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OUR 11th YEAR

Number 44

November 1, 1982

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
LAS VEGAS ENTERTAINERS OF THE YEAR
SIEGFRIED and ROY**



**VOTED BY READERS OF THE
LOS ANGELES HERALD EXAMINER**

FRONTIER
PUBLISHING COMPANY

East Coast News

by FRANK D. ROBIE

United Press carried the news world-wide recently when aerialist Phillippe Petit walked the tightwire 150 ft. above Amsterdam Ave. in New York City to publicize and assist in the resumption of work on the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. After 41 yrs, construction will resume on the world's largest Gothic Cathedral and Mr. Petit carried a silver trowel to the roof for the laying of a stone which was a gift from the city of Jerusalem.

New York City street juggler, David Cullen and wife Mary-Lynn have prepared a two-person show which will open Nov. 19, at the Open Gate Theatre, located at 29th Street, east of 1st Ave., New York City. In their revue, Mary-Lynn and David combine multiple talents skillfully and you will find familiar tunes, original material, beautiful vocals, exciting juggling and charming spoofs.

F. Beverly Kelley will have a new book on the circus out about the first of the year. Bill Ballantine is doing the dust jacket for it.

Michael Chirrick joined the Harlem Globetrotters on Oct. 8th, when they opened in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the season.

Washington lawyer Frank Ball will be the toastmaster for the 1983 CFA Convention final banquet, to be held in Philadelphia on July 16th. When it comes to speech making Lawyer Ball is a giant in his profession.

10 - Count them - 10 clowns will used Dec. 11th in Paramus, NJ, when Ted Chirrick Productions provides entertainment for the annual IBM Children's Party. Over 40 years experience with Polack Bros. Circus, with training and tutelage from circusdom's Louis Stern and Howard Suez, Mr. Chirrick

brings skills to the Metropolitan area in a format which will prove worth watching. Chirrick's mall Mini-Circus was the best this area has ever seen, which resulted in the inquiry from IBM and others. In the parlance of circus announciators - WATCH HIM!!

Mr. and Mrs. John 'Tiny' Phillips, journeyed to Middletown, NY, to visit with the Albert Rix family. Mr. Rix hopes to sell his animal farm and move to Pigeon Forge, Tenn in the near future, where he will establish an other tourist site. Rix has 34 bears of various kinds at this time.

Middy Streeter's Circus Cookbook, which may not be the title, will be going to press at the end of October. Uncopyrighted and original art will be featured in this unusual cookbook. A limited edition of 500 will be printed. Look for it.

Jersey fans are anxiously waiting for Ringling Blue to return to the area. The show is going to play Brendan Byrne Arena commencing Nov. 17th.

Under what luck dept. Recently at a house sale, a 1929 Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey program surfaced. The next week at a street fair a 1928 program showed up. If the purchase price were revealed, strong men would faint.

Variety Acts

Variety acts on tour with Harlem Globetrotters include: Vincent Bruce, English rope spinner; The Anastini Brothers, Italian risley acrobats; Barrett Felker, juggler and Michael Chirrick and Karen, juggling duo.

All acts are booked through Simone Finer Enterprises, Hollywood based theatrical agency specializing in novelty acts.

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Nov 1-2 Ocala, Fla.
3-4 St. Augustine
5-6 So. Daytona

Brickle's Wonderland Rev.

Nov 1 Bishopville, SC
2 Winnsboro
3 Kingstree
4 Summerton
5 Cades
6 Hollywood

Carson & Barnes Circus

Oct. 31 Dallas, Texas
- End of Season -

Castle Int'l Circus

Nov 5-7 Chattanooga, Tenn
- End of Season -

Circus Knie

Nov 2-3 Ostbahnhof P.Swt
4-7 Com. de Perolles

Circus Odyssey

Nov 4-7 Baltimore, Md.

Ford Bros. Circus

Nov 1 Newkirk, Okla.
2 Tishmingo
3 Whitesboro, Texas
4 Italy
5 Roseland
6 La Grange
7 Hockley
- End of Season -

No Elephant Circus

Nov 6 Manchester, N.H.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Nov 2-14 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Nov 4-7 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Texas Shrine Circus

Nov 4-13 Ft. Worth, Tex.

--- OTHER DATES ---

James H. Drew Exposition
to Nov. 6 Augusta, Ga.
- End of Season -

Garray & Tomio

Nov 2-14 Los Ang., Calif.

Grand Nationals

to Nov 7 San Fran, Calif.

Lilli-Anna and Leopards

Nov 4-7 Baltimore, Md.

Schlarbaum's Show Band

Nov 6 Charleston, SC
7 Miami, Fla.

Scott's Medicine Show

Nov 1 Jackson, Mich
2 Port Huron
3 Chesaning
4 Boyne City
5 Ludington
6 Evert
7 Saugatuck

--- MAGIC ---

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Nov 2 Mt. Home, Idaho
3 Twin Falls
4 Jerome
5 Pocatoh
6 Blackfoot

Dr. Now's Magic Circus

Nov. 2 Oakland, Calif.

Samantha



Wow! I thought I was going to get some rest between the shows today. Then the boss came along and said I'd have to help blow up balloons. He expects a big crowd for the second show.

There just never seems to be any rest around this show.

Besides, it isn't all bad, There is a guy concessionaire across the midway and maybe by working here he'll notice little ol' me.

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Early Winter?

Signs of an early winter were very much in sight as the Ringling Blue Unit train moved east after completing its west coast tour. There are those who say this winter is not only going to be a long one, but that it is also going to be a severe one.

As the train moved through Idaho on Sept. 30th, there was snow everywhere. As the show moved out of Salt Lake City they encountered rain and snow, and heavy snow was reported at Rawlins, Wyo., where the circus train made a mid-day water stop.

As the train pulled into Denver a heavy rain was falling, which was followed by some heavy snows. Despite the bad weather, which closed some mountain roads, the circus enjoyed virtually sold out houses for each performance, in a building that seats approximately 10,000 people.

The Christmas issue of Circus Report will be dated Dec. 20th.

If you want special greeting ads in that issue we will accept copy up to about Dec. 1st. Better rush your order in now!



Convict Ship

by BILL WOTSCH

In the March 29, 1982, issue of Circus Report, Harry Jenkins asks, "I wonder where that old sailing vessel (convict ship) is now?"

A cove east of Port Clinton, Ohio, is the resting place of the convict ship "Success." It was in 1945, a couple of barges was escorting the vessel to Port Clinton, when it ran aground on a sandbar, which was to be its final resting place. A fire later on destroyed what was left of the old ship.

In the Cleveland Press of July 22, 1980, there is a wonderful story on this famous convict ship.

In one part of the story there is mention of a wedding that took place aboard the "Success", supposedly performed in Cell 13, which was said to be haunted. This event took place when the ship was docked at 9th Street in Cleveland, after having been exhibited near the High Street Bridge.

Many of these convict ships carried prisoners to New Caledonia, a French Penal Island. In fact this island was settled by the convicts that were brought in.

This cruel system was long ago abolished and during World War II, I was on the island and visited the old prisons which were then crumbling away.

The Blue Unit

by MICHAEL SPORRER

Despite a nation-wide railroad strike Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's Blue Unit arrived in Seattle, Wash., at 1 p.m. on Sept. 20th, in time for their six day run at the Seattle Center Coliseum. During their Sept. 21-26 stay business was off, due mainly to an extended tour of Circus Vargas, the Western Washington Fair at Puyallup and the economy. Raising admission prices did not help either.

This year the Blue Unit, the 112th edition featured a Wild West production with stage coaches and more right out of the Old West.

Also featured this year is the quadruple somersault performed by the Flying Vazquez Troupe. Miguel completed the quad at the Thursday evening performance performance. It was quite a thrill to see it in person.

Equipment-wise the show is using 42 cars, 75 concession supply, 76-99 coaches, 100 concession supplies, 101-111 flats, 129 by-level, 130-133 stocks, 134 storage. This

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adds up to: 2 concession supply, 24 coaches, 10 flats, 1 by-level, 4 stock and 1 storage car for a total of 42 cars.

New are the six wagons built by Southern Truck Body of Tampa, these include No. 12, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 49. Water truck 237 is also new. These wagons are attractively painted and look like a circus. There are still some wagons from the original Blue Unit which will be replaced next year by new wagons.

Had a nice visit with General Manager Bob MacDougall who is doing a fine job of keeping the show rolling.

PEOPLE

A. W. "Art" MILLER, well known circus general agent and his wife, LOUISE, were guests of DOREY and ISLA MILLER when Carson & Barnes Circus played Jonesboro, Ark., on Oct. 6th. "Art" was general agent for more than 14 yrs during the "hey-day" of the Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros. Circus.

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ERNEST SCHLEE (MILLETTE), center, is shown here as he was joined by friends and family, who helped him celebrate his 100th birthday on Sept. 20th. With him are: l.t.r. Helen Malkiewicz, a niece; Janet Krehely, the residence's recreation director; Angela Horan and Stanley Malkiewicz. Schlee, whose 25 yr. circus career included a stint with Ringling-Barnum, is a member of the Circus Hall of Fame. He has also written a book about his life with the circus entitled "The Circus That Was."

If you'd like to send him a birthday card or letter write: Ernie Schlee Millette, 1340 Park Ave., Plainfield, NJ - 07061.

Show Folks

The program for the James Hetzer Circus, playing in West Virginia and Kentucky during October lists the following acts:

Kathy Rogers, ringmistress; Evy Korely's Canine Revue; Celina Maldonado, Spanish web; Miguel Angel, tight wire; Evy riding "Fire Chip" dressage number; Margaret Michell, hair hang; Kooky Komics, clowns; Celina & Orlando, balancing; Bob Steele III, bears and elephants; Coco, J. T., and Harry-O, clowns; Norbu, the almost human gorilla; Coco, England's Clown Prince of Comedy; Galla Shawn, headbalancing trapeze.

Other show personnel listed are: James T. Hetzer, producer; Mabel C. Hetzer, co-producer; Louis Cuttin & Sons, concessions; Walker A. Dick, Honorary Circus Marshall; Maurice Davis, marketing director; Hazel Polakove, advertising and promotional director; Allen Patten, prop boss; David Bewes, promotion and public relations director;

Tim Lind, percussionist and Richard Rosio, organist.

The show elephants were Zulo and Lulu.

PETRICK & MIA, presented their magic act and lectured as a special feature Oct. 24th, at the Ben Franklin Hotel in San Mateo, Calif.

In Memoriam

THERESA "Terry" E. DesCHENES (57) who with her late husband were former owners-operators of Design III in St. Petersburg, Fla., died Aug. 30th after a long illness. The firm was an architectural/landscape business. A native of Providence, R.I. she served as hostess on a TV talk show in that city and also assisted her husband Andre E. DesChenes, who was a magician. Their work took them all over the United States and Europe.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by three sons, a daughter, two brothers and a sister.

ELIZABETH (Lib) McLAUGHLIN (84) passed away on Sept. 9th in Laredo, Texas. She was the widow of Tom McLaughlin, a veteran circus general agent. She is survived by her son, Dick McLaughlin. Burial was in Showman's Rest at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Hugo, Okla.

In the news

by CIRCUS JOE VALENCIANO

This article appeared in the Tampa Tribune newspaper on Sept. 29th.

Siegfried & Roy, Superstars of Illusion were featured on TV's "Evening Magazine". Shown were some of their illusions during their Vegas show and also their menagerie of animals at their Las Vegas home. It was mentioned that since Las Vegas doesn't have a zoo, they let children in to enjoy the animals.

Animal Friends

RON and JOY HOLIDAY were recently photographed at their home in Florida with "Hercules" their Siberian tiger. The 600 lb. animal plays an important part in their Magnificent Magical Animal Act.



Joy plays with "Hercules" after riding him across the backyard. In the photo below "Hercules" checks to be sure that Joy mixes the right portions for the evening meal.

In addition to the tiger, the Holidays have a leopard, a black panther and a jaguar.

PEOPLE

NORM NIELSEN recently played Sparks, Nev., as the opening act for country singer MEL TILLIS at the Nugget Casino.

LLOYD LASTER, of Tyler, Tex. recently had a leg amputated. He is now getting around in a wheel chair.

VINCE CARMEN's act has been lengthened from 9 to 13 minutes at Harrah's and includes talking, comedy and sleight of hand, in addition to the illusions. He will open at Harrah's Hotel in Lake Tahoe on Nov. 6th for an indefinite run with the show "Heat's On" with booking handled by agent Gil Miller.

BOBBY COOPER, of Astoria, Ore., was photographed by an Associated Press camera with the Big John Strong Circus elephant "Neena" when the show played that



city on Labor Day. The photo was released via the national wire service.

VELMA and ADEN LOWRY, of Sedan, Kans. had the Columbus Day Program in Cedar Vale, Ks., on Oct. 11th. Chairman of the program was a long-time admirer and a friend of the late Herb Walters, who told of Herb's tent show and did a small review of his book.

Zoo Charged

The Henry Doorly Zoo, of Omaha, Nebr., has been charged with violating transportation standards of the Animal Welfare Act by shipping a polar bear in a crate that did not have sufficient ventilation. The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture reports that an adolescent polar bear was shipped from Omaha to Philadelphia on Oct. 1, 1981.

The bear died shortly after arrival, with heat prostration the apparent cause, the U. S.D.A. official said. He added that United Airlines, which carried the bear from Omaha to Philadelphia, was charged earlier for its involvement in the death.

Show Acts

by JOHN BEARD

Acts appearing at the San Antonio Shrine Circus are: Aerial display with Danuda, the Spider Woman, working on a spider web rigging; Clowns: Toetoe Prod., Irving Hall,

Joe McMillian, Jerry Parsons, Earl Michael; Irv Hall, unicycle; the two Hall Baboon acts; Don Perales, dressage and Unicycle; Knopp perch pole; Gene and Eleanor Mendez, high wire (his first appearance here since he fell 5 years ago); Bauers, sway poles; the Flying Carrolls; Hawthorn and Cristiani elephants, Marcan's cat act.

Visitors seen at the circus were Hannah Palenberg, Cucciola, Norma Davenport.

Famous Talking Clowns

Some of the headliners of their day, great talking circus clowns, were:

John Lowlow, Jim Myers, Joe Pentland, Dan Rice, Den Stone, Tony Pastor, George M. Clarke, Nat Austin, Sam Lothrop, John Foster, William Kennedy, Ben Maginley, Bill Worrell and George H. Knapp.

New Book Due

A new book "Hallejulah Trombone", the life of Henry Fillmore, composer, musician and publisher is scheduled for release soon. The volume was written by Paul Bierley, of Columbus, Ohio. Paul is a noted authority on John Philip Sousa, and his books on Sousa are considered reference volumes by schools, libraries, etc.

Henry Fillmore started his musical career as a boy trombonist with circuses and various types of shows. Throughout his life he wrote many pieces of music, many of which are considered great circus music.

He wrote music under a variety of names and is considered to be almost the equal to Karl King when it comes to circus music. He died in Florida in 1956.

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PEOPLE

MIGUEL MEREZ, circus performer who was injured in an auto accident in Mexico not long ago, is up and around on crutches. He is presently with his father's circus in Mexico where he is recuperating. His daughter, MICHELLE, who was also injured in the same accident, is now living with her grandparents, DORIS and RALPH HORTON in San Diego, Calif.

Show Folks

by ALBERT HOUSE

When the Beatty-Cole Circus passed thru New Jersey in August, the following folks were handling some of the numerous jobs on the show.

Robert Rawls, popcorn; Dennis Walker, floss; Mike Maloney, snow cones; Larry and Sheila Sheffield, midway diner.

Naomi "Omi" Logan, elephant ride ticket seller; Rita Ferriera, space bounce ticket seller; Art Hatch, space bounce operator; Mrs. Mary Rawls, outside novelty stand operator; Mary Rawls (wife of Robert),

secretary to John Pugh; Tina Storey, ticket boxes, inside reserves; R. Alvarez, same; Mrs. Alice Harris, programs; Joe Funk, ice house.

The show carries four sections of reserved seats, front and back side, 15 in a row, 14 high, including 2 on the ground, for a total of 1,680 reserved seats. All chairs are carried in the interior of the seat trailers at each end of the top.

Ford Bros. Circus reports that business has been holding up well since they returned to the states after their Alaskan tour. The show has been playing in the mid-west and will be heading for quarters in Texas.

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Do you remember?

by *TED LaVELDA*

FULLER BROS. CIRCUS - 1951 Season

Fuller Bros. Circus was framed at the home and winterquarters of the Fuller family in Hastings, Nebr.

The show was presented in one ring and was owned by Luther Fuller and his son, Charles, who acted as manager.

Show personnel included: Don Whitney, agent; Lela & Bonnie, trampoline; Pony

Drill, Ted LaVelda; Dog Act, Luther Fuller; Riding Act, Chuck and Bonnie; Comedy Mule, Ted LaVelda; Shooting act, Chuck Fuller; Ring Contortion, Bonnie Fuller; Chair Balancing, Ted LaVelda; Clown numbers by "Happy" Wood.

Calliope music was used for the program, with Mrs. Fuller playing the calliope. A side show was carried with Chuck Fuller making the openings. Inside was magic, a human pin cushion and gastronomical wonder, as well as several animals.

The show played in Nebraska and South Dakota.

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State Clown Meet

The Kansas State Clown Alley 45, will be holding their State Meeting and Election of Officers on Nov. 21st.

The meeting will take place at 2 p.m., at the VFW Hall, 210 South Topeka, Wichita, Kansas.

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Shrine Dates

Compiled by MIKE SPORRER

Lewiston, Idaho - Calam Temple

1923 - May 11-12 - Booked Acts
 1924 - May 15-17 - Booked Acts
 1925 - May 14-16 - Booked Acts
 1926 - May 13-15 - Booked Acts
 (1923 to 1926 known as Shrine Society
 Circus. Information provided by Ralph Hen-
 derson, Spokane, Wash.)

1927-1933 - None
 1934 - Sept. 10-15 - Polack Bros.
 1935 - Aug. 5-10 - Polack Bros.
 1936 - 1938 - None
 1939 - June 2-8 - Polack Bros.
 1940 - 1954 - None
 1955 - July 2-3 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1956 - 1965 - None
 1966 - June 19-20 - William Kay
 1967 - June 8-9 - William Kay
 1968 - June 14-15 - William Kay
 1969 - June 13-14 - William Kay
 1970 - June 12-13 - William Kay
 1971 - June 11-12 - William Kay
 1972 - June 9-10 - William Kay
 1973 - June 8-9 - William Kay
 1974 - June 7-8 - William Kay
 1975 - June 20-21 - William Kay
 1976 - June 18-19 - William Kay
 1977 - June 24-25 - William Kay
 1978 - June 28-29 - Amer. Continental
 1979 - June 20-21 - Amer. Continental
 1980 - July 3-4 - Carden-Johnson
 1981 - June 24-25 - Carden Int'l
 1982 - July 7-8 - Carden Int'l

1923-1926 show played at Dreamland
 1934, 1935, 1939 at Recreation Park
 1955, 1956-1978 at Bengal Field
 1979-1981 at the Round Up Grounds
 1982 at Adams Field, Clarkinston, Wash.

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PEOPLE

JERRY GOODSPEED, ventriloquist, is currently working on the Carnival Cruise Line ships.

STEVE WALLEDA recently made a sky walk on a cable over the Colony Beach Resort in Longboat Key, Fla.

JEFF McBRIDE, magician, is working at Club Versaille in New York.

JOEY JORDAN, juggler, will be appearing at Tannen's Magic Jubilee at Browns Hotel in New York, and will be part of the taping for television.

Show Visit

by *BILL ANDERSON*

On Oct. 9th, while the Ringling Unit was in Indianapolis, 40 to 50 performers and adults from the Peru Circus City Festival attended the Saturday evening performance, to see their own Brian Miser perform as part of the Vasquez Flying act.

One thrilling treat for the Peru crowd was the spectacular display on the high wire by friend, Pedro Carrillo. In 1981, Pedro, while recuperating from an injury, was guest of honor and parade marshal for the CCFI. Pedro has made many life-long friends in Peru, Ind. and will always have a warm and appreciative audience from them.

The true feeling of pride flowed from the Peru people at Brian's first entrance into the arena in the opening. Most of the people attending were amazed at Brian's poise and grace. He was no longer the youngster that left Peru in 1981, to work in Circus World.

Later Brian showed that confidence as he mounted the high trapeze rigging and styled to his friends. His effortless completion of the triple somersault to the hands of friend and catcher, Gordon Howle, capped off a very enjoyable evening for the audience from Peru.

Brian has made Peru very proud and is a very good representative of Peru Circus City Festival. All of us here in Peru wish Brian much luck and success.



Engagement Announced

Simone Finner just returned from a four week tour of France. While there she visited Circus Rancy-Carrington and Circus Pinder.

She signed several European artists for a new Las Vegas revue show scheduled to open the end of December including: Dominique, French pickpocket-comedian; Eva Vida, Hungarian femme juggler and Otto Wessely & Christa, Austrian comedy magic duo.

Simone also became engaged to Frenchman Andre Malfuson, owner of the well-known Paris "Magic Theatre." No immediate wedding date has been set, but the couple will reside in Hollywood, Calif.

No Elephant Circus

by LISA IERVOLINO

The No Elephant Circus of New York City tickles the funny bones of big kids and little kids alike.

Primarily geared toward children, the goal is to bring a little "big top" to the audience, with juggling, clowning, fire-eating, unicycling and puppetry. "Klowns" a show filled with the kind of silliness that makes children giggle, was designed with them in mind.

In fact, children are an integral part of the show. Using kids instead of animals is a successful way of getting laughs on a low budget.

When Bobbo the Clown boasts that he's the strongest clown in the world, he challenges youths and adults in the audience to a tug of war. Bobbo holds a rope in either hand, and the participants pull from each side. Just when it looks as though Bobbo will be made six inches wider, he slips out, leaving the jacket he was wearing hanging on the rope, which had been threaded thru his sleeves.

While the crowd is still holding the rope, Antonio the Clown jumps up on it with his juggling clubs. The kids love it, but the dads holding Antonio's weight on the rope look a little nervous.

Sad-eyed Antonio is the troupe's best juggler. Under his clown makeup he is Tony Duncan. He recently captured the world title for seven-ball juggling at the International Juggling Association convention in Los Angeles.

Together, the clowns perform elaborate juggling patterns, passing the clubs overhead and around members of the audience. When one clown throws his hat instead of a club, Bobbo quips, "Come on, the show's not that bad! You don't have to pass the hat yet!"

Yes, some of the humor is corny. But the kids eat it up. When Jessie the Clown tries to mount a unicycle while sitting on the floor, the audience shouts instructions, groaning in frustration at her struggles.

Uncle Lenny, a beanpole of a clown, wants to be in control of each situation, but seldom succeeds. After he proudly announces to the audience that he will perform a solo juggling routine, Bobbo sneaks up behind

him, stealing his hat, and eventually all the juggling balls, taking the act over himself.

Although the group follows a script as they perform, there is a lot of improvisation according to Bob Daraio (Bobbo), the artistic director.



THE NO ELEPHANT CIRCUS

Daraio bears a striking resemblance to Andy Hardy (Let's put on a show). As Bobbo he wears voluminous red and white striped shorts held up by suspenders, and a red and white striped oversized cap. The others sometimes refer to him as the "Pillsbury Dough Boy."

"A clown is an extension of your personality," he explained. "The character starts within you. You build on your mood and the audience's mood, and let everything work for you. Bobbo is a zany. He has the same roots as Harpo Marx. He is mischievous, and gets confused easily. He likes to goof on the straight man".

One of the troupe's favorite projects is holding circus workshops at schools. For three years, they directed the All Children's Circus at Children's Village, a home for emotionally disturbed children in Dobbs Ferry, NY.

(Continued on Next Page)

Visit at Sparks

by JOHN WORLEY

This writer had a pleasant time and surprise upon arrival in Reno (Sparks, Nev.) while visiting the Nugget Casino, and Tina and Bertha, the elephants. We were entertained by Daryl Atkison, formerly of the Ringling Blue Unit elephant dept. Also we mustn't forget George Fitzpatrick who is also there with Daryl and is a former elephant man under Axel Gautier.

The fellows are busy routing the two pachyderms for a new act at the casino.

Both fellows are interesting and talented individuals.

The elephants have very spacious quarters and great food.

My wife and I were equally amazed at these two gentlemen when later that evening we encountered them in a club in Reno sitting in with one of the local club bands. Daryl was playing drums and George was playing bass guitar, plus doing some vocals.

James Secondo Zoppe

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NO ELEPHANT CIRCUS (Continued)

It was the first circus to become a non-profit organization, and is the only one recognized by the Actor's Equity Association.

Daraio said the troupe has done more charity performances than any other Equity company in New York State. He estimates that 20% of their income goes for charity performances and workshops.

"We do every fifth show for free. We figure the audience has earned it. Last year, we entertained 35,000 people at a cost of 35 cents per viewer," he said proudly.

On that budget, it's no wonder there are no elephants. But that's not the reason. The name comes from a former member, who had previously worked with a travelling circus, and shared living quarters with the animals.

"Elephants eat \$150 a day in feed and they always leave you yesterday's. If I ever have a circus, I'm not going to have elephants."

Circo Bruno

by BOB STODDARD

Going to the circus is not just a human experience. It's fun - a way of life!

Going to a performance of Circo Bruno is more of an experience, a different way of life. For one thing, Circo Bruno is an all Spanish circus, owned by Bruno the tent maker (possibly the only Spanish speaking circus in the U.S.). It played in Dallas on Sept. 10th thru 12th, to coincide with the annual celebration commemorating Mexico's freedom from Spain.

You start noticing the difference as soon as you approach the tent. The 130 ft. round European style top is blue and white on the outside and solid blue on the inside. The 13 ft. sidewalls are just the opposite with white and red and yellow decorations. The top peaks at a luxurious 43 ft. with two towers and the acts hanging from the round red cupola. Bruno's special quarter poles with no peaks and no holes in the tent gives the top a smooth and sleek look.

Since there were no animals, there was no ring curb. The ring was defined by a colorful ring cover in the center of the tent with a large stage behind it from which most of the show was presented, including the three piece circus band headed by Carl Wahrmund and his trumpet, and Leonard Olson's organ and a drummer.

Bruno Loyale announced the show (in Spanish) from the stage. The acts presented were not average circus acts.

Senor Geraldo, the come-in clown, is really Gerald Burns who does "drawing room and circus conjuring," for twenty minutes. He has also done this before with Reid Bros. Circus and Bob Emerico. Mostly he works as a cage boy for Clark's Lions (to which Michael and Michelle have now added some tigers).

After the overture the show opened with a song by Maleli (Oropesa), a lovely young lady who was making her professional debut. She is also Bruno's secretary. She claims to be 24 yrs. old, but looks like 18 going on 17.

The third display was the hula hoop artistry of Luisa (Murillo). Artistry it is - but a circus act it is not. This Las Vegas based act was designed by her husband Salvatore

Murillo who has an acro-balancing act in the Follies Bergere in that city. He has been training her since she became a teenager in the act designed for theatres and television. Presented here, as it was, on the stage, it was a fine flash act.

Display four - a cradle act, billed as the Duo Mari Don (not to be confused with the Mari Don Duo, a high wire act performed by Maria and Flo). In this cradle act Maria (Aqosta) works with her nephew Jairo (Avando). Both of these acts feature Maria and are being trained by her husband Daniel Aqosta. If you are up on your circus history, you know that he was one of the famous Carillio Bros. on the Ringling show. He is the one that fell and was injured in Los Angeles on July 20, 1977, ending his high wire walking career.

No. 5 - would be a clown act in any other circus. In Circo Bruno it was a typical silent movie slapstick comedy that Charlie Chaplin might have done. Billed as "Willy's Restaurant," Willy Murillo works as a drunken waiter with his father (Ignacio) as the customer, and his sister Luisa as the waitress. Good slapstick with several excellent pratfalls.

No. 6 - a juggling act that could be considered circus. Billed as "El Gran Elexis" (Alahando Avadillo) worked with his family in Puerto Rico's Circo Loyale (owned by Bruno until he left there four years ago). Most recently Alexis has been working out of New York City and works the discos there, including the famous "Studio 54."

No doubt about display 7, it is real circus - and has been for 57 yrs. (He started when he was ten). Billed as "Los Latinos", perennial Herbie Weber with Maricella worked on the low wire. He still runs on the wire with his feet in the wicker baskets; still jumps over Maricella's back onto the wire; still doesn't believe (apparently) that 67 yr. old bones should be babied - or at least pampered a bit.

Most red-blooded men should feel that display 8 alone was worth the price of admission. Beautiful Marie Anthony, the female illusionist turns many heads and hearts but undoubtedly her act would have it's greatest effect on the Dallas fire marshall. If he had seen it his heart would have flat-out stopped! Really, he would have had a heart

(Continued on Next Page)

CIRCO BRUNO (Continued)

attack.

I'm not sure who might have the death wish, Marie or her first assistant Lee Gannon (a former male model who undoubtedly turns lots of female heads and hearts). She burns him up in a small wicker basket and he steps out of a burning book. He also gets turned into a tiger - but not here.

Marie points to a torch and it springs into flame, and another, and another.

It's the first time Marie & Co. ever worked with a circus and much more should be written about this act.

Display 9 - brings back Marie Acosta, this time on the Spanish web.

Display 10 - a comedy act - the William Tell apple-on-the-head story which featured Eddie Murillo, Sr. as a clown. He was a trapeze artist for 57 yrs. before the family made him retire because he was having dizzy spells.

Display 11 - Senor Antonio performed his head balancing act on the swinging trapeze while turning rings on his wrists and ankles. Antonio (Morales) has thrilled countless numbers of people while he was on the Ringling show (7 yrs.) and Circus Vargas (3 yrs). He has been in and out of Circus Circus in Las Vegas for more than 5 years.

An added display in the Saturday night show was a surprise to everyone except Bruno Loyale himself. For the first time (I think) since Bruno came to the U.S. and started his tent business two years ago, he donned his costume and performed his trapeze act. He had two noteworthy assistants in Senor Antonio and Daniel Acosta. His act was more death-defying than most folks realized because he was not physically in shape for the act, and was puffing like an old war-horse when he finished.

Later in the backyard, Bruno was surrounded by friends and he announced very dramatically to me that I had just witnessed the final performance of "Bruno the Great" Everyone laughed. For some reason I don't believe him.

Display 12 - another song by Maleli.

Display 13 - clowns and then the final display was Herbie Weber's walk up the inclined wire and his backwards slide to the bottom.

Visitors on Saturday included Armando and Anna Farfan of the magnificent Flying

Farfans, and a group from Donny Johnson's show that included Bob Bang - a catcher in the Flying Carrolls act; Ann Pike and Jimmy Joe Steenbergen, from the elephant department. (Tell the truth, did you know that Jimmy Joe's last name was Steenbergen?). Another visitor was Dr. Janet Sweeney, who is the show's vet - but, did you know that she is also in the aerial ballet now?

Very small attendance on Friday night, a gradual build-up to a half house by Saturday night when I reviewed the show, but they say that all was redeemed by Sunday when a parade of cars and floats from downtown Dallas to the park brought an estimated 5,000 people who were celebrating the first day of Hispanic Heritage Week and Diez y seis de Septiembre (the 16th of September), which is Mexican independence day.

The Mexican Consul and other dignitaries from Mexico and the City of Dallas attended the Sunday show and turned everything around crowd-wise - plus, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra bought the tent for their use, as well as the Dallas Civic Opera and the Dallas Ballet.

Two other groups who were interested have ordered similar tents, so Bruno will be smiling when you see him next.

The photos with this article were taken by John Manning. They are identified as:

- 1 - Gerald Burns, clown and conjurer
- 2, 3, 4 - Marie Anthony & Co.
- 5 - Marie Acosta
- 6 - Maricella and Herbie Weber
- 7, 8 - Bruno Loyale
- 9 - Senor Antonio (Morales)
- 10, 11, 12 - Luisa Murillo
- 13 - L.t.R.: Bruno Loyale, Armando and Anna Farfan, Senor Antonio

PEOPLE

LOGAN PRITCHETT, produced the 'International Stars of Magic' show for a weekend engagement at Robinson Auditorium in Little Rock, Ark., last month.

ARVEL ALLREAD, of Chico, Calif., reports Circus Vargas recently played his city and drew good business, for a Monday and Tuesday stand.



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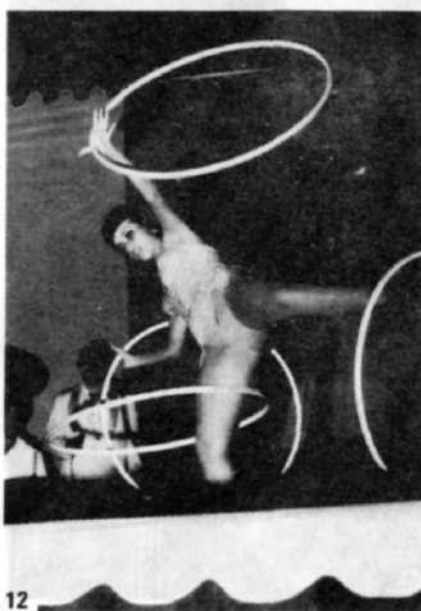
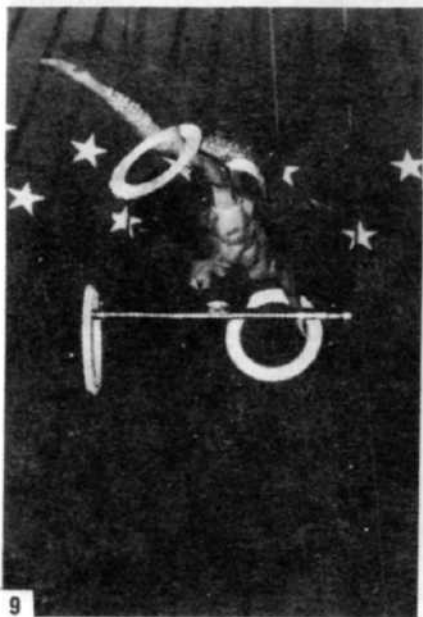
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Ohio Giants

In July of this year, the Medina County Historical Society, of Ohio, featured a special exhibit called "Tea With the Giants." Life-size portraits of Ohio's giants - Capt. Martin Van Buren Bates (7 ft. 8 in.) and his wife, Anna Swan (7 ft. 11 in.) were included with the exhibit, along with Bates' size 18 shoes, his Bible and a helmet he wore while with the circus.

Many personal and household items were loaned to the society by private parties who had acquired them at an auction in 1948. These latter items included a 9 ft. high door plus Bates' chair, a baby bed and a giant-sized handkerchief given to the couple by Queen Victoria.

Also included in the exhibit was a statue of their infant son, born to the couple in 1879. The baby was the biggest ever born at that time. He weighed 24 lbs. and was 31 in. long and had a head circumference of 19 in. He lived for less than a day. The couple also had a daughter, who died at birth in 1872. She weighed 18 lbs. and was 27 in. long.

Anna and Capt. Bates were the tallest couple in the world when they were married in London in 1871. They had met about a year before.

After spending several years with shows they settled down in Seville, Ohio, where Bates pursued his chief interest - farming.

Anna was born in 1846 in Nova Scotia and was discovered by P. T. Barnum. She was the third of 13 children and at birth weighed 18 lbs. By the time she was 6 she stood 5 ft. 2 in. tall and at the age of 15 she had attained the height of 7 ft.

Barnum billed her as the "Tallest Woman

in the World" and she became one of his major attractions. Later she left Barnum and managed her own career.

Bates was a native of Kentucky, born in 1845. He did not experience any unusual growth during his childhood, but he just kept growing until in his late 20's he had reached his giant proportions.

Anna died in 1888, then in 1900 Bates married Lavonne Weatherby and they moved into town. Bates died in 1919, and Lavonne, who was just over 5 ft. tall, died in 1940.



This old barn is all that remains of the old homestead of Capt. and Anna Bates. His name and the construction date are barely discernible in the roof shingles.

The Bates farm of 130 acres was sold in 1948 and the home's furnishings were auctioned off, after which the home was demolished.

Today, only the old barn still remains. Capt. Bates' name and the date of construction are now barely discernible in the roof shingles.

For more information about the Seville giants read the illustrated, paperback book "The World's Tallest Couple" by Allene Holt Gramby. It is available at a cost of \$11.80 from: Seville Chamber of Commerce, Box 471, Seville, Ohio - 44273.

