

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 12th YEAR

Number 1

February 1, 1983



BRENDA

Sarkin



BY
DON
MARCKS

This is the first issue of Circus Report after my unexpected hospitalization and surgery in December. I am still recuperating, but want to get CR rolling once again.

For the present Circus Report will be mailed twice a month. This will permit me to continue a required slow-down of activity and at the same time will get the paper in to the mail on a reasonable schedule.

The surgery that I underwent required that the artery system in my body be replaced and as a result was quite extensive. A great many pints of blood were required, as what was to have been a 3 hour operation ran into an 8 hour job.

A call for blood donors was sent out by my brother and we want to thank those who were quick to respond. Additional blood is still needed and anyone who can or would like to donate can do so at your local Blood Bank. Be sure the donation is made in the name of Don Marcks, Brookside Hospital, Vale Road, San Pablo, Calif. During the period of non-production there has been time to evaluate the cost and work that is needed to produce Circus Report. It is obvious that some additional revenue has to be generated to keep the paper up to quality and to bring you an even better paper in the future.

A considerable amount of thought has gone into future plans for Circus Report. For the present the current \$20.00 a year subscription fee will be maintained (all of the subscriptions are being up-dated three months to make up for the time when readers did not receive a paper). However, in order to meet the rising costs of paper and other supplies it will be necessary to increase the advertising rates. The new charges will be announced soon.

I appreciate your support and concern during my hospitalization and hope you will continue to believe in Circus Report. I'll need your help and support in the coming months as Circus Report gets back into operation.

PEOPLE

MARIE MUFFLEY (Little Miss Muff) was recently named "The Nation's Top Female Clown" by the Clown Chatter magazine. The honor came at a time when she was seriously ill and needed the emotional support.

VELMA and ADEN LOWRY and Dr. and Mrs. HOWARD P. KILLOUGH attended the Kansas State Clown Meeting and election of officers in Wichita (Kans) on Nov. 21st.

KIRBY GRANT (Sky King) has been working on a campaign to "Hire the Older Worker - and Gain Experience." Last October he spoke to the Greater Tampa (Fla) Chamber of Commerce on this subject.

EARL KRAUZER visited the Big Apple Circus in New York City last month and reports it was "one of the finest shows that I have ever seen."

PHIL TEMPLE, noted magician, produced the San Francisco Magic Symposium which was successfully held last month and featured DAI VERNON as well as MR. ELECTRIC (Marvyn Roy and Carol).

SCOTT KOOP and ROBERT BARON, former RBBB Red Unit clowns are now performing their comedy routines at the Variety Arts Theatre in Los Angeles.

LEE SIMMONS, director of the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebr., was recently pictured in an AP photo release holding two two rare white tiger cubs, which were born at the zoo.

ERVIN HALL has joined the Ringling Red Unit to work the baboon act. This was his sister JANNEN's act. She plans to take a year off following her recent marriage.

ROGER MOORE who plays James Bond in "Octopussy" joins a circus as a clown to see out one of the film's villains.

Despite some recent rumors I'm looking forward to serving you with a bigger and better Circus Report for many years to come.

It is my hope that you will always find Circus Report is of interest and value to you.

Sincerely,
Don Marcks

Show Dates

Hubert Castle Circus

Jan. 15-23 Flint, Mich.
21-30 Grand Rapids
Feb. 4-6 Ft. Wayne, Ind.
9-12 Memphis, Tenn.

Cottle/Chipperfield Circus

Dec. 15-Apr. 10 Hongk'ng

Hamid-Morton Circus

Jan. 28-31 Roanoke, Va.

Kaye Cont. Circus

Dec. 15-Feb. 12 Japan

No Elephant Circus

Jan. 4-7 Brooklyn, NY.
Feb. 14-19
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Jan. 27-30 Venice, Fla.
Feb. 1-2 Tallahassee
4-6 Columbia, SC
9-20 Atlanta, Ga.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Dec 30-Jan 2 Venice, Fla.
Jan 4-10 St. Petersburg
12-17 W. Palm Beach
19-Feb. 1 Miami Beach
Feb 3-6 Jacksonville
8-13 Birmingham, Ala

Royal Hanneford Circus

Jan 14 Saginaw, Mich.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney Ice Odyssey

Jan 4-16 Baltimore, Md
18-23 Buffalo, NY
25-Feb 6 Milwaukee, Wisc
Feb 8-13 Cincinnati, Oh.

Disney World on Ice

Jan 4-16 Los Ang. Calif.
19-23 El Paso, Texas
Feb. 1-6 San Diego, Calif.
8-13 Oakland

SAMANTHA



Hi! We're starting an all new season and already they have me doing extra work, like arrowing the route.

Even this is exciting though as the show is following right behind and when they arrive it will be "Circus Day" once again.

Be sure and watch for me in the weeks to come, lots of fun and surprises ahead.

Meanwhile, why not renew your CR subscription.

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From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Happiness was getting the unusual invitation to Clown College's 15th annual Gala performance, in the mail. Day and date is Saturday, Nov. 20th, at RBBB winter quarters in Venice, Fla., by invitation only. It's a "keeper" - - whoever designed it should get an award! A red and yellow striped circus tent has a Lou Jacobs figure holding open a flap, but when you open it, it becomes a 3 dimensional box with the invitation printed on a mirror-like paper, and surrounded by clown heads in full make up. Sorry to say, we can't make it, as we plan to be in New Orleans.

Channel 8 TV showed scenes and conversations with folks on Circus Vargas on "More Real People." Do not know when it was filmed, but Cliff Vargas and also John Herriott were in the short film.

One Sunday not too long ago we enjoyed "3 Ring Circus" made in 1954 on Clyde - Beatty-Cole starring Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin. Carried here on Channel 28 TV, it has good scenes of raising the big top, unloading the train at the runs, etc.

On Nov. 12-13 and 14, the City of Clearwater Parks & Recreation Dept. at St. Petersburg Junior College staged the 4th part of "Vodvil '82" which children and veteran vaudevillians in the cast. Only circus connected performer is Wilbur "Cowboy Wimpy" Hall, age 70. He ran away at 15 to join Crest Bros. Circus as a cowboy-magician. He traveled for years and then settled in Washington, DC. working 30 years as a mapmaker. He has performed his rope trick and comedy in the White House for Nixon, Kennedy and the Carter families.

An exhibit of more than 50 oil paintings of Emmett Kelly and one painting by the famed clown performer himself, will open Sat., Nov. 13, at Art Adds Life Gallery in the Countryside Mall (Clearwater, Fla.). The paintings are by D. L. "Rusty" Rust, a clown friend of the Kelly family.

The Real Austrian "Spanish Riding School" Lipizzaners will be in the U. S. for their 1st appearance here in 16 years. Dates and places are: Nov. 20-23, Washington, DC, Capital Center Arena; Nov. 26-29, New York City, Madison Sq. Garden; Dec. 2-5, Philadelphia, Pa., Spectrum Arena; Dec. 7-10,

New York City, Madison Sq. Garden.

I was fortunate enough to see them perform in Vienna, but if you are near one of the above areas, you may want to jot down the dates and places. For further information about these exceptional animals, you can write to any of the following places:

Austria, Vienna - Spanische Reitschule, Hofburg, Michaelerkuppel, A-1010 Wien. Or to the Austrian National Tourist Office, 545 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10017.

Piber - Austrian National Stud, Piber, Styria, is open to the public April thru Oct. with one hour guided tours every afternoon. Call: Stud at 03144-3323.

Yugoslavia - Lipica - Kobilarna Lipica, at 66210 Sezana, open to the public April thru October, with dressage exhibitions daily. Write to the Stud or to the Yugoslav Nation Tourist Office, 630 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10020.

Did any of you know that the Austrians originated the "zip code?"

News of Circus Fans: Ralph Decker, Tacoma, Wash., will spend the Xmas Holidays in Springfield, Ohio, with Past CFA Pres. and family, Jim Saunders. . . The marvelous reproduction of the White House, owned and exhibited by John Zweifel, Orlando, was the main attraction at "The World's Largest Flea Market" held at the Florida State Fair Grounds, Tampa.

Fred Griffin, Bronx, NY, who was himself born in Ireland sent the notice about the death of James Duffy, of Irish circus fame, and altho he died about a year ago, it contains much news of interest to fans and performers everywhere.

Circus Fans lots two members from Newark, Ohio - John "Jack" Cole in July and Jim Heaton in Sept. Jack who is survived by his wife Alice was the personal-State Trooper body guard of the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt when Roosevelt was the Governor of New York State. Jim who served as a District Director for CFA is survived by his wife Madeline. The two couples were close friends and attended many Baraboo openings. They will be missed.

Every hear of "Tricky" Tavelstead who roller skates and then leaps over 3 burning cars? He is appearing at a local speedway track. Hope his trousers are asbestos!

Good Season

The Wood Family Shows International Productions, of Windsor, Ontario and Sarasota, Fla., report they had a good season operating a 3 acre petting zoo and animal attraction, with shows daily. Over 200 domestic and exotic animals are on display on Bob-Lo Island Amusement Park, one of the biggest parks in the Southern Ontario and Michigan area. They are now looking forward to their third year with the Bob-Lo Island Co.

The Wood Family Shows also operate a traveling road show "Circus Fantasy", a traditional European one-ring family circus, a fast-paced, flashy presentation, featuring performing animals, aerial act and Scooter the clown. Also presented with this package is the Circus Wagon Menagerie and Petting Zoo, presented under a colorful red and yellow 30x60 big top and features 40 domestic and exotic animals and birds from "Around the World."

The selection of animals include a lion, monkey, goats, sheep, llama, miniature

Sicilian donkey, Coatamundi, Indonesian dog fox and a selection of decorative birds.

Fairs played include the Niagara Regional Exhibition, Welland, Ontario, Brigden, Brooke Alvinston and Watford Fairs, Ontario and the Gulf Coast State Fair and Exposition, Biloxi, Miss., booked through Creative Outlet of Largo, Fla.

The show moves on three truck and trailer units, all brightly painted and lettered, with lots of flash.

In Memoriam

BETTY WENDANY (52), owner of Wendy's Funs-A-Poppin Circus, died Oct. 23 following a long battle with cancer.

A memorial service was held on Oct. 31st with a moving euglogy by Parley Baer. Many friends both in and out of the business attended the services.

The popular show is now being operated by her daughter, Heidi.

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In Mexico

by BOBBY GIBBS

Late last year the writer visited Circus Atayde in the Arena at Mexico City. When you first enter the arena you see the beautiful backdrop curtain, about 60 ft. high and running all across one end of the arena with "Circo Atayade 1888-1983" on it.

The arena floo was covered with green sawdust and had one large ring (42 ft.) and a stage. The ring had a rubber mat for animals and the curb was lighted with 3 color lights. The show also uses the new Italian style of rope lights in different colors.

All acts enter thru the back curtain. All of the prop men wear coveralls and the announcer and ringmaster were in tuxedos.

Circo Atayde is the Mexican version of our biggest circus and is the oldest and largest in Mexico having been founded in 1888. It is still owned and managed by the Atayde family.

The show uses the newest sound and tape system to replace live music.

This year the show is not using American acts as in the past. All animal acts are show owned and are top notch. They include 4 tigers, 4 lions, 5 big elephants, Tanya, single elephant and without a doubt the best liberty horse act in North America. These 8 palominos were purchased and put together in California by Don McLennan and later were started by a German trainer, then John Herriott changed the act and finished them up after which he turned them over to Alberto and Celeste Atayde who have done an outstanding job of working them and adding new routines. The acts is about 12 minutes and does about everything you can think of. Their harness and plumes are all beautiful.

The above mentioned Celeste Atayde is better known by U. S. circus fans as Chi Chi Canestrelli of the famous Canestrelli family. Her sister Tosca was a featured performer on the bounding rope and her other neice is in Reno at Circus Circus, appearing in a flying act and doing the triple. Her father had a chimpanzee act before his death.

Chi Chi (Celeste) married Alberto Atayde and they are in charge of all the animal acts and the day-to-day operation of Circus Atayde.

Celeste has only just this season started to work the horses and is doing a wonderful job. She wears Vegas style wardrobe and has a real professional appearance.

Celeste also works a big high school horse on the track and the elephant Tanya which was purchased from Jenda Smaha. This elephant was temporarily out of the show due to a sore leg but was expected to be back in the ring soon.

Kamala Circus

The New Castle, Pa., based "Kamala Circus" made a 1982 fall tour of Western Penna. and North Eastern Ohio.

Personnel appearing with the show were:

Charlie Van Buskirk, MC; Ivy and Kamala, rolling globes; Art Jennings, Jr., illusionist; The Davidsons, juggling; The Gunga Sisters, acrobatic/Contortion act; Sunny Daze, clowning; La Mays, comedy plate spinning; The Patricks, rola bola; Billy Gunga, glass balancing; The Cyclonians, unicycles and Angela Wilnow and Her Collies, Canine Revue.

East Coast News

BY FRANK ROBIE

Schmidt's Beer, actually, Christian Schmidt Brewing Co. of Philadelphia and Cleveland, in recognition of the 300th birthday of Philadelphia, America's first capitol, lists on each six-pack a chronological date list of unsurpassed historical firsts. For some reason the first circus listing is missing, but some interesting firsts are: 1728 First Botanic Garden, 1776 First American Theatre, 1805 First Art Museum, 1859 First Zoological Society, 1867 First Merry-go-round, 1893 First State Park. Not all of these, of course, are circus related, but most of them still exist and can be seen during the 1983 CFA Convention.

Big Apple Circus' second great Lincoln Center season began Dec. 3rd. It featured an international cast of the very best circus artists. From Mexico, the Flying Gaonas. From Denmark, Katja Schumann and her palomino stallions. From Japan, Koma Zuru whose Samurai act has been produced by his family for over 800 years. From Czechoslovakia, master teacher and cloud swing aerialist Sacha Pavalata. From Poland, The Dymeks on the Russian bar. From Italy, The Canestrelli's whose trampoline leaps are recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. From Switzerland, David Muller on the low wire; from Burma, Anna Mae, quite simply the most talented elephant alive. From the five Boroughs of New York, Jim Tinsman, Paul Binder, Back Street Flyers, Michael Christensen, Barry Lubin, the orchestra and the ring crew.

Line-up for the Ted Chirrick Productions Dec. 11th, IBM Children's Party included, 10-count 'em - 10 clowns with Toby Ballantine, stilt walking, Frank Carbone 1973 RBBB graduate, Middy Streeter from Circus Odyssey, Todd and Marie Robinson, Mart Ricky, Ripley Believe It or Not specialist, Jess Monroe, magic clown, Chris Marra, Catherine Margroff and Clyde, the internationally famous.

Good news also from Chirrick Productions is that Bergen Mall has inked a repeat engagement for Aug. 1983. Other malls are also showing considerable interest.

Some upcoming 1983 events are: All American Circus at So. Mountain Arena, Apr. 27-29; Hamid-Morton Circus at the Mennen Sports Arena, Apr. 19-23 and the

A New Book

In 1918, Harry Houdini, the famous magician and escape artist, commissioned a veteran researcher from Boston's Public Library to prepare a history of magic in Boston. The researcher, H. J. Moulton, spent a year examining books, journals and newspapers in his efforts to gather information on the subject.

The result, a manuscript of 153 typed pages, is a fascinating and detailed account of the performances of over 250 magicians, ventriloquists, jugglers and other wonder workers who appeared in Boston and the local area over the period 1792 to 1915. Houdini had intended using this material in a book he expected to write on the history of magic. It proved to be one of his many projects left unfinished due to his untimely death at the age of 52 - on Oct. 31, 1926.

In March 1983, H. J. Moulton's researches will finally be published in book form, as "Houdini's History of Magic in Boston 1792 - 1915."

An introduction will be provided by Milbourne Christopher, owner of the manuscript and a noted magician and magic historian. (Mr. Christopher is the author of "The Illustrated History of Magic," "Houdini: The Untold Story," and other books.

The Moulton manuscript will be reproduced in facsimile and illustrated with rare playbills from the Christopher Collection. Mr. Christopher, who referred to the Moulton manuscript when writing several of his own books, notes in the introduction that "future historians . . . will be as enthralled as I was when I first read these pages."

"Houdini's History of Magic in Boston 1792 - 1915" will be published in a large format hardcover book and will sell for \$35.00.

Hanneford Circus at White Plains Westchester County Center the week of Feb. 22nd.

The John Lewis Circus is expected in July and August and Hoxie Bros. and the Great American Circus in the fall.

Ringling Red comes to the Garden during March, April, May, with its return engagement at the Byrne Arena in November.

To all personnel of
CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS. CIRCUS
 My best wishes for a great 1983 season

Signed: Charles F. Petty, CFA #419

Circus Class

from LaVahn G. Hoh

Last year the drama department of the University of Virginia allowed me to teach a course entitled "Circus in America". The course was so popular the department has given me permission to teach it again this spring semester.

The course was enthusiastically received by the students. It covered many areas of the circus in America such as the early decades, under the big top, Barnum & Bailey, Ringling Bros., logistics, side shows, performers, disasters and much more.

My lectures were interspersed with guests and visual material supplied by Ringling Bros., and the Circus World Museum. We had guest speakers who discussed their experiences with various circuses; a few of the speakers were Joe McKennon, Jim Webb of Russell Bros. Circus, Rodney Hugh and John Mulcahy of Ringling Bros., two clowns, Fred Yockers and John Townsen. Townsen and Yockers lectured to the class, gave a workshop on clowning and a performance of their routine.

One of the highlights of the class was a field trip to Richmond, Va., to see a performance of the Blue Unit of Ringling Bros. Fifty-two people were treated to an outstanding show and a behind the scenes tour before the show by Frosty Little.

One of the problems I had with the course occurred at the end of the semester. I required each student to write a four page minimum paper on some aspect of the circus in America. It was at that time I discovered the library here at the University of Virginia does not have a large holding of circus material.

If any of your readers have any information which they would like to donate to the library, books, route sheets, newspaper clippings, photos, etc., we would greatly appreciate it. This information can be sent to me or direct to the library. Also, if anyone is traveling through or is near Charlottesville, Va. and would like to talk to the class, please contact me. The class meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 20 thru May 3rd.

LaVahn G. Hoh, Associate Professor of Drama, University of Virginia, Dept. of Drama, Culbreth Road, Charlottesville, Va. 22903-2486 or phone: 804-924-3326.

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PEOPLE

MIKE PIKE, bandleader, has written the musical score for the Payless Shoe Stores radio commercial promotion "Carnival of Values" campaign. The 30 and 60 second music spots, with carnival and circus themes are being aired from Jan. 15 to March 15th.

ROB LIBBON, fire eater with the Big Apple Circus, was pictured in the Jan. 1983 issue of "Modern Photography."

AUSTIN MILES, circus chaplain and ringmaster, and INGRID YANES, former Austrian skating star who won the Silver Medal in the Olympics and now a hostess with the Eastern Airlines, are a constant two-some.

JOE SCHMITT, Jr., producing clown with Ford Bros. Circus in 1982, handled billposting and media promotions for the show's series of indoor dates in December. Joe will return as producing clown for the 1983 circus season.

CHIP BURNES, son of former circus performers Chuck and Bambi Burnes, Anaheim, Calif., appeared throughout the summer as First Male Assistant to illusionist Mark Kalin and has been kept busy between his studies as a Theatre Arts major at California State University, Fullerton, and the

taping of four major television shows. So far, the act has appeared on "That's Incredible," "The Richard Simmons Variety Show," a TV special for Australia and a special in 3-D for Home Box Office.

During the winter semester, Chip will appear in the act when it is featured in the Reno Hilton's spectacular "Razzle Dazzle" revue. He returns to college Feb. 1st.

JIM "Kilowatt" MILLER, who broke in on 'lights' on the 90 car Ringling show and later worked on lights with Walter Rice and Cristiani, Strates, etc., has just about completed restoration of a beautiful 1917 Spillman Merry-go-round for a major New York State city. Nearly all of the gears and the sweep housing had to be specially made for the ride. Kilowatt is the son of 'Doc' Miller author of several magazine stories and the book "Little Ol' Show."

Miscellaneous

Rumor has it that there is a strong possibility that a circus will be staged at one of the few remaining pleasure piers in Atlantic City, sometime this year.

JOE TROLLY

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Coast Show Opens

Circus Fans of Southern California report that Circus Vargas set up its tents in El Centro, Calif. on Jan. 9th. The following day they held a run-thru of the performance with the band and then on Tuesday afternoon a full dress rehearsal was held.

The show opened that evening to a good crowd, playing thru Thursday. On Friday they moved to National City for a weekend engagement.

The show opens with Wally Naghtin's bear acts, in two rings and they are followed by a clown number with Billy McCabe and 11 clowns. Girls on web were next, after which came Cimeon's Chimps, then the Living Statues (Les Victoria); Ben William and the elephant Anna Mae; The Lunatricks in a comedy number; Juggling by the Hargitas and the Duartys with Wally Eastwood in the center ring; Four girls on horses followed by an 8 liberty act presented by Kathy

Batchlor; The Parays, cradle act in center ring with two single men in each outside ring; Spec with two girls doing trapeze and Naghtin's bears in center ring.

Flying acts in each ring open the second half; Clowns in a Bull fight number; 3 rings of Samoyed dogs; wire act; Clowns; Teeter-board act by the Charles Troupe; side rings have trampoline acts; finale is the elephant number with 3 bulls in each end ring and 5 in the center ring presented by Rex Williams, who has put the pyramid back into the number.

To be added soon are a tiger act, a new horse, a magic act and two motorcycle acts.

New costumes are being made by Hedy Jo Starr of Las Vegas.

The 4th annual Tom Mix Festival will be held in DuBois, Pa., Sept. 15-18. In addition some mini-type Tom Mix Roundups will be held in various cities of the U. S. this year.



TOMMY SCOTT and his road show success phenomenon is unique. Over the years, the aggregate number of over 18,000 one-day stands, in US and Canada appearances, of troupes headed by Tommy are now under research for accurate historical authentication - an amazing record and the med. show is still going!

I know what's in the liniment the Tommy Scott Medicine Show Co. sells - it's on the bottle. But, real formula for success thru Depression, Wars, Inflation, in the face of popular TV, Radio, Movies, Home Entertainment, etc. "What's that?" I asked one of Tommy's managers, Jim Moore.

Jim's answer was humorous: "Tommy's like a bumble bee. There is an accepted theory of aerodynamics which makes the bumble bee unfit to fly. He's too fat. He's too wide and unproportioned. He's not streamlined. According to theory, he shouldn't fly. Of course, the bumble bee doesn't know that!"

"Same thing with Tommy. While Main-Stem shows can't see success without high admission prices like \$45, Tommy shows elsewhere for \$3. While sex and opulence seem to be necessary commodities for other producers, the med. show format remains family oriented in true variety show tradition.

"Kids often sit on the floor in front of their parents - laughing and applauding the stage show antics of country-western singers, musicians and the parade of novel-

ty entertainers that holds the audience attention from start to finish.

"Today, according to the theory of some marketing experts, that kind of show-biz won't work. Tommy Scott's like the bumble bee who flies. He doesn't know he's doing the impossible! Tommy just opens his show in January and tours thru November - sometimes with auriferous results."

I get it. The real medicine then, in the Tommy Scott Medicine Show is the pleasurable experience and home-town morale uplift the in-person entertainment brings both young and old alike each year from coast-to-coast in Canada and the US.

That's civic service medicine that can't be put in a bottle or a tube.

PEOPLE

DOUG DOMOKOS, trick motorcycle rider was featured at The Great American Motorcycle Show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, held last month.

JACK KING has joined the Big John Strong Circus. He renewed acquaintances with **BOB OWENS** who is doing work of producing clown on the show. Jack and Owens worked together on another show some time ago.

EDDIE HOWE, former circus press agent, was seen in the TV special "Bataan, The Death March" which was shown recently. Howe was one of many Americans captured by the Japanese and forced to make the long Death March.

TOMI LIEBEL and family spent the holidays visiting friends and relatives in Austria, and Hungary.

TIM TEGGE, **CHERI SICARD**, **JIM CONLEY**, **COL. EARL TEGGE** and **LOUISE TEGGE** recently visited friends on Circo Union when the show played Tijuana, Mex.

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Miss. Fair Circus

BY RICHARD JOHNSON

The Mississippi State Fair Free Circus was held on Oct. 8 thru 17th and was produced by the Barreda Productions.

The show consisted of the following acts: Overture by Robert and Kay Parker; Aerial Artistry of the Jupitors and the Dynasty Duo; Sangra Riding Academy; Anita Zoppe and Co., miniature horses; Katinka's Poodles; Whips and Ropes by Pancho Magana; Tommy Hanneford Riding Act; Lion act with Jorge Barreda; Hanneford elephants presented by Mark Hanneford Karoley; Sway Poles with the Nock brothers, and announcer, Richard Johnson.

After each show there were elephant rides for the children. Two shows were presented on Monday thru Friday, with three shows on Saturday and Sunday.

Attendance at the fair was good except for a few days when there was rain. Attendance at the circus was very good.

On Sunday, Oct. 10th, a party was held

honoring Mrs. George Hanneford on her 94th birthday. Mrs. Tommy Hanneford and the ladies with the show and several friends prepared the food. A delicious feast!

Mrs. Hanneford takes part in the act and makes every show - a true show person - a great lady.

On Thursday, there was another birthday party at the Zoppe's bus for Mark and Laura.

A quote from many members of the audience: "The Free Circus was the highlight of the Mississippi State Fair."

Show Acts

Acts appearing with the Gerry Cottle-Dick Chipperfield Circus in Hongkong, at Ocean Park, include:

Les Kansas, jugglers; The Cherifian Troupe somersault artists; Sonny Fossett, Willie & Wee Bean, clowns; Sonya Burger, upside down walk across the roof of the tent; The Showgirls of London (Tessie, Jane Melanie, Monica Joanne, Marcia); Richard Chipperfield, leopards, pumas, panthers, jaguars; Marcel Peters, polar bears; Intermission.

The Loonies, comedy act; The Great Marco, whirling wheel of death; Clowns; Kubler's Chimpanzees; The London Showgirls; The Santus Troupe, wizards on wheels; The Super Nova Space Rocket, aerial rocket sensation; International Flag Flying Finale.

The show's announcer is Ian Dey and the circus band is directed by Pete Burrell.

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PEOPLE

GUS & URSULA, former juggling team, are now retired and operate an animal park in New England.

BEV KELLEY expects to have his book about the circus ready for publication in a few weeks.

PIERRE TRUDEAU, of Canada, was recently quoted by a newswire as saying that "living next to the United States is like being in bed with an elephant. No matter how friendly the elephant is, when he turns over you're in trouble."

1983 Plans

John Lewis' new "Lewis Bros. Circus" will open the 1983 season in April in Southern Georgia. The new show will travel on eight trucks, five being diesels. The big top will be 70 ft. round ends with three 30 ft. middles, with brand new nine high bleacher seats, seating approximately 1800 people.

There will also be a 40 ft. x 60 ft. side show with all new canvas bannerline. The side show will be operated by veteran showman John Herriott. Herriott will also appear in the show with his dressage horse "Bandelera" and will also be the ringmaster.

Another veteran of the circus world, John Walker, Sr., will operate the concessions. Walker is well-known in the circus business as both a successful concessionaire and boss canvasman. He has worked on most all of the big shows, including Ringling, Beatty and was on the Hoxie show for a number of years.

The show will be well painted. The colors will be a white format with many pictorials on all rolling stock. Lewis recently purchased a Hippopotamus which will be trained to do an act by John Herriott. This will be the first Hippo act since the King-Cristiani show show 30 years ago.

"There will eventually be a lot of animals and I hope to have more variety of animals than any show in the East," Lewis said.

Most of the route is already booked and it will be appearing in The Circus Report.

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In Memoriam

RALPH EMERSON, Sr. (76), brother of George Emerson of MGM Zoo fame, suffered a stroke and died just before Christmas of last year. He had served as press agent for 25 years for the Sphinx Temple (Hartford, Conn.) Shrine Circus.

During the World War II years his camera caught the big top fire of the Ringling show in Hartford and one photo, that of Emmett Kelly, bucket in hand, in the smoldering embers of the tragedy, still remains a classic of pathos in the photo morgue of the Hartford Courant newspaper, that is now owned by the L. A. Times.

At one time Emerson owned a large private zoo in Newington, Conn. In recent years he and his sons have maintained the family business of many years - horse supplies and western wear, called the Stud-Frontier Shop.



MARCEL PETERS, pictured here with one of the Chipperfield lions, is presently working a group of 6 polar bears with the Gerry Cottle-Dick Chipperfield Circus in Hongkong. Marcel worked a white tiger act on Circus Vargas at the start of the 1982 season.



This Way to the Woodstock, NY
Big Apple Circus - July 1982



Paul Binder

BIG APPLE CIRCUS

Photos by David P. Orr



Michael Christensen
and
Carlo Pellegrini



Tisha Tinsman, ex-Ringling Show Girl



Tisha and Jim Tinsman

ALLEN PATTON

has just completed the 1982 fall tour with James T. Hetzer's *Intercontinental Circus* and previously completed the 1982 summer tour with Al Stencil's *Martin & Downs Circus*.

He is now at large and looking for a position as either Property Supervisor or Canvas Superintendent.

ALLEN PATTON

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Coronas Circus

by Circus Joe Valenciano

The Coronas Circus Productions recently had a full article in the *Amusement Business* magazine. Here are some of the facts of interest to the readers of CR.

The Coronas Circus, with a \$100,000 investment in a big top, purchased from the defunct Danbury, Conn. Fair, want to line up fair and funpark bookings for 1983, to complement their growing tour of Shrine dates.

George Coronas reports that the family circus is planning to be represented at the International Fair and Park Convention in Las Vegas and Kansas City.

The tent, purchased from the Danbury Fair, measures 130 ft. x 230 ft. and is a four pole top, with 2,000 bleacher seats and can accommodate as many as 4,000 people. The fair used the tent for exhibits. Also purchased were all of the tent's poles and two big semis to transport the tent.

The Coronas Circus ended its season Oct. 27-31 as the Shrine Circus in Kansas City, which the family will be playing for the third straight year. Also for the third year in a row the Coronas Circus will be playing the St. Louis Shrine Circus at Busch Stadium, where they present a 9 ring format.

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Show Program

The program for the 49th annual Hadi Temple Shrine Circus (Nov. 25-28) at Evansville, Ind., produced by Paul V. Kaye included the following acts and personnel.

Pre-show activity with Happy Kellems, the 'Clown Prince of Pantomime'; Circus 'Rock' Overture with Jack Cervone, conductor and Boom Boom Browning, drummer; Trapeze and Loops featuring Senor Vincente, Goldie, Donna, Hansel, Pamela; Alan Gold's African lions and Bengal tigers; The Kneisleys and Golden Sisters, aerial cradle; The Hadi Funsters; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Twin Slide-for-Life with Miss Roverta and Miss Winnie; Ground act display with The Michaels, Los Argentinos, The Hans Duo; The Hadi Funsters; Nighthin's Bears, Pamela's Chimpanzees and Wally's Bruins; Aerial ballet featuring Miss Najean on the trapeze; Clown in a Pac Man Chase; Scott's Football Dogs; Intermission.

The Four Flying Vazquez, featuring a triple somersault by Venicio; the Hadi Funsters; John Walker with the Hawthorn Elephants

(5); The Winn Brothers, double sky walk; Walt & Wendy, voltage and teeterboard; The Zoppe Family Bareback riders with Roger Zoppe; The Original Winn Family, twin aerial motorcycles; Guest star Catherine Bach (of TV's Dukes of Hazard); a Salute to the Stars and Stripes Finale.

Announcements were handled by Col. Lucky Larabee. Eugene Majulin handled the lighting.

At the convention

Some circus folks seen at the big convention in Las Vegas late last year were:

D. R. Miller and wife; Jesse Jensen and wife; Mary Ruth Herriott, Jo Ann Pinson, Bobby Gibbs, Zoe Ann Henry, John and Butch Rivers, Larry and Betty Carden, Mac McDermott, George and Gina Carden, Bill Biggerstaff, Frank Curry, Mark Schultz, Pete Cristiani and Casey Gibbs.

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In Memoriam

PATSY (Frank) TOMPKINS (65) died in Fayetteville, NC on Nov. 23. Born in New York as Patricia Burger, she was a prominent horse show rider. She married William Tompkins, of New Haven, Conn., also a leading horseman and the son of Ray Tompkins, a successful horse show and rodeo promoter and trainer and the uncle of Harry Tompkins, who was an 8 time World Champion Cowboy of the 1950's.

After a divorce she married Tama Frank, well-known circus and rodeo performer and they were known professionally for the next two decades as Tama Frank and Patsy, presenting trained horses and dogs, trick riding and roping, as well as the Whirl of Death knife throwing act. They and their son moved to Georgia where they spent the winters, while touring with a number of name circuses. They also operated their own successful Rodeo Circus Attractions for many years. They also appeared with a number of wild west shows.

In later years she traveled with her son, Bradd, while he performed at top RCA rodeos. She retired for several years during the 60's and 70's and then resumed traveling, working for several family-owned carnivals in the New England area. She had just finished working the North Carolina State Fair with the Commerford & Son Petting Zoo when she became ill. Burial was in Crescent City, Fla.

Acts Booked

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, the Hollywood based theatrical agency specializing in variety acts for revue shows, including:

Mark Kalin, illusionist in Razzle Dazzle at the Hilton Hotel, Reno; Jacki Althoff's Bears and the Cossack Comedy Chimps in Las Vegas on Ice at the Fujia Hotel, Japan; Bob Rosetti, French rope spinner in Vive Las Vegas at the Sheraton Hotel, Korea; Magic Theatre, French black-art artistes in To-Night's The Night at the Crazy Horse, Paris; Nino Frediani, juggler in City Lights at the Flamingo Hilton Hotel, Las Vegas; The Thuranos, comedy low wire act and Jean-Jean, French comedy plate spinner in C'est Manifique at the Aladdin Hotel, Los Vegas; The Great Tomsoni & Co., Poland's finest magician, and David Rosaire's Perky Pokes in Allez Lido at the Stardust Hotel, Las Vegas.

PEOPLE

MIKE PHILLIPS & TRICIA's success during their southern tour resulted in their re-appearance with their full evening show "Grandeur of Illusion" for several performances in Texas. Appearing with Mike and Tricia was JOY The Clown. Arrangements for the tour were handled by Grandeur Productions.

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In Memoriam

BURLING HULL (93), an internationally known professional magician for nearly half a century, died Nov. 19 at the Eustis Manor Nursing Home, Eustis, Fla. He was born in Brooklyn and lived in New York until 1951 when he moved to DeLand, Fla.

He wrote some 50 books, developed a number of tricks and operated a mail order magic business. His first book "Billiard Ball Manipulations" sold over 200,000 copies.

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He was a friend of most of the great magicians such as *Dunniger, Keller, Thurston* and *Blackstone*, as well as *Houdini*.

FREEMAN GOSDEN (83) former minstrel-show performer who was the creator and voice of *Amos Jones* of the "Amos 'n' Andy" radio program, died of a heart attack in Los Angeles on Dec. 10th.

JEFFERY SCOTT WHITWORTH (19), grandson of *Doc Tommy Scott* and *Frankie* of "Last Real Medicine Show" died as a result of an automobile accident on Nov. 16. He was a drummer and bass player, a member of the *Southland Country Music Band*.

He has recorded and appeared on *Fan Fair* and both U. S. and Canadian TV with his grandfather. Interment was in *Stephens Memorial Gardens, Toccoa, Ga.*



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Ice Show in Canada

by ED WICKSTROM

Jarda Kubic came back to Canada recently and brought with him two of his very capable performers - Miss Mimi Drewery, feature female skating soloist and Mr. Jay Greene, juggler extraordinaire, on ice. He produced a great weekend of ice showmanship.

The unique "iceless" ice show "Icetravaganza" came to Winnipeg's St. Vital Shopping Center. Here Jarda produced three 20 to 30 minute shows daily - his usual for malls, fairs and parks. TV, radio and newspaper advertisements gave wide coverage to promote the mall appearance.

Jarda left here with many more friends than when he came. They, the friends, both young and old alike - the older one remembering by-gone days and routines of yesteryear, the youngsters and hopefuls bent on being the new king or queen of the blades tomorrow. Jarda, Mimi and Jay took the time and made themselves available for photos and autographs. This little piece of appreciativeness is hard to come by in this day and age.

If you've never seen an artificial or plastic skating surface, it resembles a giant floor-size jigsaw puzzle. Each piece is plastic and is approximately 18 in. square and an inch or so thick. By interlocking the pieces together it is possible to enlarge, reduce or alter the iceless surface to various sizes or configurations. The basic floor requirements are 20 ft. x 24 ft. or larger. Skaters use normal figure skating gear, but Jarda informs me the skate blades must be extremely sharp!

Jarda's shows are totally self-contained and portable, complete with stage, dressing room (where necessary). Quality recorded commentary and music accompany the show and are highlighted by theatrical lighting. Standard electrical requirements are the basic 110 volt plug-ins.

Stateside he travels in a custom van and on his longer gigs he uses commercial air flights.

His shows can be geared for children, adult or all the family member audiences. Having performed internationally for shopping malls, school assembly programs, fairs var-

ious theme parks, auditoriums, concert halls as well as night clubs, sport shows, industrial promotions, cruise ships, circuses, TV or stage revues, his flexibility is endless, as is his hilarious skating routines.

Jarda Kubic is a new American. He arrived from Europe a little over five years ago. He loves this country and all facets of show business. What makes him even nicer is finding out and knowing that he is a real circus entertainer and a genuine circus fan.

He looks forward to receiving his Circus Report. He knows and recognizes many performers mentioned, from his own travels and his issues keep him informed of where and when it is all happening. Keep up the good work, Don Marcks.

Jarda is looking for bookings and can be contacted direct: Mr. Jarda Kubic, 28071 New York Queens Village, New York, NY 11428 or thru any reputable agent, including the Shilling Theatrical Productions, Box 758 Shoreham, L.I., NY 11786.

Holiday Show

BY EDITH JOHNSTON

Big John Strong's Eastern Christmas Unit played to a full house for two performances at the Shrine Temple in Indianapolis, Ind., on Dec. 13th.

The show personnel included: Bob "Spiffendifferous" Owens, clowning; T. J. Hall, unicycle/juggling; The Waltons, hand balancing/rola boa; Jack Davis, magic; Marsha "Roulette Montbanc" Griep, trapeze; Ginger & Aurora Borealis, acrobatics; Leo "Roick Montbanc" Griep (formerly the Swami); MC and performance director.

Look for the big news from Big John Strong Productions in these pages. A hint there will soon be a number of new units on the road.

Miscellaneous

A six month old tiger, with cataracts on its eyes had them removed by a veterinarian at the University of Florida, after which the cub was sent back to a wildlife farm near York, Pa.

The Texas Fair

by BOB STODDARD

The State Fair of Texas, Oct. 8 thru 24, played to 2.9 million people in its 17 day run. Beautiful weather was a big help this year.



Tajana Luvas

Barbara Woodcock was trampled by one of her elephants on the night before the fair opened and was hospitalized until the day after it ended, with a punctured lung (among other things).

Here are some of the things she missed:

Vic Hyde, the one man band was at the fair again and said that he would be back again for the Sports and Vacation Show in March.

Johnny Peers, Gary Ray (Patches) and Bobby Golden handled the clown chores at the Dr. Pepper Circus this year.

We enjoyed our visit with Pat and Gwen Davison.

Cleo Plunkett celebrated his 50th anniversary as a singing ringmaster.

Tavanna (Luvas) Lopez and Jackie Peers had baby showers.

Herbie Weber was ill during the fair and didn't walk the low wire at all. He did his Great Huberto act most days and planned to check himself into a hospital when the fair ended. Something in the Dallas air brings out his asthma. This was the worst in the 15 years.

Joe Schmitt, Jr. called from Oakley, Kans. to invite me and the circus fans to catch their show (Ford Bros. - Gopher Davenport) when it plays Italy, Texas, (45 miles south of Dallas) on Nov. 4th. Joe is the

producing clown and says it's been a long season in Canada and Alaska. More news after I see him.

Dave "Skinhead" Lewis called from Michigan to make sure that I met Karrell Fox, a Farmington, Mich., magician, who was working at the fair. When I found Karrell it turned out that he has worked the big Texas Fair for 18 years for Chevy Trucks. I was also surprised that he used to do a clown show as "Milky the Clown" for 15 years on WWJA Detroit, for a dairy.

Rick Gerber, the Magician was doing his magic at the Budweiser Theatre in the World Exhibits building and another magician was working daily at the Craft's Village. I forgot his first name, but his last name is Conn.

We came home from the fair and went to Red Bird Mall where we caught Mark Wilson's Magic show.

The following two days (Sat. and Sun.) my wife, "Honey the Clown" and I worked the Dallas-Ft. Worth Medical Center fund raiser in a big tent in Grand Prairie where one of the acts was a magician named Guy Davis. That's five magicians in two days. All good too!

We left that show at 5 p.m. and went by Trader's Village to see how their Oktoberfest was going and to catch Helga Beckman's band. (She's my choice for the 'Queen of Oom-pah-pah'). We got there just in time for her last number.

She said that my article about her, that was in the Circus Report, is on the back of her latest album.

How about that?



Vic Hyde - One Man Band

East German Circuses

BY JACK NIBLETT

With a party of British Circus Fans, I recently visited the German Democratic Republic, and during the course of three days saw three of their outstanding circuses. Circuses in the G.D.R. are state-controlled, although the original owners' names are retained, but there are two smaller shows still operated entirely by the family.

Our first call was at *Zirkus Hein*, one of these family shows; a modest two-pole tent with a well-kept stable and zoo, everything in good order, making a pleasing continental circus picture.

Circus Hein's program opened with a musical welcome played by the show's 'combo', then followed the Armando Troupe in a Jockey act. Then appeared in quick succession, Rudiger Probst with liberty horses, Two Arkus with revolving ladder, Miss Carola with pigeons, Rosita, a 13 year old grand daughter on the silver thread, exotic animals by Christoph Sperlich, Fakir act with snakes and crocodile, Dancing girls by members of the company, Peter Sperlich with three brown bears, Clown entree by Bebi and Bambi.

After the interval, when patrons were invited to visit the Zoo, the second half opened with Helmut Weishest and a group of lionesses, Rudiger Probst with liberty horses in different routines, Dieter and Abel, perch act, Los Oglanas, jugglers and acrobatics, Peter Sperlich with dogs and monkeys, Jenny and assistant in globe-walking act, Die Weltons, equilibrists, Die Luniks, aerial act, Don Alfredo Troupe as 'Gauchos from Mexico'. The show concluded with a Grand Parade by the artists, with special emphasis on Bebi and Bambi, who are well known clowns in this area.

All-in-all a delightful, traditional circus program. We were made very welcome by the Director, Frau Adelheid Hein, a true circus matriarch and a charming and hospitable lady who entertained us with refreshments between the shows. She told me that every artist, with the exception of the ladder act, was a member of the family Hein, and that this name was known and respected all over the circus world.

Our next call was the *Zirkus Busch*, probably the largest show in the G.D.R., direc-

ted by Bernd Maxheimer who welcomed us and invited us to inspect the fine zoo, between the shows. This was a fine big show indeed, a four pole tent, surrounded by masses of trucks and wagons, mostly made of wood in traditional European circus fashion; a scene to whet any circus fan's appetite.

Star of the show was the amazing Ursula Botcher, back in Europe after six triumphant years in the United States, and booked for the Monte Carlo Festival in December, unfortunately the Festival was cancelled this year owing to the tragic death of Princess Grace, but it is confidently expected that it will be resumed in 1983, when Ursula and her giant polar bears should reign supreme.

The imposing Busch program included the Vulcanoos, acrobatic group; Gerhard Quaiser's exotic tableau; Quaiser's five elephants; the Palomas, aerialists; the Artinas, free-standing ladder; the Musketeers, riding act; Hasso and Monika Meitin, liberty horse and dog acts; Dory and Mario, adagio act; Two Shultz, perch act; Clowns Jolly, Miko and Pepe; Las Portas, equilibrists; The Eight Morenos, aerial act; The Briggs, flying trapeze. There was a ten piece orchestra and lighting and production were all first class.

When we arrived at *Zirkus Berolina* for a Monday matinee we were informed that the show was sold out for that performance as was the evening show. However, when it was found out just how far we had travelled in order to see the show, Director Hans Bernsdorf sympathised with our plight and we were squeezed in. No wonder the locals were packing the tent, this was a terrific show with production values to match the London Stadium or Las Vegas.

The program had Gunter Dornig and Werner Hadrich with liberty horses and high school horses; Lady Ros, an act with an elephant, a dog and a giraffe; Duo Bokai, crocodiles and snakes; Otto's ponies and monkeys; the Mendozas, trampoline; Ossie and Mari Sperlich, tiger act which included acrobatics featuring the lady and the tigers; Two Majaro, vertical rope act; the Meridians slack wire act; The Athletics, comedy acrobats; the Arconas, springboard troupe; the Glorias, flying trapeze; Duo Gemini, Polish juggling act; the Percinis, perch act; Lucia

(Continued on Next Page)

In Memoriam

EILEEN VOISE (77) died at Sarasota, Fla. on Jan. 13th, after a long illness. She was born on Dec. 6, 1906. She was the wife of *Harold Voise* and spent most of her life in the circus world. She was an outstanding aerialist and was a member of the Flying Harolds, in which she and Harold performed for many years, traveling with Sells-Floto, Ringling, Cole Bros., Polack Bros. and various Shrine circuses. She also did the flying for the movie "The Story of Three Loves" which featured Kirk Douglas.

Survivors include her husband, Harold, a daughter Arden, son-in-law Norbert Krist, grand-daughter Noby Krist, of Sarasota, a sister Rose Murphy of New York City and a brother and sister in Holyoke, Mass.

EAST GERMAN CIRCUS (Continued)

and Assiatta, glass balancing act; clowns and Beppo, and one or two additional acts from the Soviet State circus, whose names I did not catch. One had domestic cows in the act!

These three shows were all good traditional circuses, although in most cases new and original twists were introduced to familiar routines, making watching compulsory. You never really knew just what you were going to see next!

Lighting, music and production was invariably first class, and finally admission prices were very low, making them most remarkable entertainment bargains.

Business was terrific - Busch had three Sunday shows with their 2,400 seater packed at each performance.

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Show Features

The 40th annual Orak Shrine Temple Circus, presented at Hammond, Ind., Nov. 23-28, was produced by the Carden International Circus Corp. The show was presented in the Hammond Civic Center.

Featured in the show program were: Lee Maloney, bandleader with eight musicians; Eddie Schmitt, Bengal tigers (10); Garcias, aerial cradle; Venturas, aerial cradle; Clown Boxing number (4); Ari, rola bola/juggling; Sir David, rola bola/juggling; Cousin "Schmo" Duke and his "General Lee" (clown car); Color Book pitch by Al Leonard; Karla's dogs and pony; Miss Marki's doves; Rietta, Playmate of the Planets, trapeze; Souvenir Pitch by Al Leonard; Edwardo's Gypsy Bears (4); Cuccillo, comedy trampoline; Aerial ballet featuring Danuska on Roman rings and trapeze; Sir Victor Julian's Little Stars presented by Leo Coffey; Intermission.

The Flying Lar-Rays, flying act with Billy, Jennifer, Christine and Larry; Princess Tanga's Jungle Fantasy, a gorilla parody; Oscars, juggling; Rolling Dars (3), unicycle and juggling; Vicki, Judy and Jenny, elephants presented by Cuccillo and Miss Sissy (The Carden International Circus Elephants); and The Great Wallendas with Dave, Tricia, Enrico and Rietta Wallenda.

Special Day

Hoxie Bros. Circus rolled out the red carpet for Tex and Marcy Maynard when the show visited Ithaca, NY, last summer. John Lewis and his staff showed Tex and Marcy a great time and dedicated the performance to them. On that same day Jessie and Charlie Moyer held a party for the couple.

Tex, at the time, was recovering from a stroke, suffered while he and Marcy were performing at the Smithsonian Institute, in Washington, DC. Tex is now able to drive by himself and is feeling better.

Tex and Marcy are at home and would enjoy hearing from friends. Write them at: Glen Aubrey, NY 13777 (Box 113) or you can phone them at: 607-862-3488.

In the mail

FROM STEVE GRAHAM
DIRECTOR OF ZOOLOGICAL PARKS
STATE OF MICHIGAN

I would like to reply to an article by Joanne Joys in your 29 Nov. 1982 issue entitled "Tiger Comment." That article had several bits of misinformation and I would appreciate your letting me fill you in on the facts of our particular case.

The four tigers, who were initially under injunction as a result of a lawsuit by a private citizen and a humane organization, have now had that injunction removed, and the three who were judged by two veterinarians and a nutritionist to be in obvious pain due to severe disabilities were humanely euthanatized. The fourth animal is being retained at our zoo and efforts are being made to keep her from coming in contact with other tigers, several of which she has attempted to kill in the past.

Interestingly, we have come across the enclosed article from another circus publication (White Tops) about a 14-year-old Bengal tiger that had to be put to sleep because of serious disabilities. We agree with the statement that "few Bengal tigers live past 15 years." The same holds true for Siberians. Two of our euthanatized tigers were 16 and 17 years old and so had lived longer than would normally be expected.

The crab-eating macaques sent to a research facility were removed from the zoo for humane reasons because the zoo for many years had not had proper winter facilities for them and the animals were suffering from frostbite, which I noticed upon my arrival here in Feb. 1982. When zoos around the country were approached to accept these monkeys, we learned that no homes could be found for them. Although many animal dealers were interested, they indicated that their only source for placement would be research. So the zoo went directly to the research community in order to find that research which we felt was most humane. The researcher to whom we sent the monkeys provided a statement, in writing, that although the animals would be killed, they would be under anesthesia during the entire procedure and would feel no pain. We were particularly concerned about these primates because this is a spe-

cies which is regularly traded in commerce from the wild, and conservation figures tell us that for every one that reaches this country alive, 10 others have died on the way. It was our feeling that by providing 21 captive-born animals, we protected as many as 200 in the wild.

Your writer indicates that 30 Formosan deer and several bison were "lost". I assure you that they were not lost and that we know where they went. The Formosan deer went to a private breeder in the mid-west. The bison were sent to a slaughterhouse, as has long been the policy with surplus bison in this country; they simply breed too well for the space available for them. Even the federal government sells for slaughter many surplus bison from our national reserves.

The reference to genetic engineering is so ludicrous and incorrect that it really does not even warrant comment.

The question of the prepared frozen ground diet for felines brings out an important point. First, it is my understanding that most of the circuses in this country use the same diet. Secondly, one of the ways that we came to our evaluation of the poor health of some of our tigers was in connection with a nutritional study with Michigan State University, in which bones were introduced into the diet to provide for the behavioral and nutritional needs of the animals.

Zoos are not all that any of us would like them to be, but we as dedicated professionals here at the Detroit Zoo are trying to make this zoo better and we feel that no useful purpose is served by misinformation such as is indicated in your writer's report.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide the facts to your readers, in the hope that they might have a better understanding of our situation.

PEOPLE

GWEN and PAT DAVISON were featured in a two page photo story report which appeared in the Minneapolis, Minn., Star and Tribune on Dec. 4th. The couple are well known in the circus world for their juggling and rola bola work.

Clown/Circus Day

by BOB STODDARD

The second annual Clown and Circus Day Celebration was held at Trader's Village in Grand Prairie, Texas, Oct. 16-17. The event was beset with problems, but was successfully presented.

More than 600 clowns from Texas and beyond were invited to participate in the clown contests and skit competitions sponsored by the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley 85. Seventy-one clowns accepted the invitation.

On both days, activities started with a Clown Parade at 12 noon that also included 50 to 60 excited children with various types of noisemakers. (To my knowledge only one child became separated and lost but was re-united with its parents shortly afterward).

The circus was scheduled for 1 p.m. each day, but the seats began to fill up before noon with parents and family members of the children who were in the parade.

By 11:35 the 380 seats were filled, the grounds were covered with children and people were standing, waiting, when our nervous ringmaster, Gerald Burns, started the Clown Come-in.

When I asked him why he started so early he replied, "When I saw that the house was full I was afraid that, given too long to wait, they might get impatient and start walking out. I've never been faced with the problem before."

Since we had plenty of clowns we survived this too.

We used the same tactic when the circus never ended but smoothly changed from the ringmaster to the clown MC's and ran the circus right into the clown contests and competitions on Saturday, including the presentations of awards at 5 p.m. which meant six hours of continuous entertainment during which the crowd kept changing, as people would leave but someone who had been standing would take the seat.

On Sunday, we simply tacked more than a dozen clown skits onto the tail-end of the circus for 3½ hours of entertainment which ended with many more standees than empty seats.

It was a nice day and a free show so the sidewalls were all rolled up.

Ringmaster Gerald Burns operated the circus with Robert Kuras "Anti-Gravity Jugglers."

I introduced Prof. Gerald Burns who presented three of his illusions and he introduced Dan "Meems" Young and his clown juggling group.

Allison Dobson presented a fast-moving acrobatic act, followed by the clowns again.

The show-stopper was the five acts presented by the Acro-Naughts (under Vic Varrischio) whose recent appearance at the World's Fair (in the U. S. pavillion for three days) and their appearance on P. M. Magazine have made them a stand-out attraction from this area. They were picked as one of twenty groups to tour throughout the U.S. this summer and the only group to represent Texas. We found out why they were selected to receive these honors when they performed on our show.

After another clown act, Kerri Wright's acrobatic dance was another show-stopper. The "gute" part of the day was a 3-month-old baby lion from the Int'l Wildlife Park.

The biggest disappointment (one of several) was when Bucky Steele called at 7 a.m. on Saturday to tell me that the trailer turned over with a load of cattle and was wrecked. He was trying to find another suitable one.

That left Bucky without the elephant ride and worse yet, it left me without the final act which was to have been Joddle Cragmile presenting (Churchill) the elephant in Bucky's ring (which we had borrowed).

Our worst problem, both days, was keeping a space open between the ring and the back yard for performers to go in and out.

Ringling, it wasn't. Carson & Barnes, American Continental, Ford Bros. or Dr. Pepper Circus, it wasn't either - but it was entertainment and it was all free.

Everyone did well and it's not possible to mention all of the people who should be singled out for helping this to become a great week-end for the participants, as well as the people who came to be entertained.

A special "thanks" to Gerald Burns for "above and beyond."

(Continued on Next Page)

Holiday Hippodrome

by LOGAN PRITCHETT

Bill Garden's Holiday Hippodrome show is another winner for 1982, as seen recently in Arkansas, coming out of Kansas and Wyoming.

Floyd "Brad" Bradbury is the backbone of this show, as he has been on the Garden stage circuses for many years. Brad is announcer, illusionist, organist, pitchman par excellence and all-around great general manager.

The Roberts (Lange family) opened with various juggling feats that got the show off to a good start, highlighted by the older (just turned 19) daughter, who really sparkles on stage.

Bradbury the illusionist was next, assisted by two very attractive girls. He presented 20th Century silks, girl production from a most unusual crystal rose box, balloon to two doves, dove pan, then dove vanish in take-apart box, with sucker ending, Miser's dream, electric sawing (using a bewildered boy from audience) and a new illusion, Cleopatra's Needle, which goes a step further than a Zig Zag, when the box splits into two equal parts, down the middle. The gorgeous blonde was a knock-out in her costume, getting in and out of the Egyptian box. All three in the act were well-costumed.

The Acro-Pups of Claude Arwood were well trained and fun to watch. Arwood, a veteran performer, knows how to entertain a crowd, highlighted by a one-arm stand on the head of a small poodle, but the dog moved to reveal a hidden bar behind, which got a good laugh response.

Hanzini's (Hans Klose) sword balancing act was a thriller, with Brad's balloon act closing the first half. Using four punks he has a balloon-blowing contest, with all getting rewarded with the animals he fashions. From here it was right into a finely-honed balloon pitch.

Lemonade, pop corn and floss, plus large circus balloons, were offered at intermission.

Janie (Klose) the foot juggler opened the second half, with an impressive array of juggling stunts, assisted by her father.

Christena Oler, who worked on a free-

standing rigging with a single trapeze, looks great in the air. An attractive, petite brunette, Chris proved to be a real crowd pleaser.

The Lange Family (6) teeterboard turn is a standard circus act, but the four kids and mom and pop know how to make the old tricks look great. All of them, especially the youngsters, seemed to enjoy their marvelous accomplishments off the teeterboard. Well-tailored costumes added the right touch.

A Gorilla Parody with Hans Klose as the ape, and daughter, Jane, as the trainer, was a great show-stopper. Klose's gorilla is a well-defined caricature, but Jane's whip cracking trainer added just the right touch. Jane looks great on stage, and with a little maturity, will be a beauty. The African props were well chosen.

Show runs an hour and a half, which is just right, and is loaded in a half hour, thanks to a well organized machine, with everyone helping with the Chinese.

Phil Oler adds much to the show with his precise drumming and assisted his wife, Chris in her single trap act. He's a chip off the old block, Florene.

Charlie Roark, veteran circus man, and Logan Pritchett, the magic ringmaster, were well treated guests at the show in Little Rock.

PEOPLE

ADAM FLEISCHER, editor of Magic Manuscript, recently visited DOUG ANDERSON who recently completed his last illusion program at Marriott's Great America in Santa Clara, Calif. Adam plans to bring his New York Magic Symposium to San Francisco in 1984. It will run one week in New York and the next in San Francisco, in August.

CLOWN/CIRCUS DAY (Continued)

All acts were well received with enthusiastic and generous applause.

Trader's Village management says that the 44,000 attendance for the weekend would probably have been 40,000 without the promotion - so -

Everybody's happy!

The Haag Show

by *JESSE AMONETT*

Ernest Haag while still a small boy ran away from his home in Plymouth, Ind., Hopping a freight train, he made his way through some of the largest cities in the eastern part of the country working as a bootblack and selling newspapers. Later, making his way to the deep south he found himself in Shreveport, La.

He made his winterquarters in that town for many years and later on wintered in Marianna, Fla. Ernest Haag's first venture into show business was on a small boat he bought in Shreveport for \$20.00 and two or three performers, started down the Red River, stopping at small settlements along the way. He later branched out with two or three farm wagons, pulled by mules, and travelled overland throughout the south. This was in the 1890's, he continued to build his show until he had one of the largest wagon shows - M. L. Clark and his Haag Bros.

He toured for over 40 yrs. First as a wagon show under the title Haag's Mighty and in later years as a motorized show for six seasons. He travelled on rails from 1909 to 1914 and about the time the show started out on rails the title was changed to the Mighty Haag.

The following is a newspaper article notice that Ernest Haag sent out from his hometown of Shreveport, La. Early in 1909, accompanied by a dollar bill and a special press courtesy ticket. He sent them to the newspapers on his route and in the towns that he would play.

"For 15 years I have paid you annual visits and learned to know your faces and always looked forward to exhibiting in your town. For 15 years I have come to you by wagon each year, each year enlarging until the show has become too large to travel by wagons and this year it will be on my own special train of cars.

"All these years I have kept the faith with you and when I say this year we are five times greater than ever, I shall still keep my word. Every feature this year is new and we have many of them never exhibited by any show.

"Hope that you will continue to give me

Show Acts

The Al Koran Temple Shrine Circus at Parma, Ohio (June 25-27) was produced by Sam T. Polack, with Irv Duchon serving as executive director. The show's musical director was Wm. 'Boom Boom' Browning, while the announcer/ringmaster was Al Dawley.

Acts listed on the program were: Wire - gard, breakaway sway pole; Wayne Regan, wild animals; Frank and Estreleta, hanging perch; The Davids, cradle; Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds; The Rodriguez, rolling globes; The Kents, acrobatic act; The Rodriguez's flying act; Ethel's Ladder; Francarro, foot juggling; Droguettes, ladder; King Arthur, high wire; The Claytons, whips and ropes; Miss Rebecca, single trapeze; Jo-Ann Jennier, single trapeze; Horvath's chimps; The Diano elephants; The Droguettes, juggling; Captain Circus, cannon act.

Miscellaneous

One unit of the Hubert Castle Circus opened at Flint, Mich., on Jan. 16th, while the other unit opened at Grand Rapids, Mich. on Jan. 19th.

The Hamid-Morton Circus opened its season at Roanoke, Va. on Jan. 28th.

The Sun Coast Gondolier (newspaper) which serves Osprey, Laurel, Nokomis, No. Port, Venice and Englewood, Fla., had a special "Circus in Town" edition on Dec. 29th. The special edition included many drawings, photos and stories about the Ringling shows and their acts.

hearty cooperation as in the past.

"I beg to remain, yours truly,

Ernest Haag,

Mighty Haag Railroad Show.

After going off the rails and as better roads were built he started to use trucks to move his show.

Ernest Haag died, Feb. 1, 1935 and his widow kept the show going for a few more years, closing it in 1938. His son, Harry did keep the elephants, eventually selling Judy the last elephant to a buyer in South America.