

CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 9

March 1, 1982



BAKER AND RAY
PATCHES AND CHECKERS

An Obscure Law

(Reprinted from the Liz Smith column of The Los Angeles Daily News for Feb. 7, 1982).

A fine mess: Big legal surprises in the matter of the Elvis Presley estate vs Col. Tom Parker. About 10 days ago, the Presley attorneys - Peter Parcher and Peter Herbert - brought a complaint against the colonel before the California State Labor Commission. They charged Presley's longtime mentor manager with violating an obscure law stipulating that anyone representing an artist must register as an agent with the Labor Commission or pay a fine equivalent to everything earned while representing the artist. If the accused wants a trial, he must post a bond equivalent to the same amount.

Parcher and Herbert, the special litigators appointed by the Probate Court of Memphis to sue Parker and RCA on behalf of Presley's

heirs (his daughter, Lisa Marie) are asking that this law apply retroactively to the early 1970's. (They decided against trying to run the matter back any earlier).

The Labor Commission will rule in a couple of months. The interesting thing about this obscure law is that most people in show business don't even know it exists. Just think about the repercussions of the decision and the precedent that might be set. Any fine involved would go to the performer's estate. If the decision goes against him, Parker could end up losing a bundle.

PEOPLE

MARK MAZZARELLA, magician and escape artist, is featured in a special AP report that was released to national newspapers on Jan. 18th. He recently completed the writing of a new stage show called "Houdini: A New Magical, Musical Mystery Show."

SHOW DATES

Circus Vargas

Feb 15-18 Redondo Bch,
19-22 Orange Cal
23-25 El Monte
26-28 La Mirada
Mar 1-4 Lynwood
5-8 Montclair

Cole All Star Circus

Feb 13 Salamanca, NY
15 Phillipsburg, Pa.
17 Polk
18 Tidoute
19 Warren
20 Smethport, NY
22 Olean
24 Allegany
25 Franklinville
26 Portville

27 Fillmore
28 Hilton
Mar 1 Wyoming
2 Attica
3 Wayland
4 Rushville
5 Penn Yan,
6 Victor
7 Waterloo

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Mar 2-7 Hamton, Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Mar 2-7 Raleigh, NC

Royal Hanneford Circus
Mar 4-7 Lansing, Mich

Shrine Circus
Mar 4-7 Montreal, Queb.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Mike Naughton
Mar 6-7 Albany, NY

It's Magic Show
Mar 2-7 Pittsburgh, Pa.

David Seebach
Mar 1 Rochester, NY
5 Schenectady
6 York, Pa.
7 Syracuse, NY



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New Moscow Circus

The latest show at Moscow's New Circus is a fairy tale by Alexander Pushkin, of all people, featuring stunt riders, acrobats, jugglers, clowns, horses, bears, crocodiles, boa constrictors, goats and dogs.

Circus producer-director reports that a Japanese promoter said the show was hard to describe, but it advanced circus art by 10 years.

Director Anatoly Shag-Novozhilov is delighted with his newest hit. He started to think about putting Pushkin's "Ruslan and Ludmilla" to music after the Bolshoi Theatre asked him to stage magic tricks for a production of the opera version by Mikhail Glinka. Pushkin is Russia's favorite poet, killed in a duel at the age of 37, in 1837.

"While we were working on this, I began to understand that the poem by Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin was more fit for the circus than the opera," Shag said.

In one episode the evil wizard Chernomor uses his long and magical beard to sweep off the young, beautiful Ludmilla on her wedding night. In the circus the wizard's electric-pink beard hides a rope clung to by a trapeze artist and the villain as they swoosh over the heads of the spectators.

Shag says this is the first Soviet circus production entirely devoted to a literary theme. He has not heard of any elsewhere either.

It played more than 800 performances in other Soviet cities before coming to Moscow. The toughest audiences were in Pushkin's home city, Leningrad.

"We distort nothing, we change nothing," Shag said. "Pushkin's admirers would punish us if we did any harm to his poem."

Although there is just one ring, the action takes place all over the circus hall.

It begins with a couplet familiar to all Russian school children: "A green oak tree

(Continued on Page 23)

Model Builder

by JOHN J. BOGORAE

A Uniontown (Pa) businessman who has been building miniature circus models since 1948, today has over 2,000 different pieces; including 100 circus wagons. He built his first model when he was 10 years old. Actually, the circus bug bit him when he was just seven years old and was quarantined with the measles. To occupy his time he built a little red circus wagon. It wasn't much, but it led to Amend Brothers Miniature Circus, "the smallest circus in the world."

Regis Amend, 44, who owns two jewelry stores and a hobby store in his hometown, houses his quarter-inch scale circus in a tiny two-room cottage in the rear of the family's remodeled farm house, on the outskirts of the city of Uniontown.

When visitors, by appointment, although admission is free, come to see the miniature circus, Amend brings it to life by turning on many lights inside the three canvas tents. Street lights are also turned on, and the small plastic houses are brightened, transforming the scene into a village of the '40's.

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Amend has named the village "Plasticville" after the brand name of the plastic houses. There are a number of houses, a train station, bank, police station and fire department. Circus figures are seen on Main Street. There is a mountain in the corner of the lay out. Deer, pine trees and deer can be seen on the rugged terrain. And a train, complete with authentic sounds, circles the mountain and passes through tunnels. Five trains are operated on the plywood platform. The circus train circles the lot and stops in front of the big top.

The miniature display covers almost one-half of the area inside the small cottage. The village and circus layout covers the entire length of the room which is about 25 ft and is 11 ft. wide on both sides narrowing to six feet in the center.

The layout is built on a plywood platform three and one-half feet off the floor, about the correct eye level for the small circus fan attending Amend Brothers Miniature Circus, and for those who are a bit shorter, Amend provides a plastic milk-carrying case so they too can enjoy the big show under the big top.

Recorded music from actual circus performances provides the atmosphere for the show under the big top. Real sawdust is used in the tent areas.

In addition to the big top, there is also a side show tent with various freaks and wonders and completing the circus is also a menagerie tent with various types of animals in trailer wagons and cages.

Amend is still adding to his circus. For a number of years he has been working on a new high wire act featuring the Wallendas in miniature with their famed Wallenda pyramid, featuring seven figurines. Four will be balanced on two strands of wire, who will balance two more on bars, who in turn will balance a seventh on a chair, completing the pyramid. Countless man hours have been put into this project and Amend said he has no idea when it will be completed.

Amend added, "You can't put a price tag on something you have enjoyed so much over the years. And I enjoy showing my circus to people."

People who have enjoyed their visit at Amend Brothers Miniature Circus are presented with a round blue and silver stick-on

(Continued on Page 21)

Sam Polack Show

by DON SANDMAN

The 57th annual Kosair Shrine Circus was presented in Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3 thru 7, at the Louisville Gardens. The show was produced by Sam T. Polack.

Mr. Al Dawley was the ringmaster/announcer and the band was directed by Boom Boom Browning, at the drums.

The program presented the following acts: Albert and Jeanette Rix and their Mixed Bears (10); The Fornasari, aerial cradle duo; The Kursawes, bicycles; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Mr. Rythm, dressage stallion presented by Darrell Wallen; The Fornasari Clown Band; The Super Locos, tumbling; Irene and Tonga, gorilla parody; The Valencia Troupe, flying trapeze; The Kursawes, rola bola; King Arthur the Lion and Goldie, high wire; the Hawthorne Elephants presented by Johnny Walker and Miss Heidi; Miss Sa Sa, single revolving trapeze; the Christianson's Chimps (3); The Fornasari, trampoline; Vashek & Co., Aerial motorcycle.

Clowning was handled by Bill Vaughan and John MacKay. Ron Kelroy was the director.

Your writer and wife, along with Jake and Mary Conover, Bob Timmel and Bill Rhodes were happy to spend the dinner hour with the Rix family at the Cambridge Inn where Jeanette and Albert taught us a lot of real facts about bears. It was a shame the time went so quickly and they had another show that evening.

The Gardens were crowded and the concession hands of Harry Mills were very busy. Many pitches were presented by announcer Al Dawley and by Harry himself.

The show was primarily a one ring show giving all acts a chance to show their talents to the fullest. And they did not disappoint anyone.

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The program book sold by the Kosair Temple was a beauty and they had a nice large photo layout of all acts, as well as several pages to color for the kids, who also received a box of crayons with each program they purchased.

PEOPLE

LINDA CHANDLER recently played a mall date at Hammond, Iowa, for the Gary Strong Agency, in which she did web and trapeze.

In Memoriam

RAYMOND TOOLE SCOTT (78), famed circus/magic collector and bibliographer, died on Jan. 10th of a heart attack.

After working for several years as a free lance writer he joined the Bertram Mills Circus as a press agent, then in 1936 he was managing director for Ray Scott's Circus. In 1937, he teamed up with The Great Carmo, a half magic, half circus program.

Raymond was an avid collector and writer and he compiled the "World Bibliography of Circus and Allied Arts" of which there are four volumes. The fifth and final volume was ready for the printer at the time of his death. He also wrote several books and did a two volume "Bibliography of English Con-juring."

His circus collection and material has been housed at the University of California, located in Santa Barbara, Calif.

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Circo Krony

by *BOBBY GIBBS*

When seen recently in Mexico, Circo Krony was presented under a 2 pole, American style 60x120 round top, which seated some 3,000 people. Music for the program was taped.

The show which traveled on 5 semis, had a menagerie tent with all stock fat and good looking. The animals included: 2 elephants, 4 camels, 4 llamas, 1 baboon, 1 bear, 1 lion, 2 jaguars and 4 horses.

The show program had lots of clown numbers, plus: 4 horse liberty act, old Don Mc Lennon horses from Atayade; 2 elephants, good act, no girls; flying act; Mind reading act; Balancing trapeze; 2 camels and a llama; hand balancing; bar act; head balance trap; juggling; 6 animal acts, all very nice, but the show ome uses the bulls for a photo session.

Elephants were: Jenny, Indian female from Rudy Bros. act of 5 bulls, worked by Arky Scott, and Mary, Indian female from the Frank Brown Circus. Good looking gentle.

Parade date set

Chicago Mayor Jane M. Byrne reports that the City of Chicago will sponsor the world's largest circus parade during Memorial Day weekend. The parade, an authentic turn-of-the-century circus parade complete with colorful wagons, hundreds of horses, wild animals, costumed performers and circus music, was inaugurated last year by the City of Chicago and produced by Circus World Museum of Baraboo, Wisc.

More than 800,000 persons attended the first parade in 1981. Mayor Byrne said, "The only way to top last year's parade was to make this year's bigger, so we've added marching bands and more performing acts to the line-up. We will also have more activities in Grant Park to attract family gatherings and picnics."

The parade, sponsored by the City and produced by Circus World Museum (owned by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin) has been expanded to include over 50 historical wagons, 500 horses and over 1,000 participants.

The parade will start at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 30th and will roll along a three mile route, including Michigan Ave., Balboa Dr., Columbus Drive and Monroe Street.

William L. Schultz, Circus World Director, said, "This will be the greatest authentic circus parade in the history of the world. We will re-create all the color, all the excitement and all the pageantry of the circus parades of yesteryear."

Schultz added that 22 musical units will enhance the gigantic parade with the Fort Ticonderoga (New York) Fife and Drum Corps in authentic Revolutionary War uniforms, pacing the parade in an exciting new beginning.

The authentic circus wagons will be pulled by teams of Clydesdale, Percheron and Belgian draft horses, in addition to teams of light horses and ponies. The parade will feature a 20 horse hitch of matched Belgians. Other parade units will include mounted crusaders, Joan of Arc, vaulting performers, jugglers, chariots, world champion rope spinner and an army of clowns. Animal units will include elephants, camels, leopards, lions, tigers, bears, snakes and a hippo.

The gorgeous circus wagons, part of the

Yvette's Animals

Yvette's Animal Celebrities, from such movies and TV specials as: Mr. Toolittle, Love Max, The Young Maverick Show, Charlie's Angels, Hound of Hell, Foul Play, The Postman Always Rings Twice, Escape Artist, The Black Stallion and The Richard Simmons Show, have recently appeared with rock groups such as the Bow Wow Wows, The Kim Carn Show and the New York City Opera Co.

They have just finished working with the Hollywood Animal Variety Show (Feb. 12, 13 and 14) at Devonshire Downs in the Los Angeles, Calif., area.

Miscellaneous

by BOB WEIGEL

On Jan. 3rd, the annual Christmas Party of the Rudynoff Tent No. 127, CFA, was held at the Mt. Hebron House, in Ellicott City, Md. The guests brought Christmas goodies and the Tent provided the soft drinks.

Barry Gentry was the host. Members who attended were: Rudy and Erma Rudynoff, Rudy and Beverly Rudynoff, Jr., E. Clark Beurlin and wife Kathy, Pete and Shirley Adams, Randy Adams, Terrie Adams, Barry Gentry, Curtis and Dorothy Knisley, Jim Stegall and his four daughters, Shirley (Mrs. Fred) Ryan, John Paul Roberts, Sr., Gene Mascioli, Harrison Sayer, Charles, Jane and Dawn Amereihn, Bill and Maria Makinson and Bob and Esther Weigel.

world's largest collection of wagons at the Circus World Museum, will arrive in Chicago on colorful railroad flatcars on Tuesday, May 25th at the Clinton Street yards of the Chicago and North Western Transportation Co. The wagons and animals will be on display to the public at Navy Pier from 12 noon to 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, May 28-29.

A colorful brochure about the parade, that shows the route and parade order is available - send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Great Chicago Circus Parade, 600 East Grand Ave., Chicago, Ill - 60611.

Miscellaneous

Members of the Robert Dover Tent and the Rudynoff Tent, CFA, will attend the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit in a group when the show plays Baltimore, Md., on March 27th.

The Gary Darwin Magic Club meets each Wednesday night from midnight to 4 a.m. in Las Vegas at the Continental Hotel-Casino Lounge and all magicians and entertainers are welcomed. Regular visitors include such stars as Siegfried, Vince Carmen, David Copperfield, Johnny Hart, Jimmy Grippo, Steve Baker and Bob Kenny and Niki.

People

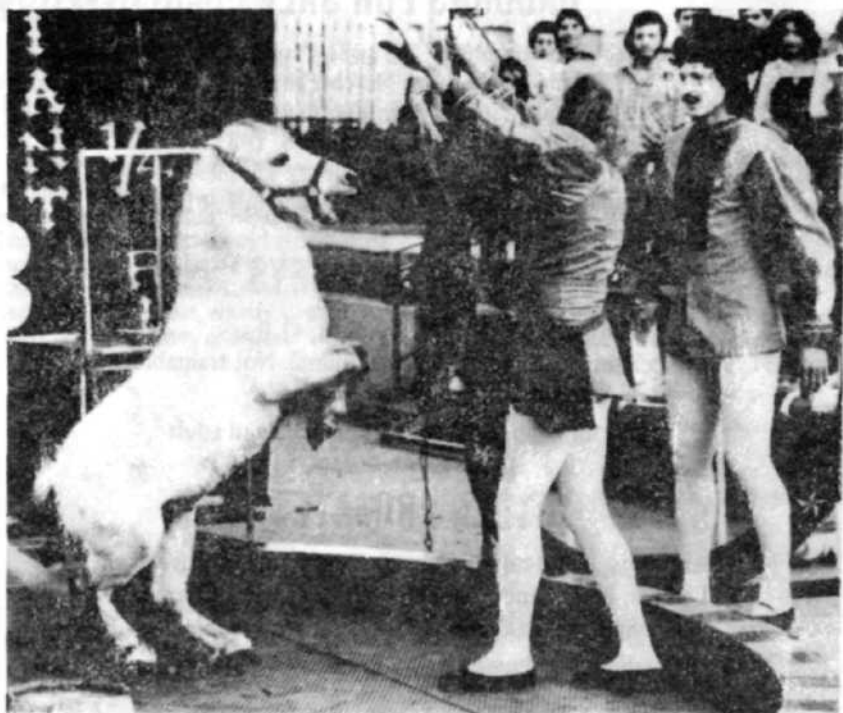
DOUG MORRIS, of the DeWayne Circus, is working on several TV series, which originate from Hollywood, Calif.

SIEGFRIED & ROY, the 'Superstars of Magic' starring in "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, have been attracting SRO crowds for every show since their opening this last November.

SYLVESTER & BARBARA BRAUN, western performers, have been working spot dates on the Eddie Dean Show. They also report that DAVE TWOMEY, of the Hap-pytime Circus, visited them at the Hemet (Calif) fairgrounds on Feb. 5th.

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist, starring in the Flamingo Hilton's show "City Lites" in Las Vegas, has hired Judi Wolfe to represent him for publicity during his Las Vegas engagement.

WORLD'S SMALLEST COMPLETE CIRCUS



by BOB STODDARD

Like the old story about the three holes in the ground -

WELL . . . WELL . . . WELL . . . I finally got to see the Royal Lichtenstein $\frac{1}{4}$ Ring Sidewalk Circus and I'll add a Hip, Hip, Hooray, because I liked it.

I was surprised to see that "the world's smallest complete circus" actually uses $\frac{1}{4}$ of the small ring.

Thanksgiving Square, in downtown Dallas, was a perfect setting for a show of this type. The four man, one woman cast of multi-talented performers presented a fast moving circus-vaudeville type of show with non-stop patter and comedy in the medieval continental style.

In its tenth national tour and tenth anniversary, covering 40 states, the troupe is featuring Jens Larson, award winning Dartmouth gymnast, on the Roman rings; foot balancing by Robert Lee of the Circus Arts Center in Hoboken, N. J.; actress-dancer

Nanci Olesen of Minneapolis; and veteran aerialist Stephen De Saulniers. Ringmaster-founder Nick Weber added fire eating, magic and much more, including the presentation of five animal acts. All participate in the clown acts, the narrated pantomime fables, magic acts and juggling.

The show plays to the music of a 52 note Calliola band organ, specially designed for the show and hand-made by Don Stinson in Bellfontaine, Ohio. It is beautifully constructed with a snare drum and cymbal on one side and a bass drum on the other, with an animated conductor in the middle. It's bright red and gold paint glistened in the sunshine.

The show plays college campuses mostly, and runs from August to May, covering 225 shows at 1,000 miles a week.

It's two hours well spent. One hour watching the show and another visiting with these dedicated people.

In Memoriam

JOHN (Shorty) COLLINS, gas truck operator with the Clyde Beatty Circus for many years, died on Jan. 13th. He had been in the hospital in DeLand, Fla., since the show closed. No survivors are known.

BRAD C. (Guy) DICKENS (73), a retired grocer, died Feb. 7, in Houston, Texas. He was the grandson of Mollie Bailey, the South's foremost woman circus owner. The Mollie Bailey Circus was based in Texas from 1885 to 1918.

HALLIE D. OLSTADT (63) died on Jan. 28th of a heart attack at his home in Madison, Wisc. He was well known to all of the traveling shows that came through the area, as well as Shrine shows, Museums and other circus activity. He was a member and past officer of CFA, Wallenda Tent No. 15, and also was an active member of the Circus Historical Society and the Circus Model Builders.

On Jan. 28th, he had lunch with Bill Kay, discussing the forthcoming Zor Temple Shrine Show (Feb. 20-21) at the Coliseum in Madison and left Bill about 2 p.m. When his wife, Mattie, arrived home about 3 p.m. she found he had had another heart attack and this time did not survive.

Funeral and burial were at Madison on Feb 1st. He is survived by his wife, Mattie, and his brother, Jack, also of Madison.

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PEOPLE

AUSTIN MILES, author of the book 'The Real Ringmaster' published by New Leaf Press, has been booked to appear with the Alberto Zoppe's "Circus Europa" at Little Rock, Ark., on Sept. 11th. This will be Austin's third year to play the date.

MODEL BUILDER (Continued)

patch which reads: "I have just seen Amend Bros. Miniature Circus."

The circus modeler is a true circus buff and holds membership in the Circus Model Builders, being affiliated with the Terrell Jacobs Ring (Jacobs was a famous lion trainer in circuses), in Western Pennsylvania. He is also a member of the Circus Fans of America Association and the Circus Historical Society.

In addition to all of this, Amend is a collector of circus memorabilia. The vast collection includes circus posters, circus window cards, books about the circus, route cards of various circuses, tickets, elephant trappings and anything connected with the circus. He is the possessor of an original chair that once belonged to John Ringling of the famed Ringling Brothers.

All items are stored in the white barn in the rear of the Amend house. Imprinted across the huge double doors is: "Winterquarters of Amend Bros. Circus."

Amend attends as many circuses as he can

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and is a historian of sorts on the circus..

He keeps adding to his collection of circus memorabilia. Last August when Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus exhibited for two days in Uniontown, he was the winner of a 12 sheet billboard poster for participating in an advertising project for the circus. The circus exhibited in a lot near the Uniontown Mall where two of his stores are located. Amend had circus displays in both stores.

The circus is so much in Amend's blood that in 1956 when he was 17 years old, he left home to join Cristiani Bros. as a bill poster for three weeks.

PEOPLE

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist, is featured as the closing act at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas, appearing in the "City Lights" show. The date was set by the Gilbert Miller Agency. Carmen was in South America during 1980 and toured with Circus Vargas for the 1981 season.

Attendance Report

Circus World, Inc., the Orlando-based Circus Theme Park, announced its 1981 year-end attendance figures.

For the fiscal year which ended Jan. 31, 1982, the Mattel, Inc., owned subsidiary reported a total attendance of 957,482. This figure represents a 13% decrease from the previous year when Circus World reported an attendance of 1.1 million guests.

Park officials project "marginal increases over the previous year's total attendance figures."

MOSCOW CIRCUS (Continued)

stood by the bay. From its branches hung a golden chain."

The recorded text booms from loudspeakers. Many sound effects also are taped but a live orchestra accompanies the acts.

After the betrothal scene and the abduction, Ruslan sets out to save his bride, braving hostile tribesmen, evil spirits, an earthquake and a giant head with fiery breath.

Ludmilla, meanwhile, has been locked away and exposed to unpleasant sights such as a man wrestling with a crocodile and a woman embraced by a boa constrictor.

The crocodile also punctures soccer balls.

The gallant rescue allows Ludmilla's father to stage a royal banquet complete with strongmen tossing weights, acrobats flipping through the air and other amusements.

At one point a muscleman goes into a steam bath and meets a bear. They run each other down, the way people do in Russian steam baths and beat each other with birch leaves. The crowd roars with laughter.

The show has 174 performers. Although Soviet circuses are owned and operated by

the government, individual arenas and producers must fulfill their plans for attendance and revenue.

With a guaranteed run of at least half a year and all seats sold for nine shows a week, success seems assured. Tickets cost up to two rubles (\$2.60).

Performers have a complex system of computing salaries that can add up - "and they know how to add," Shag said with a laugh - to a salary more than double the national average.

Typically a stunt rider takes home the equivalent of about \$525 a month, the same as a senior scientist.

But the reward is not only financial for Shag, a short burly former clown, juggler and acrobat with bushy eyebrows and bright blue eyes.

He said he tried to retire years ago but fell sick. His wife told him to go back to work.

"I have money. I have a flat. I live in the Crimea near the sea," he said. There's enough for me and my grandchildren.

"But I can't live without the circus."

Circus Italia

by MURIEL CLIFTON

The "Circus Report" arrived with the announcement that the Zoppe Circus Italia will entertain the national convention of the CFA in Little Rock, Ark., July 4-7.

That sounded like the Circus Italia performing at the newly enclosed mall in Beloit, Wisc. I trotted along to see the performance.

The ring and tent backdrop on which "Circus Italia" was brightly emblazoned fit snugly in the center of the mall. Some empty stores served as work rooms, stalls for the horses, room for cages and props which eliminated the necessity of traveling thru the cold with the animals.

"Nino" the clown entertained the many children present with his broom act for the opening. Then came an attractive girl performing with a horse. "Nino" also rode, juggled and balanced showing his agility on horseback. He and the girl then rode together tying ability and comedy into the act. From then on they introduced a variety of acts with animals building a show that surprised many people. There was a lack of pre-publicity which could have given more prestige to this wonderful and talented family.

After the performance I called to Mr. Zoppe, introduced myself and brought forth the copy of "Circus Report" which had not caught up to them. He called to his wife, Sandy, then "Nino" or Giovanni, Carla (the pretty rider) and little Tosca.

After a coffee at the local restaurant it seemed natural to ask them home for supper. We gathered around my table that night and exchanged stories until it was time to take them home. They left behind a friendly, warm feeling. The children have a beautiful sensitivity about them and one assumes that the family life is a close and loving relationship.

They will be in Milwaukee's Shrine Circus late in February and I'll accept their invitation for a coffee after the show. Incidentally, the Mall has invited them for next season. "Business was good. It compared to our Christmas Season in sales," the happy merchants said.

It brightened the gray, cold Wisconsin winter for the crowds and also proved that entertainment is good business.

At the circus

by PIERRE JEAN

On a recent trip to the U. S. I visited the Hamid-Morton Circus which was playing in Hartford, Conn. (Feb. 10-15). I enjoyed the visit and the welcome extended to me by George A. Hamid, Jr., and his son James, as well as Bob Atterbury, general manager and all of the performers. Earl Michaels is the ringmaster.

The show started with an overture by the orchestra, directed by Danny Conn and Joe Dallas.

Acts were: A group of 16 tigers, 2 lions and a white tiger presented by Prince Marcan; from Paris the break-away trapeze featuring Les Weldens; Juggling by the Torino Brothers; Davide's Unsupported ladder; Special with Capt. Boxcar Young "The Astronaut"; Julia in a slide-for-life; Spanish Horse Fantasy by the Olmedas; Jungle Parody with King Kong and Micheline; Clowns; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions, and Justino Zoppe; The Flying Lunas, with Enrico doing the triple; Intermission.

After intermission came the Ventura Duo, aerial perch; The Rosamonds, aerial cradle; Miss Gina's Royal Palace Leopards; Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; The Antonios, bicycle acrobatics; Sir Harry James, one finger stand and Les Weldens, hand balancing; Elephants (5) presented by John Walker, followed by the Sensational Leighs.

Officials were: George A. Hamid, Jr., president and producer; James M. Hamid, vice president; Bob Atterbury, equestrian director and Carol Atterbury, wardrobe.

Timothy Hamid, const. supt.; Gene Hamid, special effects and lighting; Earl Michaels, ringmaster; Musical director, Danny Conn and Joe Dallas.

ATTENTION

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER of ACTIVE 20-30 CLUB is putting on a Fund Raising event in Sacramento, Calif., on April 17th, for Cerebral Palsy.

The party, with a circus theme, will have about 1500 to 2000 in attendance. We are looking for various circus acts - high wire, street performers, animals, etc. We are particularly interested in a spectacular act for the main feature.

Interested performers should contact:

DAVE BLACK

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Phone: 916 - 920 - 1515

CHIMPANZEE

MALE CHIMPANZEE - 5 yrs old - Has very good character - Performs tricks - Has worked on stage - If interested please contact:

GRACIELA RIVAROLA

1913 Houston Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada - 89104

In 1948, Harold Ronk opened with Sigmond Romberg at our Cleveland Arena. An orchestra was there and Romberg was at the piano, with Harold singing.

We had a large stage and a big concert piano. Our house piano was not too good, so the concert piano was brought in just before rehearsal.

When Harold speaks of the Arena in Washington being crowded. That was a small place and not far from the Union Station. It was built by Walter Uline, a former Clevelander. Our hockey team used to play there.

Harold sang in our Cleveland Arena during Ringling's appearances there. I always talked with him and often met him in other arenas.

In the Mail

by *BILL WOTSCH*

I enjoyed the article about Harold Ronk in the Jan. 25th issue of Circus Report, written by George Bingaman.

Fair Date

by *JOHNNIE MARSHALL*

The Collier County Fair (Fla) had as a free attraction, the Johnson Family Show, which was very good.

The show opened with a nice single balancing trapeze act by Carmen del Molino (Carmen Johnson), followed by LaVonne on the Spanish web (Lisa Johnson).

Then came the comedy bull whips featuring Hunky Johnson. This was followed by a 3 bear act, after which came a low wire act by Carmen, and ending with a performance on the cloud swing by Miss LaVonne who opened with a back balance, then an arm drop, forward turns, a foot swivel and finishing with an arm break-away that was called "The Flight of the Fire Bird." This was accomplished with fire works and special lighting which was quite impressive.

Seen at the fair were Circus Joe Valenciano, Joe Frisco and His Wonderful World of Animals, and a very clever clown magician who really wowed the kids and grown-ups.

He used the clown name of Checkers and both he and his assistant wore red and white checkered wardrobe and some of his props were also red and white checkers, and his bally sign was red and white.

Checkers real name is Richard Maskell, and he lives in Seminole, Fla.

PEOPLE

BILL BIRCHFIELD has joined the staff of Greg Thompson Productions, of Seattle. The Greg Thompson Productions produce musical productions for major hotels.

AUSTIN MILES, ringmaster, has been signed by Ron Kelroy for the Springfield, Ill., Fair - Aug. 5 thru 15th.

THE CHANDLERS (Phil, Linda, Lauren and Robin) will play the School for the Deaf and Blind in Florida on March 6th, booked by Harmes Theatrical Productions. Acts set are Chandler's Magic, Paulett's Peerless Puppies, The Larkin Duo and juggling by Lauren Chandler.