

# BACK YARD

Volume IV, Issue #74

August 31, 1999

## SOME REMARKABLE ELEPHANTS

By George Bancroft Griffith

(Sunday Magazine-May 20, 1906-ISU Circus Collection)

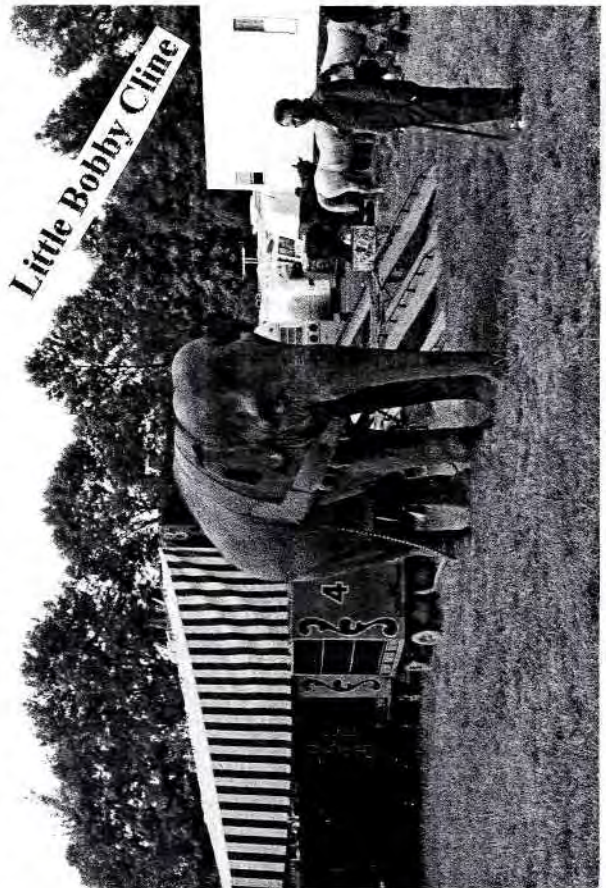
Dedicated to "Pete" of the Clyde Beatty Circus

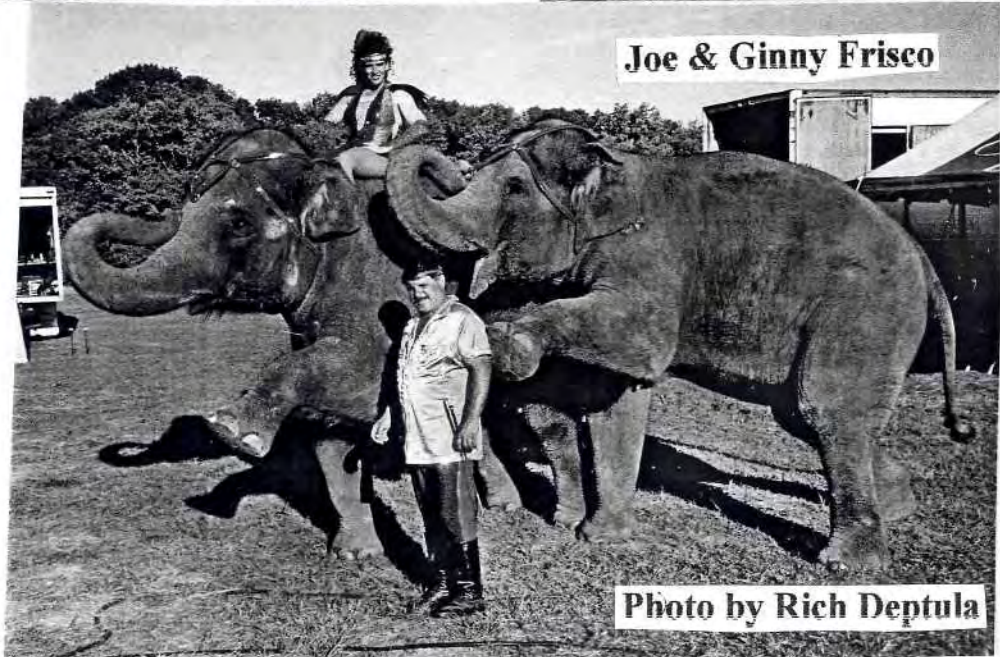
Proofs of the worth and sagacity of the elephant and his fidelity as the friend of man, are as old as history. The ancients, who are sparing in their praises of the dog, could not speak too highly of the elephant. The elder Pliny, who was a diligent collector of anecdotes rather than an observer, surpasses himself when he treats of this animal. He places him as unquestionably next to man. Intelli-memory, ambition, affection, honesty, prudence and justice are in the catalogue of virtues which he ascribes to these creatures.

But a more thrilling example of valuable power and courage in this noble animal was never known than this, found in an account of an adventure by Rousselet, who employed the elephant in a great part of his travels in India. At one time he was caught in a dreadful storm, in a march which he unwisely had attempted in the rainy season. The rain fell in torrents, the lightning played in violent streaks along the ground & the thunder broke in incessant peals from the sky. It was necessary, in the course of the march, to ford a stream that had been swollen by the deluge into a deep and furious torrent. Rousselet, his traveling companion and the mahout were mounted upon a single elephant, which was directed toward the raging current.

"The sagacious beast," writes Rousselet, "approached the water, sounded it for a moment with his trunk, as though to test the force of the stream & then fell back, uttering 2 or 3 cries, like the sound of a clarion, as if to protest against our temerity. A touch with a pike on the crown of the head warned him, however, that we were not inclined to dispute about the question & bravely resigning himself, he dashed into the water. His heavy bulk seemed insensible to the strength of the current; yet it was only by letting himself drift for a few hundred yards that he could reach the opposite bank. There he already had planted his fore feet on the ground, his crupper rounded & we had arrived in port, when suddenly his feet slipped and he fell back heavily into the torrent, causing the water to dash upward above our heads. A terrible cry of anguish escaped our lips, for we were lost. The elephant, bewildered & desperate, was floating along, carried away by the stream & we could even hear the roaring of the falls of the Betwa in front. "All at once,

the intelligent animal appeared to stiffen his body. We felt him swimming. He left the bed of the current & soon we touched the bank. But there a fresh difficulty awaited us. We found ourselves facing an almost perpendicular bank of clay from 8 to 10 feet in height." (Continued on Page 4)





## Fun & Games With The USDA

### By Don Wixom, The Elephant Company

All of us in the travelling, exotic animal world, are well aware of the many hoops we must jump through, placed there by various governmental agencies. Wild animal show folk can relate to those "wonderful" pop inspections by USDA, local humane agencies and fish & game. Often, there are hours of delays involved in these drop-ins. How many showers, lunches, naps & set ups have been interrupted or skipped entirely while we take time to meet our legal obligations?

This article deals with some recent experiences our operation has dealt with while traveling this season. The article is also, a sort of, dot your I's, cross your T's story, to assure that you protect yourselves from erroneous charges or write-ups.

As is the usual, the new year brings around the USDA for their annual inspections of our winter quarters and travelling facilities. Empowered by the Federal Government, the United States Department of Agriculture is charged with inspection of all exhibitors of exotic wildlife to assure that the minimum standards of the Animal Welfare Act are being followed.

The showman's "winter" is usually October or November through March or April. Most of us use this time to relax and to prepare for the season ahead.

Our leisure time is precious to most of us, and if you are like me, you take your opportunity to get away for a few hours here and there. During the winter months, work in Florida is at best, sporadic for us. There are so many attractions and events, that an elephant ride is almost passe. Thus, I have a "town" job which ranges from part-time to full time, in-between our winter dates. While I work, Elephant Company owners, Dave & Carmen Tesch look after the elephant and ponies. If Dave & Carmen are away, I take the duty, in any case, the elephant is never alone for more than four hours.

Our barn and yard is surrounded by heavy posts in concrete, cable and hot wire, with a 8' perimeter fence, so, when we are away, we feel comfortable that Lydia is safe from uninvited guests, and, the enclosure has safely contained her for sixteen years.

This year, our USDA vet made his surprise visit and missed us-3 times! No, we weren't evading him, how could we, you never know when they are coming! It was all a coincidence that we missed one another. In April, during Easter week, we had our elephant, pony and moon bounce rides set up at one of our regular client locations in Lakeland, Fl. Except for the fire ants (the only species I would not mind going extinct) the lot is large and grassy. Due to awkward placement of a chainlink fence, we were unable to use our hot wire compound or a line chain. However, as it was a spring break week, we opened early and stayed open late. The elephant was out of her truck for 10 plus hours daily. An animal rightist complaint, that "the elephant was only allowed out after 5:00 p.m.," and "Spent all day and night in her truck" brought out our USDA vet to investigate!

Naturally, he appeared from the "mist" like Blackstone the Magician, right after I stepped from the shower. I extended him

every courtesy and toured him around and answered questions. Lakeland is only 33 miles from our house, so, I stayed on the lot, while Dave & Carmen commuted from home to Lakeland. Dave is the license holder so our vet waited for his arrival. Once on the lot, Dave and the vet reviewed the inspection while Carmen and I opened for business. Near the end of his visit, the vet asked Dave about our upcoming road itinerary. With the exception of two yet unconfirmed dates, Dave gave him our route from May through Labor Day. The vet added the schedule to his notes and made his leave as quickly as he had appeared! Naturally, since we would be on the road in only two weeks, we assumed we had met our obligations until the USDA vet's visit sometime next fall.

Indeed, we were on the road by May 9th and our thoughts were now aimed at doing our job-entertainment and education. Turn ahead to July 12th. Dave receives a letter from the USDA-with his renewal check telling him his license has expired! The letter went on to say that his renewal was due in April (always has been August) and that he must re-apply and begin again from scratch! Quick action by Dave, several calls to the North Carolina regional office, some phone tag and leap frog reaches the proper party. Sorry to give a scare, it was a "computer error!" Sure, "computer error," it only took a couple years off our lives in sheer fright! Watch your back, we've learned that the USDA's computer system has had a "crash" recently, and, has battled a virus. If something seems amiss with your records or license, check out "computer error." Our new license is on the way-happy ending right? Not on your life!

We dash forward to July 26th. Another USDA letter, this time from our beloved vet in Florida. The letter stated we had "Failure to allow APHIS officials access to inspect" property when he attempted to inspect us on May 26th. Now, please recall-we are on the road since May 9th! On May 26th, we were in Maine! You can't inspect what ain't there!

Surely, a closed up house, absent elephant and no semi or motor homes, might give the average person an inkling that we might not be home! The letter went on to threaten fines for not providing an itinerary! Aha! We gave him our itinerary which he wrote down in Lakeland on Easter week!

More calls to North Carolina. These met with the usual governmental tail chase. Take it up with your vet first. More calls to voice mail. Finally, a returned call. The vet is in California and can't check his notes for 3 weeks! However, he thinks we are mistaken- "besides buddy, that's the least of your worries, your license is expired." Obviously, our dear vet doesn't call North Carolina much.

The same day our vet returns our call, the local USDA vet "drops by" for his follow-up visit of his inspection 30 days earlier! It was another coincidence, as this vet knew nothing of the letters or conversations. Much to his credit, he is a thorough, practical and fair inspector. Our reports (both of them) were excellent.

Now, why be so sensitive about some letters and reports? Because these are public records!

(Continued on Page 5)

## "Some Remarkable Elephants".....

"The elephant buried his feet in it, kneading the muddy earth and making it yield under his repeated efforts, he at length succeeded in hollowing out a passage.

We had reached half-way to the top, the ground was almost within reach of our hands & below us was the torrent, roaring, dashing down 10 yards farther off, over the ruins of the dike. A single false move of the animal would have been certain death to us; but the elephant seemed to be as sensible as ourselves of the imminence of the peril & he worked on with incredible energy, excited by his mahout, who caressed and supplicated him in touching accents. At times the whole mass of his hide was convulsed with a nervous tremor & he uttered low, plaintive cries.

At last, after a quarter of an hour's labor, the elephant's back reached the level of the ground, when we leaped on the bank and relieved of our weight, soon after he joined us. It may be imagined with what feelings of gratitude I embraced the brave animal to whom we owed our lives."

The story which Andrew Wilson, in his "Studies of Life and Sense," tells of Lizzie, an elephant belonging to Wombwell's menagerie, is striking. In 1874 the menagerie visited Tenbury, England and Lizzie, who had drunk a quantity of cold water when heated by walking, was attacked by spasms & treated by Turley, a local chemist. He applied a large blister to her side and relieved the pain. 5 years afterward the menagerie came around again and Lizzie recognized her medical adviser as he stood in the shop door, stepped out of the ranks & greeted him by placing her trunk around his hand. She even drew his attention to the side where the blister had been applied.

2 years afterward the menagerie came again. This time Lizzie lifted her friend in a gentle manner from the ground. It seemed that she had been led to form a still higher opinion of his merits as a doctor & even generally to prefer physic to surgery. A veterinary surgeon had been called in to prescribe for another ailment & had used the lancet. Accordingly, she drew Turley's attention to the limb which had been lanced and did her best to show how much she preferred his milder treatment.

On one occasion, soon after the close of the matinee performance given at Brockton, Mass., by Forepaugh's Circus, a one-story frame building near the tents caught fire and in a few moments the entire building was enveloped in flames. While all were excited & making futile attempts to pull down the buildings with their hands, Adam Forepaugh came running up and taking in the dangerous situation at the first glance, hastened to the elephant quarters, soon appearing with Bolivar and Basil.

The 2 great beasts were hurried over to the fire and began pulling down the horse-sheds in obedience to directions given by Forepaugh. In a short time the sheds were demolished, the grand stand was saved & the circus tents loomed up as proudly as ever. It then and there was proposed to make Bolivar and Basil honorary members of the Brockton Fire Department. Elephants have good ears and may be trained as musical

performers. Recently, a small elephant, with a surprisingly cultivated intelligence, was exhibited in London. Among other feats, it played a whole band of music at once; there were bells on its head and it used its trunk and fore feet to other instruments. In India, any well-trained elephant, at a word or touch from his driver, who sits astride his neck, will "hand up," "kneel," "speak" (trumpet), "salaam" (salute with his trunk), stop, back, lie down, pull down an obstructing branch, gather fodder and "hand up" to his attendant, turn or lift a log, or drag it by taking its drag-rope between its teeth. It also will protect its attendants or attack a common enemy with fury.

The number of things that trick elephants have been taught to do is almost numberless. The elephants of the Emperor Germanicus were trained to perform many remarkable feats, such as hurling javelins into the air with their trunks and catching them. Pliny says that these elephants danced upon a rope and their steps were so practiced and certain that 4 of them walked upon the rope, bearing a litter, which contained one of their companions, which feigned to be sick.

### \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*NEWS FROM OUR CIRCUS FRIENDS\*\*\*

Mike & Silvius Piccolo caught the Wheeling, WV Shrine Circus on 8/21. "We visited with George Hubler, David Zoppe, George Bertini and Larry Rich. It was a great show! Also seen on the lot were fans Jerry Schaub, Earl Schmid and Bill Watson." Performers included: Bryan Franzen, tigers; Los Edmondos, cradle; Miss Mezia, hair hang; El Alexis Duo, cradle; Count Cortezo, Comedy Car; Susan Sheryl's Afghans; Eli Gomez, space wheel; Justino, juggling; Bertinis, unicycles; Gormeso's Hula Hoops; David Zoppe's Rhesus monkeys; Bryan Franzen's elephants; Flying Cortez Family. At intermission there were elephant rides. Music by Larry Rothbard & John Millett. (Thanks, to Mike and Silvius!)

### \*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*PASSING OF OUR CIRCUS FRIENDS\*\*\*

From Judy "Rustie" Rock, August 12: "I would like to let everyone know that my mother, Jeanie Tomaini, from the Giant's Camp in Gibsonton, Florida, passed away in a local hospital the morning of the 10th of August, 1999. As Mother had chosen this life of celebrity & loved every second of it, my children & I have decided to share her with her public, one last time. Her simple funeral service will take place at 6 pm at her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, in Brandon. The visitation will follow until 9 pm, at which time, anyone attending may then go to the Giant's Camp Restaurant for a buffet. In her lifetime, she was orphaned when her Mother died out on the road when they were in Paris, Texas. She was 13 at the time. She was then abandoned by her father and put in an orphanage along her brother. She was finally adopted, about a year later, by a woman who wanted her for a meal ticket. She was secluded from her friends and remaining family. In 1936, she met Al Tomaini, 8' 4 1/2" Giant. They married 6 months later and were happily married for 26 years, till my Dad died August 30, 1962. My children and I will continue to run the camp, as they would have liked, as her 10 year old Great Grandson, Alexander Tomaini Morrow, is spending his youth learning the working acts, from me, as they were taught to me by my Father when I was his age. He is the world's youngest sword walker. Walking a ladder of swords, that were the ones used in my parent's sideshow in the 40s. The torch has been passed!

**\*\*Fun and Games With the USDA\*\*.....**

Records that animal rightist fractionize just like they do video tape to use against us. An inspector's words can be easily spun to frighten or anger a client or sponsor to cancel a planned engagement. In 1997, we lost 2 dates due to this type of sham. One client was long-term, he wanted us, but, not "the rightist hassle," we're still trying to recover that account! Of course the PAWS/PETA goal is economic disaster for all show folks with animals.

So, dear readers, here we are today, waiting for the vet to come home and "check his notes," and composing a letter to the USDA regarding the whole issue. What perplexes us, is, that on the road, we have received excellent inspections-why not at home? Inspections will always be subjective to a degree and if you know how to do it, you can come to acceptable, mutual agreements regarding changes and violations. It's a must that we do our best industry-wide to open lines of communication and take every chance we get to have input on pending new regulations.

You can protect yourself by adopting some of the things we plan on doing from now on. Have several people join the walking inspection (at least one other); take your own notes about conversations and materials provided; ask lots of questions, even if repetitive (such as, my license renewal date is blah, blah?). Remember, as servants of the public, they (USDA) have obligation to provide license holders with accurate and up to date information. Lastly, don't lose your cool! Keep it professional-even if you think the inspector is a bonifide buffoon, use their system to voice your well-worded, professional opinion-after all, you are the real experts.

Remember folks, be aware, or be square-worse yet, be out of business! I will keep you posted as this chronicle continues.

(How about FLEAS going extinct???-Cherie)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Gaylord Maynard's mother, Marcie Maynard**, 90 years young, passed away Aug. 24 in Myrtle Beach, SC. She is survived by 3 children; **Roberta, Gaylord and James**. Gaylord was there when she died. Marcie was a circus musician who played the organ with her late husband, Tex. Burial will be in Endicott, NY. Those wishing to speak to the family can phone: 516-525-3332.

\*\*\*\*\*

Circus World Museum's 1999 fall operation will begin Sept. 7 and run daily thru Oct. 31. Hours are 9 to 5, Monday thru Saturday and 11 to 5 Sunday. Following the fall season, the Feld Exhibit Hall & Visitor Center, C.P. Fox Wagon Restoration Center & W.W. Deppe Wagon Pavilion will remain open for the winter, November 1 thru May 5. Hours: 10 to 4, Monday thru Sat. and 11 to 4 on Sunday. For more information, please call 608-356-0800 or visit their new web site: [www.circusworldmuseum.com](http://www.circusworldmuseum.com)

**TO A BEAUTIFUL,  
BEAUTIFUL LADY  
AND A WONDERFUL  
PERSON,  
WHO COULD KICK  
THE HELL OUT OF  
THOSE KEYS.**

**PLAY WITH TEX  
IN THE BIG ONE  
THAT HAS  
GRASSY LOTS  
AND  
STRAW HOUSES  
EVERY SHOW!**

**REST IN PEACE,  
MY FRIEND.**

**GEE GEE**

FOX 70

*THE FOX !!!*

My Dear People, My Dear Friends;

Not to much news, but I thought I'd write you any way.

Went to the Club to turn in the money I received so far for the ads and ran in to Joan Wilson and she told me that she still has her beautiful dog act but not plan to go on the road any more just some spot dates. Well she has anyway a lot to do as she is making costumes for people and also very hard at work in training other dog acts for other performers, the one just left her for Hansini. She was at the Club helping sister Penny with the social. pot luck. Also helping was Dale Longmeir, oh I know I spelled his name wrong but I know all of you know who I am talking about. He is such a great person, always there to help out. I believe you all know that he is working for Walker Brothers now, booking dates.

Bob Home had a street fair this week here in Sarasota right by his restaurant. He really went all out for it. His helpers were Skip Doyle and his lovely wonderful wife, the one person there I am sorry I do not know his name, then there was Ellian Rosaire and husband with her pony ride and a face painter. Not much business but when I went there the next day I found Diane Brown and Pam Paulsen they all had lots of fun. Bob handed me a writeup from Tululah Gorge were it shows they build a bridge were Karl Wallenda did the Gorge walk and if I understand right, it has something like the Wallenda name. Oh ye, Bob has the outside wall painted circus tent and circus animals. It will really look great when it is finished.

Tammy Wallenda working the elephant from Danny with son Chane for two weeks. They are working Circus Vasques.

Erika Wallenda is practicing with Shane the comedy car act which once belonged to Fay Alexander. Tammy made the brake away pants for Chane. There is just one problem right now, Chane is going to work one place and Tammy an other place and both of them need Erika. Tammy needs her for the cat act and Chane for the comedy car. I wonder what they will be doing, they can not cut her in half.

Adam Hill on the Blue Unit of the Ringling show is taking over ring three of the elephant act. (No relation to Allan) I am sorry but I forgot his first name. I hope Adam is right.

Oh boy, I was called and told a rumor that the Royal Palace Circus will be going the next year out with a tent show, true or false??? I do not know.

Was told that Tina from the Los Argentinas just had become American citizen and a few days later she passed away. So sorry to hear about her leaving us.

Just got a phone call from the television that the wife of the giant passed away. This was the lady who was always in the sideshow just half a lady. They owned the Giant's Camp on the way to Tampa from Sarasota.

Also heard that Micky Beehee left this world. She followed her husband Bob to the eternal rest. Micky had left a couple of



years ago Florida to stay with her daughter. She sold the house she had shared with her beloved husband. She was one of the Flying Beehees. Saw Vivian Scott the other day at Publix and she informed me that her mother Cathy is not doing well at all and is in the hospital.

Now I like to thank all the people who already sent in for thier ad and I will insert also a letter I am sending to all the people who did not respond so far to my plea to send in there ad. I am also explaining how it so happened that I am doing it again. I am sorry, this is not meant for most of you as you have no reason to advertise. Every one from my news letter already responded. So thank you all very much. But please do not forget to order your Showfolks Circus tickets, so you can secure a good seat.

Steven Wallenda son of the late Gunther Wallenda past away Aug. 10th in Tijuana Mexico. Wife called and left message that he will be burried in Mexico.

Sincerely Yours

Your Fox



\*\*\*\*\*

**FOUR DAY TOUR**

**By Amos Bolieau**

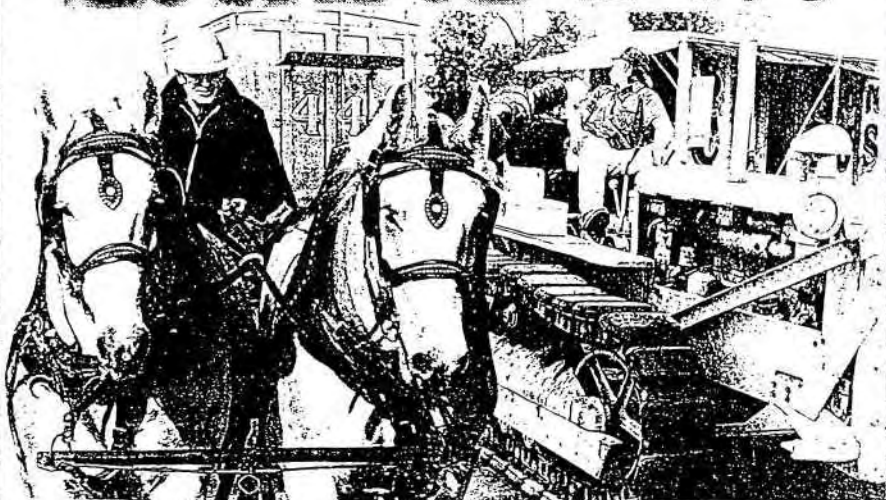
The day August 6th, 1999. The time 2:30 pm when my wife Mary and I pulled on the lot in Epsom, NH. The location of Roberts Bros. Circus, of course. The first person you see is "Turtle" Benson and his traveling companion, "Boo." At this time of day most of the performers and roustabouts are resting after having set up the lot. About 4 pm things start to buzz a little as the time nears for the 2 shows at 5:30 & 7:30. At this time, we set up an information table in behalf of CFA, CMB and CHS under the marquee. I do not plan to mention the acts, as they have been reviewed numerous times. Chuck Druding, Earl Krauzer, and George Millios with his son, Bill, were observed on the lot.

Day 2, August 7th. At the same time saw us in Franklin, NH, doing the same routine setting up again under the marquee. However, the day was a little more hectic as hay for the animals got very low, due to personnel reasons the supplier was unable to arrive with it in time. After a couple of phone calls to Chuck Druding, it arrived a short time later.

Day 3, August 8th. Shortly after noon, we arrived at the lot in Windham, NH, with the same intentions of setting up. However, due to threatening weather, we decided against it. We helped with odds and ends and took time to see the show-something we had been unable to do. At this performance, Earl and Bernice Krauzer were present.

Day 4, August 9th. By mid-afternoon, we had arrived on the lot at Peterborough, NH to set up our display again under the marquee. We had been advised in advance to expect unwelcome guests and it was true. About a dozen held signs and created a nuisance, even to the extent of dressing a child as an elephant. We enjoyed our time with Roberts Bors. Circus being of assistance when ever possible. We were well received, especially by Bob and Theresa Earl, "Turtle" Ken Benson and everyone. Sarah Chapman was a joy.

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Sacramento-ARCO Arena: 9/9-12; Seattle-Key Arena: 9/16-19  
\*\*\*\*\*

**RINGLING BLUE :** Moline, IL-Mark of the Quad Cities:  
9/2-5; Kansas City-Kemper Arena: 9/8-12; Indianapolis-Market  
Sq. Arena: 9/15-19  
\*\*\*\*\*

**CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS:** Carroll, IA-8/30;  
Atlantic-8/31; Fremont, NE-9/1; Norfolk-9/2; Columbus-9/3;  
Grand Island-9/4.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**UniverSoul Circus:** Cleveland-8/27-9/5; Detroit-9/8-15;  
Chicago-9/22-10/4; St. Louis-10/7-10; Kansas City-10/13-17;  
LA-10/22-11/3; Houston-11/9-14.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Garden Bros. Circus:** Belleville-8/30-31; Orangeville-9/2.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Kelly-Miller Circus:** Marlette, MI-8/30; Ithaca-8/31;  
Stanton-9/1; Fremont-9/2; Coopersville-9/3; Bangor-  
9/4; Carrollton, IL-10/2; Carlinville-10/3; Staunton-10/5.  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Clyde Beatty Circus:** Ocean City, MD-8/30; Dover, DE-  
8/31-9/1; Centreville, VA-9/2-3.  
\*\*\*\*\*

These routes are for information to the fans and should not  
be given to anyone other than fans without permission of the  
shows.  
\*\*\*\*\*

## BACK YARD

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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.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Jackie LeClaire writes that Fred Menke and Sue had a call  
from Maureen, Martin Burton, Zippo's wife, that the  
millenium is stirring interest in the circus and that they are  
working to sell out houses with Zippo Circus in the London  
area. Carlos' wife, Susana Svenson, gave birth to a baby boy,  
Isaac Carlos Svenson. Her mother has been here with her from  
Sweden. Jackie went to a memorial mass at St. Martha's Church  
on Aug. 20th for Jerry Hente, 65. He had a photographic  
studio in Sarasota for years and was a quite famous  
photographer. Jerry had been County Commissioner at one time  
and he loved and worked often with the circus people in photo  
work. He had for several years been President of the Sarasota  
International Circus Festival & Parade. Some circus folks  
attending the service were Jenny Wallenda, Norma Fox,  
Allen Hill, Monica King, Greg Oliver, Fred Menke, Sue  
Kowalski and Jackie. Jerry was directly responsible for putting  
the book together that they sold during the years he was there.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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**\*\*PASSING OF OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS\*\***

**Fred Logan** and his daughter, **Omi**, had returned to **Clyde Beatty Winter Quarters** in DeLand, Florida to take care of "**Pete**" and "**Conti**." After a courageous battle, "**Petunia**" or "**Pete**" as she was called, could not pull herself up anymore and died on August 22. I will write more about my memories of Pete in the next issue, but here are some memories of Pete's many circus friends.

**Harvey Esto**, Mansfield, Ohio, sent along a picture of Pete taken in the 70s as she pulled up the center poles and "did lots of things around the lot. Fred Logan will miss her badly as will a lot of circus fans."

**Bob Youse**, Bethlehem, PA writes, "I wish I had been able to get to the Beatty lot this year when they were near by! I always remember seeing Pete raising the tent when I was kid and that was at least 30 years plus! I, for one, will miss her!"

**David Tetrault**, Chaplain of Ringling Bros., writes, "Pete was my first elephant ride. I remember Capt. Logan calling her by name. We're not talking the same ride the kids take here. We're talking about the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. opening parade. I've forgotten the year and the town, but I will always remember how it feels to sit behind an elephant's head while my terrified body rocked back and forth. Jimmy James told me to smile and be sure to wave with my free hand. Nice for him to say. Pete, thanks, for the memory."

**Buddy Calhoun**, Clinton, MS, writes, "I will always remember Pete for the fact that she seemed to be the one everyone was depending on. If nothing else, it seemed that one of the Beatty-Cole elephant handlers was always yelling for Pete to do this or that-her name was certainly the first one I thought of whenever I saw the Beatty-Cole herd. I just hope that she passed on without a lot of pain and suffering, as I can imagine that elephant-sized pain would be unbearable."

**Gary Payne** says, "I am saddened to learn of Pete's death. I knew Pete since the early 1960s and can think of no death I dreaded more. I feel as if I have lost a member of my own family tonight. I saw Petunia for the last time, just a few weeks ago. They must have returned her to quarters soon after. I remarked to my children that she did not seem at all herself and I see now that my hunch was right. The circus has lost one of it's greatest loved members. May God rest her pachyderm soul...Thanks, Pete...for being part of my life..."

**From Bud DeVere**, "A performer such as Pete comes in

the same category as any other loyal performer and is deserving of a few tears. I, too, am sad."

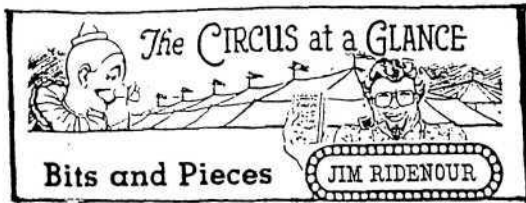
On behalf of Pete's many friends, I hope she is being reunited with her friends and together, they are putting on one hell of a show! And to Freddie Logan and family, please be assured, the circus fans that have met Pete and have touched her, know what you are feeling and they appreciate all you and your family and winter quarter workers have done for Pete. Rest in peace, my old friend.

**\*\*\*PASSING OF OUR CIRCUS FRIENDS\*\*\***

**Army Colonel Did Tour of Duty With Circus, Too.**  
July 31: As a boy growing up in Monroe, WI, **Roy F. Zinser's** dream was to go to work for a circus. As a teenager, he always got a job with the circus when it came to town. Zinser, of Maitland, FL, finally realized his dream, but only after he retired as an Army colonel. The former advance man for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus from 1965 to 1975, died July 27th of a blood clot to the brain. He was 89.

"People used to ask him why a retired Army colonel was working for the circus," said his daughter Sharon. "He always said, "I married a bareback rider." The truth, of course, was that it was a wonderful part of his childhood that he never outgrew. Roy retired from the Army at 53. After a year of touring the US in a travel trailer & building a home in Maitland, he got the call he'd been waiting for. His circus friends were coming to town and they needed someone to do a radio spot for them. "He did so well, they hired him to go on the road. They traveled with the show 6 to 7 months of the year in the trailer," said his daughter. On the side, he entertained his grandchildren and others with his ventriloquist dummy, "Harvey." Roy retired in 1975 to battle cancer, a fight he won. He was active in the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the US Legion of Valor, the Retired Officers Assn and the CHS. He is survived by his wife, Norma; a son, Col. Roy F. Zinser, Jr.; 5 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

**Al House** writes, "Beatty-Cole's new route card has the show heading west for the first time in 20 years. Fans will eagerly await its arrival. It's scheduled for 4 stands in Ohio and in the last week in September, into Indiana. Vidbel Circus will not end its New England tour until the end of August. It will be back in Jersey just before Labor Day to cover some of its traditional south Jersey dates. The Shrine announced its Sept. circus date as 25-26 at the Sussex Co. fairgrounds in Branchville, NJ. **Billy Martin** will be ringmaster while his wife, **Angela**, will do a single traps act. He has not been around the Jersey circus dates since leaving Vidbel 3 years ago. The recent NY Times article is a shocking revelation about the strength of the animal activist movement. So many law schools are opening areas of animal study. There is a shift to the belief that animals aren't property, but possess certain rights which humans may sue to protect. Where are we going in our society?"



I am writing this column from the Health South Rehabilitation Hospital in sunny Sarasota. It is Sunday morning 8 Aug. 99. I go home tomorrow morning, then it is out-patient therapy 3 days a week for 5 or 6 weeks. Since starting the column, I did get one letter from a fan in Jersey. He wrote, "I feel the same way you do about the so called "new circus"-screw them. Well we got 2 members in my club now. It is hard for me to comprehend but Cirque du Soleil's show "Quidam" is being offered on "Pay Per View." The price-a whopping \$19.95 per view. This is the total American circus experience. No mud-no circus smell, no butchers-no Larrys on the garbage stand. Again, I must repeat, not one real circus performer will make one red nickel from the "phony fraud." I highly recommend you avoid it like you would any social disease.

Being in the hospital & not having my premium channels has forced me to change my viewing habits this past few weeks. Circus Ingenieux, another "phony" circus was on the educational channel in Tampa last night during their fund raising drive. For \$100 bucks you could get a video of the show, that same yard note would be better spent by joining the OABA. I predict this group will do more to fight & curtail animal rights "neurotic kooks" than anyone to date. So get a check in the mail now to Heidi Herriott. \$50 a year comes out to 11 cents a day.

There has been a lot of thought provoking stuff being written as of late. John Herriott's letter to the head "kook" Kim Basinger was "right on the money." I hope an effort is made to get this in her mail box or sent to her e-mail. Kim and her "silly" husband, Alex Baldwin, have done a lot of harm to the traditional American circus in the last 5 years...The OABA has a lot of catching up to do...I am convinced they have the knowledge, leadership & resources to get the job done. If you truly love the circus you should support this effort.

Glad to see Circus Report back in my mail box. Don Marcks has had more than his share of medical problems over the years, yet he continues to "grind out" his labor of love. We tend to take this weekly for granted. Well, my had is off to Don. I wish him a speedy recovery.

The latest White Tops has a perspective by Edward Limbach. Ed claims the CFA needs a master plan for growth. Well, last year I was placed on the Membership Committee of the CFA. I must confess I did not do one thing toward new members for this great group-that will not be the case this year. I have promised Charlotte McWilliams that I will have my master plan typed up and in the mail to her & the members of the Membership Committee 15 Sept.

Remember, "No one plans to fail, but many fail to plan." Well

my plan is a well thought out, step by step method to get new adult members in the CFA. Please do not worry about the kids. Guys like Kenneth Feld, John Pugh, Roland Kaiser, the Byrds, Harry Dubsy, Sr. & Jr., Ray McMahon, Bill Biggerstaff & Ron Morris will continue to "create the desire" so that kids will continue to beg to "go to the circus." As long as there are kids, there will be a circus. As long as there are circuses, there will be promoters filling tents & arenas.

My plan involves getting adults into the CFA. We currents have less than 2000 members (1997). This is down 60 members in the last year. If we continue this downward slope at the present rate, we would be down to 1400 members by 2010. If all goes well, my master plan will get kicked around, revised, approved and implemented by the Membership Committee in time to be introduced to the membership at the Sarasota Convention in April 2000.

I see where this years CFA auction took in a measly \$2488 bucks this year. Since 211 attended the Convention, that comes to about \$10 bucks per attendee. I do hope that every CFA member will dig down in their personal memorabilia collection to pick out a couple of "valuable" goodies (and I don't mean a couple of folded, decrepit window cards from the season of 1998.) Remember, you can't take this stuff with you when you go, so please dig down-find a couple-that's 2-two nice pieces. Wrap them and send them to Henry Bush now...His address is 5619 Antoinette St, Sarasota, FL 34232. Henry does not know I am writing this so he will have "mixed emotions" when the packages start to arrive. If 100 fans will send Henry 2 nice pieces, the packages will fill his living room. I would like to see a couple of complete collections arrive. I would like to see Henry so made at me he refuses to speak..Please, lets get this annual auction "back up to snuff." I personally enjoy the auction as much or more than other events.

Here's what I'm gonna do. To everyone who sends Henry an auction package with items of value (no junk please) I will send a video of your choice. Now is your chance to put me in a bind. Make me sweat..I will be the judge. I will decide who is eligible for the free video. I will not give a \$20 video for 10 bucks worth of stuff. Here's the big offer. To any CFA'er who donates his entire collection to this year's auction-I will give him or her 20 videos of your choice....

I will be publicizing who is doing what between now and April. Why don't you make a positive decision today to be a leader and not a follower. After years of pleasure, you can donate your "goodies" for the CFA auction & others can enjoy your treasures for years to come..And the CFA will benefit also-everybody wins-Why wait-if you want to be a waiter, get a job at Olive Garden. Who will be first-Who will be the peg to hang most worthy project on? Who will start the ball rolling? Let's work Henry's keister off...Let's put him in a sweat.

Well, I've got to go to the torture chamber for therapy but today's my last day here at Health South so I will fly thru this one..I miss my dog, Rube..



## FAMOUS CIRCUS QUOTES

Since I am in the hospital & have none of my reference materials here, I am gonna steal a quote from the current White Tops...The circus is sorta like the Mafia-once your in the darned thing, you can't get out...

82 year old, Glen Draper



I have a lot of English customers buying videos from me. Here's 3 some of you English may not have seen.

Life is a Circus with the Crazy Gang is a cute flick from the 50s. It's sorta like a poor man's Big Circus in black & white with lots of famous English comics along with Shirley Eaton.

"William at the Circus" is an English version of the old Henry Aldrich series here in the USA-William is always in trouble. Well, William & his buddies (sort of an "our gang" bunch) end up at the Olympia Fun Fair and the 1949 Bertram Mills Circus. There are excellent scenes of the actual circus-along with the 1940s English amusement rides & games..I normally do not watch sitcoms but this flick I found to be most enjoyable.

The third English movie was filmed on the Billy Smart Circus and Fun Fair in the 40s. It's black & white and simply wonderful. The 40s equipment, the tent, the set-up, along with the Fun Fair rides & games is truly a great "find" that I acquired by accident. To fill out the tape, I have added a Billy Smart TV special from the 70s. So it's Billy Smart from the 40s thru the 70s. As always my videos are 20 bucks each or 5 for \$80 and I pay the postage. There is no waiting-no delay. I ship your order ASAP..That's as soon as possible! Normally within 72 hours of receipt.

How come no one writes or comments on my ramblings? The purpose is to get people to think-to react and to act. Let me hear from you-I'm at 3918 Freedom Ave., Sarasota, FL 34231 or call me at 941-927-1546.

**NEWS FLASH!!!** The new edition of "You Asked For It" airs on Sundays at 8 pm on NBC. It is great! Last week they showed my friend Johnny Meah doing his sword swallowing act. They also throw in old classic black & white acts from the 60s edition. One of my favorites, "Bronco Billy," will be on More Max on the 12th & 29th. "Carnival Story" will be on A&E the 12th & 18th. "Carny" will be on Encore on 29th.

The classic "Freaks" returns to Turner Classic Movies on 2 Sept at 6 am. What a flick for breakfast viewing! Some of you may not be familiar with "He Who Gets Slapped" It's a classic with Lon Chaney as a tragic circus clown. I like this one. It's on Turner Classic Movies on the 13th. "Hodini," the Tony Curtis flick, plays on AMC on the 12th.

Now, the all new critically acclaimed "P.T. Barnum" starring Jeff Bridges, George Hamilton & Natalie Radford (??) is a 2-parter you don't want to miss. It's on A&E the 12th & 13th of Sept. This next one sounds interesting. On Friday, the 3rd of Sept., the History Channel has "Highway Hangouts"-America's Roadside Attractions."

### \*\*\*NEWS FROM OUR CIRCUS FRIENDS\*\*\*

Harry Gordon writes that he and Matt Bourque from Louisiana caught CBCB in Portland, Maine; saw the new Soleil Dralion in Quebec and then went to the Parade and Baraboo. "That is circus heaven to me! Tommy & Struppi were in Bangor for 10 days at our state fair & that was a real treat. I live close enough so I could walk over. Bill Carpenter was also here with the Backyard Circus, which I enjoyed several times. He said I was too big a kid to participate, so I sat on the bleachers & clapped and cheered the kids on!"

Ed Pert writes 5 members of Maine's CFA Minert De Orlo-Earl Family-Wayne McCary Tent #30 gathered at the Vidbel Old Tyme Circus' solo Maine date for 1999. On 8/24, the tent was appearing literally in the shadow of the famed Portland Headlight Lighthouse on the rugged rock-bound coast of Maine in Cape Elizabeth, a suburb of Portland, the state's largest city. 2 packed houses greeted the Vidbel show with their fast paced and highly entertaining 1999 production.

The Joel E. Warner Top No. 20 Annual Picnic, hosted by the Dorothy Herbert Tent #129 was held at Howell, MI 8/14, with 30 people from Michigan and Canada attending. After a delicious lunch at 12:30, Michigan State Chairman, George Steggarda welcomed everyone & conducted a short meeting, followed by reports from other Tents. Paul Butler from Strathroy, Ontario then gave a presentation of the history of Canadian Circuses, followed by a very successful auction with the proceeds going to the Top.

At the conclusion of the picnic, Dale & Evelyn Riker, Paul and Winnie Butler, Jerry & Shirley Nicholls drove to Livonia to visit Sterling-Reid Circus. The 7:30 performance had been cancelled but the management invited us to watch the last half of the show. We were joined by Dick Garden who jackpotted about his family and days in Canada. After the show, Dick took us on a tour of the back yard and very large midway, including a visit to his very good SHARK SHOW. Thanks again to Dick for a very interesting visit.

My thanks to the Carson & Barnes family for such a great visit here in Illinois. More about that in the next issue. They have sent 2 elephants for breeding purposes to the Springfield, MO Zoo. They also have a new elephant barn in Hugo that has a breeding area for 2 males. It is 150'x75'. Little Jennie is a sweetheart! You can now visit Back Yard's web site at: [www.inficad.com/~circus/backyard](http://www.inficad.com/~circus/backyard). Thanks to Denny Childers who has put a lot of hours and hard work into this new venture!

## Mix 'n Match: Heidi Herriott Attends the Elephant Managers Assn. Conference to Represent the OABA

By Linda L. Roberson

Starlet O'Hara picks up a brush which her nimble trunk expertly applies to canvas. After a few minutes...voila! Another elephant painting work of art has been accomplished! Starlet likes this, but she now prefers to amble away and cover herself with more of that famous red Georgia clay!

Heidi Herriott, Circus Liaison Representative to the OABA, attended the 1999 Elephant Managers Assn Conference & Fourth International Elephant Research Symposium, held at beautiful Zoo Atlanta. Circuses house approximately one half of North America's elephants. Ms. Herriott has a strong and famous background in the circus & with elephants and her attendance at EMA Conference was important to the circus elephant industry. Ms. Herriott is knowledgeable about elephants and she has her finger on the pulse of the circus and carnival industry with respect to animal zealotry groups.

Mix 'n match...elephants and science: what a fascinating formula! Elephant research scientists from all over the world, who are striving to prevent the ultimate extinction of both Asian and African elephants, reported scientific findings, births, deaths, habitat destruction and construction during this interesting 5 day session. The conference was hosted by Zoo Atlanta's President/CEO, Terry L. Maple, Ph.D and Ed Daniels, Elephant Manager and head of the Elephant Barn at Zoo Atlanta. The conference offered topics which were at once absorbing and urgent. Possibly the most important with respect to circuses and the OABA, the conference made a specific point of including the circus industry.

As a professional organization, the EMA has captured the attention of the international world. Last year, Dr. Lain Douglas-Hamilton traveled from Africa to discuss "green hunting," elephant corridors and pressing environmental issues. This year scientists came from as far away as Germany and Myanmar (formerly "Burma"). Dr. Khyne U Mar (Ministry of Forestry, Myanmar) presented much valuable information about Asian elephants from a place whose elephants are not far from our hearts but geographically distant. Dr. Mar included information on breeding & mortality, as well as a dissertation on the normal living conditions of Asian elephants working in logging camps.

One of the most important topics reported upon, discussed at length, and tackled even in committee & panel discussion, was preservation of elephants as a species by artificial insemination. This information was spearheaded by veterinarian reproductive specialists Dennis Schmitt (Dickerson Park Zoo), Thomas Hildebrandt and Robert Hermes (Berlin Institute). Scientific & medical discussions included "Tuberculosis in Elephants in North America: An Update" by Susan Mikota (later there was a panel discussion moderated by Heidi Riddle on "Tuberculosis in Elephants"); "The Behavioral Effects of Feeding Enrichment on African Elephants" by Ed Daniel; Birth & Death of the First Asian Elephant Calf Bred at Allwetterzoo Munster" by Karl Schaller (Westfälischer Zoologischer Garten). Far from treating elephants capriciously, elephant managers in zoological institutions, circuses, sanctuaries and other facilities are very serious about caring for their elephants!

One of my favorite presentations was that of Terry Maple, Ph.D. (Zoo Atlanta). Dr. Maple expressed sincere concern for the captive environment of elephants and other animals. He discussed "hard" & "soft" spaces and architecture, in a speech "Environmental Variables and the Well-Being of Captive Elephants." Hard science made way for topics such as Dr. Maple's and behavioral enrichment, practical applications, even philosophy.

The Silent Auction provides the EMA with funding so it can publish the Journal of the Elephant Managers Assn, its "Gray Matters" newsletter, offer scholarships to Riddle's Comprehensive Elephant Handling Course (held annually in Arkansas during the months of May and possibly September this year), as well as the ability to offer emergency educational

and medical support to domestic and international facilities. Conferees shared Willie B's 40th gorilla birthday, visited the panda enclosures and there were also orangutan & gorilla holding tours. What a great place to visit-and the EMA Conference was just the excuse! To join the EMA or attend the Oct. 2000 Conference, contact: Chuck Doyle, EMA Executive Director, Burnet Park Zoo, Syracuse, NY. Thanks for your assistance and attention to our beautiful elephants, Heidi!

### \*\*\*OABA News From Heidi Herriott\*\*\*

Congressman Farr (CA) seems to be moving ahead with his proposed legislation to ban all traveling elephants and all rides. It is not yet a bill but he seems to be moving forward. In October, the OABA circus unit will be sending out ballots to create committees to deal with circus issues. This should include a Circus Executive Committee and Animal Expert Committee. A person must be an OABA circus member and meet or exceed all current standards set forth by regulatory agencies. All submitted names will go on a ballot and be voted on by OABA circus members. Heidi and the Circus Steering Committee expect to announce the elected committees during the OABA convention in Las Vegas Nov. 28-30. It is important that you are a current circus member and submit your name to Heidi by the end of Sept. to be considered for a committee. You can then be an active part of bringing the circus into the next century. Contact Heidi Herriott for more info at 407-656-4340 or circus4u@gdi.net

### \*\*NEWS FROM OUR CIRCUS FRIENDS\*\*

"Extreme Nocks"-By Mary Jane Foote

The Nerveless Nocks, Extreme Helicopter Team, were co-headliners with the Stealth bomber and the Blue Angels at the Chicago Air Show on August 19.

Eric McConnell (your editor's former boss on Big Apple) will be the circus manager for the second year for the St. Paul Shrine Circus, produced by George Hamid, Sr. Eric will be responsible for all advance ticket sales, program ad sales and other revenue sources before the circus comes to town. During the run of the circus, he will manage the box office. He will also consult with them on promotions and concessions. Eric's concession company, Celebrations, has been providing concessions on all Hamid Circus Royale dates for the past 3 years. This will be his third year with the Eastern States Expo (The Big E). He has been doing all of their custom merchandise. "If any fans will be attending the Big E they can stop down and say hi. My office is located in the auditorium." Check out Eric's web page for circus items at: www.mrringling.com (I have purchased some GREAT old programs/route books-Cherie.) Peg Earl, Lake George, NY, writes "There will be a Pedro Carrillo Tent meeting on Sept. 8 at the Lake George American Legion Dugout. A noon cook-out is planned with Chuck Wheeler as Steak Chef. There will be tables for displays or sale items. Any CFA members are welcome. Call Wayne Earl for details and reservations at: 518-668-4835." (One of Back Yard's favorite writers, Bud DeVere, is Peg's cousin. More stories???)



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