

BACK YARD

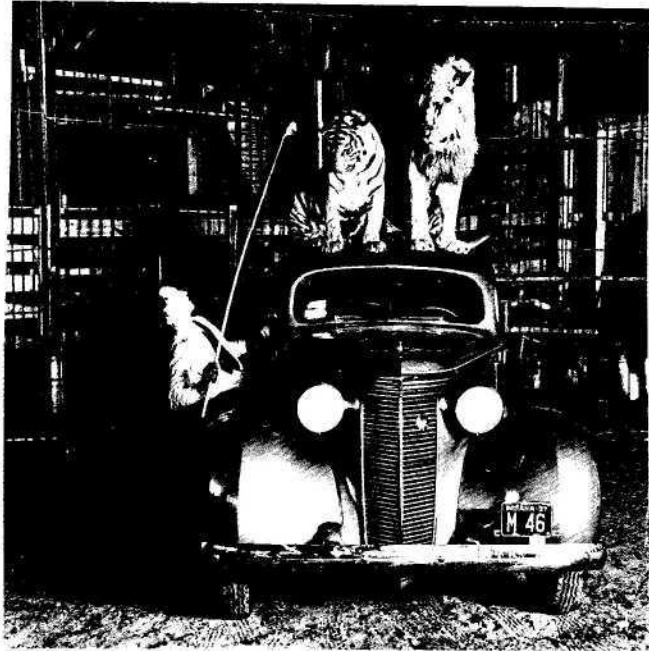
Volume III, Issue #46

June 30, 1998

“EACH DAY I DIE”- THE CLYDE BEATTY STORY

By H. P. Gordon

Taken From True Adventures Magazine, August, 1959
Once a day, 7 days a week, a curly-haired, five & a half foot bundle of nerves armed with only a whip, a gun & a kitchen chair will rush into a cage to surround himself with 30 snarling lions & tigers. The prospect of seeing a man eaten alive isn't a pleasant one but it seems to be irresistible to a vast portion of the population. And so during the next 5 months, something over a million persons will crowd under the big top to see Clyde Beatty duel with death. And make no mistake about it, this isn't fooling. This is as close to a calculated gamble with sudden death as any human being ever took. For almost 30 years Beatty has carried on this daily joust with death. He concentrates so completely that he has actually been clawed without knowing it. And yet, there are people who are suspicious of a man who appears to enjoy risking his life. Most of his performances are presented with such timing & showmanship that they seem to be relatively safe & simple. Nothing could be more misleading. In 1953, at a matinee performance in Oregon, 2 of his best performing lions, Caesar & King, ganged up on him, sending him to the hospital with a badly gashed leg that required 18 stitches to close. But in one week, Beatty was back in the arena. When you follow Clyde Beatty (pronounced bait-he) into his 50 foot circular lion cage, a lot of things are liable to happen. You will find yourself, as I did, staring over Clyde's shoulder at a lion who now looks 3 times as big as he did from the other



side of the bars. His great head swings toward you & he fixes you to the spot with flat, opaque, yellow eyes. If you're anything like I am, you try to figure what he has on his mind. Maybe he's just wondering what in hell you are doing there. His staring eyes & the tail twitching behind them have a hypnotic effect. Perhaps he is thinking some very personal thoughts about you. You may recall Clyde telling you he doesn't feed the animals until after the show. Then you think seriously about your chances of making it quietly back to the door.

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BACK YARD

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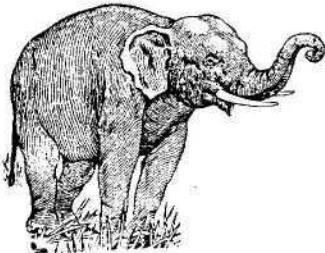
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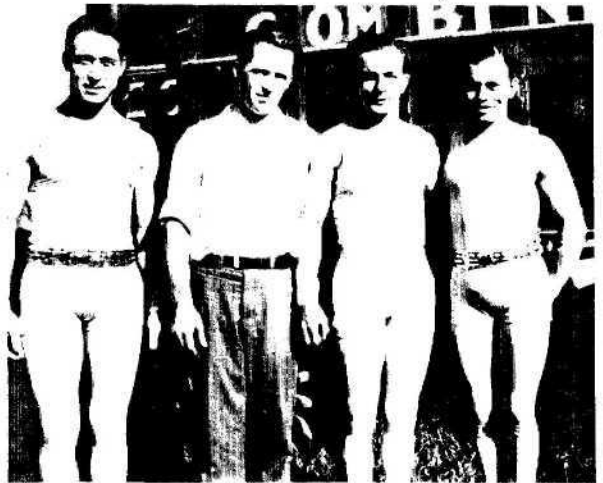
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STORM BLOWS DOWN CIRCUS TENT WEST SALEM, WI-JUNE 18, 1998 FROM THE LACROSSE TRIBUNE

About 2 dozen people were injured when a line of thunderstorms & high winds collapsed the tent of a Sarasota-based circus performing on Thursday. One worker for the Sterling-Reid Circus was injured when he was trampled by a horse in West Salem, WI. The worker, Bill Warbonnet, was treated at the scene. No circus performers were injured. Niles Garden, the show's manager, said the wind picked up & collapsed the tent in a matter of minutes.

13 people-all audience members-were transported to area hospitals, treated & released. Others were treated at the scene. The circus was traveling with 6 ponies, 3 tigers & an elephant. The first act, tigers, had finished when the line of storms swept through the small town. The winds were at zero & then went to 60 to 70 mph. The tent collapsed about 5:30 pm when the wind sent 500-pound support poles swinging through the air as the audience scrambled to get out.

There was no time for evacuation. There was no misconduct on the circus' part, an investigator said. Some of the deputies were commenting on how helpful & professional the circus people were. The circus people responded well to a bad situation, he said. About 500 people were in the audience when the storm hit.

(Thanks to Bobby Hakes for sending this in.)

Rick King saw the circus the following night. He reports: "They're sidewalling the show. Brian Franzen is 6 sections short on the cat cage. The tent was spread out & patching was being done as time was available. The show was good with Brian LaPalme, Brian Franzen, Christine Zerbini, the Espanas & Coco Cramer headlining. A circus employee suffered several broken bones after getting pinned under the big cage & pole that fell on it."

BOBBY HAKES ANSWERS QUESTIONS????

Question: "Could you tell us what the definition of a circus is?" Bobby's reply is:

I will try to explain that to work on a circus is not just a job, but a way of life. The concession people & animal people put in about 90 hours a week, if they are doing their jobs right & nothing goes wrong. The working people put in about 70 hours a week setting up & taking down the show & making sure it runs right. The performers have it easy. They put in about 60 hours a week, putting up their riggings or taking care of their

props & practicing every day & working the performances & making the jumps to each town. A clown puts in about 60 hours a week making personal appearances in town, mugging up each day & working the come-ins, the show & being ready to go on in case of changes in the program or if somebody falls & gets hurt, they keep the show going.

The cookhouse people serve coffee & other goodies at 6 am every morning, then jump to the next town, set up the cookhouse & serve lunch & dinner, then tear down the cookhouse! That makes for a 12 to 14 hour day. This goes on 7 days a week for over 30 weeks-no days off. As you can see, you don't do because it is a job, you do because you like it. In the winter, you work winter dates, if you are lucky, up in snow country, like Flint, MI. I have made many trips over the years in snow storms, over roads that the highway patrol said were closed. You make the jump because you can not get paid if you are not there, & you would leave the show short-handed. When you join a circus, your first thought is what is good for the show & that is what makes circus different than anything I know of. Just because you do not feel good is not a reason not to try & do your job. There is no gray area here. You are either for it or against it-if you are unhappy on a show, you don't try to change it-you leave & go to another show.

The main rule on any circus is that the owner can't be wrong. If you can not except this, then life on the circus is not for you. If you do not get work in the winter, you take care of your animals & practice every day. If you have an act, you practice every day to keep in shape & probably work harder than you do on the road, learning new tricks.

What I am trying to say is that circus people don't understand the concept of hourly wages or how many hours you work a week. What is important to them is what is in your pocket, free & clear, when it is all over.

It is better to work a season for, say \$600. a week, than to work a few dates at say, \$2000. a week. If you try to compare working on a circus to a regular job it is impossible. So talking about hours & being paid by the hour are mute subjects. By that standard, I have made as little as 10 cents an hour lots of times & have worked & did not get paid at all. Ask any performer. It has happened to them all. To me a definition of a circus is not whether you work in a ring or on a stage, in a tent or open air. One of the biggest circus dates in the country is in a

(Continued on Page 5)

“EACH DAY I DIE....”

But it seems more sensible to let Clyde take care of things. After all, he has been doing it for 22 years and he's still alive.

Suddenly Beatty leaps into action. His whip snaps next to the animal's ear with a pistol-like report. The animal doesn't like this. He rears back & makes a lightning pass at the ancient kitchen chair shoved under his nose. He is quite aware what the whip-crack & the little figure approaching him mean. He knows he should climb to the highest perch in the cage & sit there solemnly until the rest of the lions & tigers come in for the act. Perhaps he remembers a year back when he was able to get around that chair & fix the little man so that he didn't come back to the cage for 6 weeks. But the man continues to go after him & so he retreats to his high perch.

After the show, Clyde & I went back to the big truck with the curtain marked C.B. across the back. Beatty was soaked with sweat & utterly exhausted. He told me how he had run away from home at the age of 14 to join a circus, he had gotten a job as a cage-boy, the circus equivalent of street-cleaner, & how he had accomplished his first animal act when the trainer had lost his nerve. All this seemed a little too perfect, like getting into a cage with a dozen lions & a few tigers twice a day & coming out alive at the end of the season. But it all turned out to be perfectly true.

Right now he was stripping down, mopping himself with a towel, not paying much attention to me. His right arm & most of his right leg were covered with scars. Some pulled the skin in as though it were attached to the bone. I recalled that he carried that chair in his left hand, used the whip & gun-which fired blanks-in his right. Maybe he ought to hold a chair in each hand.

“What was the worst time you ever had in the cage?” I asked. Clyde paused, a clean undershirt half over his head. He said, “Well, I'm not sure. It could have been the time a tiger climbed me from behind. He grabbed me in the back & shoved my head into the sawdust. I remember thinking, ‘This

is it.’”

“Funny thing, that. I had an ugly lion named Nero. And I was always afraid of that so-and-so. Anyway, Nero jumped that cat & took him apart.” Clyde pulled the undershirt over his head & went on. “Apparently Nero wanted to keep me for himself because a little later he put me in the hospital for 16 weeks.” Incidentally, Beatty weighs about 150 pounds, & stretches less than half as long as Nero's 12 feet tip to tip. And he's a mere quarter the weight of Nero's 600 pounds. But in spite of his 50 years, he's in as good shape as any of his cats.

The big jungle cats have mauled him & clawed him many times but they've never quite succeeded in making the great Beatty back down. He says, “No matter how many times I've worked with him, a big cat will always try to get me. He is forever looking for an angle, looking for a chance to make a pounce. I've got to prove I'm boss.” The jungle cats don't fear the pistol, his whip, or his chair; they fear only him. The animals he uses & trains were all jungle-bred. Lions & tigers born in captivity are too dangerous, he thinks. They have no fear of men. And a tiger without fear of man would be a killer that could not be stopped.

He owns his own circus now & twice a day he performs. In the cage with him are 11 lions & 9 tigers. A black-maned lion weighs a quarter of a ton. Beatty has been really close to death 5 times & the cats are constantly mauling & clawing him, piling scar tissue on top of old scar tissue, but Beatty seems to accept this as a natural hazard of his work.

Clyde has had several rivals. Most of them are dead. Once he had an assistant who had no fear whatsoever of the cats. A week later Beatty fired him. He explained, “He wasn't brave, he was dumb. He wouldn't study the cats. I knew he would get killed.” Clyde himself is alive today simply because he studies endlessly the habits & ways of these jungle creatures. He knows they are smart. He can sense when they are upset. He can tell at a glance how far he can go with them. He knows which of his lions are southpaws. This is important because

he has to know which paw a lion will swing when he gets mad. Beatty knows, too, which way every tiger will spring. A superb showman, he will back up before a lion, inviting the cat to stalk him. But only for a few steps. Then he moves in to stop the spring. He bounces the cats around with his whip. He knows how much each one will take. He leads them with his upturned chair, like a matador using his cape. He feints them like a skilled boxer. He has a ballet performer's footwork. He trains the cats to follow cues. When one of them refuses, he goes after him with the whip or chair. "That's the reason there's no fat on me," he admits.

It's the strangest job in the world & one of the most dangerous. But he loves it. He said, "That's my life, in there with the big cats." While it lasts, he can have it. This reporter will prefer a front row seat on the other side of those safe, steel bars. Any way you slice it, however, this is one of the great ones. This is looking at sudden death, kept in precarious, transient leash by one man's will. There's nothing quite like it in the world.

BOBBY HAKES ANSWERS....

baseball field in St. Louis. It is a 10 ring circus. All the ground acts work twice during the show, moving their props from one end to the other. The high acts all work just once during the show, so a tent is not always used for a circus.

To me, a definition of a circus is a show were at least most of the acts are circus-type acts, maybe a magic act & a couple of production numbers. To me, Circus Circus in Las Vegas is a circus-all the other shows in Vegas use circus acts, but to me they aren't what you would call a circus. *When asked about how to save money and are there pensions on a circus, Bobby answered: Just like anything else in life, you must plan ahead. I started out in 1945, at \$12. a week room & board & saved money. With the hours you put in, you don't have much time to spend it & they feed you & give you a place to sleep so you had no "nut", expenses. I will explain the expression "nut", as you will hear it all the time around circus people. Years ago, when the circus arrived in town, the sheriff would come to the lot & take off one of the nuts that held the wagon wheel on the office wagon, and when the show paid all their bills to the local businesses, they said they

had made the nut & got it back so they could make the next jump. You have to plan ahead for your future & retirement. Nobody gives you anything. Working men on most shows are kept on long after they are no longer able to earn their keep & most die on a show, still trying to do their job & are happy doing what they like best. It is better than a nursing home. *Question: Is it not uncommon for acrobats to have trained in gymnastics, whether with Olympic goals in mind or whether they wanted to be in the circus? Bobby answered: Many acts that are done in the circus are in the Olympics now. Bars, rings, balance beams & floor exercises just to name a few. The difference in doing a trick in the Olympics & selling a trick in the circus is a big difference. A good pro can take a small trick & sell it to the people & that is show-biz. The hardest trick, if not presented right will die a horrible death. I have seen acts that did every trick in the book & just could not sell themselves. The Olympics wants everybody to be the same & you can lose points for being different. That is hard to change, later on, if you turn pro.

Several Olympic stars have gone on into show business, but mostly with arena shows, like Peter Pan. Off the top of my head, I can't recall any of them joining the circus; they can make more money in endorsements & the movies.

*I have never figured out why it takes so long to put up some show's tents. I have been canvas boss on a few circuses & a 90 round end top takes about 3 hours to put up with about 10 men. A 120 takes about 4-5 hours, with about 20 men, only because you would carry a heavier show. A 90 can seat about 2500 people; a 120 can seat from 3500 to 6000 on a straw house. They say a 4 mast king pole is harder & that is why American show owners use the shotgun type tent. Atayde in Mexico uses a 4 king pole to play in the bull rings. I have played out west & have jumped many times on shows that moved every day & gave a parade. I only missed one & that was because a tornado took out the downtown the week before. I am just writing this to show that a circus is not difficult to move & set up. As for an inflatable tent-it has been tried many times & there is no place to hang riggings & if you use stakes & the motor fails, it comes down slow enough to get the people out, but not enough time to remove stakes & plays hell with the top. Cottle last tried it in the Near East for a ruler that wanted a circus & didn't care about expense & would replace the top if they had problems.

CLEVELAND CFA CONVENTION GREAT!!!

Your editor can not describe the feelings and memories that I brought home with me. I have many photos to be developed, and tapes to be transcribed. I will have more news of the convention in the next issue. Upon arriving Tuesday night, I found the Bull Room open, and business booming. I, of course, had to look around and see all the treasures for sale. I felt honored that I could have first choice to purchase those items people wanted to part with. And that I did. I still have not had the time to look at all I purchased, but I will after this issue is put to bed. I can not thank Rich, Cheryl & Jason Deptula enough for all the hard work they did in creating such a nice atmosphere for the convention. This was my first full convention; I had been to auctions at others, when the circus that I was on played near the conventions. Everything went so smoothly-I can not imagine the hours the Deptulas put in to have had this happen.

I saw so many old friends from around the country, and I made many new friends. I will cherish their friendships forever. Meeting my friend Helen Billetti Warburton after all these years, meant so much to me. What a lovely lady. I have a newspaper clipping of her walking the wire across the square here in Bloomington, many years ago. And to meet the Rudy Rudynoffs once again, what wonderful people. A special surprise was to see the Charlie Smiths again. These folks have so much to offer circus history.

Rich told us at the meeting the CFA has 2057 regular members, 79 International members & 12 Institutional members. Just this past year, the CFA has added 224 new members. In the next issue, I will describe what was said at the Animal Welfare Committee Forum, with guest speakers David Rawls, of Kelly-Miller Circus & Mary Lou Kelly, of Ringling Bros. Circus. A surprise guest at the meeting was Jeanette Williams.

The auction this year raised \$4246. for the CFA. (Your editor stayed to the very end, not wanting to miss a single item, and wishing there was more to buy!)

The Ladies Luncheon was just beautiful, a Victorian Tea Party, with a special surprise guest, Grandma, from the Big Apple Circus! Believe me when I say the dessert was to die for! Every morning I could be found in the Bull Room, searching for the treasures that I missed the day before, and hoping the vendors had put out new things, which some did. This was a central meeting place for the fans, and it was nice to visit with everyone who just had arrived. (And it was great knowing, that I had gotten the "goodies" the first night!) Smiley Brewer & Warren

Downing & Charlie DeWein had the first sale table on the left and I purchased many old photos & programs from them. Charlie even gave me one of myself that he had taken on the Beatty show and one that I had never seen!

Jim Ridenour was there with his videos and humor. I must say his new dog, Rube, was the hit of the Bull Room. What a sweetie! Bill Biggerstaff had a table with programs & route books. I left forgetting to buy the 3 Carson & Barnes Route Book. I will order that from him. Dick McGivney had the most original circus ties that I have ever seen. What a nice man-to talk to & his table was always busy with folks talking to him. Ernest Albright had the table next to John Polacsek & folks were busy trying to decide what to buy from them. I purchased many old photos from John, & hopefully, I can reproduce them in Back Yard. What great Mills Bros. photos, also a lot of folks on Clyde Beatty that I knew.

Everyone spent a lot of time at Jerry Arnold's table, looking thru his posters, books & programs. Believe me, I spent a week's salary there in 1 day! Paul Horsman had many of the new circus & carnival books at his table. Paul & his wife were always busy talking to the fans. And he was showing the latest Back Yard to everyone, with his article in it! There were a few people with tables that I did not get their names, & I apologize for that. My friend Earl Schmid & his daughter Betty Jean had the large table by the door. I hope Earl did a great business-I sure bought my share of photos from him. I missed his wife Betty. She loved circus people so much. Her daughter, Betty Jean, was a big help to Earl & I have found a new friend.

In the next issue, I will tell you about the beautiful experience I had at the Cleveland Zoo. It will take me awhile to write down my memories of the fantastic orangutan I met there, & how much he touched my heart. (Thank you Sheelagh, for the postcard). If everyone of you ever get the chance to have an experience like I did with an animal, you will be most blessed. Please visit your local zoos & see what a joy these animals can bring. I have the talk on tape of Joyce Ferguson, daughter of the late Clyde Beatty, & I will print it in the next issue. What a nice lady & can her daughter sing!

The banquet room was beyond belief. Thanks again to the Deptulas for their hard work! I think the Holiday Inn was surprised at how 3 rooms could be transformed into such a beautiful room. And the dinner was just great. Chicken Marsala, Sour Cream/Chive Mashed Potatoes, Glazed Baby Carrots, Garden Salad, Granny Smith

Caramel Apple Pie & Coffee. What a meal. Jeanette Williams was the first speaker, & I will have highlights of her speech in the next issue. Jugglers from the St. Ignatius High School Circus Club kept us entertained next. The closing speaker was Paul Binder, from The Big Apple Circus. Music & dancing followed with our favorite D.J., Jason Deptula.

Are you getting tired yet?? I had 4 roommates & we all succeeded in getting ready for the banquet in 30 minutes. At the General Meeting on Saturday, I gave a speech on the circus collection at Milner Library at Illinois State University. I will cover that & the other speakers in the next issue. The trips to the Big Apple & Keller-Miller will also be covered in the next issue. Any of you that want to send in your stories, please do.

Here, with Charlotte McWilliams', Southern Vice President, approval (I hope) is a poem she wrote for the convention.

We meet once again to share Circus good times.

(By now, I've almost run out of rhymes.)

I'm so happy that all of you dear folks came-

When our meet is done, Cleveland won't be the same!

Let's combine our efforts to promote Circus-our love-

With maybe some prayers for help from above.

We'll share our ideas and jackpot all night,

Then support Circus back home with all of our might.

Let's join in the fun and all good things in store-

I'm sure when we leave we'll be eager for more.

We'll look forward to next year & then Thousand Two,

When we in the South will host all of you.

I hope you've enjoyed this well-meant poem-

Now have lots of fun & have a safe journey home.

Lots more memories in the next issue of Back Yard.

THE CIRCUS IS COMING: HERTZBERG MUSEUM, SAN ANTONIO, TX. CIRCUS POSTERS & MEMORABILIA FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE CIRCUS, 1840-1940

Charlie Simpson, Houston, TX sent this in: Circus Day at the turn of the century involved the whole community in a way that the small size of the average circus had not permitted before, & the sprawling size of towns has not permitted since. In those days, nearly every community had convenient open space, large enough to accommodate a circus & near enough for the circus to unload the train, give a parade thru the center of town & get back to the lot on time to give the matinee on schedule. Labor & transportation costs were low;

railroads found it profitable to bring the circus to town. During the circus's Golden Age, dog-and-pony show, wild-west road shows, freak shows, tumbling troupes & menageries merged & evolved into gigantic 3-ringed spectacles; the cheap cost & ease of transportation by rail in the mid 19th Century facilitated this transformation. When most people think of the circus, they think of the name P.T. Barnum. His American Museum in New York attracted visitors from around the world. He did not get started in the circus business until he was 60 years old, after his museum burned to the ground & his freaks were left without a home. The big attraction of his show in 1871 was a giraffe, which few Americans had seen. In 1872, Coup, his partner, abandoned wagon travel for rail. The most popular way of advertising the circus after 1860 was the color lithographed circus poster.

Color lithography enabled the cheap & rapid production of thousands of posters at a time. The publicity car would arrive into town early to put up posters, often covering those which belonged to their competition. In 1910, representatives of more than a dozen circuses, including Ringling, Barnum & Bailey, Forepaugh-Wallace & Sells-Floto held a meeting in Chicago to eliminate practices that gave the circus a bad name. They agreed not to cover one another's posters, & to remove their advertising matter promptly after show dates. The walls of the drugstore, barbershop, hotel lobby & cigar store-hundreds of establishments all over town-would have posters of half sheet or 1 sheet plastered to them. A town might be covered with 5000-8000 sheets, & if 2 circuses were coming at about the same size, they might double that amount in an attempt to outpaper the opposition. These posters were for the more glamorous acts of the center ring, not the human curiosities of the sideshow. As a result, there are almost no posters of "freaks." Only black & white photos frequently sold as souvenirs.

Prior to 1860, circus posters were produced by wood or copperplate engraving, & have a finer, more delicate appearance, with a surprising amount of textual information & detail. These posters, photos & handbills were generously loaned to the Hertzberg Museum, San Antonio. Special thanks to Robt. O'Conner, Director of the Hertzberg Museum, who made this exhibit possible & Karin Broker, for the loan of the Circus Roncalli billboard.

Visit this exhibit at The Museum of Printing History, 1324 W. Clay, Houston, TX. What memories this will be.

127th EDITION RINGLING RED UNIT:

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
Kansas City, MO-Kemper Arena-Sept. 9-13
Indianapolis, IN-Market Sq. Arena-Sept. 16-20
Grand Rapids, MI-Van Andel Arena-Sept. 23-27

128TH EDITION RINGLING BLUE UNIT:

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
Sacramento, CA-ARCO Arena-Sept. 10-13
Seattle, WA-Key Arena-Sept. 17-20
Spokane, WA-Arena-Sept. 22-23
Portland, OR-Rose Garden-Sept. 25-27
Salt Lake City, UT-Delta Center-Sept. 30-Oct. 4

From Mexico City, Ringling Bros Reports: In front of his hometown audience, **Luis Caballero** caught & completed 4 revolutions to his catcher, **Ruben Caballero**. He caught the trick again twice during the engagement. Be sure to catch the Red Unit when it comes to your area & see if Luis can do it one more time!

A HARD ACT TO FOLLOW: The Hampton Inn, Sarasota/Bradenton will soon bid a reluctant farewell to a resident celebrity. This July, **Jeannie Sleeter Singleton** will close-out an 11-year tenure at the hotel she helped open. Before coming to Hampton Inn, Jeannie was a star of Ringling Bros. Circus, following the tradition of her

parents. Among her credits are performing on the flying trapeze with The Flying Comets, as well as in *The Greatest Show On Earth* in 1952. The sign outside the Inn read, "Way To Go Jeannie-Happy 11 Years Anniversary." Now, maybe she will have some time to write us a few stories about her career in the circus!! How about it???

Photo on back cover of Issue #45: From Polack Bros. Circus, 1947. Not everyone identified, can you help? Front Row: BeBe Siegrist; Theron Troupe performer; Betty Brasnow; Theron Troupe performer; Back Row: Conchita Morales; Cristino Loyal's wife & Dorothy Durbin. Photo from Dorothy's scrapbook. The elephants on Page 15 were on Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros, taken in L.A. in 1936. The Flying Valentinos, from 1940, were Lorraine, George Valentine, and Sue Pelto. Ora & Fred Logan were on the front cover, taken on the Beatty Circus.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT!!!!!

Four different people have told me they heard this report on the news, so, here it is:
Paderborn, Germany: Overzealous zookeeper, Friedrich Riesfeldt, fed his constipated elephant, Stefan, 22 doses of animal laxative & more than a bushel of berries, figs & prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let fly-and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop! Investigators say Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive-oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him like a dump truck full of mud. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock & lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him," said flabbergasted police detective Erik Dern. "With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along & during that time he suffocated. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents that happens sometimes-a billion-to-one shot, at least." The heartbreaking tragedy began April 23 when the conscientious zookeeper noticed that his prize, 8000 pound African elephant didn't seem to be producing his usual poop aplenty. "Friedrich had actually been concerned for several days because he knew that severe constipation can kill an elephant," asst. zookeeper Kurt Herrman said. "He told me he was going to stay late that night to treat Stefan with laxatives & possibly give him

an enema. I offered to help, but he sent me on home, saying he had everything under control." Two hours later, horrified night watchman, Walter Pleuger found Friedrich lying lifeless under a mound of muck, his body visible only from the knees down. Det. Dem said, "I had never thought about it before, but obviously, giving an elephant an enema can be a very dangerous activity & not something that should be attempted alone."

WAYNE MCCARY CFA TENT 172 RAISING

On July 16, while Carson & Barnes Circus is in Dalton, MA, the new Wayne McCary Tent 172 will have it's tent raising. There will be a variety of activities that include performances from the Druding Ori Calliope from 11 am, a Tent lunch with speakers & presentations of the CFA charter at the 4:30 pm Carson & Barnes Circus, as well as other activities. Wayne McCary is a well-known circus performer & CEO of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, one of the largest fair expos in the world.

As the circus trucks arrive on the lot, there will be coffee & donuts, courtesy of the Lions Club. The noon luncheon will feature chicken or roast beef, potatoes, salad, rolls, dessert & drinks. Anyone wishing to sell circus items may do so.

The luncheon is \$10.; Wayne McCary hats are \$7.; T-Shirts are \$13.; Advance Circus Tickets-\$8. Adult, Reserve Seats-add \$2.; Box Seats, add \$4. For Reservations, send by July 10 to: Richard Hamilton, 166 Whitman Rd.-Hancock, Williamstown, MA 01267. Membership in the Tent is \$5. See You There!!!

USDA JUDICIAL OFFICER UPHOLDS KING ROYAL CIRCUS DECISION

June 26: The USDA judicial officer has upheld an administrative law judge's decision & order against John Davenport, a licensed exhibitor operating as the King Royal Circus in Von Ormy, TX. "This decision attests to the strength of our case against Davenport," said Michael Dunn, asst. secretary of agriculture for USDA's marketing & regulatory programs, "it sends a loud & clear message that we will not tolerate the mistreatment of animals under our watch." Last December, a USDA admin. law judge fined Davenport \$200,000 & permanently revoked his license to operate as an exhibitor under the AWA. He also permanently disqualified Davenport from applying for another. Davenport can appeal the judicial officer's decision to the U.S. Court of

Appeals. "We'll await Davenport's response," said Dunn. "Right now, I am just pleased that the judgment & hard work our personnel & state and local officials put into this case has been validated." An investigation into John Davenport's activities began last August when a King Royal Circus elephant died in a transport trailer in Albuquerque, NM.

Rumor has it that Davenport is now in Wisconsin, showing with Star Bros. Circus and has at least 2 elephants, a camel, llamas & ponies. True or False???

USDA INVESTIGATION LEADS TO INDICTMENT

June 26: The USDA has announced that horse facility owners Emil & Anna Jung of Gehlenberg-Friesoythe, Germany, were charged with 9 counts of conspiracy, smuggling, making false statements to a govt. agency, & mail fraud. APHIS import regulations exist to keep exotic plant & animal pests & diseases out of the U.S. "We won't tolerate importers that put American agriculture at risk," said Ron Stanley, director for IES.

The Jungs imported Holsteiner, Hanovarian & Oldenberger warmblooded horses from Germany to their large horse facility, Locksley Farms, in Millwood, VA. APHIS import regulations require that any sexually mature breeding mare or stallion, defined as a horse over 731 days of age, undergo certain testing & quarantine requirements to detect the presence of contagious equine metritis. The importer bears the cost of up to \$5000 per horse associated with the testing & quarantine.

The Jungs were charged with, either personally or thru agents, supplying or causing to be supplied falsified dates of birth for horses imported from Germany into the U.S. for the purpose of avoiding CEM testing & quarantine requirements. If convicted on all counts of the indictment, the maximum penalty faced by Emil & Anna Jung is 45 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$2.25 million.

MECHANICAL PACHYDERM FOR SALE

(London, AP): There's only one life-size mechanical elephant in the world & it's for sale. The 1.5 ton creation is currently the star attraction at an antiques fair in West London. It was built in 1949 to carry children at a fairground in NW England. The elephant is an 8 foot tall, steel framed machine, covered in hide-like cloth. It's powered by an .10 horsepower Ford engine, & can travel at speeds up to 12 mph. It even has ears that flap. The dealer hopes to sell it for \$160,000.

VALENTINE VAULTS-FROM 1950 GOLDEN YEARS OF THE BILLBOARD

From Orrin Davenport: Feb. 11-Francis Brunn, juggler, practices in all his waking hours. Jeannie Sleeter is one of the most improved show girls of the year. Ruth Flanagan has recovered from her fall in Houston...Corinne & Bert Dearo are sporting a new nickel-plated aerial rigging.. Don Dorsey is back in action...Kay Hanneford was 17 last week...Tom & Winnie Gregory held their annual dinner. Guests included Harry Thomas, Mayme Ward, Kay Burslem, Rose Behee, Harold & Eileen Voise, Emmett Kelly, Lottie Brunn, Ernie Burch, and Hilda & Curt Oranto...Emmett Kelly rambled in from Hollywood & took part in the clown band number...Joining in St. Paul were Eddie, Duina & Bala Zacchini with their flying act; Hogan's Seals; Kinko & Mac & Peggy MacDonald...The Gudas Troupe still stops the show...Yette Wallenda still is the thrill gal of the circus. When she sways that high pole, they hang on their seats...The Haags, Ruby, Harry & Naomi are batting 1000 every day...Jimmy Armstrong is the half-hour & 15-minute bugler...Ethel Jennier is convalescing in a Midland, TX hospital...From Ayres & Kathryn Davies: Capt. Christy was bitten on the ear recently by one of his lions...David, son of Harry & Mary Rawls, has stolen the song from the rocking ladder act...When we played Farmer City, IL, Harold Ramage of Bloomington, motored to visit. He had his movie machine & showed pictures taken around circuses...George & Lorraine Valentine visited too...At Beloit, WI, Bill Morris joined for the day with his baby elephant, Jewel...At Fond du Lac, there was a band of 114 pieces from 24 schools under the direction of Merle Evans...Harry & Mary Rawls broke an axle on their truck as they arrived in Sandwich. The next morning they were hailed by a service station man who told them their trailer was on fire. The fire dept. was called & the blaze extinguished but the interior of the trailer was destroyed. They got a new one in Moline, IL...Concession Dept. is being handled by Willie Rawls. Corky Frazier, who is doing clowning, has bought a new Nash & Johnny Frazier, a Ford...Jr. Rawls is drawing crowds to the Side Show...From Hamid-Morton: Dick Clemens traded 1 of his lions with Obert Miller. Mike Malkos is in the Prop. Dept. Elena Garcia had a bad fall while doing her rope slide on opening day..Pia Dobritch is on the sick list with a broken bone in her foot. She injured it when

she landed too fast from her slide down the rope at the finish of her act...3 big bulls that were purchased by the Kelly-Miller show left from Wichita for their new home in Hugo, OK...New additions to the show are Freddie Valentine & Jeep, Helen Haag's chimps & Kirk Adams' dog & ponies..Loof Rios had a close one when one of the boys had his shoe ripped off on the anchor foot-hang. His other foot held & he was able to hold on until Sa-So could pull the ladder under them..Peaches & her girls were almost asphyxiated in their trailer when the ice box sprung a leak & gas escaped during the night..Rosita Ricardy, in attempting a few acrobatics, fell, breaking both arms & a knee..From Clyde Bros, Gracie Hanneford reports: Poodles Hanneford is happy again now that we are playing towns where his portable TV set will bring in the shows..Francis Clark lost part of her trousers when her little bear, Ruby, became slightly temperamental..Leo Gasca was injured in a fall from his wire at the close of his act..From Clyde Beatty show: Bobby Kay is doing gold & Mel Rennick, silver, in the opening spec..Eileen Voise says the flat tire on her ricksha make a rough ride during spec..Huey Kyle says that fixing a flat tire in a pouring rain is uncomfortable..Herbie Weber & Johnny Cline went on a fishing trip & returned in time for the matinee..Since Harold Voise started operating his gilly, it seems that none of the lots are closer than 3 miles from the train..Bobby Kay has his ballet girls practicing ladders, webs & loops daily..Jack Voise received a sprained ankle & Billy Temple has been taking his part in the aerial bar act..Clyde Beatty hit the jackpot on a recent fishing trip & returned with a big string of rainbow trout.The Beattys recently celebrated their 17 wedding anniversary..Mark Anthony has started to practice unicycle, along with his slack-wire..Richard Shipley & his elephant dept. have the elephant acts working nicely now that the 2 elephants left in quarters are back on the show..Bobby Kay is getting much attention with his fan dancer clown walk-around..Oct. 25-Harriett Beatty died in her sleep of a heart ailment while in her car on the show train. Clyde learned of her death after the matinee performance. She had been ill for some time. She & her sister, Jean Evans, joined Hagenbeck-Wallace in 1930. It was there that she met Clyde & they were married in 1933...From Rogers Bros, George Hubler reports: Eddie Kuhn had a few tense moments during the mixed wild animal group when a puma had a battle royal with a lion cub..Jeannie Kuhn is taking wire lessons from Pauline Penny & Joyce Kuhn trampoline lessons from

Corky Frazier..Myrtle Leuboff is getting novelty salesmanship lessons from **Johnny Frazier..Johnny (Sherlock) Frazier** recently had an embarrassing time when several members of the junior commandos lowered the boom on his private tent..**Johnny Walker** runs the snow cone & candy apple stands..**Copernicus** sisters from Cullman, AL visited their cousins, **Corky Frazier & Johnny Walker..Hunky Johnson's** gas engine model airplane started a fad thruout the show. Planes built by **Johnny Frazier & Bill Geines** met with disaster in their maiden flights..**The Frazier's** bus resembled a mixture of Noah's Ark & the clown car gag as it carried 37 people & animals to town on our Sunday off..**Hunky Johnson** suffered foot injuries while attempting to play football with one of the elephants..**From Cole & Walters:** **Bongo**, the ape, woke everyone up in the middle of the night when the baby elephant visited it's cage..**Phyllis Newman** is working the single elephant act since the departure of **Lucky Devers**. **Beverly Vannette** is working **Baby Norma** & the big 3 elephant act..**The** cookhouse truck went in a ditch again. We have 2 trailer windows out now because of elephants. One is **Rosie Parker's** compartment & **Mildred Welbes'** trailer..**Wally Ross & Happy Irwin** took the elephants downtown for their regular appearance at the Chevy dealer & then found out the agency was across the street from the lot..**Wally**, boss elephant man, suffered a heart attack & **Wayne Newman** is working the big 3 act..**Stanley**, the chimp, decided it needed a vacation so with a loaf of bread, a jar of jelly & a spoon, it left the show after it's act. **The Twists** missed the next day's matinee, but **Stanley** was located near the lot. Altho he departed in a hard rain & hail storm, he seemed none the worse for his adventures..**On Norman Auday's** birthday, **Charlie Rex** was asked to bring 5 quarts of ice cream from town. Instead, Charlie brought 5 gallons of gas!..The best comedy act of the season was furnished by **Wayne Newman** when ants got in his pants during the time he was swinging **Phyllis Lee** in her cloud swing. She fell out of the swing-no injuries..**Charlie Rex**, electrician, needed some gas & while siphoning 5 gallons from the tank of **Joe Wright**, he fell asleep, draining the tank of 20 gallons. **Joe** did a burn-up the next day when he was supposed to make an 86-mile jump..**From Waco,TX-May 25-Otto Berosini,22**, was killed when he fell 60 feet while working on **Polack Bros**, before a crowd of 1100 people..**Pueblo, CO: June 19-Franz Heinzmann, 35**, known as the **Great Francisco**, was killed instantly when his sway pole snapped during **Polack Eastern** circus. The

accident came mid-way in the high pole act..**Miles City, Mont.-June 14: Bud Anderson, 55**, owner of **Seal Bros. Circus** was killed when a semi carrying 12 horses overturned on a winding mountain highway..**Lexington, Neb.-July 28-Philipp Kreis**, known as **Philipp Wallenda**, a member of the **Great Wallenda** high-wire troupe, died of injuries sustained when struck by a car the day before while he was repairing a tire on his trailer beside the road..**Louie Reed**, elephant trainer with **Ward Bros. Circus**, suffered a broken left arm below the elbow when his pachyderm trio stampeded at the **Shrine Circus** in Long Beach. He escaped more serious injury when he stepped into a niche in the wall. During the 2 previous days, the elephants had to be coaxed on the elevator to take them to the 2nd floor auditorium..**Mitchell, SD, Sept. 27-Kurt Kienast, 38** roly-boly & aerialist, known as **Rollini & the Great Kurt**, was killed while performing his high act in front of the **Corn Palace**. He missed the crossbar of his trapeze & fell some 20 feet..**From Ringling-Mary Jane Miller** reports:

Fay Alexander & Billy Snyder doing some **Risley** practicing..Everyone getting much enjoyment from **Bill Ballantine's** articles & sketches in **Holiday** mag..**Movies** shown frequently outside the trains at night..**Buzzie Potts** has acquired a black crow for his clown gags..**Dorita & Ronna**, daughters of **Dorothy & China Durbin**, have joined for the summer..**Mrs. Albert Rix** joined with her 3-week-old baby..**Paul Jerome**, selling the **Billboards**, stopped at the grease joint for coffee & ordered a **Billboard** with sugar, which goes to show that he has his mind on his work..**Jenny Zoppe** has returned to **Sarasota** to await the arrival of the stork..**Cookhouse** really struck it rich when the waiters drove an iron stake thru a 12-inch oil pipe..**Harold Alzana** & his watch repairing business keeps him busy..**Priscilla**, of the **Side Show**, carries her pet horned toad around the lot..**Martha Hunter** takes daily strolls with the baby gorillas..**Bob Dover** is reporting for his army physical..**Acts at World Jungle Compound, Thousand Oaks, CA: Mabel Stark,7** tigers; **Pat Anthony, 8** lions; **Melvin Koontz, 10** pumas; **Fred Schafer**, elephants; **Harriet & Chubby Guilfoyle, 11** lions; **Henry Craig, 4** chimps; **Frank Phillips, 7** lions.

***Nothing is as cheery in winter as the pot-bellied stove in a bull barn.** ***Nobody has ever seen a member of a show taking notes while the manager made a pep talk.** ***Difficulty of getting good men is understood by circus managers & ballet girls.** ***Circus news never seems so important as when its strictly propaganda.**

SARASOTA CIRCUS FESTIVAL CANCELS

A member of the board of the Sarasota International Circus Festival & Parade has stated the group plans to take a year off. There was some disappointment in this years turnout. I know this will be a sad turn of events for those fans & performers that like to travel to Sarasota for this event, and many plan their Christmas & vacations around the date.

June 10: A woman who was injured by an elephant before its appearance on the "Regis & Kathie Lee" show received a \$1.65 million settlement. Yelena Aleynikov, a Russian translator, was just about to begin a \$5 million lawsuit against ABC, The Greater Moscow Circus & their agent, Wessex Productions. The circus & Wessex will pay the money. Yelena was backstage at ABC Studios in NY when Flora, with the Greater Moscow Circus, pushed her against the wall in 1994. Yelena sustained a fractured skull, broken ribs, a punctured lung & facial injuries.

Flora's trainer had left the area to change his clothes, & he said that perhaps the elephant panicked. (This was not the elephant Flora that is with Circus Flora, based in St. Louis. Your editor was with Circus Flora in 1994, and believe me, we did not come near Regis & Kathie Lee!!!)

INTERNATIONAL CLOWN HALL OF FAME CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Milwaukee, June 8: 3 new clowns will be added to the prestigious list of past honorees in the ICHOF. 1998 Clown Hall of Fame inductees are Robert Armin, Ernie "Blinko" Burch & Peggy Williams. Peggy Williams is the 2nd woman to be honored out of 41 inductees. She joined Ringling Bros. in 1970 after Clown College. After spending 19 years with the circus, she "retired" & began spreading the gift of laughter the world over. She is a popular speaker & consultant.

Posthumous honors will be awarded to Ernie "Blinko" Burch, known as the King of White-faced clowns. Ernie was given his clown name by Cecil B. DeMille after working on the movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth." Ernie began clowning at the age of 10 & was chastened by his teacher who made him write, "I will not clown in class" 1000 times. Thankfully, it didn't affect his career choice. At 16, he dropped out of school to perform as a clown in the Daly circus. Eventually, he performed with the Shrine & Ringling Bros. Circuses. He was also a

welcome guest at many major charitable events, telethons & the pediatric wards of many hospitals. "Blinko" passed away on Aug. 29, 1993, just 6 weeks after performing for a TV show in Sarasota. His lovely wife, Maran, will accept his award.

The final honoree, Robert Armin, was chosen for his impact on history. An actor, Robert was considered one of the first important stage clowns of any note. He (c. 1568-1615) was an Elizabethan clown whose acting troupe's resident playwright was William Shakespeare. Many of Shakespeare's roles were written for Armin, including the clown in Othello.

BLINKO'S FAVORITE RECIPE: ONION SOUP POT ROAST QUICKIE

3-4 lbs. chuck roast or chuck steak, 2-3 inches thick
2 T. Steak Sauce

1 Envelope Onion Soup Mix
1 Can Cream of Mushroom Soup
1 Small Can Sliced Mushrooms (optional)

Place roast in center of extra wide heavy-duty foil in roaster pan. Brush meat with steak sauce. Sprinkle soup mix over all. Spread met with mushroom soup, drain mushrooms & place on top of meat. Wrap foil loosely around meat. Bake in 350 degrees oven 2 1/2 -3 hours or until meat is tender. Serves 6.

With this, Blinko served potatoes baked in foil. Wash the potatoes, dry them & butter entire surface. Wrap in foil & place in oven last hour of roast's baking time. Serve with sour cream & chives.

Blinko also liked broccoli with cheese sauce. With the fresh vegetable, he cuts stems & leaves from the broccoli, washes & drains it. Stalks are placed in boiling, salted water until partially done, about 3 minutes, then drained & arranged in a casserole & covered with a can of cheese soup. Sprinkle stalks with paprika & bake in 350 degree oven the last 30 minutes of roast baking time. Casserole will be bubbly.

The piece de resistance are Blinko's chicken wings Italiano. Maran says, "They're better than shrimp as an appetizer." The succulent wings usually preceded dinner parties when the couple entertained on the patio of their mobile home in Sarasota. Guests from all circus & theatrical media awaited the Christmas holidays when Blinko & Maran usually managed a month's vacation & spent much of it hosting dinner parties.

BLINKO'S CHICKEN WINGS ITALIANO

4 lbs. (or more chicken wings, depending on number to be served.)

1-2 Bottles Italian Salad Dressing

1 Cup Dry White Wine (optional)

Paprika

Singe wings over flame of stove, rinse in cold water. Cut joints. Use tips for soup stock if you wish. Cover rest of wings with Italian salad dressing & let stand overnight. Drain wings, keeping marinade. Pre-heat oven to 300 degrees. Place wings on shallow broiler pan. Sprinkle with paprika. Bake 1 hour, until tender, basting with marinade if wings are dry. Bake until tender & brown. Place in chafing dish to keep warm. If not used as cocktail party food, the wings may be served on a bed of rice & chopped onions.

This "Recipe For Happiness" was given to Blinko by a friend. One full measure of kindness. Of laughs, use just a dash. Equal parts of work & play, And love, it's not too rash. Stir the blend with loving care, Add humor when you're through. Sprinkle lightly with good luck, Your dreams will all come true.

(I know the readers would love more, Maran. Please send me some more of your and Blinko's favorite recipes.)

***Bobby Gibbs** has returned to driving his truck. He was hurt in Canada & now has to have special treatment at a wound center. **Rosa** has the winter quarters looking beautiful & she is taking care of the extra cats.

* **Safari Canyon-Caribbean Gardens, Naples, FL:**

The Gardens recently introduced 2 new dingo pups, **Mick & Hogan**, were born in the U.S. on December 2, 1997. While American audiences enjoy watching the cute dingo faces, many Australians would feel quite differently. Dingos are responsible for substantial damage to Australia's 5 billion dollar a year sheep industry. While dingo control runs the gamut from firearms to poison, the ranchers' best defense is a fence. A really, really long fence. **David Tetzlaff**, general curator puts it in these terms: "This barrier fence is a monumental work. Picture building a fence between New York & L.A. & then hiring full-time crews to make sure it's constantly maintained. The fence crosses 3 Australian territories over a distance of more than 3400 miles.

Most of the time, the dingos at the Gardens are adorable-licking the keeper's hand or playing with the broom while they clean. But at feeding time, they're full-blooded dingoes. When chunks of beef are put down, they switch

from playful pups to snarling & growling wild animals. Caribbean Gardens is a 52-acre botanical & zoological preserve in Naples, FL. If you can't visit the Gardens in person, check out their website on the Net at www.caribbeangardens.com You will enjoy your visit.

Coronas Performing at Gatlinburg, Tenn.

A family circus that traces its origins back to Czechoslovakia in the 1830s has contracted to present its acts to Ober Gatlinburg Amusement Park thru Sept. 7th. Circus Hollywood will perform several 45-minute shows daily under a tent. Producer **Serge Coronas** has drawn from the expertise of 4 generations of performing Coronas to create an electrifying circus designed for the audiences of the 90s. The troupe has preserved its traditional European flavor in a unique combination with today's theatrics & death-defying super sensations.

Circus Hollywood has progressed from its initial aerial thrill show in 1952 at the famed Steel Pier in Atlantic City to an array of international daredevils, animal trainers, clowns, aerialists & acrobats. The acts include the Hollywood Stunt Riders, who roar around the inside of the "Globe of Death"; **Mary**, billed as the world's youngest performing African elephant; **Miss Stevana & her Dress Poodles of Paradise**; **The Crystal Duo Aerial Cradles**, winner of the 1995 Circus Festival in Sarasota, & a cavalcade of clowns. There is also a petting zoo with more than 30 animals & animal rides. Their menagerie includes a giraffe, baby camels, zebra, highland cows, miniature zebu, llamas, a Percheron horse, a miniature donkey & pot bellied pigs.

Hagenbeck-Wallace Rules For Employees

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

- *Do not sit "cross-legged" on floats
- *Do not nod to friends in audience
- *Do not chew gum or smoke in parade
- *Do not bring liquor into the dressing rooms
- *Do not run horses to "catch up" in parade-be on time
- *Avoid arguments with other employees. Be agreeable & promote harmony
- *Do not play ball in the main tent or back yard
- *We should want the "town folk" to feel that the "show folk" are real men & women & ladies & gentlemen as well
- *No dogs allowed in the dining room during meal time
- *No gambling on or near the show ground

RUMBLINGS FROM THE CRUMMY

By Brian Nunn

*Back to Myakka: Rex had set up a stall at the back of the barn, behind all the African punks. Myakka wasn't 2 or 3 days old before he got fresh. He was even getting on Gyp's (his mom) nerves. He'd run around the stall, 40'x15', like a wild colt. And with bedding so deep & all, he'd trip & do a somersault. Once he tripped & landed upside down in one of those rubber feed tubs. He looked like an upset turtle, him squaling, like he's dying. All the elephants in the barn are alarmed, 19 of them. Gyp walks over to the upside down heathen, kicking & screaming. And she boots him out of the bucket. All this took about 5 seconds, it was pretty funny to see. We all would have liked it if Gyp would have helped out with discipline, but the little baby could take flying lessons from Gardner, & come back for more and more. Like I said, I wish I could have had the Brat 75 years ago.

*Thursday morning, about a half an hour before sunrise, the elephants are still sleeping. I walked down the line, there is a kind of awareness. An eyeball blink, a slow flap of an ear (this was nothing new-it was done the same way every day, like elephant men do.) No alarm or crisis. The ones standing, I would throw some feed. I'd just sit on a bale of hay & live with this peaceful scene. It is a feeling of quiet power that is hard to describe. The old hands were always the first ones up so everything stayed quiet. (They lived with these animals.)

When time came they'd be offered water. The rest was contact with these beasts & some wheelbarrow work. Every true bull man I'd talk to would say this was the best time of day. Of course pulling a semi, axle deep in mud, with a harness bull is pretty hard to beat.

*This one's for Tom. If anybody else enjoys this story I've scored. My dear friend Sheila & I were sitting in front of the country store, early one morning; she playing the guitar & me beating out rhythm on a gallon can of Folgers. An Indian

pulled up in a nice 1942 pick-up truck & asked if we'd like a couple of days work, harvesting his garden. He said he'd feed & keep us, & some money when the job was done. Well, we drove all the way out to the back hills of the reservation (some distance.) He had a split-level brick house & a nice barn. He said we could sleep in the barn. When he took us to show us where we'd sleep, there was a big room; there was 2 pianos, a drum set that started with a Z, lots of brass, reeds, & strings, even a tuba, not to mention an original Les Paul guitar.

Sheila & I got after the work pretty good, & at night I got to learn some musical things. Everybody seemed to have a good time in the week we were there. I had some fun playing bottom to hot rock & roll on that tuba, his wife & all his children played too. I think he was a vacationing rock & roll star.

*Just to raise a little heat-animal rights people, in fact, a bigger group of concerned thinking minds, allow that humans have encroached upon the endangered species, & that they should have expanded areas to claim their own. O.K. This is all good, give or take. But! Where were these thinking minds when the Native Americans were being robbed of their lifestyle & their land?

*A story about bees & cotton candy: hot & sticky day in the Northeast-and so was the joint. Everyday while getting ready for the show, (I'd try to have about 25 boards up), while spinning, the joint is surrounded by bees. I learned after awhile (either the sugar made them goofy or they were not aggressive bees) that I would not get stung, and there were dozens of them in the joint. I just had to be careful while spinning floss to not let bees get into the tub & wrapped up in the cone. I had to throw a lot of candy in the bleach bucket because the bees were inside the cotton candy. But the job got done & that Northeast run was always good.

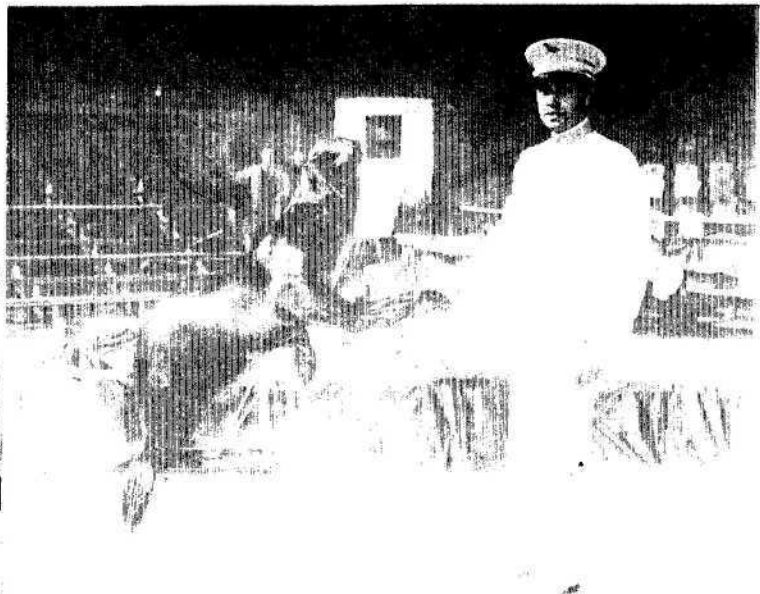
*An elephant that remains sweet in my memory is Flora, Smokey Jones broke. She has a generous & competent owner. She's smart & eager to learn & please as any elephant I have ever been around. It would only take me a couple of hours to teach her complicated tricks that she could remember.



DAVID BALDING — FLORA — BRIAN NUNN



BOBBIE PECK



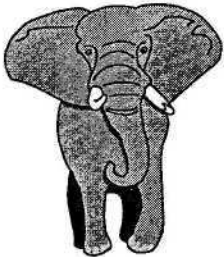
BUDDY AND WALTER JENNIER

SELLS-FLOTO MAY 30, 1930



**Eddie Ward, Sr., Bert Doss, Harold Voise, Paul Sullivan
Billy Somers, Orta Masher, Mayme Ward, Lillian Arbuckle
Rose Sullivan, Elsie Darr, Eileen Voise, Nellie Sullivan,
Bee Starr, Mickey King**

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