

"BUSTED FOR BUSKING"

RAY JASON, IJA'S SAN FRANCISCO STREET JUGGLER, ARRESTED AUGUST 11

On August 11th the police arrested me while performing my juggling act. They charged me with *begging* and *public nuisance*. I spent 4 hours in City Prison before Maria [Maria Addonizio—new member this month —Editor] could bail me out. We were never able to determine what the motivation behind the arrest was *i.e.* the individual policemen acting on their own initiative, a local businessman, a local resident, somebody at City Hall, or what. However their strategy backfired. I got a lot of support from people, the press, and the media, so it should, hopefully, be more difficult than ever for them to hassel street performers. Robert Shields' (street mime) lawyer defended me and the D.A. dismissed the charges at the arraignment. In order to publicise the case and strengthen public support I returned to my regular corner as usual on Friday the 17th (4 days before arraignment) but dressed in convict's stripes with a ball and chain. Three TV news departments were there along with photographers and reporters from both the San Francisco *Chronicle* and *Examiner*. Got some excellent favorable coverage. Herb Caen ran 2 helpful items in 8 days. At this point it appears like a victory for street performers. I certainly hope so.

—RAY JASON

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JUGGLER JAILED

Ray Jason, the Union Street Juggler and probably the most unique entertainer on the streets of San Francisco was arrested last week on a charge of begging. Mr. Jason has been amusing and amazing residents and visitors alike in San Francisco since October 13, 1972.

Mr. Jason blocks no sidewalk. He performs on a platform in front of a shop whose owner has given him permission to do so. His performance is accomplished, his patter light and playful. The response of his crowds of onlookers makes it clear that he is well-beloved by tourists and residents alike. It is, considering one only gives him money if one wishes, the best show in town. He does not "beg" or ask for "spare change."

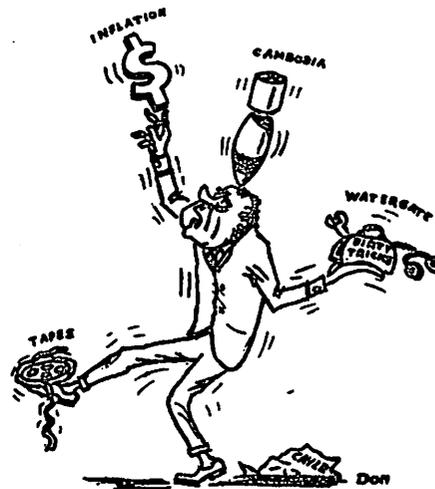
The harassment of Mr. Jason and his arrest by the local police is an insult to the spirit of San Francisco and to the thousands of people who have watched him perform, applauded and been entertained. Somewhere in the city someone was being robbed, another was being beaten, houses were being burglarized, and numerous other crimes that bring pain and loss to citizens were being carried out successfully. The police, having nothing better to do with their time and with the money which we pay them to buy clothes, food, automobiles and the necessities of daily living, were out arresting a man whose only crime was to bring a little authentic gaiety to the streets of a city whose nightlife becomes more mundane and pallid with each passing year.

The motives of the police could be several: (1) Two officers acting on their own initiative decided that they didn't like Jason's act (shades of Lenny Bruce!); (2) Someone in the police department has decided that now that summer is waning and the tourists are leaving they could garner a few feathers by showing the "forthright" citizens that they were cleaning up the streets; (3) This is only the beginning of a drive by local politicians to control, tax and ghettoize artistic activity in San Francisco. (Recall that the street artists are having legal battles, congo drummers on Market Street have also been arrested.) In any case, it bodes ill for San Francisco to arrest its artists, especially since the genuine ones are few and far between.

—N. Whetstone

*Juggling's no sin, for we must have victual:
Nature allows us to bait for the fool.
Holding one's own makes us juggle no little;
But, to increase it, hard juggling's the rule.
You that are sneering at my profession,
Haven't you juggled a vast amount?
There's the Prime Minister, in one session,
Juggles more games than my sins'll count.*

—GEORGE MEREDITH
"Juggling Jerry"
(verse five)



A POLITICAL CARTOON
from a Committee of
Resistance handbill

OUT OF THE PAST STREET JUGGLING IN LONDON OVER A HUNDRED AND TEN YEARS AGO

I'm a juggler, but I don't know if that's the right term, for some people call conjurers jugglers; but it's wrong. When I was in Ireland they called me a "Manualist". The difference I makes between conjuring and juggling is, one's deceiving to the eye and the other's pleasing to the eye—yes, that's it—it's dexterity.

I dare say I've been at juggling 40 years, for I was between 14 and 15 when I begun, and I'm 56 now. I suppose I'm the oldest juggler alive.

One night I went to the theatre, and there I see Ramo Samee doing his juggling; I only wanted to do as he did. Directly I got home I got two of the plates, and went into a back-room and began practicing, making it turn round on the top of a stick. I broke nearly all the plates in the house doing this—that is what I didn't break I cracked. I broke the entire set of a dozen plates, and yet couldn't do it. I got enough money to have a tin plate made with a deep rim, and with this plate I learnt it, so that I could afterwards do it with a crockery one. I got a set of wooden balls turned, and stuck coffin-nails all over them, so that they looked like metal when they was up; and I began teaching myself to chuck them. It took a long time learning it, but I was fond of it, and determined to do it. Then I got some tin knives made and learnt to throw them: and I bought some iron rings, and bound them with red and blue tape, to make them look handsome; and I learnt to toss them the same as the balls. I dare say I was a twelvemonth before I could juggle well. When I could throw the three balls middling tidy I used to do them on stilts, and that was more than ever a man attempted in them days; and yet I was only sixteen or seventeen years of age. I was the first man seed in Ireland either juggling or on the stilts. I'd balance pipes, straws, peacock's feathers, and the twirling plate.

I'm well known in London, and the police knows me so well they very seldom interfere with me. Sometimes they say, "That's not allowed, you know, old man!" and I'd say, "I shan't be above two or three minutes." and then go on with the performance.

Juggling is the same now as ever it was, for there ain't no improvements on the old style as ever I heerd on; and I suppose the balls and knives and rings will last for a hundred years to come yet.

I should say there ain't above twenty jugglers in all England—indeed, I'm sure there ain't—such as goes about pitching in the streets and towns. I know of only four others besides myself in London, unless some new ones have sprung up very lately.

[Quoted, edited, and condensed for the *IJA Newsletter* from Vol. 3 of Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor*, 1861. —Ed.]

BOOK ON KARA COMING

HERMANN SAGEMULLER WRITES:

In december comes out my book about Kara, with more than 30 fotos.
I think Cinquevalli was one of the greatest jugglers of all Time.

MORE ABOUT PAUL CINQUEVALLI

Paul Cinquevalli.



ADDITIONS TO CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PAUL CINQUEVALLI:

- 1895-1927 DER ARTIST (over forty issues concern Cinquevalli)
 1901 November 16 NEW YORK CLIPPER
 1904 THE WIDE WORLD MAGAZINE Slipping to death.
 1908 THE MAGICIAN ANNUAL Will Goldston. Juggling Manipulations.
 1910 Signor Saltarino. Das Artistentum und seine Geschichte.
 1910 May 9 BELAGE ZUM KLEINEN JOURNAL Aus dem Leben eines
 Meisterjongleurs. (Die Geschichte von Paul Cinquevalli.)
 1912 P. Richards. Zeichner und "Gezeichnete". Berlin.
 1918 October 13 DAS PROGRAMM
 1926 Edna Ferber. Show Boat. New York.
 1926 Joseph Halperson..Das Buch vom Circus. Duesseldorf: E. Lintz.
 1930 June 1 DAS PROGRAMM P. Richards with Paul Cinquevalli. Aus
 verlungenen Zeiten.
 1938 February-March THE LINKING RING H.R. Evans. Jugglers and
 juggling.
 1944-1945 December-January THE LINKING RING M.S. Mahendra. Jugglers,
 past and present.
 1947 THE LINKING RING Leo Rullman. Jugglers of yesteryear.
 1959 June M.U.M. Harlan Tarbell. Tarbell talks.
 1962 April (Tulsa, Oklahoma) COLLECTORS' BULLETIN #11 [reprint of:
 1893 Dec. 27 (London) THE SKETCH A talk w/ P. Cinquevalli]
 1967 Phyllis Hartnoll (Ed.). The Oxford Companion to the Theatre.
 London: Oxford University Press.
 n.d. Konrad Brinkman. Der Konig der Jongleure!
 n.d. Laurence Glen. The Magician's Road to Fame. London.
 n.d. H.R. Palmer. Magic Made Merry.

[All the above additions to last month's CINQUEVALLI Bibliography
 were provided by ROGER MONTANDON and HERMANN SAGEMULLER. --Ed.]

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER — OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER EMERITUS
LANE BLUMENTHAL WRITES:

Today, Sept. 13, I received a package containing letterheads and envelopes. I was surprised to find my name listed in the 1973-74 officers. My thanks.

I first met Hovey at the Ashtabula, Ohio, Convention in 1958. I took pictures of his 7-ball bounce, something I had never seen performed by a juggler. I had seen 5-ball bounce done by jugglers, but never had I seen the 7-ball bounce. To me, it was something that very few jugglers were doing.

Since that year I had gone to all IJA Conventions. My first one was in 1954, after I retired from the printing trade. Later on, I saw Hovey and Tommy Curtin in the "Circus goes to College", they did a great juggling act.

When Hovey visited Los Angeles during time at Pasadena studying at a college theatre school, he came to Los Angeles and visited Danny Rees and family. He had a beard on his lower jaw. I took a picture of him, and sent one to Tommy Curtin.

I am a retired union printer after a long time in the [ITU?]. I had a total of over 35 years in the printing trade. Now I am living at the Union Printers Home in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Came here May 22, 1969, from Los Angeles where I had lived since 1933. I have a room for myself. All residents have their own room. About 300 residents here, including about a dozen women, who follow the printing trade as proofreaders. The best of doctors, nurses, nurse aids and orderlies give their best to look after us. I appreciate all services given to me. Meals are served each day to all rooms. The best of food, and everything is good.

I am a wheelchair user. Arthritis has taken over my legs. I am stone deaf, and almost totally blind, but I find my way around the halls.

When I went to my first IJA Convention held at Elkhart, Indiana in 1954, I met many of the great jugglers who made the yearly conventions. Since that year I went to eleven IJA Conventions.

Such a life I have gone through. I am 85½ years old. Born in Lincoln, Nebraska, March 14, 1888. Moved to Hastings, Nebraska in 1900. Then to Douglas, Arizona to live there for 17 years. Was in the soda fountain business for 13 years, sold out, and over to the printing trade in 1925.

—Lane Blumenthal

(I hope you can read my words. I can't see what I write.)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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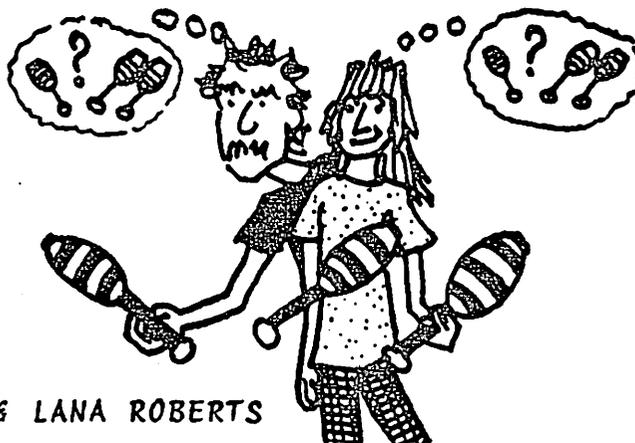
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DON REED & LANA ROBERTS

THE EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

This entry in the editor's notebook is typed in haste. I must catch a plane to Sarasota, Florida and I have just arrived on a plane from Cleveland, Ohio having spent most of September in Montreal, Canada and most of October in Venice, Florida.

CLOWN COLLEGES

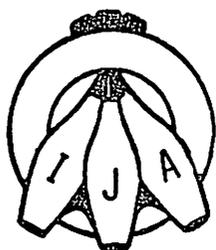
On sabbatical leave from New York University this semester, I am serving as Juggling Instructor for the sixth session (September 24th through November 18th 1973) of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey CLOWN COLLEGE (P.O. Box 1528 Venice, Florida 33595). Past CLOWN COLLEGE Juggling Instructors Susan Johnson and Geza Szabo were busy performing: Susan with a flying trapeze act and Geza with the red unit of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Jugglers Phil Berube and Ed Sparrow are on the faculty of the NATIONAL CLOWN COLLEGE, a 15-week course which began October 16th and is being offered by Clowns of America, Inc. in conjunction with Dundalk Community College (7200 Sollers Point Road, Baltimore, Maryland 21222) tuesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm.

IJA MEMBERS ON TELEVISION.

BOBBY SANDLER appeared on the FLIP WILSON SHOW (October 4th). THE JUGGLING PICKLE FAMILY (LARRY PISONI, CECIL MacKINNON and non-member named PEGGY) appeared on the BOB McALLISTER WONDERAMA SHOW (October 21st). In Cleveland to appear on the MORNING EXCHANGE SHOW (October 22nd), HOVEY and JUDY BURGESS visited with EMILY and BOBBY MAY the night before. BOBBY is much improved from his very serious heart attack, but his doctor does not, as yet, permit him to drive or juggle. BOBBY MAY saw BOBBY SANDLER on the FLIP WILSON SHOW and was very impressed with his comic ability.

KB



VOL. 25, No. 10 - OCTOBER 1973
 PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE INTER-
 NATIONAL JUGGLERS' ASSOCIATION.
 SUBSCRIPTION BY IJA MEMBERSHIP.

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