

BACK YARD

Volume III, Issue #45

June 15, 1998

AND SUDDEN MURDER

By Fred C. Logan

as told to K. D. Curtis-State Historical Society of Colorado, *Library Magazine*.

(Reprinted with permission of Fred C. Logan)

THE SUDDEN and spine-tickling chill of a big-game hunter faced by an enraged killer . . . the nerves-on-fire tension of a tank crew groping through a mined battlefield . . . the ego-inflating sensation of one man deftly triggering some gargantuan clamshell strong enough to batter in walls of stone. Are these the red-blooded thrills you've often wished could be yours? Do you wish for excitement in your job? Come with me.

I'm an old bull man (elephant trainer) with the circus. Let me tell you about the huge, unpredictable and sometimes dangerous giants I live with. After this maybe you'll appreciate your routine-and safer-job. First, I want you to remember that ever since those ancient battles on the plains of India, when herds of huge tuskers (tough males) with guiding *mahouts* atop each head charged the enemy, elephants have always been greatly feared. Back in those days each of these huge flesh-and-blood "tanks" was outfitted in steel armor plate & studded with spears. Each had sharpened iron blades fixed to his wicked tusks. Even the brute's forehead held a lethal ramming device. And like a Sioux warrior's face, each tusk was smeared with bright red war paint. Just before the battle each tusker was given a shot of heated wine, spiced with the hottest Oriental peppers. And every beast was trained to batter, ram and crush with his mammoth head. To kick, trounce and



crush. To gore with tipped tusks, to toss, strangle and beat with his trunk.

Come with me to my line-up of bulls. Here a network of chains keeps all 14 of my herd securely tethered, side by side. Here you'll find a 100,000 pounds of muscular power, courage, intelligence, and potential danger. Marvel with me at the anatomy of an elephant, towering 8 to 10 feet in height (always twice the circumference of the right front foot). Wonder at death-dealing feet that kick in any direction; feet tough enough to walk through a grass fire, (Continued on Page 4)

BACK YARD

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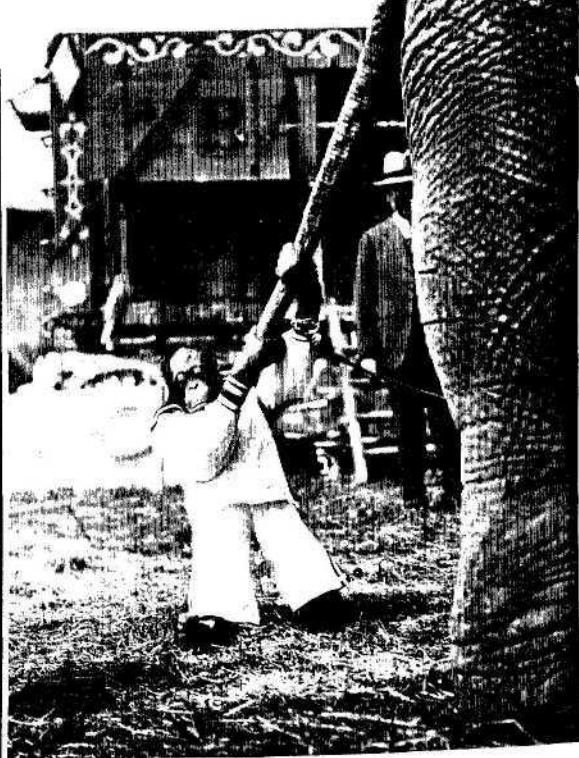
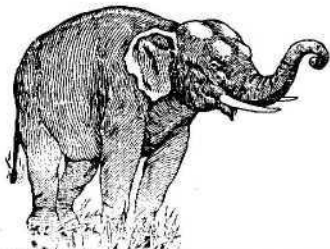
The column, "The Fox," is written by Jenny Wallenda. Other material is written by Cherie Valentine, unless otherwise identified as to author. Reprints from other published material are identified as to source. Comments by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher. Back Yard is a pro-circus, pro-animal publication, which supports the use of animals which are legally held and properly cared for, in the American circus.

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BOBBY HAKES ANSWERS QUESTIONS...

Your editor asked Bobby what it was like to perform on the sway pole and how on earth was it put up!! He said: "To work a Sway Pole you must be a good rigger to stay alive; that is as important as learning the tricks, at 125 feet or higher, the people can't really see what you're doing that well, so you must move your arms & legs a lot to keep their attention. My Sway Pole was guyed out every 16 feet; each section was 8 feet long. You put 2 sections together to start & drove 4 stakes, 16 feet out & set them up. You put on a belt like telephone linemen or a lumberjack wear. The bottom sections had steps so you put the rope around the pole & stood on the steps; that left your hand free to work. We had what we called a Gin Pole, about 12' long, with clamps on the bottom that you attached to the top section that you were on. On the top of the Gin Pole there was a pulley. The top of the Gin Pole is now about 10' above the section you are on; you lower the rope in the pulley to the ground & they tie the next section of pole & pull it up to you & you slip it into the top of the section. You unclamp the Gin Pole & climb up on the section you just put in & reclamp it to that section. Then, you lower the pulley rope for the next section that has guy lines on it; you slip it in & they guy it out.

You are now 32' up. You do this until you have 5 sets of guy lines & are 80' up. The rest of the pole has no steps. So now you take a rope about 4' long with loops for your feet in each end & tie a half-hitch around the section with no steps. You slide the Gin Pole up the section. You now put your feet below the half-hitch & pull it up, then kick your feet to the sides & it tightens so that you can stand in the loops like stirrups. You now have a belt on with a rope around the pole. Your feet are in stirrups so that both your hands are free & you lower the pulley rope & they send the next section up & you slip it in until you are 120 feet up in the air! Then you get the gimmick for hand stands & put it in. Sometimes I would work 32' higher for certain carnival dates as a free act. I joined the Gil Gray Circus & did my act; Gil sent Cleo Plunkett to tell me he liked the act, but would like different wardrobe. I told him I had to wear the navy/white trousers because of the slide I did to dismount the Sway Pole. Cleo said Gil would pay for the wardrobe & not to make waves, so I said alright. They made me a nice bolero & satin trousers which looked good & flashy. I did my act & then did my slide down. I used to put the pole between my legs in a sitting position & just drop 40 feet, tighten my legs

& stop myself about 4' off the ground, right in the people's laps. I came down, but the satin trousers came apart & fell down on their own. There I stood in my underwear. I was the hit of the show!

ERNIE BURCH TO BE HONORED

"Blinko" will be honored at the International Clowns Hall of Fame, Milwaukee, WI on July 31-August 1. His lovely wife, Maran, will be attending the ceremonies. Ernie designed the clown make-up worn by Jimmy Stewart in "The Greatest Show On Earth." He also made up Stewart each day. This is a great honor and I hope Maran will share her experiences with Back Yard when she returns from the Hall of Fame. Coming in the next issue of Back Yard will be a few of Ernie's favorite recipes. Maran taught him to make Hungarian & Italian dishes & soon he became known as the "Galloping Gourmet of the Circus."

***AI House** reports that he visited **Beatty-Cole** in Middletown, NY. Weather was cool with a strong breeze. The top was in no danger of blowing as it was very tightly guyed out. It's structure allows wind to get around it, not flow over & under it. The ticket line formed about 7:15 pm & all ticket holders weren't in till about 7:50. The Rodriguez Wheel act drew gasps as the thrill act. Clowns worked hard to get some laughs. However, the audience was "cold." Aerial ballet's choreography & cloud swings garnered much applause. (Your editor thinks it is great the aerial number is back in-I really enjoyed performing on the swinging ladders.) Both the flying & the turnik or casting acts were well received. The elephant routine is novel, a vast departure from the past & gives the illusion of a big number of elephants, when only 6 bulls are present. (Your editor remembers the good 'ole days when Freddie Logan had the bulls & I could watch them in the sideshow & I still remember that I memorized their names-Pete, Sue, Helen, Maude, Freida, Jewel, Debbie, Missie, Omi. Great job, Cap.!) Teardown is rapid as usual. However, with the upgrading of the pieces in the grandstand, the dismantling is very labor intensive. Much of the fleet didn't move until about midnight for a 70 mile run to Norwalk, for a 3 day-stand with numerous sellouts & a black tie dinner on Friday evening. Billy & Angela Martin visited the show on their way south to see the Vidbel show about 40 miles away.

*Can anyone identify all the performers on the back page of Issue #44 of Back Yard?? Let me know.

ANY SUDDEN MURDER.....

but sensitive to any tiny object underfoot! At an unbelievably handy trunk equipped with 40,000 muscles. Inside the cavernous body are ballooning lungs; a 28 pound heart with animaldom's slowest beat, 40 per minute; even 11 pounds of inside testicles, making castration of a mean male almost impossible. The elephant also has a brain with more convolutions than any living thing except man.

Before we come alongside to inspect this first big male, notice how I warn him of my approach, always on his left, by singing out his name. If surprised, he might lay me out with a trunk blow. Never trust a bull too far, no matter how well you know him. Too many men have died doing it. "Rajah! Steady boy!" Notice how I keep that trunk in front of me, where I can use my bull hook (a short hooked staff) in case the old boy decides to grab a wrist or ankle & whip my body through the air like a slingshot, or suddenly wrap his trunk around my neck in a cobra strangle. "Up foot. Rajah!" See him stall, faking absent-mindedness? "Up foot!" Now he stirs lazily. This is the last call. "Rajah! Up foot!" No response? I take my bull hook & bring it smartly down on his huge toes. "Up foot!" His trunk curls menacingly. But his foot lifts promptly & properly so that I can inspect underneath that great pad. "Down foot, Rajah." I chastised him because every successful (& living) bull man must follow the philosophy of a prison warden-he must be feared, but he must also earn the respect of his wards by absolute fairness.

Now the eyes. Never move anything quickly before them, if you want to live. Rajah's are large, clear, intelligent. Small, beady, cloudy eyes, say Burma's famed *singoungs*, spell treachery. Next, a most important inspection. The musth gland. See it here, near the ear? It's caused more trouble, cost more human lives, killed more elephants than anything else. Whole Oriental communities quake when, each year for some 40 days, this sticky, smelly musth gland flows. It means a male is in his breeding season. He'll fight almost anything to death, in his native jungle or the circus lot. He'll drive his tusks between the hind legs of another male, seeking to rupture his testicles. He'll batter, bruise, even kill, any female who resists his clumsy, powerful & relentless love-making. (Females more mildly seek a sweetheart every 22 months.)

See Rajah's big tusks? Nice forward curves. If they flared outward, it would mean trouble. I'll chuck his lower lip.

He likes that. Watch him open his huge mouth, big enough to "nutcracker" a man. "Good boy, Rajah. We're through." We'll reward him with "elephant candy"-juicy, fresh carrots. Want to hear some true hair-raisers while I check the rest of the bulls? Well, 18 years ago I left my Canadian home for a carnival's elephant act in the States. I was fresh & eager. My Dad, a land agent, wasn't too sold on the dangerous trade, but he was nice about it.

To pound home to a daring youth that all elephants, no matter what their background & history, are potentially dangerous because they'll fake docility for months until you become soft & careless, I was often told this true circus classic: Back when circuses traveled by wagon, Columbus, a huge & apparently safe bull, was being shepherded by a beginning keeper on horseback at the rear of the wagon train. Just as they entered a Louisiana town, Columbus suddenly pounced on his keeper. With one mighty truck blow he blackjacked the man to earth. Once flattened, Columbus beat out his life by trampling. Then Columbus jumped the maddened horse & caved in his ribs.

Now Columbus started down the row of wagons. Caged & dangerous animals paced inside. Fortunately, the cage he chose to smash to smithereens held harmless llamas. Now trumpeting his anger, he dashed for a black mule skinner. The man screamed, abandoned the mules, & fled to a concealing fence. Columbus hesitated. He decided to be thorough, so he seized the mules one by one & tore them apart. Then he started hunting down the driver. He spotted him quickly. Blowing off his wrath, he uprooted the fence & seized the man. He flailed him repeatedly to the ground, then tromped him to death. Now, Columbus headed for town. He roared through the streets as fear-crazed townspeople ran for cover. He bulldozed through fences & hedges & seized and killed several horses, cows & mules. The rampaging beast was finally stopped by 3 bullets from a brave bull man's rifle. But even that didn't kill him. He just wore the wounds as battle scars for life. Elephants, I was warned, devise revengeful acts no other animal is capable of. To illustrate this, I was told of Emperor, who bolted off an unloading ramp & headed for the town's foundry. He crashed the door, to be confronted by a trough of molten metal. His 3 tons of weight had built up so much momentum that Emperor piled himself right into the fiery bath. Gripped with pain, he staggered out & seized the closest man (who, he was sure, had devised this torture). He whiplashed him off his feet, smashed him against the concrete floor,

& shattered both his legs. Then he heaved the unfortunate man through a big plate-glass window. An angered elephant's sense of macabre mischief equals any hoodlum's. Bulls have pitched keepers into property chests, then submerged them under creek water until they drowned. They've ripped off house porches, smashed cottage walls, snapped light poles & ripped up wiring, overturned box cars, yanked garage doors off hinges & pushed the car through the opposite wall, uprooted trees with their trunks and bowled over statues in public squares. Sometimes they delight in scaring the devil out of a man without harming him.

Now how would you like to envision yourself as an apprentice learning a fundamental operation, that of moving herd elephants afoot from point to point? And while you're at it, think of an eventuality that can happen to any good bull man—a stampede.

You're with me now in 1946 as we handle 14 elephants, tail to trunk, across Iowa. Every inch of the way we pray there'll be no curious dog barking, no auto backfire, no loud traffic noises. Often bulls will seize any excuse to break & run. Everything is going peacefully. Now we're at the edge of town, near a field. Watch it! Here that growl & bark? Here he comes charging! A snarling, barking dog.

Up goes the trunk of Big Mac, my lead bull. He tilts his tusks upward. This means "charge!" He blasts out a challenge that chills you. With a powerful yank he rips free of my bull hook. Instantly every bull in the line breaks formation. With a mighty lunge, Big Mac is off & running. Others squeal their excitement, lash their trunks, & join the runaway. God save the spectators!

I yell for you to run back to the circus for help. I'll give chase to keep the bulls in sight. Fortunately a passing motorist, glad to leave these parts, gives you a ride. You come back with re-enforcements—truckloads of circus help, pike poles, chains, hawsers, guns. I get near enough to Big Mac to shout commands, threaten, cajole & even bribe with treats. Finally he turns, swings out his huge ears, & starts dog-trotting right toward me. Is it love-or hate? As a bull man I've got to take that chance. I just pray-for myself, my wife, our 2 youngsters. He comes up grumbling. With my bull hook I reach out for his trunk. He whirls cannily. I miss. He tries sideswiping me. I dodge. I reach again & hook a hind leg. Immediately Big Mac stops dead, full of docility. To him the touch of a bull hook spells authority. A few minutes later,

his leg is chained to 2 trucks, spread apart. With their leader in chains other bulls sense the party is over. Mumbling & grumbling, their bluff met with pike poles, they're rounded up.

If you're visiting a tent show during gale-like winds, stay away from the menagerie tent. In Nebraska in 1952 someone misjudged the strength of our baby elephants. They yanked free of their picket chains when canvas began popping & stampeded across to their truck. On the way they smashed through a tent wall, crashed poles, men & power lines. Squealing & bleating their terror, they galloped through the midway, scattering baby carriages, popcorn vendors, side-show spielers & hand-holding lovers. Fortunately their truck door was open. Otherwise they would have rummaged through every open door, possibly trampling several people.

Like any other understudy, sometimes the asst. elephant man gets experience by taking over. My assistant, Roy, hadn't noticed that 2 big bulls were enjoying grudging activity on the picket line. In such cases you avoid positioning them together during a performance. All went well with the act. I stood by outside to lead the bulls back to picket. Then Roy, in maneuvering, placed the 2 meanies next to each other. It was just briefly, accidentally. In that moment pandemonium broke loose. They began roaring & rearing & beating each other with trunks. Bravely Roy fought for control. But, riled up by the unrehearsed fight, the rest of the herd suddenly broke out of the ring & headed for the entrance, where the flap was temporarily lowered. Confused, they ripped off the canvas. Then, still confused, they grumbled & trumpeted their displeasure & began circling the outside of the big top.

I came running across the lot, just in time to be bashed down. I almost fainted as the entire herd, like leapfrogging tanks, hurdled over my body without turning a hair! (It must be a world's record!) Round & round the tent went the beasts. Ripping down men, bashing in poles, upsetting equipment. Panicky crowds poured out as the great tent began to sag. I'm sorry to say that before we got the brutes under control, several circus-goers were severely injured in this southern town. But don't let this story get you down on circus elephants. Actually mishaps are so rare that going to the circus is safer than driving your car down the highway. Well, here we've come to Eva, the last bull on the picket line. A quick look-see & I'm through.

(Continued on Page 9)

THE FOX !

#56

My dear friends;

I would be so much easier to write, if you would drop me a line some times, so I know that you all are alright. Also lots of you would like to hear from all of you, so, sit down and write me what all of you doing now days.

Now to my report:

We lost some more friends in our midds.

Angela the sister of Janosh and Harry Dubsy lost her battle with life. She had bad trouble for the last year with her liver and is now gone for ever. She was a lovely person. After her first husband Cloud Rivolan died she was very sad and stayed more sucluded until she started going out with her future husband Carl Pavolate. She told me several times how happy she was and it was a joy to me seeing her bloom after the sorrow in losing Cloud. Now she is in peace, she suffered with her sickness a lot last year. I hope Carl finds peace in knowing that he made her last years joyfully. As I understand he also is not in perfect health. So pray for him to get well. Angela, after leaving the Circus (Risly Act) she became a very good hairdresser. She also left behind her daughter Janette and one Grandchild. Their will be memorial held in July when all the Family will be home.

Tony Scott is the other person we lost and she was a survivor from breast cancer and I just found out that for the last year she was in a nursing home. She was a show girl on the Ringling Circus for many years, also after retiring from the Circus, she was very busy being a bartender in lots of places around town. She was the wife of the late Arky Scott. (Elephant trainer) she is leaving behind many friends, I believe she also had a brother and two sons. Their will be a memorial set for a later date in June at Showfolks of Sarasota Clubhouse.

Wlastec Valla Bertini, had to be hospitalized but is home now recovering.

Mireille Arnosi had to go also to the hospital, as she was alergig to some of the medication the doctor prescribed for the pain in her bones.

Wanda Joanides is back from her trip to Italy, and I guess as usually she had a great time with her Family over there.

Just found out that Dinkies Parents had been in town to

take care of her left over belongings. I am so sorry that I did not get to see them while they were here.

I had some dear friends from Germany visiting me for a few weeks and let me tell you it is great to get together with Friends from your past. It refreshes your memories, the good and the bad.

A little bird told me that there was a real nice Party at Derick Rosair Srs house. Every one had a great time. .

Had a call from Bill Brickle, he informed me that he will help Sara, Steward Millers wife this year to fulfill the dates that Stew had already signed up. I think this is just a great thing he is doing and I know that Stew is looking down from up there with aprovel and great thankfulness. The daughter of Kisa and Antonett Schweinsaupt former the Antonetts teeterboard act had fallen while at work and injured her bad Arm again and had several more operation on it.

Nina Unus is back from her 3 week visit by her son.

Well Walker brother tent show is off on the road, the Building show went just great so now back to the tent show. Cha Cha is busy with all the ticket sending out.

Antonetta Mac Mahon is back with her husband on the road, she is very glad that she at least got to see her former sister in law before she passed away.

Haji Dubsy is home and is throughing a big Party on Memorial day, for his age generation and all the kids will be there to, I mean the little once. Boy this must be something to write about.

Tony Bartock is working all over Florida and doing a real good job I was told by friends who went to see the show. John Paul Arnosi is back in town, when I ask him what he is up to these days, his answer was, N O T H I N G . Mia Otto (Arnosi) has her husband home for a 2 week visit, then he has to go back to work, but Mia is planing to take the Kids to Poland for a visit and will meet up there again with husband Wscheck.

Jeany Singleton (Sleeter) is also going now on full retirement she informed me. Lets see how she will like it. It aint easy.

Brenda Hemmeon told me her and Richard are taking life day by day. She will have and other operation on her knee.

Rietta is back from the Iowa dates with brother Ricky, I was told the dates did not work out to well. They will be leaving beginning of June for a few more dates and then will be going in to a park with Rickys show turn of the Century. Rietta told me she will be doing the highpole,

the double perch and I believe she said the Lyra, or Web I am not to sure, I just saw her for a few minutes.

The 7 men pyramid of the Wallendas is put back in retirement, I will not say it was the last time they will do it, but for now it is finished. I was told that the Riggins is given to some museum but if they have to do it again, they will just build a new one. Now a days no one will pay what it is worth and there were 4 Wallenda acts involved, so this would make it 4 Salaries for 4 acts. And then there were 2 more acts involved. also in some way related to the Family. There is a saying, if you want the best you have to pay for it. Now they all went there separate ways. Delilah and her family to a park, (by the way Delilah took Hulio the Sisilian Donkey with her to the Park.) Tino and his Family are doing Fair dates. Sasha Pvlata (Cousin of Olinka) is doing her cloudswing act and teaching. Tony Hernandez (Fiance of Lijana) went back to Chicago with his sister to teach acrobatic. Rietta went back to brother Ricky to help him out. So there you have the whole story. Oh yes there will be an other documentary coming out in the Fall with the learning channel. Rose Alba Albaracin (I do not know her new name) was in town for a visit and then she will be on her way to Columbia to visit with her Family. I also missed seeing her.

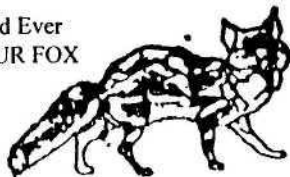
Valery Reed (Wallenda) put clorox in her toilet to clean it, when husband Freddy came home he went straight to the bedroom and poured chemicals in the toilet not knowing what wife had done, well next there was a big explosion, the septic tank went bum and put a big hole in the trailer and sprayed all the sewage all over the trailer. They all had to move out for a week to get it all repaired. Tammy Wallenda rented a house to stay in with her 4 children. she also babysits the kids from Lyn Hernandez at daytimes.

The Nocks are off for this season to Hawaii and then Japan.

Now last but not least I like to tell you about a meeting I went to . I was pretty upset, there was one person who just likes to smear dirt on everyone. He has a great big mouth and does not care about law and order. All he likes to do is criticize every one and things with his loud foul mouth can win over everyone. I will not tell you what meeting it was and who the person is. But I was sorry that I came their to be witness to such a foul display.

Lots of Love

For Ever and Ever
YOUR FOX



BACK YARD GOSSIP.....

*Rumor has it that **Ringling** has run into problems with **Circus Krone**. Ringling will have a tent circus, playing shopping centers to go along with their contract with Sears. (Let's bring them to Bloomington, IL to our newly re-modeled Sears store!) It is said that they may rent the Circus Nocks of Switzerland equipment & tent. They WILL have animals.

*A group of animal rights activists demonstrated against **Kelly Miller Circus** June 2 at Monessen, PA. They were from the western PA chapter of Mobilization for Animals. **David Rawls**, manager of the circus denied that the circus animals are mistreated. He said the animals are inspected regularly & frequently by the USDA & the circus has passed those inspections. He said the animals, which includes horses & elephants, were inspected the day before by a Humane Society officer, who gave the circus a passing mark. "I'd stack my care of the animals up against anybody's," Rawls said.

Trey Key, general agent for Kelly Miller, said, "I think any group would be hard-pressed to produce evidence of our abuse to the animals. We're proud of the condition of the animals." **Ronald Vivio**, chairman of the sponsor's special events committee said, "These animals live better in captivity than they do in the wilds," explaining that some may be killed by predators in their natural habitat. He also complained that the animal rights protesters "get publicity way out of proportion to the support they have in the general public. What makes them an expert in animal treatment?"

*The **Emmett Kelly Tent** of Hagerstown, MD is planning several surprises this year, as December 9th would have been Emmett's 100th birthday. I can't wait to see them!

*A correction to the last Back Yard-(can't win 'em all, folks!) **Roy & Cindy Wells**, Mr. Rumor has it, will not be with the **Ringling Tenter**-if there is one-but will be with the Red Unit of Ringling. Your Editor will find out more about these 2 talented performers when I see them in Cleveland at the **CFA Convention**.

***Mickey King**, beautiful aerialist, and only 90-something young, has returned home after spending nearly 2 weeks in the hospital. I'm sure she would love you to hear from you. Please send your cards or letters to: #1 Plaza Dr. Plaza Trailer Court, Peru, IN 46970.

***Bill Botkin** reports that **Circus Circus** in Vegas has the greatest act with 9 house cats & 3 dogs of **Goef Popov**.

127th EDITION RINGLING RED UNIT:

- Memphis, TN- The Pyramid-June 18-21
- Little Rock, AR-Bartok Coliseum-June 25-28
- San Antonio, TX-Freeman Coliseum-July 1-5
- Austin, TX-Erwin Sp.Events Ctr-July 9-12
- College Station, TX-Reed Arena-July 14-15
- Houston, TX-Compaq Ctr-July 17-26
- Dallas, TX-Reunion Arena-July 29-Aug. 9
- Fort Worth, TX-Tarrant Cty Coliseum-Aug. 12-16
- Colorado Springs, CO-World Arena-Aug. 20-23
- Wichita, KS-Kansas Coliseum-Aug. 28-30
- Moline, IL-The Mark of Quad Cities-Sept. 4-6

128TH EDITION RINGLING BLUE UNIT:

- Lubbock, TX-Memorial Coliseum-June 18-21
- Las Vegas, NV-Thomas & Mack Center-June 26-28
- Phoenix, AZ-America West Arena-July 1-5
- Fresno, CA-Fresno Convention Ctr-July 9-12
- Long Beach, CA-Long Beach Arena-July 15-19
- Los Angeles, CA-LA Sports Arena-July 22-26
- Anaheim, CA-Arrowhead Pond-July 28 to Aug. 4
- Inglewood, CA-Great Western Forum-Aug. 6-9
- San Diego, CA-Sports Arena-Aug. 12-16
- Oakland, CA-The Arena-August 19-23
- San Jose, CA-San Jose Arena-August 26-30
- San Francisco, CA-Cow Palace-Sept. 3-7

PEGGY NULL, 74, MAY 22, 1998

Peggy Null passed away in Batavia, IL. She was married to George Donald Null and was the organist on Carson & Barnes, Kelly Miller, Ford Bros. and many other shows. She & her husband had a nightclub act billed as "Null and Void". They also had a show band known as the "Roxy Players." Burial was in Showman's Rest in Hugo, OK. She was the mother of: Gigi (John) Davenport; Angela (Billy) Martin; Gloria (Col. Mel) Silverlake; Toni (Ron) McIntyre, of Batavia; Roxy Murfield, of Sioux City, IA; and Isom Null, of Beaver Falls, PA.

(Submitted by Bill Prickett and Lonnie Sewell)

6/2-Disney's Animal Kingdom: a hippo died of bacterial pneumonia. The 13-year-old female was found dead in a pool in the Park's Savannah area. She had been mating a few days before. The USDA says a cheetah's death is still unexplained, but has cleared Disney in other deaths.

TEX COPELAND, MAY 28, 1998

(From the Sarasota Herald)

As a restless 18-year-old, James W. "Tex" Copeland ran away to join the circus. Although he never became a performer, he ended up driving director Cecil B. DeMille down Main Street in Sarasota during the filming of "The Greatest Show On Earth." And he witnessed one of the worst circus tragedies-the fire that blazed through the Ringling tents during a performance in Hartford, Conn. Tex died Thursday, May 28, in his Sarasota home. He was 85. He was born Oct. 16, 1912, in Ft. Worth, TX, and briefly worked in his guardian's bank in Amarillo. Deciding that banking was not for him, the 6-foot-2-inch Copeland and a friend joined Barnes Circus as ushers. Barnes Circus was soon bought out by the Ringling Brothers, and Tex found himself in Sarasota. He was training to be a catcher in the aerial acts when WW II broke out. Tex joined the Army & became a master sergeant. In 1944, 2 days after he rejoined Ringling Bros., the tents caught fire 20 minutes into a performance in Connecticut. "I looked up & the top was on fire. I helped jerk the railings out so (people) could get out." Tex said in a 1991 interview. But nothing he or anyone else did saved the 168 people-two-thirds of them children-who died. He and his colleague, Willis Lawson, helped remove the bodies.

A better moment in his circus career was driving DeMille through the heart of Sarasota when the famous director shot a movie in 1951. Until 1955, Tex continued to work outside the circus limelight-selling tickets, ushering, helping with the taxes. In 1955, he left the circus & started working for Maas Bros. Dept. Store, where the Hollywood 20 movie theater is now. Tex was a charter member & past president of Showfolks of Sarasota, a club for past & present circus performers & workers. He was the last president emeritus to have voting rights on the board of directors.

Survivors include his wife, Anna Mae; a son, James of Venice; and a grandchild.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of SW Florida, 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota 34238; or Showfolks of Sarasota, Inc., 5204 Lockwood Ridge Rd. N., Sarasota, FL 34234. (Thanks to Bobby Hakes for sending this.)

"During the early days, office business never got past the marquee. Nowadays, every workingman knows it." "A circus matron may be defined as a married women who doesn't have to do swinging ladders."

AND SUDDEN MURDER...

"Eva! Now put that trunk down! If you want to beg by cigarettes, I'll hand 'em to you. But don't try playing the pickpocket with that world's longest nose. You might get ideas. "I love you, my big one, like I do the rest of my bulls. But I'm here to enjoy life because I trust no elephant any further than I can throw you by your tail!"
The End.

(There is no date on this article, but the pictures of Fred are from Kelly-Miller Circus.)

***** From the Valentine Archives-Newspaper Interviews With Fred Logan on the Clyde Beatty Circus.

*1975: "Debbie, Missie & Omi, 3 baby elephants, arrived from Thailand to join the circus. They weighed about 500 pounds each & stood about 40" tall. Throughout the winter months Fred taught them to perform and now they perform in center ring. The babies, who ate warm cooked rice, vegetables & fruit, when they first joined the circus, have graduated to the regular elephant diet of hay, grain & all the peanuts they can scrounge out of customers! Now the youngsters weigh about 700 pounds each & have grown about 8 inches." *1982: "Naples, FL. The elephants were up bright & early, harnessed for hard labor. 'All these elephants are broke for harness,' said Fred.' Any one of them could put that tent up alone. The heaviest elephant is about 8500 pounds. An elephant eats about 3 bales of hay a day. A big elephant will eat 25 pounds of grain. And we water them 3 times a day, 4 times on Saturdays.' "

*1982: Mashpee, MA.- "It's been a long, long road for Fred Logan, the man in charge of training & caring for the elephant herd for the Clyde Beatty Circus. Since Logan joined the circus when he was 14, he's toured the U.S., Canada, Cuba & Puerto Rico, tamed lions tigers, bears & seen his friends killed by 8000 pound elephants. He had his ribs, an ankle & collarbone broken by scared elephants. Fred says, 'It's a profession. If you're an elephant man, you're an elephant man. I'm not going to work in any factory, that's for sure.' For Fred, the circus is a family affair. Ora, his wife of 30 years & a full-blooded Cheyenne Indian, 4 daughters & a son all work & travel with the show. 'I haven't been to my home in Hugo, OK in years. I always like to move on to the next town.' Fred ran away & joined a circus when he was a boy in Canada, & he hasn't looked back. His father, an executive with the Canadian National Railroad, had died, & Fred wanted to make his own mark in life. He was tired

of going to boarding school. 'My mother came & got me, & then I ran away again, & she said, 'If that's what you want to do, go ahead.' I was the black sheep of the family.'

* "Fred Logan doesn't talk much because he doesn't need to: His employees understand his every move. As his workers took a break, he sauntered by to check up on them. His worker-elephants were just fine. They showed him they were relaxing by throwing hay on their backs. Pete & Maude were doing that 'to keep the bugs off,' said Fred. Fred says his herd of elephants is all females because, 'males are too tough at times' for circus performing. The 3 youngest elephants were trained by Fred since they were 6 months old & 38 inches high. Elephants are like people. Some you like better than others. There are good ones & bad ones.'

His wife, Ora, agrees. 'The little elephants are just like kids. If you let them get away with stuff, they will.' Elephant training is a way of life for the entire family. Fred, Ora & daughter Lillian, perform in one ring together. Another son, Walter and daughter Frieda, perform in another ring. Fred doesn't "bait" or tempt his elephants with peanuts or candy. 'He uses discipline,' explains his wife. 'Each elephant is different with its own personality.' Ora added that routines are sometimes changed when one elephant is found to dislike a certain trick."

***** Suggestions & Rules For Employees of Hagenbeck- Wallace Shows

From the July, 1958 White Tops Magazine; Reprinted with permission of the Circus Fans Assn. of America.

- *No employee will be permitted to loan money to other employees & receive any profit from the transaction.
- *Do not go through sleeping coaches when train is standing still-go around.
- *No pets, revolvers, intoxicants or inflammables allowed in the sleeping cars. Candles must not be used in the cars.
- *Do not clean teeth at wash bowls.
- *Look both ways; be careful in crossing railroad tracks or in walking upon same.
- *Coats must be worn in the dining room during meal time.
- *When the "HOTEL" flag is up the meal is ready; when the blue flag is up the meal is over.
- *Meal Hours: Breakfast will be over at 9:15, excepting on late arrival of show. Lunch will be over at 12:45.
- *Cooking, making tea or coffee will not be allowed in dressing rooms.

GOLDEN YEARS OF THE BILLBOARD VALENTINE VAULTS-FROM 1950

From Ringling Bros.-Jan. 14.: The party Xmas night, planned by **Willie Krause**, was a big success. It was **Merle Evans**' birthday & the 75 guests attending gave him a rousing cheer...The gals in the show went big for those alligator shoes & handbags. Tobah perfume also proved a big hit...**Albert White**'s Hawaiian dance went over big in Havana...After trying for a week to get his band to understand sign language, **Merle Evans** finally gave up & purchased a Spanish dictionary...**Pete Grace** ordered a bottle of 7-Up from room service. It failed to arrive. Next morning at 7 a.m. his room phone rang & the hotel clerk said, "Seven up, please, Senior."...**Mary Jane Miller** reports: March 11-Sarasota-**Dorothy & China Durbin** arrived from their home in Bloomington, IL to begin practice...Early morning riding class under direction of **Doc Henderson** grows daily...A new feature will be 10 iron-jaw girls, under the direction of **Antoinette Concello**...**Nina Unus** is back at practice after a recent tonsilectomy...Easter: **Antoinette Concello** treated the girls & wardrobe women to Easter chocolates. **Babs & Del Graham** are in the Comet flying act...**Paul Jerome** enjoys his spot in the buggy during the menage number. **Rose & Fay Alexander**'s dog, **Ginger**, is now a regular in the clown number with **Lou Jacobs**. **Ernie Burch & Prince Paul** are wowing 'em in Jungle Drums...April 29-Personnel were shocked to learn of the death of **Merle Evans**' wife. **Art Concello** took time off from his busy schedule to accompany the body of **Mrs. Evans** to Sarasota...**Frank McClosky, Tuffy Genders & Antoinette** celebrated their birthdays. She was serenaded by the band & presented with flowers from the web girls at the finish of the flying act...First set of route cards are selling fast & keeping **Tex Copeland** busy...The new cheese clown gag by **Paul Jung** is a delight to watch...May 20-Skee **Otaris** won a large selection of prizes on a giveaway radio show before show left New York...The **Geraldos** renewed friendships with the doctors & nurses they met while confined to the hospital here last summer...The 100 Percent Club consists of **Bones Brown, China Durbin, Del Graham, Billy Snyder, Fay Alexander, Jimmy Crocker, Willie Krause, Bell Warner, Paul Jung & Irv Romig**...June 17-**Ernie Burch & Lorraine Russo** had pix & write-ups in their hometown Newark papers...

Visitors included: **Jim Harshman**, Eastern VP of the CFA; **Dick Anderson**; **Billy Ward**; **Mickey King** and **Jimmy Olson**...**Buzzie Potts** has been named honorary member of the **Leonard Aylesworth Ring of CMB**.

***Polack Western**-Jan. 28: **Freddie Freeman** reports: new faces on the show this year include: **Rudy Docky's** Basketball playing dogs; **Lalage**, one-arm swings; **Alfredo Landon's** Midgets; **Melitta & Wicons**; **Hubert Castle**; **The Shyrettos**; **Emil Pallenberg's** Bears & **The Loyal Repenski Troupe**, who carry 10 horses & 11 people. They also do an acrobatic act known as **The Brannocks**...**Slivers & Jo Madison** were occupied with their new trailer...**Eddie Ward** has a TV set in his trailer now & it looks as if some of our performers may miss a number or two before the season is over...**The Freemans** have a new 1950 car. We don't know who is going to drive it yet as neither of us can drive!..**Hubert Castle** will remember the kids in Hammond for a long time. One of them stole his hoop & sword...**Gin Rummy** took over in the dressing room with such experts as **Emil Pallenberg Jr., Hubert Castle, Harold Ward, Alfred Shyretto, the Landon Midgets, Gus Bell & Ross Paul**.**Freeman** tried it but got out in a hurry. Those guys know what you have in your hand before you put a card down...**Betty Bell** has come up with some swell wardrobe for the web number & flying act.Those who helped Betty were **Milly (Honey Bun) Keathley, Yvette Kohl & Jack Harris** with **Harold Ward** lending moral support...**Hanna Pallenberg** is handy with tools in helping hubby build crates for the bears...**Justino Loyal** bought a new horse for his 2 sons to practice on but apparently the new addition didn't like the other horse as he took off up the main street of Louisville with **Papa Loyal** in pursuit...**Otto Griebing** is opening a school of English with **Otto** as head teacher. Pure English minus accent is the main course at a nominal fee per lesson...**Gus Bell** gave his wife **Betty** a new Studebaker for her birthday...Purchasing new cars were: **Louis Stern, Harold Ward, Armida Loyal, Pallenbergs, Hubert Castle, Eddie Kohl & Joe Galasso**...From **Biller Bros**: 1000 visitors came to quarters to watch **Prince Ki-Gor** work the lion act & see **Smokey Jones & Cotton West** put the elephants thru new routines...**Jack Lynn** is working **Margie**, baby elephant, for her dance on track...**Papa Cristiani**, 74, hasn't missed spec once...

Benny Cristiani garners plenty of laughs with his comedy tumbling with the troupe...The ladies dressing room sports a charcoal burner...**Teresa Morales** is kept busy over the tubs keeping her new baby in fresh laundry, but **Ramona** is really queen of the laundry...**Rita Biller** is holding class on styling & poise for the ballet girls between shows...**Tommy Bentley & Jackie Lynn** were gifted with bathing sets in Scranton by some of the ballet girls...**Teresa Morales** had a rough time of it trying to do her act as stakes kept pulling out of the ground...**Concha Snyder**, of the **Hamid-Morton** show, visited her sister, **Teresa** for a few days...**Ronna McIntosh & Kathy Morales** take turns riding **Margie**, baby elephant, in spec...the boys in **Joe Rossi's** band are putting out a weekly newspaper...From **Ward Bros.**: Program includes-the **Wallendas**, the **Noble Trio**, **Norma Davenport**, 5 elephants, **Henderson Troupe & Walter & Ethel Jennier**. Aerial ballet comprises **Helen Wallenda**, **Yette & Edith Wallenda & Rose Behee**. **Ethel Jennier** is the feature finish. **Rose Behee** has made some new costumes for the **Wallenda** ladder number. **Carla Wallenda** is here to fill an emergency for **Papa Karl**. **Gunther Wallenda** tried a new make-up...**Roy Valentine** took a nasty buster falling into the net, but it didn't keep him from appearing in the night show...June 3-Ethel Jennier was left behind in a hospital in Midland, TX for an operation...**Catherine Hubbard** joined **Felix Morales's** trampoline display...**The Sensational Kays (Fritz & Betty Huber)** announce they have the youngest high-wire performer in the business. **Betty, Jr.**, at 6 months...**Felix Morales** detoured to San Bernardino, via San Antonio...From **Wirth's Circus-New Zealand**: Acts include-**Jack Joyce**; **The Escalantes**, aerial bars; **The Behees**, flying act; **Wayne Larey & Red Sleeter**, executives & **Ray Humphreys**, circus apprentice, flying act & clowning. A baby elephant, **Jo Dee**, was imported by the show & we had it only a few days when it suffered a broken leg. The bull is under the care of a vet in Dunedin, NZ, reports **Bob Behee**...From **Polack Eastern**: **Joaniddes** was taken to the hospital with a 104 fever, but has improved...**Connie Wilson** made the 2 sets of capes for the web number...No water shortage in **Randow's** clown gag. He's assisted by **Dime Wilson & Ed Raymond**...Those commuting every day from Manhattan to White Plains were **Elly Ardelty, The Montes de Ocas & Henry Kyes**.

***3-Eyed, 2 Snouted Pig Dies:** Ditto died June 1st while asleep. His remains will be used to research facial deformities in children. The director of **Pigs Without Partners** said that the doctors thought he might have had an aneurysm. The group bought him for \$5000 from a farmer in Iowa. They paid another \$1000 for a plane ticket. Ditto was to have had reconstructive jaw surgery on June 13 at UCSF. The director had been hand feeding Ditto since his arrival. "He had 2 very happy months here. He was a pretty happy pig. We were surprised he died when he did because he was getting a lot stronger. When we first got him, he could hardly stand up." Ditto was living in a little house in Ms. Moore's back yard.

***Phoenix Zoo: Ruby**, the Asian elephant, due for Motherhood on Nov. 1, has a new roommate. In both the wild & in captivity, an older, more experienced female elephant is often a great help to the female giving birth. She provides reassurance & helps keep the new mother calm during the delivery. After the birth, she often serves as an "auntie" to the calf during the long days of learning & gaining strength that lie ahead. In April, **Indu**, a 33-year-old Asian female from Houston, arrived to live with Ruby. The keepers were delighted to see that the two were getting along so well. Keep checking www.phoenixzoo.org

***San Diego Zoo:** On June 5, **Onya-Birri**, a rare albino koala, made his debut to the public. Check out: www.sandiegozoo.org/special/albino/albinokoala.html He is 10 months old, has white fur, a pink nose & eyes. He was born 9/1/97 & spent his first 6 months in his mother's pouch. His name means "ghost boy" in the Aborigine language. This is a very rare birth. More in next issue.

***Please visit the National Zoo in Washington, DC on the Net.** They have a Web Cam and you can look into the elephant house, I think, from 9 am to 4 pm. The view refreshes itself every 20 seconds. This is fantastic! They also have 4 cameras for the orangutan exhibit. Go there!

***From Belarussian Zoo, Russia:** Reuters News reports: "A male elephant killed his keeper because he was angered at having his lunch delivered late, an official in the former Soviet republic reported June 1. The incident took place at the Hrodno Zoo, in Western Belarus, when the elephant, Surik, suddenly attacked a 42 year old women keeper, who was bringing him his lunch. The keeper died from her injuries. The keeper was an hour late with Surik's lunch, which they thought was the cause of the tragedy."

THE WILD ANIMAL MENAGERIE- AN EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT BY PAUL HORSMAN

Though both the circus & menagerie in America have been operated independently, both have been adjuncts of another form of outdoor amusement, as well as combined into one entity. Further, both have the same roots, in the displaying of single animals at the time when the first of a species was introduced into the United States.

At least the first 2 elephants, and the first lion, giraffe, camel and other animals were exhibited as single attractions in barns, Inn yards & vacant stores. At one time, sideshows, known as museums, traveled independently, also in time uniting with the circus industry. As noted, in time menageries were combined with the tented circuses, & sideshows also added. This combination lasted to some degree into the time span that many current circus lovers remember.

Even today, with most circuses using animals only in the performance, it must be admitted that a long elephant line of 20 or more elephants performing at once should be enough to thrill even the most blasé. The giant Carson-Barnes Circus of today is a good example of how much a menagerie attracts the public. This show plays alternate routes that give every circus enthusiast in the country an opportunity to see a large display of animals properly cared for, even though the show moves every day. If it is necessary to travel a distance to see this phenomenon, it is well worth a long trip.

One of the first menageries, Polito's, was operated in London & was permanent. Bostock & Wombwell's menagerie dated back to the early 1800s, playing fairgrounds. Once menageries were established in this country & combined, the size of the elephant herd carried contributed much towards drawing patrons to circuses. The peak was reached when Barnum & Bailey combined with Forepaugh for the Madison Square Garden indoor date in New York City, when 60 elephants were on exhibit. This is said to have been the most elephants ever exhibited before the public, anywhere.

The majority of elephants in America have always been in circus ownership, and few zoos, if any, & in the largest cities, have owned as many elephants as even a medium sized circus throughout history. In addition to circuses carrying menageries, many early carnivals carried wild animal menageries or small complete circuses. Menageries were often included with the circuses

booked on carnivals, with Clyde Beatty on Johnny J. Jones in 1940 & 41 and Terrell Jacobs being the most notable. Terrell Jacobs operated this type of show on several occasions, booking his circus & menagerie on Conklin, World of Mirth, Strates, Royal American, & Sullivan's World's Finest shows.

During the 1950s, many circuses carried menageries, including all the railroad shows & several truck shows. The life of the menagerie was prolonged on the Ringling show for several years after going indoors, at the New York City & Boston stands. In the mid 1950s, the menagerie was also represented by Tony Diano's huge menagerie on the World of Mirth carnival, & shortly afterwards, the James E. Strates shows presented a large menagerie on it's midway. Word around that midway was that Mr. Strates always escorted prospective sponsors & fairboard members to the menagerie to see his elephants. This was a big departure from tradition for a carnival owner, as it was customary to frame a big girl revue so elaborate it might not make a profit, in order to nail down prospective contracts.

The menagerie offered by the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus was huge in scope, & drew tremendous response from patrons, almost paralleling that of the circus performance itself. Much thought went into this feature, & considerable changes made from time to time. There could be no doubt in any viewer's mind that he was seeing the cream of the crop of the world's jungles displayed right before his eyes.

With the world's largest elephant herd, 3 or 4 giraffes, zebras, camels, a rhino, hippo, pygmy hippo, all kinds of apes & monkeys, topped off by the gorilla couple, Gargantua & Toto, the Ringling menagerie of the 1940s had to be one of the most elaborate of it's times. There were other rare animals also, seldom seen in zoos, such as a gnu, casowary & Anoa buffalo of the celebes. Even with animals from working acts not on display, the menagerie was one designed to hold the attention of the most blasé.

The larger menageries on the rail shows were highly organized, with a menagerie superintendent in charge of all lead stock & caged animals, as well as their attendants. The elephant department had it's own superintendent, & in most cases, a separate presenter. Each department had it's own wagon on Ringling, #10 for the menagerie, also called the gorilla wagon, & #12 to carry the elephant dept. rest tent & tools & work harness.

On Ringling, one cage had a partition, with an animal using half of it, & the remaining space was used for uniform coats worn by the animal attendants. The attendants would stand near their charges & earn a little extra by selling circus postcard folders. On the Walter L. Main Circus in the 1920s, menagerie superintendent Tom Veasey would keep extra menagerie uniform coats to pass out to the lucky boys when things got out of hand.

Sometimes features other than animals were included among the menagerie displays; such as the Ubangis from Africa, or the Giraffe Neck Women of Padeung, or even an airplane. Chevrolet had an arrangement with Hagenbeck-Wallace in the 1930s & displayed the latest models in the menagerie. My earliest recollection of a circus goes back to 1934, when Kay Bros. displayed the latest rage among automobiles-the streamlines Chrysler Airflow, in their menagerie. There was also a concession stand in the menagerie, which the seat butchers worked out of.

Ringling made a departure from this system, the seat butchers working out of a supply tent in the backyard. At Madison Square Garden & Boston Garden, indoor dates, the menagerie & sideshow were included in the price of admission. These departments were located in Madison Square Garden's cellar & a separate connected building in Boston. This made for a colossal & huge display of animal & human oddities, but the crush of the crowds were such that Gargantua would appear as a vague shadow in his cage. At Madison Square Garden, sophistication was added for big city patrons by blowing attar of rose water into the menagerie.

Up until 1948, Ringling's cage wagons were painted red with silver carvings. However, in 1948 a departure was made & various colors were used on the cages, with the scrolls in solid colors. Ringling's cages had spaces between them, but on shows where performing cats were displayed in the menagerie, they were run together. In this case, the menagerie would be parallel to the big top & the chutes ran under or near the bandstand.

In 1949, Ringling's menagerie was completely revamped, & the old cages with carvings were replaced by Army trailers, 9 feet long & the theme changed to give the effect of a jungle. Side & top panels on the cages were painted with palm trees; the quarter poles were painted to give the effect of palm tree trunks & plastic "fronts" topped the poles. Side poles were also painted in this manner, which gave completeness to the jungle effect. The cage wagons

themselves were painted green.

After shifting to buildings, Ringling still maintained the menagerie & sideshow in New York & Boston & still opened in New York. During the rest of the tour, the animals were stored for 2 years at the Pawtucket, RI Zoo. In the winter, the giraffe & rhino were kept in the Fire Station. A giraffe & at least one of the white rhinos died & were taken to a rendering plant.

In later years, the animals were kept at Bob Deitch's Zoo in New Jersey. Dave Mullaney was in the elephant department at this time & told me that in the spring, Deitch's grooms would walk along the tops of the cages, sweeping the snow off, with another crew right behind them, applying a fresh coat of green paint. One year, while visiting, Dave told me, "Some of these animals are from Hunt's Circus. Eugene is right here in this cage behind us." Eugene was a badger & upon hearing his name came right up to us.

Though much more could be said, it is evident from the foregoing that circus owners put much thought & concern into their menageries, & even if the show didn't have many animals, the elephants & ring stock could be exhibited there, & if there weren't enough animals to fill it, the addition of a menagerie tent made the show look bigger on the lot. Those shows too small to have a separate menagerie still would have a sideshow & would house the animals there, & in time, even larger shows used this arrangement.

Today there are still many opportunities to see trained animals on circuses, even though the menagerie is seldom to be found. It is hoped that all concerned; fans, showmen, animal owners & sponsors will realize the danger the animal protesters pose, and do all they can to prevent animals being removed from circuses.

(More installments of this topic will be coming)

***Ringling Museum, Virtual Courtyard Tour:** Please check out www.ringling.com and visit the Virtual Courtyard. It is amazing! You can stand in the middle of the courtyard, & with your mouse, turn completely around seeing the area from all views. More on this later.

***The baby elephant born in the Cincinnati Zoo** now weighs, as of May 14, 374 pounds. A month before it weighed 300 pounds.

Your editor will be at the CFA Convention & giving a talk about the circus collection at ISU. Please bring anything you have for sale & look me up!

Rumblings From The Crummy

By Brian Nunn

*A story of a "hit with," slang for a hammer; the most effective "hit with" that I ever saw was Rex's hat. Horses, camels and elephants were in fear of getting slapped with his hat. And a few hired hands, I might add. He went through a few hats as they got a little battered, but the more dented, the better he liked the hat. I learned something from watching Rex work. You didn't necessarily need a big stick, just Rex's hat if you were lucky enough to have one.

*A story about Rex's barn with the rafters in reach of the elephants and them not tearing the barn down. An old elephant man said, "Ya, cuz they were fed." It was a little more than that I think. The hay would be mooshed flat for bedding & the rest was thrown in back of them, for cover by 2 a.m. I think they didn't tear the barn down because it was Rex's place and Rex's elephants didn't break anything. So the rest would follow suit, with one exception, when Gyp gave birth to the Brat. She busted off the picket line, setting about 10 elephants loose, with the exception of Gardner who was double safety'ed. After that, she apparently thought she needed more privacy 'cause she went through the back of the barn, made a hole big enough to drive a truck through. Even though it was Jan. 18 (Benny's birthday) and cold, that's what she chose to do. After the baby was on the ground & up, she took him back in the barn & huddled up in a corner & that's where we found them. Gyp was 3 months early, so Rex supposed Gardner was havin' his fun when nobody knew. Well, anyway, the first thing Rex did was go under Gyp to make sure everything was all right & see if the baby was male or female. And we all know the outcome of the story. The Brat, like me, was born 75 years too late.

*Gardner, of course, proved out to be a good breeder; he didn't beat up on the cow's or nothin'. I liked him. Give him some room and he left me alone. If he did make a false move, I would holler, "Rex" and he'd dummy up. Rex called him, "my buck tooth buddy."

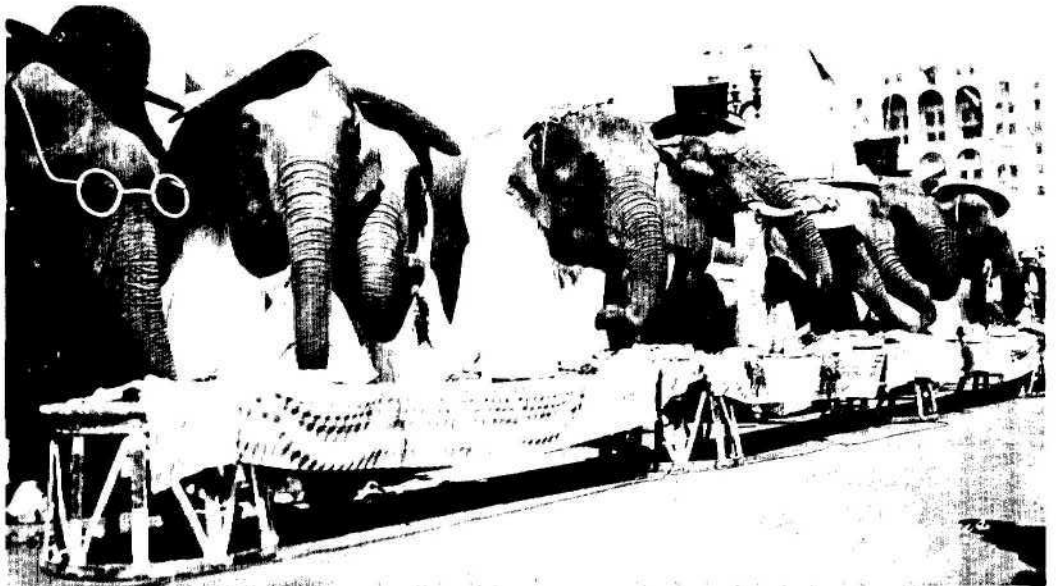
Gardner stood at the west side of the barn, usually about 4 elephants away. At first I had to do like a muscle man & pitch flakes of hay way down to him. After about one month, he stopped blowing my hair back with swings from 30 feet away. I could get behind him (with a long rake) & clean him up. The first time I watered him while on his single leg chain out behind the barn. About 250 feet of hose to the back gate, plus another 50 feet to reach Gardner. He thought he had to jag me around, I suppose, because he grabbed the hose & spun around faster than I could stop the hose. I put a double wrap on a stake that we were using on the punks so it would stop Gardner's gather. The damn hose snapped like a rubber band. There was enough left in the barn to finish the watering. (Gardner gave me a break, laughin' his ass off, but still a break.) I bought 150 foot of hose 'cuz of that locomotive head bull elephant. I guess after awhile he figured that I was not going away 'cuz he let me take care of him after that. It was about \$50. for the damn water hose ("dues that I had to pay, I suppose.")

*One year, 1983, I was working in Seagoville & taking care of the elephants. It was -30 degrees, windy & cold. I had 8 feet of manure piled up to the cold side of the barn. As much hay as I could throw for bedding (there was a barn full.) When I watered, I y'd into the water heater & cold faucet so they would have warm water to drink. Gibbs saw me & said he did that once, a long time ago, & Buckles told him, "Just give them the water out of the bucket. They'll know how much to drink." (A lesson I wish that I had learned a long time ago.)

*Gardner's Toys: He could hide a bowling ball under his jaw on one side & a flake of hay on the other, with 3 or 4 flakes of hay, in between his knees. The Brat was given a rubber ball to play with & he'd have a grand time kicking & chasing it around. When Gardner was tired of the Brat, he'd steal the ball & smash it flat, if it was rubber or hide the bowling ball. It'd take the air right out of the punk too. He'd go over to his mom for comfort.

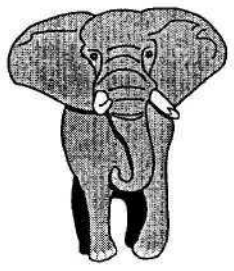


1942





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