

# BACK YARD

Volume III, Issue #40

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## TAMING THE SEVEN-TON KILLERS

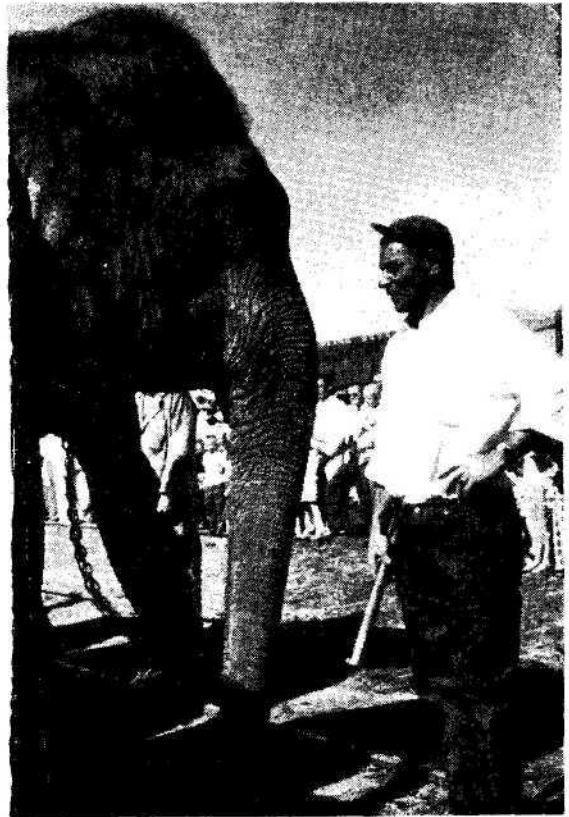
### BRUTES OF THE BIG TOP

Circus elephants may seem amiable enough, but to their trainers they're always potential killers—long on trunk and short on fuse.

By **BILL BALLANTINE**  
A TRUE MAGAZINE DOUBLE-LENGTH FEATURE  
Reprinted with permission from the Ballantines.

The skinny kid leaning against one wheel of the massive red circus wagon looked at me blankly, "How'n hell I know how many elephants we got?" he growled. "That's what the bosses gets paid fer."

This bullhand (elephant handler) wore shabby coveralls, buttonless and open to well below his sweaty navel. He had on nothing else except a ratty pair of mud-caked shoes. One was laceless, the other dubiously secured by a snip of twine knotted through only two eyelets. His feet were sockless. On one dusty gray ankle the boy, by using spit on a finger, was carefully streaking a heart around a



set of scrubbed-out initials—his own, I suspected.

The kid spat in the grass amazingly close to my left shoe. "Ya wanna fine-out about elephants," he muttered, "whyn't cha ast Smokey? He's the oney know-it-all smart-alex aroun' here."

(Continued on Page 6)

## BACK YARD

is published twice monthly-(15th & 30th) by Cherie Valentine, 1522 Clinton Blvd., Bloomington, IL 61701. Phone 309-828-0737 (no collect calls, please) My E-mail address: cdvalen@acadcomp.cmp.ilstu.edu

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The column, "The Fox," is written by Jenny Wallenda. Other material is written by Cherie Valentine, unless otherwise identified as to author. Reprints from other published material are identified as to source.

Comments by writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the publisher.

Back Yard is a pro-circus, pro-animal publication, which supports the use of animals which are legally held and properly cared for, in the American circus.

## THE FOX!

#51



My dear friends:

Well, things have changed, the Back Yard Magazin has been taken over by Sherry Valentine, Frank Thompson gave it up. To much work, so now I write when ever I feel like it, which is much easier for me. I am not exclusive with anyone. I more or less was with Frank. So anyone can write things out of my Fox letter. So much for that, I had to tell all of you this tko start.

We lost a very dear movie star friend of mine, Lloyd Bridges. He was a very kind man. He will be missed very much by the whole of the Wallenda Family. May he have his well reserved rest in Haven, and my his Family friend confort in all the good things he did and how he was loved by many.

Also we lost Katarina the wife of Frank and the beloved mother of Astrid. Mother in law of Johny Yong. She was not to healty for the last few years, her Fmily will miss her dearly.

I also heart that there ware two acci-dents with the big wheel. one was Sepely Bauer who I was told hit a guideline but as I was told is not seriously hurt and the other is Michael Angelo who apparently was fixing something on the rigging when a rope got loose and the wheel started turning and hit him from behind, He also was not hurt badly I was told.

Debby Aldrich came home as her mother needed help, so she lost her job with the Royal Palace Circus but was hired for of-fice work by the Royal American Circus.

I am happy to say that I got some news from the Los Vegas connection.

Andre Schweitzer started with Circus Circus in March with his wire act.

Jody Jordan bought Andre Princes house. Which is located right in between Betty and Achim's Krause's house.

Mike Hartzel will return as entertainment director back to Circus Circus in Las Vegas and Reno.

Andre & Hilda Prince were visiting in Las Vegas for 6 Weeks now returned to their home in Sarasota. Hilda is looking great after her ordeal in the Sarasota hospital.

Los Vegas is getting bigger and bigger, (So is Sarasota)

Lucy (Lacy troupe) was for a visit by her daughter Deana and they had a very nice dinner together.

Showfolks had their election and you got a whole bunch of other boardmembers. I will try to name them.

President: June Mills Vice President: Rosi Rode Second Vice Penny Wilson.

Secretary: Mary Ruth Herriott Assistend Corky

Treasurer: Darlene Schmidt Assistend Smiley Davis

Boardmember: Jim Riddenour - Dana Mc Mahon - Mia Arnosi - Mike Ashton - Ann Copeland - Harry Dubsy - Arlene Morris - Kathie Nock - Monica King

The Festival Also elected new people. Dian Brown is back I also heard the Jim Riddenour made it on the board, I do not know if Chuck Schlarbaum made. The rest I do not know.

I am trying very hard to get something else going what I will not tell you untill I know it will happen.

Oh yes, before I forget it: SPOTLIGHT GRAPHIC IS NOT BEING SOLD. IT WAS A FALSE INFORMATION I HAD BEEN TOLD.

Derick Rosair had a nice time while on his fishing trip.

Tammy Wallenda has run away from West Virginia again. She just could not take it any more. But who can blame her. She was born in the Circus and grew up in the Circus. Lerner it all and worked for quite a few years with wild Animals until she had the accident. now, she would love to get back in the business. In between she has now 4 children, who also like to get in the the Circus business. It is in their blood.

Detroit: it went over great, they all looked so pretty and so gracious and so very young up on the wire and they did such a great job. I am so proud of them. The ones performing their were: Tino Wallenda, Alida Wallenda, Andrea Wallenda, Aurelia Wallenda, Alexandro Wallenda Zoppe? These are Tino and his children. Then their was Sasha who is Tinos Cousin in law. Now to Delilah Wallendas Family Husband Terry, Lijana Wallenda, Nicholas Wallenda Tino and Delilahs first cousin, and the only outsider was Dieter Galombo, who was and extra for the 7 men pyramid. Tino and Delilah are Jenny Wallendas Children. The Applause was thunderous and gave them all a very warm feeling.

Well right off hand I can not think of any more news, I know as soon as I finish this letter million things will come to my mind but there is always the next time.

Lots of love from your Fox

## RUMBLINGS FROM THE CRUMMY

By Brian Nunn

\*\*\*The baby (150 pound elephant) was sitting on the couch with us while we were watching television. Baby soft skin, squinty-eyed, little face-that is why we started calling him the Brat.(It's cold and January; closed-up barn.)

It was not boring! 21 elephants, juvenile Africans, adult Asians and the brand new baby Asian. He would run around in the barn visiting all the other elephants, much to their delight! Except, the baby learned early on to stay away from his 10,000 pound father at the end of the barn!

Our couch and chairs were by the front door for taking breaks and such. Myakka (the baby) would just have to spend time with us on the couch. Now, he is all uncoordinated and has this real loose skin. He looked like he was wearing baggy pants!

Sometimes he'd get himself stuck, upside-down on the couch like a turtle, and then he would start hollering. He'd get all the cows upset and concerned. Then, here would come Gyp (his mom) to the rescue! Yeh, it was hard to get bored in that place.

\*\*\*When it stops being fun for entertainers, what will we do? It seems to me that the quality will fail some. Simply because of lack of demand or appreciation, I feel this would make for a dull world.

Nobody has anything exciting or special to do, other than TV to go to. I think variety-type productions are being forced to concede defeat. Every show I've ever seen had some high points. Most of the show was always generally entertaining. It's like Walter Patterson did with the Walt & Wendy act, which was a powerful teeterboard act with layouts, hand to hand. At Biloxi, Miss., Walter said to the audience, "Hey, I'm working here! I'm not your gardener!! Put your hands together!"

I can understand people sitting on their hands, I guess. But to be so numb as to not be able to appreciate hard work, dedication and artistic presentation, I don't understand! Jugglers, aerialists, acrobats, clowns, and interesting animals have been putting smiles on faces for centuries!

It can't change; it's too strong a form of entertainment to let die. Even if people keep coming back to the circus, year after year, there must be some way to make the rest of them interested. I think it would be a shame and a sin to see the likes of John and Mary Ruth Herriott working in some other place, like an insurance company! What fun would that be, for them or for us.

\*\*\*Winter quarters: The psychedelic goat and the killer rooster! After some time in the business, I got to work for a man that had a lot of elephants. There was a nice, big barn for the horses and elephants. And there was livestock in the barnyard-chickens, dogs and goats. The Great American show had their stuff there and a large fledgling circus as well. (Continued on page 5)

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### **A Reckless Era of Aerial Performance; The Evolution of Trapeze**

“Just how important is it to be the first to do a thing? How important is it to do the most, to go the highest, the farthest? How Important? Some people have died for it.”

\*\*Did you ever wonder who first swung from a trapeze?mystery. He has spent thousands of hours scrolling through 19th century periodicals in tracing the evolution of the various types of trapeze performances.

\*\*Did you ever wonder when the first aerial somersault was thrown? Did you ever wonder how the complex team aerial performances were developed and who invented them? If you have, you are not alone.

\*\*In 1985, circus historian Steve Gossard discovered a conflict. Two different cities in the United States had taken credit for the invention of the particular type of trapeze performance called the *flying return act*. Since then Gossard has been fixated on finding the source of the invention of this act and solving the mystery. He has spent thousands of hours scrolling through 19th century periodicals in tracing the evolution of the various types of trapeze performances.

\*\*What he uncovered is more than historical study. It is an adventure. It is a mystery. It is the story of **A Reckless Era of Aerial Performance**. Share the author's sense of discovery as he traces the evolution of the daring and beautiful art form, and chronicles the exploits of dozens of long-forgotten foolhardy aerial daredevils.

**Please send check or money order for  
\$25 to: Steve Gossard, 10 Siesta Ct.,  
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\*\*\*\*\*

- Royal American Circus: April 16: Bloomington, IL.
- Shrine Circus: April 27: Columbus, Ohio-Coliseum
- Tangier Shrine Circus: April 16-19-Omaha, NE.
- Shrine Circus: April 24-26-Dayton, OH.
- Gamma Phi Circus: April 17-18-ISU, Normal, IL.

### **RUMBLINGS FROM....**

(Continued from page 4)

You had to go through 3 sets of gates in order to reach the barn. Well, there was this calico-colored, male goat that was no joke. He'd challenge you and come right after you. Now, you'd think tried and true animal trainers would not be bothered, but this darn goat would come and hammer on you! If someone came out of the barn, they could call the goat off.

Now, everything's cool, except this BIG red rooster comes out of the hen house meaning no sad intent. He's got 2 inch spurs and he knows how to use them! It was a bruising experience just to get inside the barn. Of course, in order for none of this to happen, it would require the man that owned the barn to step outside and say, "Be quiet!" so you could go unmolested to the barn. This rooster would hurt you, no kidding-he was as bad as a goose! I had seen the goat tree people and have they would have to holler for help!

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Phoenix Zoo: Ruby, a 23 year old Asian elephant is expecting a baby around Nov. 1st. She was sent to Tulsa, Ok. in Oct. of 1995 for breeding.  
\*\*\*\*\*

#### **127th EDITION RINGLING RED UNIT:**

- Landover, MD US Airways Arena-April 1-5
- Washington D.C. Armory-April 7-19
- Charleston, WV Civic Center-April 23-26
- Huntington, WV Civic Center-April 28-29
- Roanoke, VA Civic Center-May 2-3

Tentative Dates:

- Mex. City, Mex.-Palacio de los Deportes5/12-6/7
- Shreveport, LA Hirsch Mem. Coliseum-June 13-14
- Memphis, TN The Pyramid-June 18-21

(Continued from Page 1)

### BRUTES OF THE BIG TOP.....

Another youngster, his shoulders rusty with freckles, was at wagon-side. He was slightly older, somewhat cleaner, but just as gauntly nourished. Looking for something to shave, he leaned, scowling, into a crudely framed mirror which hung from a grommet in the edge of a canvas canopy that sagged from the roof of the wagon on its long side. The dangling glass was being shared by another stripling trying to tame a shock of hair that looked like frayed rope-ends.

These unkempt three, on that Wisconsin summer morning, were sole inhabitants of this wagon lean-to which was headquarters on the lot of the formidable circus elephant department. "More'n half a hun-durd is how many," said the shaver after I'd asked him. "More'n any circus anywhere ever took on the road before. An' I *ain't* Smokey. I'm Pony Red." "Di'n'ja read in the papers?" The comb wielder turned to face me. "Twenty-one more'n Hannibal took acrost the Alps. Fifty-one. Count 'Em. Fifty-one! Twenny-Six Thunderin' Herds! Uv *Both* Sexes!" (In circus parlance, 2 elephants constitute a herd.) "Ex-sack-ly fifty-one, countin' Louie, the male African. The other bulls is all female Indians."

"Exceptin' Emily," chimed in the wagon-wheel kid. "He's a African too. An' there's 3 bulls more in Quarters. Little Jewel, Eva an' Ringling's Jenny." (Showhands call all elephants bulls, even though most circus herds are entirely female.)

Pony Red gave my looking-glass reflection a long hard look. "Yew must uv heard uv Smokey Jones," he said. "He's the toughest, roughest, most orneriest elephant man in the business. An' yew better had believe it."

Who in the tanbark trade hadn't heard of the young bucko John Ringling North had hired that season of 1955 to shepherd, from coast-to-coast, *The Greatest Show on Earth's* greatest agglomeration of elephants ever assembled? Robert Smokey Jones, who'd learned his trade on the notoriously hardboiled Dailey show, was being touted around the canvas world as the devil incarnate. I asked Pony Red if he'd mind my waiting for Mr. Smokey in the shade of the wagon-flap.

"He ain't *Mister* Smokey," said the boy. "He's *Smokey*." He gave me another searching look. "An' he ain't on the lot yet. The bulls is still at the cars an' he comes up wit' them. I guess ya can wait if ya wanta, but don't go sittin' on none uv them crumb-boxes."

He meant the many heavy wooden chests, the type in which circus workhands for generations have stowed their personal gear. (Crumb, for louse, in hobo lingo.) Other furnishings of this fresh-air parlor were a scattering of dilapidated cardboard suitcases, a few slatted folding chairs and some battered buckets with sloppy white letters, E L E, on their sides. Lanky sawhorses wobbily supported a metal-sheathed board slab; on it were several chipped enameled wash-basins. A hefty First Aid case was bolted to the wagon's side. On a low bench stood a pair of ten-gallon milk cans. Spigots had been added to convert them to drinking water tanks.

I stood around awkwardly. Except for some effortless whistling, the boys clammed up, as circus people do in front of strangers.

Off in the dusty distance the organized sprawl of canvas, rope and wagons-silver, green, red & blue-was beginning to shape-up into a circus. Kids & men & dogs & chugging

(Continued on page 9)

**AIM YOUR BROWSER:RINGLING ON-LINE**

For those of you with Net access, check out [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) and you can subscribe to an e-mail update! Those in the New York City area, check out <http://newyork.sidewalk.com/> for great photos of the new show and lots of information! They have an Animal Cam, showing photos of the Madison Square Garden elephant walk.

**NEW PARENTS TAKE NOTE:**

Ringling Bros. Circus is offering every child born in the U.S. a chance to receive a positively FREE first ticket to see their circus. To receive this extraordinary gift certificate, they ask that you send your request for this and include the parents name, home address, home phone number, the child's full name & birthday, and also send along the ages & number of other children in your home to: Feld Entertainment, Inc. POB 39845, Edina, MN. 55439

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The site [newyork.sidewalk.com](http://newyork.sidewalk.com) offers these observations: The Best Garden Souvenir: the \$7. program; the Collapsing Light Up Sword With Elephant Hilt-\$12; a Plastic Cannon That Fires a Plastic Human-\$10.

The Least Popular Food: a Fish Sandwich! The Most Popular Food: (according to vendors) Pretzels & Hot Dogs! Also for the adults: German or Polish Sausages or Kosher Franks.

The Best Act of Mixed Species: The Kambarov Riders. The Best Animal Acts: the Elephants (they report that they think it is exciting to see an "accident" in the ring.) Also, the Tigers, the Poodles and the Old English Sheepdogs. Admission is \$10.50 to \$42.50.

\*\*\*\*\*

"THE HISTORY OF CLOWNING" Tuesday, April 14th at the Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota. Guest speakers will be Fred Menke & Susan Kowalski, Circus Historians. From 11:30-12:00: Box lunch for sale in Original Asolo Lobby, and from 12-12:45 Talk in the Asolo.

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**PRESS RELEASE FROM THE USDA: 3/25/98**

USDA CLOSES ANIMAL WELFARE ACT CASE BY OPENING DOORS FOR ELEPHANT TB RESEARCH Washington: The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture & John Cuneo, have agreed to a consent decision & order regarding violations fo the Animal Welfare Act.

"Over the past 2 years, we've been working with Hawthorn to bring him into compliance with the AWA," said Michael Dunn, asst. sec'y for marketing &

regulatory programs. "We have recently closed an AWA case with John Cuneo that not only brings him into compliance with the Act, but also advances research into elephants & elephant health. "The settlement in this case is unique. Hawthorn Corp. has agreed to pay a \$60,000 civil penalty with half of that amount going to one or more research institutions to study TB in elephants. The remainder of the fine is to be spent on the TB testing & treatment of Cuneo's elephants to ensure their health & continued well-being."

Cuneo neither admitted nor denied any violations of the AWA, but agreed to the above mentioned penalty & a 45-day license suspension that gives credit for time already served during a prior 21-day summary suspension. The \$30,000 directed to research groups will go to groups that are approved by USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service. "Our settlement with Cuneo is just 1 example of our commitment to ensuring their continued well-being," Dunn added. At the taskforce's recommendatinos, APHIS animal care is now requiring all elephant owners covered under the AWA to test their elephants on a regular basis & make the results of those tests available to inspectors. For the 1st time ever, inspectors visited every traveling exhibitor's wintering facility this year to get a better idea of how their animals are treated at home. The AWA requires that regulated individuals & businesses provide animals with care & treatment according to the standards established by APHIS. They must be provided with adequate housing, handling, sanitation, food, water, transportation, vet care & shelter.

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\*\*\*\*\*BACK YARD GOSSIP\*\*\*\*\*

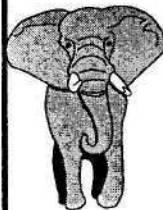
Reid Bros. Circus lost a out in Missouri City, Texas. The lot was hip deep in mud! They moved to a parking lot in front of an abandoned Food Lion. There was no big top and no aerial acts. It was reported that Brian LaPalme was directing people to the new location in his wardrobe! Brian Franzen had the cats and elephants. The Espanas had their wheel and trampoline act. Out front they had 2 moon bounces and a pony ride. Sources say there was a bearded lady and a man with snakes-maybe trying out Ringling's new production? They report that this was basically a good show.

A report from the CHS Convention reports that the 7 person pyramid was performed with African-Americans and Latinos on the Universoul Circus. Can anyone tell us more about this? It was also reported that David Gaona was the head of the prop crew.

At the Big Apple Circus at the Convention: the management reported that they did 70% better than they had expected! They will definitely be coming back to Atlanta next year!! The show was very strong. A reporter said that Buckles Woodcock was set up near a pond and the water was rising because of the rain. The elephants were taken to higher ground.

**\*Ringling Bros. Circus: Blue Unit:**  
Madison Sq. Garden-NY: Until April 13  
CoreStates Spectrum-Philadelphia: April 16-26  
Providence, RI. Civic Center-April 29-May 3  
Springfield, MA. Civic Center-May 5-6  
Worcester, MA Centrum Centre-May 8-10  
New Haven, CT Arena-May 12-13  
Hartford, CT Civic Center-May 15-17  
Hersheypark, PA Arena-May 21-25  
Albany, NY Pepsi Arena-May 28-31  
Syracuse, NY OnCenter-June 2-3  
Rochester, NY War Memorial-June 5-7  
Lexington, KY Rupp Arena-June 11-14  
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## BRUTES OF THE BIG TOP...

(Continued from page 3)

tractors were tromping the lush grass. A mechanical stake-driver was pounding into the earth great wooden pegs thick as a man's arm. The last center-pole of the gigantic Big Top was quivering into place, held erect by spidery steel threads.

After a while I asked Pony Red what kind of a guy was this holy-terror boss of his.

"Well, he don't drink for one thing, an' he hates winos. Smokey, he never introduces nobody no anybody," said Ropey. "An' another thing, I ain't never seen the whole elephant act yet since I been here. He catches ya watchin' the show, he gives ya a pink slip." (Notice of discharge.)

"An' is he neat!" marveled Pony Red. "He pulls up his pant legs 11 times a day just to check his shoelaces is tied. He can't stand even one wrinkle in his white shirts-or a pitcher on a wall crooked."

Smokey Jones sounded more like a girl's school proctor or a holiness preacher than a brimstone-belching monster. Perhaps he wouldn't quite measure-up to his advance billing, but I knew he must be a remarkable bull-handler. It takes a lot of man to manage even a half-dozen elephants; half a hundred surely would call for a real bruiser.

The elephant is not an especially vicious animal, but is large. When anything that size becomes confused or angered, the results are likely to have a certain finality. A mere trunk swipe can break a man's back, arm or leg; it can fracture a skull, shatter a rib-cage. Around elephants of any size I always bear in mind a nugget handed me by an old bullhand: "They're bigger'n they look."

From beyond where the sideshow was rigging its freak-banners came a long column of elephants kicking up dusty clouds around their padding feet. A man or boy either rode the head or straddled the neck of each full-grown bull. Infant elephants were neck-chained by pairs and threes to most of the adults. With each ponderous step the bullhands aloft pitched and swayed, undulating in a

series of marvelously nonchalant bumps-and-grinds worthy of the most-gifted burlesque queen.

Riding an aged dappled-gray horse, which flanked the lead elephant on its left, was a man with ramrod back, oak-chest and broad face weathered by sun & rain. He looked about squint-eyed as does a seafaring man. When this chap dismounted I asked him please to point out Smokey Jones.

"No, not *me*. I wouldn't put the finger on *Smokey*, not fer no amount'a money. He'd kill me fer sure. You wouldn't like him no-how."

The big guy strode off to the elephant wagon. I asked Pony Red to show me which one was Smokey. "Yew *tryin'* to gimme a hard time? *That was Smokey*, ya dopey knuckle-head. He was jest givin' yew the iggy."

Sure enough, the fellow at the canopy was looking back at me grinning. He heisted a trouser leg. Shoelace checking. Smokey Jones, all right.

"Kinda fooled you," the head bull-man said as I came up. "I jest wanted to see if you was really serious to see me."

(To be continued)

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\***HARDEST** job in the world for energetic circus folk is to idly wait for winter to pass!

\***UNDER** the marquee: Executives lolling in chairs, appraising the matinee house from the size of the early crowd on the midway!

\***SURE** sign of spring: When circus fans pay more attention to routes, dates & weather than to the humdrum of business!

\***From** Chief Seattle, in a letter to Pres. Franklin Pierce, in 1854: "This we know: The earth does not belong to man - man belongs to the earth. All things are connected ... Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." (Sent in by Frank Thompson)

\***Ringling's** new home page is going to have a section where you can post your ads to buy, sell or trade Ringling items! Check out the PTMAIL section. You can send an e-mail to friends and it is transformed into P.T. Barnum language. You can also download a Ringling screen saver & wallpaper for your computer! What a kick! Check it out!

\*\*\*\*\*VALENTINE'S VAULT\*\*\*\*\*

From the Nov. 1967 White Tops: Ernie (Blinko the Clown) Burch lost 20 pounds and his wife, Maran, 13, during the American circus tour in Russia. They said the food was bad in Moscow, worse in Tbilisi & impossible in Yerevan, 2000 miles below Moscow in what was once Armenia. Brief stops were also made in Kiev & Leningrad. "When I think of all the protesting that goes on in this country," said Blinko to a Kansas City Times reporter, "all the burning of draft cards & not believing in our policy in Vietnam, I say the State Dept. should sponsor a trip to Russia for all these protestors. Yes, even the people on welfare that say the government is not doing enough for them. If they saw Russia as it really is, when they came home again, they would kiss the ground they walked on" (Reprinted by permission of The White Tops)

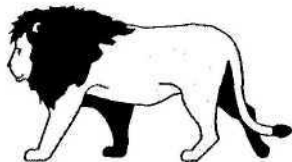
**FROM THE 1948 BILLBOARD:** Mary Jane Miller reports that Amarillo, Tx. was a big day for Dolly & Tex Copeland, who entertained all the hometown folks.

**FROM THE 1951 BILLBOARD:** Bill Snyder, Fay Alexander & Trisco, all aerialists with Ringling, recently underwent hair-curling & tinting treatments in a Sarasota beauty salon so that they might double for Cornel Wilde in The GSOE movie...From Orrin Davenport show: Carla Walenda is thrilling all with her two-high head stand, which she did for the first time recently. Papa Karl is bursting with pride. Mama Helen stays in the hotel. Says she is afraid to watch her daughter...From Rogers Bros.: Swede (Capt. Rogers) Johnson emerged minus one trouser leg when one of his feline playmates got catty...Ida May Crowell is tutoring little Trudy Wilson in ballet acrobatics...Iva Morales sings in the big show & Teresa Morales is still doing those nifty half-twisters to the heels...From Ringling: On a beautiful spec float, playing chimes & cymbals are Fannie McClosky, Kay Burslem, Hilda Alzana & Rose Romig. Antoinette Concello did a bang-up job getting the Hawaiian web number in shape...The Omaha Shrine looks like a whos-who of the circus world.

Performing were: the George Hanneford Family; the Flying Zacchinis; Gracie Orton; Haag's dog & ponies; Elly Ardely; Eva May Lewis; Albert Fleet, chimps; Ala Ming; Leo Gasco, wire; Unus; Pallenberg's bears; Gutis Gorilla Parody...From Rogers Bros: Dime Wilson scores with a brief but utterly mad appearance in Happy Davis's trampoline number when he bounces & cavorts on the bed in his big shoes...Felix Morales has bought a jeep...Celebrating birthdays were Penny Wilson, Joanne Wilson & Jackie Tolliver. Mrs. Felix Morales was visited by her sister. Penny Wilson is now acting as the Statue of Liberty...From Cole & Walters: Daisy the elephant recently disrupted the cookhouse & ate quite a bit of food!...Mary Jane Miller reports from Ringling that Arky Scott was on the Arthur Godfrey TV Show and Godfrey did the foot-in-the-face trick with Arky's elephant...Ernie Burch got in a lot of publicity & pictures in connection with the *Queen for a Day* program...Gilbert Fox celebrated his 4th birthday with a party...Dressing Room 20 gave a birthday party for the girls in that room who don't have birthdays during the season. They were Marian Seifert, Dorothy Durbin, Yvette Kohl, Margie Lawson & Mary Jane Miller...From the Plunkett show: Capt. Fuzzy Plunkett has regained use of his right hand which was bitten by a monkey more than a month ago. Cleo Plunkett is in Cheyenne Wells Hospital suffering with 3rd degree burns on his hands, legs & face which resulted when a can of gasoline exploded. Cleo & Corky were putting the fire out when someone kicked the can to roll it away from the trailer & Cleo was enveloped in flames...From Kelly Miller: Buckles Woodcock is working tickets on the Side Show. Bill Woodcock, elephant supt. plans a quick trip to NY to look over some animals...Col. Harry Thomas reports from King Bros: the show's water wagon driver followed what he thought were the show's arrows & wound up on a carnival lot in Erie, Pa., 150 miles from King's location!...Steve Fanning, boss bull man, has his 15 charges on downtown streets at noon daily. With new parade trappings, the elephants make a flash...From Clyde Beatty show: Johnny Herriott, who is stationed at Ft. Sill, Ok., dropped over to see the show. Johnny reports that he likes the circus better than the army!

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**Report on Carson & Barnes (in the mud)**  
**by Charlie Simpson at LaPorte, Texas**

The report is that the show has good quality, not quantity this year. The personnel are very friendly and the wardrobe is very beautiful! There are several Russian acts including a great bear act and they play basketball and dribble. Watch out Dennis Rodman! The Jumping Rope act is wonderful, and there are two flying acts this year. Instead of giraffes this year, there is a pygmy hippo. There are 5 rings of elephants and the 20 elephant long mount is spectacular! Instead of them being on a picket line, they are in an electric fence compound. Larry Allen Dean is working their cat act. There are more Russian acts coming soon. D. R. Miller was at the

door checking tickets. When he was asked to sign a program, he said, "Got \$5!" Charlie said that they have a **BANG UP** show this year, so go and see it when you get the chance!

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**IT'S A BOY AT THE CINCINNATI ZOO**

The Cincinnati Zoo is home to the first elephant conceived and born in Ohio in 10,000 years—since the days of the woolly mammoth! 213 pounds, dark gray, wrinkled and walking around on legs so wobbly that they keep folding under him.

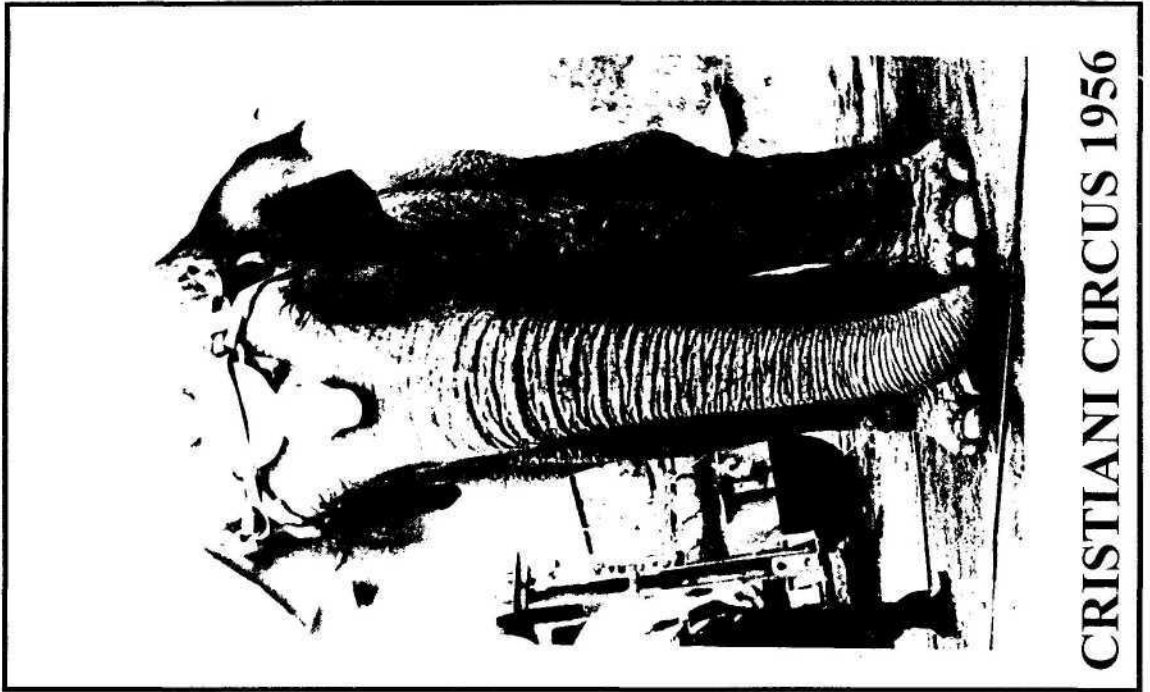
Jati, the 12-year-old Asian elephant, delivered Baby Boy Elephant at 4:50 a.m. Sunday, the 15th, ending her 22-month pregnancy. "It would be impossible to overestimate the importance of this birth," zoo director Ed Maruska said. "I'm feeling like a proud papa right now."

Along with the zoo director, zoo veterinarians Mark Campbell and Greg Levens, and keepers Cecil Jackson, Jr. and Sr. assisted Jati in her end-stage labor. The father, Sabu, is on loan to the zoo in Louisville.

"The baby came out like a cannonball," Mr. Maruska said. "A picture-perfect delivery. I've waited 41 years, my entire life in this business, to see an elephant born. And I can tell you, it was worth the wait."

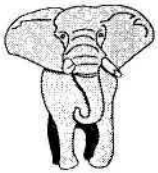
Drs. Campbell and Levens said the baby was in excellent health. He was on his feet right away, they said, which shows a strong baby. The mother "showed a great maternal response, so I'm confident she'll be a good mama," Mr. Maruska said.

Jati and the baby are residing in the Elephant House, which is closed to the public "so mother and baby have a chance to bond," he said.



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