicago booker. Included in the line-up will be a kiddie Merry-Go-Round, jeeps, planes, train, fire engines, elephants and live ponies.

Herb Pickard, of Pickard-Morrison & Associates, this city, is handling publicity for the rodeo.

Nunis Draws Hefty Crowds At 4 Annuals

TRENTON, N. J., Sept. 29.—Sam Nunis-promoted big car races drew near-capacity crowds at four annuals in the past seven days.

At the Reading (Pa.) Fair Sunday (16), officials announced a gathering of around 40,000 for the AAA races. Near record crowds were reported for the events staged at the Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., Friday (21) and the Allentown (Pa.) Fair and the Shelby (N. C.) Fair on Saturday (22).

Except for weather interference at early dates, the season would have been a banner, Nunis said. Fair dates have been exceptionally good and still dates were okay when good weather prevailed.

the whole appeal of the 15-minute Lone Ranger stint. The upholder of law and order, acted by Brace Beemer, rides to the center of the arena, dismounts, calls attention to his sterling-silver six-shooters and cautions moppets and their parents to be good. Tonto then comes on, remarks that the city is "heap big" and prompts the Ranger's recitation of his code, after which the idols ride along the arena rail grasping as many hands as possible.

Speedy Pace

While the format is essentially the same with bona fide competitive events offering spine-tingling action, the pace this year has been accelerated due largely to the elimination of the dreamy, worn-out production numbers such as the home-on-the-range pageantry with the walk-around of longhorn cattle. Offered instead are such sprightly attrac-

(Continued on page 64)

3 Stock Drivers Injured at Hatfield

HATFIELD, Pa., Sept. 29.—Three stock-car race drivers were injured, one seriously, in accidents at the Hatfield Speedway here last Sunday (23). Most seriously hurt was William Brown, who sustained a head injury, crushed left arm and possible internal injuries. Robert Montgomery and Bill Smashay were slightly injured.

Van Deusen Wins Miami Shrine Pact

Berger First Florida Org to Get 17½G Production Job

MIAMI, Sept. 29.—Burton E. Van Deusen, representing the Jerome H. Berger Agency, this week announced that he had been awarded the talent contract for the Shrine Show that will be staged in the Stadium here December 8-9. Talent and production costs have been set at \$17,500, Van Deusen said.

First attraction signed was Bobby Benson, kid star of the Mutual Broadcasting Company's (MBS) B-Bar-B stanza. The show will run two and one-half hours. Signing of the pact marks the first time that a local agency has handled the major event. Van Deusen said. Affair has been handled by the Frank Wirth Agency, New York, in recent years.

The show is the first of its type to be scheduled for the Miami Baseball Stadium.

Van Deusen, former male half of Van and Arvola, joined the Berger Agency last May. He will assume full partnership on January 1, 1952 when the title will be changed to Berger-Van Deusen and the company will move to larger quarters.

Conn. D. A. Okays New Pyro Ruling

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Sept. 29.—New State fireworks law will not be investigated by Atty. Gen. George C. Conway.

Gov. John D. Lodge suggested that Conway investigate the measure after manufacturers protested that the law gave a "practical monopoly" to the manufacturing firm of M. Backus Son, Inc., of Wallingford, Conn.

New law, passed by the General Assembly shortly before last July 4, limited the diameter of the two-inch salute to 7/16 inches. This made the regular two-inch salute with the ½-inch diameter illegal.

The Wallingford firm was the only one able to manufacture salutes to the new specifications, and rival manufacturers charged the firm had received advance notice of the law's provisions.

In declining to investigate the law, Conway told the governor he "presumed" the General Assembly had considered their action legal, and he "presumed," as his legal opinion, that the law was constitutional.

He stated: "As a practical matter, no find of fact or determination as to validity either by this office or any other office can have any effect upon the legislation in question, and so any investigation by this office as has been suggested is both superfluous and without legal effect and contrary to established legal procedure."

Ohio Home Show Plans Completed

COLUMBUS, O., Sept. 29.—Plans were completed this week for this city's Home Progress Show, which gets under way here October 2 under direction of National Home Shows, Inc., Dallas, with Charles W. Moore as managing director. Sponsoring the show is the Columbus Home Builders' Association.

Talent line-up includes Willie Fischer and his Log-Jammers. WLW-C will handle remote TV shows and an estimated \$40,000 in prizes will be awarded during the event's run. Exhibits from all fields of the home building and home furnishing business will be featured.

Also on the program will be a contest for housewives to determine the winner of the Mrs. Columbus award. Grover A. Godfrey, president of National Home Shows, and Harry LeBrequer, public relations boss, will be on hand for the opening of the event.