

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 5

February 1, 1982



THE MILLION DOLLAR CARLOS TWINS

SHOW DATES

Circus of China
Feb. 2-14 Montreal, Can.

Circus Odyssey
to Feb 14 Mexico City, -
Mex.

Circus Vargas
Jan 22-25 El Cajon, Ca.
26-27 Mira Vista
28-Feb 1 National City
Feb 2-4 Carlsbad
4-8 Riverside

Shrine Circus
Feb 3-7 Louisville, Ky.

--- OTHER DATES ---

A Chorus Line
Feb 4-Mar 27
San Francisco, Calif.

Disney World on Ice
Feb 2-7 Cincinnati, Oh.

Ice Follies
Feb 2-7 San Francisco,
Calif.

Temple the Magician
Feb 1-14 Newport Beach
Calif.

Speaking of . . .

by JIM PARKER

I recently received a letter from an organization, NAPCAA, and at about the same time I had an inquiry from a concessionaire on the west coast requesting information about NAPCAA. Henceforth, I did a little research and think the information I have is of great interest to anyone involved or supporting of the circus world. NAPCAA is a new organization standing for The National Association For The Preservation of The Circus Arts in America.

As you know, there are similar organizations for various art forms in the United States supportive of the ballet, theatre, music, etc. and it is generally known that the circus is regarded as an art form in Europe, but has never quite reached such a plateau in the United States. The aforementioned arts have long received both morale and financial support of large organizations, institutions, and corporations in order to secure their future.

However, our circuses have just plugged along on their own down through our history with only the few strong or lucky ones surviving, with no assurance of any kind of a future.

Particularly this past year has not been a great financial boom for any show and many, including some of our major ones, have experienced a loss of revenue. From the Florida end of the world many of us now off the road have wrung our hands in exasperation about the future of the circus and how it affects all. In fact, at the height of the 1981 season many acts were scurrying for work and trying to make a decent living with job potentials seemly becoming smaller and smaller. Almost everyone gripes, complains and bitches about this situation but yet no one has yet done anything about bringing forth a change. It is from this type of background that this new organization has sprung forth and everyone - performers, owners, working men, promoters, concessionaires, fans and the general public who give a damn about the circus should at the very least give serious consideration to the goals and purpose of this organization and contact it immediately for in depth information.

Basically it is a non-profit organization, set-up leagally this past year to seek grants from large corporations, government or what-ever-source of revenue to ensure perpetual help for the circus and to upgrade this profession into a true art form in the entertainment world.

It's ultimate goal is to establish at least one and hopefully more, good first class tented circuses touring the United States, giving our American acts a decent place to work at a decent salary. In addition, it hopes to establish a training school for young people entering this business, utilizing the vast experience of veteran professionals.

It is very hard to put its enthusiasm and purpose into just a few words but it is a very sincere effort of those involved in this organization and the first I know of where everyone can become involved.

Impossible you say? Did you know that there are 23,000 foundations to solicit from and over 600 large corporations which give out large grants, to almost any cause. It is not nearly as far fetched as it would seem.

(Continued on Page 19)

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Ringling Blue

by Llenray J. Yarnell

The 112th edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the Blue Unit, is out on the road. The show played in St. Petersburg, Fla., at the Bayfront Center from Jan. 5 to 11th. During the run, the TV special was taped with actor Richard Thomas, famed as TV's John Boy on *The Waltons*, as the host. The special will be on CBS and we were told it would be shown sometime during the month of March.

Once again, Charly Baumann is the performance director and Peggy Williams is the assistant performance director. Dinny McGuire is the ringmaster. During the opening and closing specs, a showgirl joins Dinny and the two of them sing separate and as a duo. In the opening spec they use the Jumping Jack song from the movie *The Greatest Show on Earth* and *Old Glory Triumphant March*.

The program is still \$2.50 and they are using old circus posters instead of a new one.

The program is as follows: Jump for Joy, opening spec; Teeterboard with the Oblocki, The Silagi and The Kovatchevi; Three baby elephants presented by Michael Gautier, 5. Dromedaries (one hump) camels and one Bactrian (two hump) camel, presented by Bela Tabak and three baby elephants presented by Kevin Gautier; Clowns; Flying Trapeze, The Flying Caceres and the Flying Vasquez with Michael attempting the quadruple somersault (the three shows I saw he attempted the quadruple but missed each time, unfortunately); The King Charles Troupe; Clowns; Liberty Ponies presented by Sandor and Elizabeth Raski, The Bela Tabak dogs, Liberty ponies presented by Michu, who is back with the show; Clowns; Elvin Bale and the Wheel of Death with Christopher Adams as his assistant, the rou-

tine is a little different and at one show Christopher stood on Elvin's shoulders and walked the outside of the wheel two-high for one time around the wheel; the Big Spec is called *The Wild, Wild West* with two rings of Cossack Riders at the start of the spec; Intermission.

Clowns; 12 Royal Bengal and Siberian tigers, trained and presented by Charly Baumann or presented by Daniel Suskow, (I saw Charly twice and Daniel once); aerial acts by The Kristov Duo and The Grantcharovi; Elvin Bale's new act, *The Mechanical Monster*, (a very good act); Clowns; Perch pole by The Ivans, The Dobritch Duo and The Polonia; One ring of bareback riders, the Slavovi Family; Clowns; Elephants trained and presented by Axel Gautier and family in an *Elephant Highland Fling Spec*; Clowns; Elvin Bale and an unknown female on the aerial motorcycle; the *Closing Spec*, *Shooting Stars* with Christopher Adams as the Human Rocket.

The show ran 2 hours and 45 minutes.

NOTICE

The family and friends of Henry Scheel are trying to locate him. They last heard from him sometime ago, when he was with a circus in the Chicago area.

Henry is described as a small man with a beard. He was probably working as a roustabout or prop man on the show.

Anyone having information about him or who would know where he is, is asked to contact his sister: Debbie Hemp, Rte. 1, Box 178-A, Clayton, Wisc. 54004, or call her at: 715-455-1289.

PEOPLE

BILLY "Orwell" RODGERS accompanied GEE GEE ENGESSER to Mexico City to attend the opening of Ed Migley's Circus America. While there he visited with Chi Chi and Alberto Atayde, Esperanza Atayde Equeda of Circo Atayde and the Mexico City Zoo. On his return to Gibsonton he had a grand opening for his Wonderful World of Birds store, under the capable direction of Sally La Torres.

JEANETTE WILLIAMS BALE has filed for a divorce from her husband Elvin T. Bale. The couple was married in Dec. 1972.

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IN MEMORIAM

Clayton R. Hawkes

77 years old - Died Dec. 12th
in a hospital at Johnson City, N. Y.

Clayton had a special love for the circus, from a boy, up.

In 1936, Clayton and his wife Madge, took their first show out, which was called MARTIN BROS. CIRCUS.

After MARTIN BROS. Clayton had various other small tent shows and school shows.

He was a member of the PAT VALDO-SIG SAUTELLE TENT, and Clayton was also a MOTION PICTURE PROJECTOR OPERATOR, at a local theatre, before he retired to his home in Castle Creek, N. Y.

ATTENTION

DOC MILLER nearly howled with frustration at the un-for-seen delays in having his book published. First it was the Canadian postal strike with parts of the manuscript locked away up there. Then the lady who cleans up the house and this time in a much too efficient manner, burned up over half of the completed sheets she house cleaned up the messy writing room.

By retyping night and day the completed manuscript was ready for the printer so the finished book would be available by Dec. 1, Yokes!

Then the printing plant had a disastrous fire with the nearly completed book being destroyed.

Well, to make a long story shorter, the printer, now nearly as white-headed as the writer, promises the book will be completed and ready (God, please guide the postal service safely to Starke) by Jan. 29th.

HAWTHORN CIRCUS CORP.



Wild Animal Acts for Season 1982

MARCEL PETERS with 12 Gold Tigers and 5 White Tigers

JOSIP MARCAN with 16 Gold Tigers, 2 Male African Lions, 1 White Tiger

JOHN COX with 12 Gold Tigers and 1 Male African Lion

WILD ANIMAL ACT OPEN TIME 1982 (Call for which act is open)

February 1 - 9

June 14 - 23

March 8 - 17

After Sept. 7

April 26 - May 21

Elephant Acts for 1982

JOHN WALKER with 5 Big Indian Elephants

BEN DE WAYNE with 4 Indian and 1 Baby African Elephant

ELEPHANT ACT OPEN TIME FOR 1982

February 15 - 27

June 14 - 23

March 8 - 14

Sept. 7 - October 11

April 19 - 28

After November 13

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HOTLINE

Dec. 9 - Hermosillo, Mexico - Jose Osorio, Jr., of Circus Osorio, accidentally blew off his right thumb when his rifle backfired on a hunting trip.

Dec. 9 - A 10 year old girl, attending a performance of Circus Verti, was attacked by a uncaged and unleashed trained lion. The animal was distracted when the girl ran after a balloon and was completely scalped by the lion. She was reported to be in critical condition.

Dec. 11 - Four young men on the lot at Circus Burbujas stole a Shetland pony, then attempted to steal a male bengal tiger. When the tiger refused to leave his cage they hit it with a stick, after which the tiger attacked one of the young men, grabbing him by the neck and severing his head.

Seeks Park

Robert Blake, president of the Michigan-based Holly Development Co. said his firm heads a group that has purchased 5% of the stock in the financially ailing Lion Country Safari Park, in Irvine. He said they intend to acquire a major interest in the facility.

Blake said the acquisition is in keeping with Holly's continuous interest in the Orange County (Calif) entertainment industry.

Lion Country President Harry Shuster, who controls 40% of the company stock, told newsmen that he knew nothing of Holly's plans, but he would not necessarily oppose them. He said three "major companies" have expressed interest in purchasing a portion of Lion Country property, and building separate amusement parks on it.

Comment

BUTCHERS... PAST and PRESENT

by JUNE PLUNKETT

Word was recently received that another of the old time Butchers has passed away. Angelo Gardino suffered a fatal heart attack in San Antonio. Apparently his brother was notified and the body was sent back to Waterbury, Conn., where services were held on Jan. 16th.

During the past few years Angelo had divided his time between the Hubert Castle Shrine Circus and the Doc Barbre concessions and the Delaney concessions out of Chicago. This past year he remained off the road, operating mylar balloons in malls with Termite Davenport, and most recently, with Sonny Noel in San Antonio during the Christmas season.

At 67, only at great persuasion, because he "didn't want to go to the trouble of getting all the birth information together" did he apply for Social Security. He received four payments - had both a savings and a checking account in the bank - and thus Angelo "closed with a good season!"

Regretfully, Angelo is among the many of a breed who are fast disappearing. Many performers, show and concession operators are beginning to realize that not too many old-timers are around. A new type of butcher is in the making, but they'll never take the place of the Angelo's, Chins, Bobby Childers, Ralph Hartman, Carl Nordine, Guillo, Ab Davis or operators Tex Rupert and Paul Delaney. Those and many more who have gone within the past few seasons.

Unfortunately, sometimes not too much recognition has been given the butchers or operators - that is, until the money made "out front" made by butchers on concessions was the money needed by the management to take the show on down the road or performers who sizzled when the butchers worked the seats during their act - the butchers who always wanted full house lights instead of blackouts! (Unless they were peddling the specialty item "Flashlites"). They are indeed persons who are an integral part of both indoor and outdoor show business, a breed apart who normally work hard when they need to, make good money, and enjoy spending it.

PEOPLE

THE FLYING CARROLS - Donnie Johnsons wife, Gaynor, her sister Eleanor and Micki are flying to catcher Bob, who was formerly with the Larrays Flying act. They have a ten week engagement in Hongkong.

ELEANOR and GENE MENDEZ, high wire act, are also appearing in Hongkong, on a show that is produced by Chipperfields.

PEE WEE and JO ANN PINSON have signed to tour with the Carson & Barnes Circus this year where they will be working with the show elephants.

THE CORKY PLUNKETT Family has purchased 3 acres near Mabank, Texas, where they've moved their mobile home and also made parking spaces for six travel trailers.

THE KLEMENTIS, bicycle act, are working in Paris in a show called "Music Hall" for local TV. Also appearing in the show are **RO-GANA and GRAN PICASSO**.

DOUG HENNING, was married for the second time on Dec. 6th. He is currently working on a new TV special which will be aired early this year.

THE GREAT WALLENDAS will be featured in the 44th annual Tripoli Shrine Circus in Milwaukee, Wisc., Feb. 24-28.

SNOOKS SWAIN, older sister of Corky and Cleo Plunkett, now retired from the business was a surprise guest at the new Plunkettville Acres, she arrived there for the holidays.

Apparently it's too late for those remaining butchers gathering and jack-potting in the stock rooms this early '82, to send any flowers in Angelo's behalf, and we're not even sure whether a remembrance card will reach his sister, a Nun, said to be in San Diego.

As of now there is no fund set up in behalf of butchers - possibly something toward the heart fund would be a condolence thought, so here's a suggestion.

For a happy toast and memory in behalf of Angelo, cook up a little rigatoni in your kitchen, or go to a little Italian restaurant, and have an order of Angelo's favorite, linguini and clam sauce. It might bring on a perpetual smile!

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BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON, recently with the Carson & Barnes Circus, has signed up with Betty Wendany's Funs-A-Poppin Circus for the 1982 season.

CARLOS and THERESA FARFAN visited some 16 circuses in Mexico during their recent visit South of the border.

KENNETH JAY, a former Ringling-Barnum clown, performed at the Christian Center School in Dublin, Ca. on Jan. 24th and at the Valley Christian Center also in Dublin.

LAUREN CHANDLER, daughter of Phil Chandler, is framing a juggling act using fire torches and seven ping pong balls, from her mouth.

People

FRANK CAIN, JIMMY KNAPP and PAUL and CARLA ROBINSON, of Creative Outlet Publicity-Public Relations, caught the Ringling Blue Unit at St. Petersburg, Fla. on Jan. 6th. The Robinsons are in charge of the press dept. at the upcoming Tampa State Fair. Frank Cain and Jim Knapp will again do the outdoor advertising and merchant ticket distribution for the fair.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Portable Seating for approximately 2000 people with foot rests - Highest seat is not over 5 ft. off the ground - 21 ft. front to back.

Miniature Circus Exhibit in trailer.

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TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC CIRCUS**May 1982 Be A Banner Year!****Harold and Barbara****People**

HELEN GRIFFITH, columnist for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune recently reported that the Sarasota Hyatt House has four suites on its tenth floor that are named for famous circus personalities. The honored show stars are: John Ringling, Karl Wallenda, Emmett Kelly and Merle Evans.

BILLY RODGERS, assisted by SALLY LA TORRES and BONNIE BONTA, hosted a Christmas Eve party at his home in Florida. The annual party was started by the late Harold Spohn and last year it was hosted by Bill Rodgers and Sandy Spohn.

JIM and HEIDI GROGAN hosted a day after Christmas bar-b-que at their home in Riverview, Fla.

In Memoriam

PHILIP McGRATH (81) died at a Huntsville, Ala. hospital on Dec. 21st. He was born in Pennsylvania and worked for the Lindsay Newspapers, Inc. in Sarasota from Nov. 1956 until his retirement in Dec. 1970. He was a former trainmaster for the Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Circus, and was a member of several lodges. Survivors include his wife Mable, a daughter and a sister.

BETTY McCARTY MILLER (Elizabeth Devlin) began her career with the Al G. Barnes Circus at the turn of the century. She went on to appear with Sells Floto, Tom Mix and Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey. She was a featured rider and specialized in the waltz and rear. In her later years she worked for Trader Horn as a ticket seller at Jungleland. She and Mabel Stark became friends during her Al G. Barnes years and remained close until Miss Stark's death. She was in her 90's at the time of her death in December, in San Fernando, Calif.

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In the News

Carnival operators in California are "the most honest in the United States," but there is frequently corruption and fraud with carnivals in other states, law enforcement officers recently told a legislative hearing in Sacramento, Calif.

The Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification was holding the hearing to consider state licensing of carnival operators.

More testimony is to be heard at a later hearing.



by LLOYD E. JONES

Martin Gardner, for 25 years editor of the Mathematical Games section of the Scientific American retired this last November at the age of 76. He was succeeded by Douglas Hofstadter who is using the heading of "Metamagical Themas. Gardner, I am sure, will continue to write choice problems for magicians. Happy retirement Martin.

After a 14 month run in London, the Paul Daniels Show will close on Feb. 4th. He is a favorite entertainer and magician, and will move to the Tropicana in Las Vegas where he will headline the Folies Bergere for four weeks, with a 25 minute spot. After that he will dash home to England for a new TV series. He has made a record for BBC records that runs 62 minutes and is full of magic, puns and funny things. The record is No.

REB 434 or Cassette ZCF 434.

The Magic Circle in London obtained a considerable amount of publicity by placing magicians in the 42 stores of the W. H. Smith Co. on Nov. 21st. Music was provided by a Magic Circle Record.

The Le Grande David Show, in Beverly, Mass., is on its way to its 600th performance (usually weekends) and the tremendous publicity given this show now includes the Smithsonian Museum. Its Nov. issue has an 8 page article with 8 color photos by Nathan Cobb. Many cold statistics make for interesting reading, such as 65 adult performers, 8 children, 359 costumes, 20 major illusions, 19 curtains, 17 members of a Barber Shop Quartet and through it all, high praise for Marco (Cesareo Peleas) whose dream resulted in this amazing reality.

The Hart to Hart TV Show called Murder Up Your Sleeve, had Blackstone, Jr. as one of the stars, plus cameo appearances by Milt Larson and Tony Giorgio.

SPEAKING OF ... (Continued)

For example, the Big Apple Circus connected with the New York School for Circus Arts, Inc., is run entirely on a similar set up and philosophy and it is working.

Membership dues for the NAPCAA are \$10.00 a year, per person, and there is also a separate fund (The National Endowment for the Circus Arts in America) which welcomes any donations. At present, the basic ten dollars will cover mailing costs of membership cards and the tri-monthly newsletter. It is not intended to put out a circus with these dues but to help gather information and a promotional campaign to present this new and challenging idea to the giant corporations/foundations for their support. All contributions are tax deductible and it is a legitimate organization, licensed in the State of Illinois and is non-profit.

This is perhaps the first time every single person has had an opportunity to do something to bring about a better future for the circus. If you have any questions or need further information of any kind contact the organization direct at: NAPCAA, 1648 Central Ave., Northbrook, Ill. 60062 - Phone: 312 - 272 - 8062.

It is rather exciting to be able to get in on the ground floor of something that has such

tremendous potential. Already the ball is beginning to roll and numerous big names in the circus world are joining.

Such enthusiasm hit the west coast when circus owners Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy (Bentley Bros. Circus) heard about it and phoned to state they are so much for it that they will honor all membership cards of the NAPCAA as passes good for any of their performances of the 1982 edition of Bentley Bros. Circus. Now that is putting faith to work.

Write or call now and become a part of it and spread the word around. I'm joining now!

All you have to do to join is send your \$10.00 check or money order to the above address, and you'll get your membership card.

Miscellaneous

The Circus of China will play the Maurice Richard Arena in Montreal (Canada) from Feb. 2 to 14th.

Show History

by MIKE SPORRER

In the Nov. 9th, 1981, issue of Circus Report I published my first installment on the sponsored indoor circus starting with Milton Holland for 1931. Due to the fact that various microfilms on some city's newspapers were not available I was unable to complete the spring tour.

Just recently I received the required information to fill in some gaps and almost complete the route. When I first started my project I only wanted to cover the Pacific North west, but I was surprised to receive several letters from historians who are also doing research on the indoor circus. As a result I am going to try and expand my territory.

In Jan. 1931, the only date available in the Billboard was Atlantic, Iowa, Jan. 14-19, sponsored by the Elks. The show dropped its route until Wyoming.

Apr. 23-28 - Casper, Wyom. - Elks Hall - Elks

Apr. 30-May 5 - Billings, Mont. - Coliseum
Moose

May 7-12 - Livingston, Mont. - Elks Club -
Elks

May 14-19 - Great Falls, Mont. - Granada
Ball Room - Moose

May 21-23 - Helena, Mont. - Shrine Temple
Shrine

In checking the published route in Billboard I find the route was changed from Helena, May 18-23 and Lewiston May 25-30, and these dates are wrong.

May 24-June 2 must have been a lay over period as I was unable to locate where the show was during this time. Both Butte and Havre papers were checked.

June 3-4 - Lewiston, Mont. - No location
given - Elks

- End of Season -

For the balance of the season see the Nov. 9, 1981, Circus Report.

Research on the 1932 tour is coming along quite slowly because no route was published in Billboard.

LESLIE YATES HARKNESS, bandmaster with the Carson & Barnes Circus, was featured in a special story in the magazine "Modern Maturity" for Dec/Jan. 1982.

In Canada

by JEAN JACQUES DESJARDINE

Pierre Jean will be the ringmaster for the Shriner's Circus at the Forum, in Montreal (Quebec, Canada), from March 4-7.

Then from March 8 to April 18, Pierre will be performing on stage at Theatre des Varietes, in Montreal, singing and doing his famous imitations.

Pierre will then hit the road, in his circus costumes, to be M.C. at the African Safari Park, Hemmingford (Quebec), from June 19th to Sept. 6th. There he will introduce Eddy Smith's twelve tigers, Gee Gee Engesser's elephants presented by Roy Wells, the famous dogs of David Rosaire, the Zellman Liberty Act in miniature (consisting of ponies), Paul McLausen on his motorcycle, the Magic Show in the company of Bernard, etc.

Back on the air, the re-run of Pierre's weekly television show presenting famous circus such as the Moscow Circus, Chipperfield and Billy Smart's Circus.

In Montreal, Pierre was visited by his friend Kay Rosaire, "la dompteuse"; together they saw various shows and visited mutual friends "The Weldens" trapeze artists.

PEOPLE

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist, is presently appearing at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas with an all new staff, which includes ANN and RAY RILEY and a new tiger named Rocky. Last year Vince traveled with Circus Vargas.

JILL and JOY T. CLOWN have been booked for a six week engagement in Kuwait, to appear for a newly opened dept. store (By-blos). They'll work on TV and make personal appearances throughout the country. Joy T. Clown is under the personal management of the Philip Morris organization.

STEVE GRANT and WAYNE LIKALA have joined the staff of the Philip Morris organization, which stages and makes costumes for the Royal Hanneford Circus.

LAUREN and ROBIN CHANDLER visited with WERNER GUERRERO on the Ringling Red Unit when the show played in Jacksonville, Fla.

CFA Meet Set

Delegates to the national convention of the Circus Fans Association of America, to be held in Little Rock (Ark), July 4-7, will be entertained by performances of the Zoppe Circus Italia. This announcement was made at a news conference held at the local affiliate of the national organization, the Harold Ronk Tent. National convention chairman William B. "Bill" Walters, a former mayor of Little Rock and a past president of the Tent, introduced Alberto Zoppe, patriarch of the famed circus family, at the news conference.

Alberto Zoppe is a fifth generation member of a noted Italian circus family, which dates back over 100 years in circus history to when Alberto's great grandfather started the troupe in 1842. Alberto and his sister came to this country in 1948, playing the Ringling Bros. circus, after touring Europe with his family since childhood. Just before he came to this country, the Zoppe troupe played for Pope Pius XII in the Vatican City in Rome.

Zoppe appeared in the circus movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth" and helps train many network television personalities for their participation in the "Circus of the Stars" television spectacular. He and his family spend 10 months a year touring the country with their family circus. Zoppe is perhaps best known for his work with horses, but is also a very talented trainer of all types of performing animals.

"We are delighted to have Alberto Zoppe and his family producing our official convention circus," Walters said. "We are expecting nearly 500 circus fans from throughout American for this national convention, the first to be held in Little Rock, and feel very fortunate that we can have one of the true legends among circus families to perform for our delegates."

The circus will be presented in the Robinson Auditorium on July 6th.

LINDY the Clown (Linda Chandler) worked at the Polaka, Fla., Mall, booked by John Hall.

THE CHANDLERS (Phil, Linda and Lauren) will be on the RON BACON show that is set to open March 10th.