

# CIRCUS REPORT

Number 8

May 2, 1983

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## Cody fans meet

Fans of Buffalo Bill Cody will converge on Omaha, Nebr., on May 19th if present plans work out.

Jack Fletcher, coordinator of the Backtrailing Buffalo Bill Cody organization is promoting several activities on May 19th, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Buffalo Bill's first wild west show.

The show, launched in Omaha before 8,000 people, went on to national and international fame. It ran for 33 years, playing in more than 1,100 cities in the 48 states and 13 foreign countries.

Fletcher plans to erect a plaque near the site of the first show and to hold a dinner at which Buffalo Bill's life will be discussed.

The first show was held at a fairgrounds called Driving Park, in what is now a residential area bounded roughly by 16th St., Sahler St., Florence Blvd., and an alley between Laird and Manderson Streets.

Fletcher, of Upland, Calif., says Buffalo Bill's grandson, Nebraska-born Bill Cody of Cody, Wyo., is planning to attend the activities, as well as many historians and others who are interested in the famed scout-showman.

The Backtrailing organization's purpose is to stimulate interest in Buffalo Bill, his era, the wild west show and Nebraska.

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## Show Dates

### Beatty-Cole Circus

May 1 Winchester, Va.  
2-3 Frederick, Md.  
4-5 Gaithersburg  
6 Hagerstown

### Carson & Barnes Circus

May 1 Calexico, Calif.  
2 Coachella  
3 Hemet  
4 Beaumont  
5 29 Palms  
6 Barstow  
7 Victorville

### Circus Alleluia

May 7 Tampa, Fla.

### Circus Vargas

Apr. 29-May 2 Concord, Ca.  
May 3-5 Newark  
6-9 San Jose

### Circus World Museum Circus

May 7 Baraboo, Wisc.  
(Opening Day)

### Gerry Cottle's Circus

Apr. 28-June 26  
Kallang Park, Singapore

### Ford Bros. Circus

Apr. 26 Coffeyville, Kans.  
27 Columbus  
28 Phillipsburg  
29 Carsons  
30 Chanute  
May 1 Ft. Scott

### Franzen Bros. Circus

May 1 Hanover, Ind.  
2 Vevay  
5 Hope  
6 Franklin

### Garden Bros. Circus

May 6 Guelph, Ont.  
7 Grangeville  
8 Richmond Hill

### Hamid-Morton Circus

May 5-8 Springfield, Mass.

### Holiday Hippodrome

May 1 Quincy, Mass.  
2 Springfield  
3 Pittsfield  
4 Saratoga, NY  
5 Watervliet  
7 Watertown  
8 Auburn

### M & M Circus

May 6-8 Des Moines, Iowa

### Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Apr 14-17 Charleston, W.Va  
20-24 Worcester, Mass  
26-May 1 Providence, R.I.  
May 3-8 Hartford, Conn.

### Ringling-Barnum - Red

to June 5 New York, NY

### Royal Hanneford Circus

to May 8 Houston, Texas.

### --- OTHER DATES ---

### Disney's Great Ice Odyssey

to May 15 Miami Bch, Fla

### James H. Drew Exposition

May 2-7 Lincolnton, NC

### Elliott Amusements

to May 8 Flint, Mich.

### Mothers of Twins Conven.

Apr 29-30 Dublin, Calif.

### Scott's Medicine Show

May 1 Amarillo, Texas  
3 Dumas  
4 Borger  
5 Liberal, Kans.  
6 Dodge City  
7 Scott City

### --- MAGIC ---

### Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

May 2 Library, Pa.

### Felix Snipes

May 6-8 Chattanooga, Tenn

## Samantha



Hi! It's nice to see you again. I'm glad that you still look forward to our visits.

I got started with this unicycle act during the winter layoff. It's a real fun act and one that I sure do enjoy.

By the way, keep your CR subscription up to date, that way we can visit frequently.

## In the mail

from BUCKY STEELE

On March 29th, just a couple of days before I intended to put Buke to sleep, he came out of rutt (musth). I let him outside for the first time since Dec. 28th. He acted like not one single day had passed since his incarceration. The complete change from a mad man to the most docile elephant is very unbelievable to those who have never witnessed this phenomena of a breeding male. I have gone through this with him seven times in 3½ years. On this first day out, he bred a female.

The list of 18 females he has copulated with makes the list the longest of only four males breeding in the Western Hemisphere, mainly because of access. He has two reserves of semen in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, which are good for over 100 years.

## CIRCUS BOOKS Life Magazines

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**PAUL HORSMAN**

P. O. Box 304 Auburn, NY 13021

The good news came April 4th, as I could not do what I had planned for April 1st. Because of my "nature" and I am glad that I chickened out.

Through the help and encouragement of the World Fund for Endangered Animals, the Humane Society here in Texas, and Mike Hagenbecker of Cambridge, Ont., he is going on breeding loan until October, then I can bring him home. They wish to cross breed with their Africans.

Then by late fall or early spring, the facilities at Fort Worth, Texas, will be finished. This million dollar complex will be the first facilities built from scratch to propagate the Asiatic elephant, of which now there are less than 30,000 world-wide. The African number over 1.5 million.

This is not a profitable venture, because if one calf is born out of 5 cows, every two years, this margin would not cover expenses. It is only to help maintain a species and a different research will be involved than any other institute. It is to study why the Asian does not reproduce as fast as the Africans, and artificial breeding will soon be proven and not just a dream. The facility will be able to hold up to 10 females and will be available to those sincerely interested.

The worry, sweat, work and disappointments will soon have been worth it, the outcome of over 7 years will be a reality with good luck and 8 months to go.

I wish to thank all those who called and felt as I did and the help I've received by just saying "Hang in there."

The word "circus" is parallel with the elephant, one is not complete without the other and the elephant now needs the help that it gave to the circus. In 20-25 years the circus will be pretty dismal if something isn't done now.

I had many calls to buy him, but he is too much to me to be sold and abused, that's why I would have put him down first, plus the earlier written reasons.

Thank you Don Marcks. The last article helped to get the ball rolling and served to save an elephant's life.

WILL ROGERS was shown in an old film clip on the April 20th TV show "Who Makes the World Laugh?" which was hosted by BOB HOPE.

**BULLETIN:**

April 14 - Visalia, Calif. - A policeman shot and killed a pet mountain lion, owned by Tony Mendes of this city. The animal, which was declawed, slipped from its collar and escaped. While police waited for a humane officer to arrive, the animal began advancing and was killed when a policeman fired four shotgun blasts into the 50 lb. cat.

Apr. 16 - Haines City, Fla. - Elephant trainer Roman Schmitt, was listed as being in guarded condition at a local hospital after he was gored by an elephant at Circus World Park. Officials said he was leading the elephants from a pasture, where they had spent the night, when one of the elephants struck him, in what they said was probably an accident. He reportedly was gored in the right leg.

**PEOPLE**

RAY CHANDLER is recuperating from a triple by-pass operation and additional complications and would enjoy cards and letters. Write him at: P. O. Box 186, Madras, Ore. 97741.

SHARON WARD, former show girl and aerial starlette, recently premiered her new animal act, "The Ham and Egg Revue." The four pigs, Spareribs, Pork Chop, Knuckles and Hambone, have a total weight of over 1000 lbs. The act is presently on tour with Bill Garden's "Showtime Follies."

REV. AUSTIN MILES, the Show Business Chaplain, spent Holy Week preaching at the Presbyterian Church in Harrison, NY, followed by an appearance in York, Pa., Philadelphia and a Catholic Retreat at the Poconos Mountains, all of which was followed by a live radio broadcast for the Philadelphia area. He and his wife, Ingrid, are presently enjoying a three week vacation in Austria.

## Show Visitors

Visitors on the Carson & Barnes Circus lot when the show was playing dates in Texas were:

Bob Stoddard, Tom Randolph, Gary and Zoe Ann Henry, Doug Terranova, Ann Pike and son David, Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wong, Gil Gray, Donald Wayne Newsom (Pokey the Clown), Lum Wong, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hall, "Bruno", Jack Bennett, Vi Hofmeister, Rose Ann Baty (Gibbs), David Gibbs, Bob Steele, Pee Wee and Joann Pinson, Turtle Ken Benson, Mr. & Mrs. Lasister, Tex Dreyfus and a number of others.

The show took delivery of a new vinyl mar

quee from Bruno in Dallas which flashes up the midway.

Also, the show has taken delivery of three female baby African elephants, from the Int. Animal Exchange. They are all under 40 in. tall and less than 2 yrs old. Their names are: Britiney, Christie and Toni.

... Bobby Gibbs



## A Master Clown

His painted smile was streaked with tears as Glen "Frosty" Little, of Ringling-Barnum Circus, was proclaimed a Master Clown. Master clowns are chosen by their peers and judged according to their ability to perform and teach their craft.

The honor is so rare there are only three living Master Clowns out of an estimated 200 professionals in the nation.

Before the circus performed in Washington, DC, Frosty received the honor as his fellow clowns held court and made their own "presentation," symbolic of their profession, a giant pie in Frosty's face.

# Frosty Little Honored

by NORMA STRONG

On Feb. 11th, in Birmingham, Ala., there was a tent raised to honor one of the most famous clowns in the world, Executive Boss Clown of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Glen "Frosty" Little. We felt this Master of Mirth was long overdue this honor. We rolled out the red carpet for this celebration, which started on Wednesday, Feb. 9th. At noon on this day, at the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center, Frosty was presented with a key to the city from the mayor and at this time, Feb. 11th was officially declared "Frosty Little Day" in Birmingham.

There were balloons and live calliope music to set the scene, along with many circus fans and friends. The oversized sign outside the building was flashing congratulations to Frosty. This continued for one hour during the festivities. Little did Frosty know this was just the beginning of what was to come in the next two days.

On Thursday, Feb. 10th, during intermission at the evening performance of The Greatest Show on Earth, the Tent was officially raised. The district chairman of the CFA presented Frosty with a beautiful charter and bull hook, but the excitement was not over yet. After the presentation a special delivery telegram arrived. It read:

Dear Frosty - Congratulations!

The circus clown is a beloved institution representing our national spirit of friendship and goodwill. In raising the "big top" you celebrate a wonderful American pastime, and bring joy, laughter and cheer to countless fans.

Nancy and I happily join men, women and children of all ages and send our heartiest best wishes from our home to yours.

God bless you.

Ronald Reagan.

If this wasn't enough, Frosty had a surprise visit from his daughter, Tawnya Campbell, from Denver, Colo., who flew in to join in the celebration. With a police escort she arrived just in time to join in the excitement of the evening. The show was over but the celebrating was not. At the end of the evening Frosty and his adorable wife, Pat, along with Twanya, joined with close friends for a champagne toast to celebrate the raising of "Frosty Little Tent 140."

We weren't through yet! On Friday, Feb. 11th, a luncheon was held at the Hyatt Hotel in Frosty's honor. The 50 invited guests were greeted at the door with a life-size painting of Frosty. Doors were decorated to resemble a circus entrance. The room was decorated with 150 balloons. Clown faces made to look like Frosty were placed on the tables that were draped with white tablecloths and accented with bright red napkins.

The guests included Gunther Gebel Williams, and his wife Seigrid, Dolly Jacobs, Wayne Sidley and his wife Linda, Eric Braun, Denny McGuire, Alice Lynn and many other circus friends along with members of the CFA and other friends.

The program began with letters of congratulations from the president of CFA, a letter from Alabama Governor, George C. Wallace, declaring Feb. 11th "Frosty Little Day" in the State of Alabama was read, along with several other letters and telegrams from close friends and relatives. The most exciting telegram came from the President of RBBB, Mr. Irvin Feld, who said he was one of Frosty's biggest fans.

A lavish meal was served to all and then it was Frosty's time to speak. Obviously moved by all the words of congratulations, he thanked everyone responsible for this and told a few circus tales. The luncheon ended with a celebration cake decorated with a circus tent and lots of clowns. A champagne toast was made to this man we all love so much as we sang "For He's A Jolly Good Fellow."

A video tape was made of all the festivities from Wednesday to Friday. This was presented to Frosty and Pat for their future enjoyment.

Thanks, Frosty, for being a friend to all your fans in Birmingham.

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## Big John's Show

by FRED REED

Members of the Roland Butler Tent, CFA, of Phoenix, Ariz., drove to Kingman, Ariz. on Mar. 19th to enjoy the Big John Strong Circus. Threatening weather did not prevent good attendance at both performances.

The enthusiasm of the young performers and the expertise of seasoned troupers made for a most enjoyable performance. The show opens with a clever presentation using several youngsters from the audience and three clowns - "B.J." (Jim Hebert), "Jimmie" (James Vaughn) and "Dixie" (Beth Brown.)

There followed in center ring The Bickmores. Wally and wife, Czigi, plus 6 year old daughter Tosca set the mood for the entire show with their smooth, polished presentation.

After a second clown bit, there came a tremendous surprise for those of us familiar with the "Big John Strong Circus". Red Johnson, whom we have enjoyed as ringmaster/announcer for the past several years, with Jim Zajicek, a juggler, appeared as the Apollo Rom on the high wire. This writer, having watched these two young men in practice session just a short time ago, was amazed at the appearance and skill of this duo. A few more months and they should rank with the best.

The two appearances of "Roadrunner Red" (Jay Evans) with his trick roping and expert horsemanship were well received, as was the "Bird Act with a Difference" presented by Mark Vozza.

Unicyclist Danny Neff; handbalancing, illusions and the ever popular escape from a straight jacket at the top of the tent by Bob Seaton; juggling by Jim Hebert and Jim Zajicek added to the excitement.

Tina Grieser not only did her usual great job on the single trapeze, but also presented the pony-drill with great style. The "circus

doggies" presented by Beth Brown is much improved, due in part to the new props designed by Beth. The versatile Jim Zajicek joined Czigi Bickmore on the rotating ladder and this was followed by the kids favorite, Neena the elephant. Neena was presented by Mark Vozza, assisted by a beautiful red head. What a surprise to discover the "unknown red head" was the talented Tinal!

John, as usual, has a great show this year. New trucks and trailers should eliminate most equipment problems. About all the additional help needed is some cooperation from the weather.

Prior to leaving the lot, the Roland C. Butler CFA's gathered around the tailgate and packed sack lunches for all circus personnel. Hopefully, this made the tear down and departure a little easier. Making the trip were Carol and Bob McCall, Ken Miller, Mary Rockwell, Fifi and Fred Reed and Herb Ueckert, of Las Vegas.

## Gun for sale

A 16 guage, double-barrel shotgun that was once owned by the 19th century sharpshooter, Annie Oakley, is for sale. Bess Moses Edwards, 60, said she hopes to get \$1 million for the gun, but she'll take the best offer she can get at a Michigan Antique Arms Collectors exhibition, to be held in Southfield, Mich., Civic Center.

The 1883 Parker Bros. shotgun was owned by Oakley, the star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show nearly a century ago.

Chet Parker, director of the organization, estimates the rifle will bring \$40,000 to \$60,000.

## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Well there are lots of shows to see this time of year in Florida and our next trip was to the Bayfront Center, St. Petersburg for the "new" Ringling Red Unit. We were accompanied by three friends, who altho they are not members of Circus Fans, are real devotees of the circus, enjoyed supper at Uncle Ed's eatery and on to the building where we met the Talley's who came up from Sarasota. Good seating and over all acoustics make us prefer the Bayfront to Venice, plus we enjoy seeing the guest celebrity in person as they film for television. We were doubly lucky this year to see both "Sugar Ray" Leonard and "Sugar Ray," Jr. who were resplendant in top hats and red tail coats as guest hosts.

I'm not going into a detailed account of this performance, it will be reviewed from coast-to-coast all year long by other people, but would like to mention a few of the acts, etc. It was a shorter show than in other years, for which I wish to thank everyone involved in this production! Great to see Irving Hall with the baboons, and the charming Bauers on their swaypoles and the enchanting Dolly Jacobs. . . Gunther is Gunther, he is a spell-binder as always, but seemed very irritated at things at this particular performance which was the opening nite, Tuesday, Ja. 4th. Fun too, on this show to see members of the younger generation in the rings, like Gunther's son Mark Oliver and daughter Tina, and also Michelle Antalek along with the young Bauers. The announcer, who was very handsome, seemed ill at ease (and no I do not know his name as the new programs are not printed); Liked the absolutely smashing costumes, the girl singer, very nice and the cute Pink Panther theme, most appealing. However, we left the arena with our heads "ringing" because the music was too loud and too awful! We also missed all the girls in the air, but we did enjoy the pretty and talented black aerialists very much.

This show (both units) always gets ample press and television coverage (as it should) and one of the nicest stories was about the show kids and their tutor in the "Floridian" section of the St. Petersburg Times.

SAD NEWS was sent to us from Sarasota

by Theol (Nelson) Marlowe about the Jan. 13th death of former flying trapeze star Eileen Voise, in a nursing home, she had suffered with Alzheimer's disease. Survivors are husband Harold, daughter Arden (Lar-ey) Kreisch; grand-daughter Nobey Arden Kreisch; son-in-law Norbert Kreisch, all of Sarasota and a brother, Jimmy Sullivan, Mass., sister Edna Kingley, Holyoke, Mass. and Rose (Porter-Behee) Murphy, of New York City.

Well you never know where CFA members: Fred and Mary Griffin will be next, just got a card from them from Valencia, Venezuela, S.A.

THE CORONAS Family of Hollywood, Fla., produced the first Sahib Shrine Circus at Robert's Arena, Sarasota, on Jan. 7-9. We do not often go to the first circus sponsored by a brand new temple! Here again as at the Showfolk's Circus there were many acts and fans among the audience, Sarasota truly is a Circus-oriented community even tho the big show now winters in Venice, one will always find reminders of it everywhere, more so now that a historic plaque has been erected at the entrance to the old winterquarters (now expensive housing) as told to us by Showfolks President Johnny Herriott.

Col. Lucky Larabee was the ringmaster/ performance director, David Pryun had the band and the show started with an overture and the introduction of Sahib Temple Oivan members.

The following acts appeared, although not in the order listed, after an opening parade.

The Paublos, cradle duo; The Venturas, cradle duo; The Aerial Perch Duo; The Rodriguez, cradle duo; Maya, single trapeze; Princess Morningstar, upside down walk and trapeze; Alan Gold, lions and tigers; George Coronas, Gyro-Wheel; Bertini, unicycle troupe; Dialka Sisters, rolling globes; Zamperla, bikes; Shrine Clowns; Yorkie dogs; Janie's Dobermans; Cathy's canines; Les Blocks, high wire (scheduled but due to an injury were replaced by two young men (?) who do an act similar to the Albullets; La Monica, tightwire; Del Morales Duo, perch pole; Valla, low wire; George's White ponies; Gina's Royal Palace Leopards (uncaged); Diane's Animal Revue; Flying Lar-rays, flying trapeze; Shrine Clowns; Miss

(Continued on Page 21)

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## A Giant

**PATRICK O'BRIEN** - Of the individual instances of Great Stature, Patrick O'Brien, born in the county of Kinsale, Ireland, in 1761, affords a memorable instance. He was put to the trade of a bricklayer, but such was his height at 18, that he was taken to England, and shown as the Irish giant. At 25 he attained a height of 8 ft. 7 in., and, though not well made, his bulk was proportioned to his height.

He continued to exhibit himself for several years, when, having realized an independ

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ence, he retired to the vicinity of Epping Forest, where he died in 1806. He was peculiarly mild and gentle in character and manners. His body was encased in a leaden coffin, 9 ft. 2 in. long, and to prevent any attempt to disturb his remains, his grave, by his own direction, was sunk 12 ft. into solid rock.



# Aut Mori Grotto Circus - 1983



Harry Thomas



Los Robertos Duo



Elaine Wells



Manuel Gonsalves



Zerbini Family Riding Act



Yasmine Rodriguez  
and Pablo

Photos by:  
The Vindicator  
Edward A. Shuba

## End of the Rhino?

For some 60 million years the rhinoceros has lived peacefully on earth, eating grass or leaves and doing little harm to anyone.

But now this majestic animal is almost certainly threatened with extinction in the very near future.

In Kenya, for example, if the pessimists prove correct, it may be just five more years before the last rhino falls victim to human greed and stupidity. In just 10 years, from 1970 to 1980, 19,000 East African rhinos, 95% of the total population, were killed.

And nobody knows whether the 1,000 rhinos that official estimates say still exists are really there. World-wide, some 20,000 rhinos are believed to survive still, 80% of them in Africa and the remainder in Asia. Throughout the globe, only one of every 10 rhinos alive in 1970 was still around in 1980.

The beasts, which are remarkably light-footed and adroit for their size - they weigh up to five tons - are hunted for their horns, for which dealers in the Near and Far East pay as much as \$2,300 per pound.

Sixty percent of the horns, which really are tightly packed hairs, go to the Far East, especially China, where, despite the widely prevailing view, they are not used as aphrodisiacs.

Nairobi geographer Dr. Esmond Bradley Martin, author of the standard work "Run, Rhino, Run," says the horns are used by traditionalist Chinese healers to help lower fever. Only a few people in India really use it - crushed and turned into a paste - as a sexual stimulant, he says, a function which it does not, in fact, perform.

The other 40% of the horns are used by the proud desert dwellers of North and South Yemen. Their status symbol is a dagger, whose hilt was once made from ordinary cow bones. But now, as a result of Saudi Arabia's oil riches, the most desired hilt is a rhino's horn.

Efforts to do away with the Asian legends about the horn's healing powers or to convince the people of Yemen that a gold or silver-hilted dagger should have a greater prestige have failed to slow the booming market.

One expert on the subject, Faith Halter, an American working for the U. N. Environ-

ment Program, doubts that the demand for the horns can be eliminated before the last rhinos are killed by poachers.

In Kenya, in 1977, a ban on hunting and trophy trading was instigated. It has not been very successful. This is especially true, according to the East African Wildlife Society, for the rhino, whose trophies can be transported much more easily than large elephant tusks.

The most practical conservation measure appears to be the resettlement of the huge beasts from dangerous areas to national parks or onto large private ranches where they can be better protected. But this is an expensive and risky venture. The sensitive rhino can easily die of shock if released into a new and strange environment.

Unfortunately, no country, and certainly not the poor East African states, can afford to station a guard next to each animal, as Kenya has done for six of the extremely rare white rhinos in the Meru national park.

In neighboring Tanzania the extinction of the rhino is imminent. In 1982, after several poorly paid game-keepers had done some poaching of their own, only 15 rhinos were counted, and conservationists now fear that some of these have probably been killed in the meantime.

## YEARS AGO

March 9, 1958 - Rome, Italy - Two Circus seals found a home today in the Trevi Fountain.

Attempts to get them out baffled police for more than an hour, while traffic piled up in one of Rome's busiest squares.

The seals from the Togni Circus were dumped in the splashing fountain by their French trainer, who wanted a "vivid momento" of their tour in Rome.

Police were aware of the tradition that whoever throws a coin in Trevi Fountain will return to Rome someday. But seals were something else again.

They demanded that the trainer remove the seals. Alas, he spoke only French.

The seals barked happily at the cascading water. They flipped in and around the tumbling streams of the fountain.

## He's working on dream

Jack Fletcher's dream is to make Nebraska "the cowboy-Indian capital of the world." He says that no other state had more history involving cowboys, Indians and settling the west. He cites the Oregon Trail, the Pony Express, the Mormon Trail, Union Pacific Railroad, Indian-military battles and scores of other events involving ranchers, native Americans, adventurers and explorers.

Fletcher envisions annual celebrations in Omaha, where Buffalo Bill Cody put on the first of his wild west shows which went all over the world, and near North Platte, where a statue of a Sioux Indian rises over the Oregon Trail route.

Fletcher, a former Nebraskan and now a resident of Upland, Calif., has two projects underway.

He plans to unveil in Omaha on May 19th a bronze marker which says: "In commemoration of the first public presentation of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, May 19, 1883 at 2 p.m. dedicated to William F. Cody, one of Nebraska's most illustrious citizens, presented by the Fletcher family."

No specific location has been chosen for the plaque, but Fletcher hopes it can be set up on city property, perhaps in a park near the wild west site, or in Central Park Mall, with a reference to the actual location.

Once Omahans realize Omaha's part in launching this worldwide attraction, they will become enthusiastic about holding an annual Buffalo Bill celebration, Fletcher says.

He envisions annual events ranging from a

mini-wild west show to a theatre in the round historical pageant about Buffalo Bill.

Fletcher also hopes to rekindle interest in restoring the Sioux Lookout Statue, just 12 miles southeast of North Platte. It was dedicated in 1931 and has been vandalized several times and repaired, but it needs work once again. In 1980, Fletcher and others sold plaster casts of the statue to raise money to repair it.

He calls the statue "the unknown Indian" and envisions an annual event in North Platte commemorating Indian heritage. He favors holding the event on May 30th each year the day the statue was dedicated. However, a State Legislative Bill would establish Unknown American Indian Day as the fourth Monday of each September.

## Show acts

Some of the acts appearing in the Tangier Shrine Circus (April 20-24) at Omaha, Nebr. include:

Bill and Barbara Woodcock's elephant act; The Maradens, high wire act; The Les Christens, trapeze duo; The Widgets, furry "animals" who perform comic acrobatics; The Cook's Comedy Car; Trudy's Dalmations; Marcan's lions and tigers; the Castle Bears, and many others.

## Roberts Bros.

BY JIM PARKER

Saturday, April 9th, in Riverview, Fla., found Roberts Bros. Circus giving two performances, 3 and 8 p.m. to good crowds despite the steady rain and muddy lot. This is a clean, well rounded family show under canvas and is presented in three rings, with many two ring displays. Bob and Doris Earl head up the operation, with Bobby and Teresa Earl in the concession wagon, and Jeff Earl as boss canvasman as well as performer. It is a friendly and happy show despite the rainy pre-season tour.

George Rowe was ringmaster with Fiorinne Oler and Mario Ferreira handling the music department, organ and drums respectively. Both of them can really cut the circus music and are an asset to any show. Ian Craik was animal asupt., and Bob Stephens was side-wall supt., with Doris Earl in the Ticket box. Of particular note was sixty-two banners hanging in the big top which really made it look like old-time circus - shades of Dick Lunsford no doubt.

Clown Jimmie Stutz did come-in followed by the overture. Jeff Earl opened the show with the color book/program pitch. Ring 1 had Yvonne Stephens and her dogs, and in Ring 3 Jeff Earl had his canines. Isabelle Ferreira in center ring with her hand balancing, followed by clown Jimmy Stutz juggling. Center ring had LeaAnne Stephens on the roman rings and upside down loop walk (single web substituted for the evening show) Ring 1 had Frosty the Wonder Pony with Yvonne Stephens and Ring 3 had Ian Craig and his liberty ponies. Clown Jimmy returned, still juggling! Pretty LeaAnne Stephens returned with single trapeze in the center ring and closed the first half of the show.

Isabelle (Ferreira) on the swinging ladder opened the second half, followed by Ian Craig with performing pgymy goats, pony and poodle, with Shane Earl making his debut assisting Ian (Shane is the grandson of Bob and Doris Earl). Moses Ferreira worked his comedy balancing act, followed by the show's single elephant, worked and presented by Jeff Earl. Ring 1 had Ian Craig juggling and Ring 3 had Mario Ferreira juggling, both two very nice displays. Believe it or not, clown Jimmy Stutz returned and still juggling, this time cigar boxes. And

the final act which sent everyone home happy was the unique and dynamic Tino Ferreira with his rola bola presentation. Tino has a novel space man entrance, followed by a fast paced, totally different rola bola act. His magnetic personality puts him in the same class as Rudolph Delmonte (contortionist) and Wally Eastwood ( juggler) for the up and coming "now" generation of outstanding performers.

Show moves on the following equipment: Pole and Seat Semi (carries fork lift), Generator/Elephant/Sleeper Semi, Cookhouse truck pulling concession trailer, Canvas truck and Stake Driver, pulling midway game trailer, new Animal/Donniker/Sleeper trailer pulled by pickup and the Elephant Skinned Dog Pitch Show trailer pulled by another pickup. All show equipment looked good and a new marquee has been added.

Visitors on the lot included Billy Rodgers, Ken Berwin, Bernie Brewster, Bonnie Bonta and grand-daughter, Helen Seacrest, Eric Adams, Sr., Johnny Meha, and the entire Ramos family (Oscarian Bros. Circus).

This was the first time I have ever heard Florinne Oler play and she is undoubtedly one of the finest show organist in the business. Her playing, coupled with Mario Ferreira on the drums gave Roberts Bros. Circus the best music they have had in a long time, and both were liberal with the old time circus tunes. Mario plays the drums as well as he juggles, which makes him terrific in both departments.

Ian Craig is eventually working three Sicilian donkeys into the pgymy goat act to replace the pony and poodle which will certainly add novelty to the farm yard presentation, which is a big hit with the kids.

Soon Roberts Bros. Circus will be heading out of Florida and up the east coast, so try and catch them if you can - it's all circus!

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### FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

Becky, sword balancing; Alain, sword balancing; Miss Maria, sword balancing; Hair Hang by 3 gals over 3 rings; High Flying Elephants; Caren French with the Cristiani elephants; George Hanneford's elephants; Circus Flags exit.

The lovely program cover was done by Harvey Krueger, a real keeper.

## Hanneford in Fla.

by Circus Joe Valenciano

The Royal Hanneford Circus, produced by Tommy Hanneford, played the Tampa, Fla. area for the 18th annual Egypt Temple Shrine Circus. The show was held at the Bay front Center in St. Petersburg, April 14-15 and at Curtis-Hixon Hall in Tampa, April 16-17.

It was a nice warm circus kind of day. The sky was overcast but the sun managed to come through. We attended the first performance of this date at St. Pete's Bayfront. By the time we got there the sun was set. It was a 7:30 show. I checked out the backyard before entering the building. There were three big show owned semis with one camper, all matched in brown and white. One was the bull truck, the other was the horse semi and another was the prop truck. A 5th wheeler was there with cages and a lot of performer's trailers.

They had a good three piece band, trumpet, organ and drums. The ringmaster was Senor Rai. Musical director was Kay Parker.

The performance included: Jorge Barreda, lion act (6); The Adams Duo and The Roberts Duo, hanging perch; Clowns; A three ring display with dogs, chimps and an uncaged leopard; Warren, balancing; The Franciscos, teeterboard and Sladdick, juggling; Miss Belinda, trapeze with four girls on web; The Hanneford-Karoly Riding Act featuring Nellie Hanneford and Mark Maroly; Gaylord Hanneford and Chief Bearpaw, comedy horse act; The Garzas, living statues (the audience went wild over this act. It is a very beautiful act of human strength).

Next came the "Aladdin and His Wonder-

ful Lamp" production number, which included the spec. This was followed by the intermission.

The second half opened with the Flying Gaonas; Clowns; Volcan, fire eater and fire juggler; The Hanneford Elephants (3), presented by Mark Karoly; A flag finale with the entire cast.

OOPS! I forgot to list the very fine high wire act of the Abulet Bros., just before the finale.

The show ran 2½ hrs. with a 15 min. intermission. (Elephant rides were available during intermission time).

The three sets of ring curbs were blue and white with blue carpeting all around the track. The performance that this writer attended was almost a full house.

## I Remember

from BILL WOTSCH

In reading about Betty Broadbent, the famous tattooed lady's death, it reminded me of the time I saw her with Ringling-Barnum at Cleveland in 1927. This was her first year on the circus and I remember the midway well. It was a thrill for us to see the strange people of the side show.

It was the year that I was a newsboy down on the Lake Front. Even had a cup of coffee and some apple pie in the cookhouse.

## R/B folks say no

(FROM THE DAILY VARIETY - DATED APRIL 11, 1983).

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus employees have decertified the American Guild of Variety Artists as the labor union representing them. The election was held under the auspices of the National Labor Relations Board.

Only 19 of the 237 votes cast favored the AGVA. There were 20 ballots that were challenged and one was declared void. However, the NLRB ruled that there were an insufficient number of challenged votes to upset the election results.

AGVA, however, has instituted an unfair labor action against operators Irvin and Kenneth Feld and Ringling, maintaining that one of the union reps was not permitted on the circus grounds prior to the election.

Rep was a former chorus girl in the Ringling show who was said to have quit because she said she wanted to go back to school. Instead, it was alleged that she returned shortly afterward and wanted to rejoin the show,

but the request was denied and she was not permitted on the grounds.

The vote by the Ringling employees, so far as is known, does not affect the union representation of the Walt Disney "Odyssey on Ice," which is also operated by Irvin and Kenneth Feld. It's not yet known whether a similar decertification election will be instituted by performers in the Disney icer.

The Ringling election represents a serious blow to AGVA, with the loss of so many dues paying members. Because of previous NLRB and other decisions, AGVA's membership has been decimated. Many of AGVA undisputed members are allied with shows in which they take direction and chorus members.

One of the reasons for the overwhelming vote against AGVA is laid to the recent dues hike which tripled the amounts paid by performers in the lowest brackets.

Considerable resentment has been reported among all classes of AGVA members as a result. Some have even protested to the U. S. Dept. of Labor about the referendum which brought the hike.

It has been claimed that there was no vote on whether the dues should be raised, but only on the question of whether dues installments should be paid three times yearly or quarterly.

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## At Baraboo

Acts set to appear in the circus program at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc., whose summer season gets underway on the 7th of May, will include:

Trudy Strong, dalmations and horses; the Buckles Woodcock family, elephants; the Flores Troupe, cloud swing, balancing perch pole, Spanish web, head balancing trapeze; Jimmy Williams (Happy the Clown), plus Rick Percy, musical director.

## Subscriptions Due

A number of people whose CR subscription expired at the end of April have not renewed the subscription. We hope that you will continue to support the paper as we move ahead.

If you have not yet renewed your CR subscription please do it this week.

## Tragedy in Australia

by GEOFF GREAVES

In a horror road smash in north-western New South Wales, Australia, on March 19, a clown and two elephants belonging to Sole Bros. Circus were killed. The circus was moving from New South Wales into Queensland when the panotrope truck carrying the show music equipment, lighting and props and towing the recently finished men's bunkhouse, had broken down just south of the border.

The semi trailer, carrying the show's three elephants had stopped, along with the vehicle being driven by circus owner, Joe Perry. The three circus employees, including 24 yr. old clown Doug Buchal, told Perry they would hitch the elephant semi on to the truck and 'kick start it.' They told Perry to continue on to Goondiwindi, because they would soon follow.

A speeding semi trailer approached the two circus vehicles from the rear, and apparently ran over the top of the men's sleeper, demolishing it; crushed the panotrope truck and slammed into the rear of the elephant semi, splintering the steel decking and then demolishing the tractor on this trailer.

Buchal was killed instantly and the two other roustabouts were badly injured, one with broken shoulders and head injuries, and the other with a fractured leg.

Two of the elephants were killed - Tara died instantly. Dolly staggered off the trailer, collapsed and died, while Minyak bolted.

A motorist caught up with Perry and jokingly said that all his elephants were dead, but Perry, used to wise-cracks, continued on, only to be called back by police to the tragic scene.

Buchal had been with the circus all his life. His mother Gloria Ashton, was a member of the Seven Flying Ashton Troupe which went to London after the last war, where she married German acrobat Joe Buchal, and returned to Australia. Joe taught his son to clown and in his youthful years joined Sole Bros. as head clown and drummer. He was loved and respected by all Australian circus fans. I was only talking with him in Sydney last Christmas.

The elephants will be ir-replaceable because of Australia's agreement on endangered species. Tara made the headlines some 18 months ago when she fell off a truck in Sydney's peak-hour traffic. Dolly was one of the most loveable elephants on Australian circuses. Both were under 30 yrs. old and great performers. Minyak, the survivor, was part of the act but did not do any tricks. It will take a time to settle her down and she becomes upset when a truck's motor is started.

Despite the tragic blow, Sole Bros. Circus will continue on in true show business style. They are playing the Queensland capital of Brisbane, while a new men's sleeper is made, and damaged equipment replaced.

## PEOPLE

LARRY RICH, clown/MC, played a return engagement at the Winter Haven, Fla., Citrus Festival, Feb. 10-20. In addition to his 'Kidfest' audience participation show, Rich strolled the midway and MC'd the feature entertainment shows for Country Stars Reba McIntire, Jerry Reed, Sunshine Express, Rohnie Prophet, etc. The booking was handled by Oler Productions, Sarasota, Fla.

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## Grotto Circus

by DON SANDMAN

Khana Shahar Grotto Circus in Springfield, Ohio, held their annual circus in Memorial Hall, April 9-10. The circus was produced by George Hubler's International Circus.

Staff for the show was: George Hubler, producer; Harry Mills, concessions; Bill Slater, prop supt.; Jake Conover, lighting; Carla and Amey O'Toole, gaffers and outdoor P.R.; Freddie Large, producing clown and Jesse Griffiths, musical director.

The show began with the blowing of the whistle by Ringmistress Nancy Davies and the Parade of cartoon characters, Snoopy, Donald, etc., plus the beauty of the ladies of the company.

Then in the big cage the Lovely Lilli-Ana put her sleek and beautiful African leopards through their paces (8 cats).

As they are tearing down the cage, Mr. Winkie Blinkie takes over to get all of the kids to tell what time it is.

On the stage the lovely Miss Carol, Queen of the Trapeze dazzles the audience.

Clown Alley literally explodes as Freddie & Co. shoot a chicken out of a cannon.

Again on stage, the gorgeous Miss Diana features her fantastic foot juggling dexterity.

Back again in the circus ring, Sharon Vidbel and Friends present the chattering, chattering Chimpanzees.

On the stage it is the funny acrobatics of the Warm and Fuzzy Widgets.

Freddie & Co. now present their version of the Hair Restorer or Grower.

Ending the first half of the show, the whirling wizards of the circus world, The Rolling Diamonds twist and fly in a fast act.

Intermission time brought on the sale of coloring books, and elephant rides. Would you believe eleven at one time on the elephant?

Following intermission it is Half Wolf-Half Dogs, the famous Alaskan huskies of the Vidbels, all arriving by dog sled.

Freddie & Co. now present the teeterboard act to end all teeterboard acts.

The wild and noisy titans of the trampoline brought us the wonderous Wainwrights, with flips and twists.

Closing the performance were the ponderous pachyderms of Bill and Cindy Morris.

Seen around Memorial Hall were Al Conover, Jim Harris, Roger Harris, Ed Knoeble, Charles DeWein and your reporter Don Sandman.

A free four page program with a picture of Lilli-Ana's leopards on the cover was distributed by the Grotto.

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BILL GREENMAN, founder of "Circus Alleluia" was featured in a special two page photo story report in the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune on April 9th.

## In Memoriam

CHARLES A. SEELEY (81), of Syracuse, Ny, died April 10th. Private services were held on April 12th.

Mr. Seeley was a life long resident of Syracuse and was always a friend of the circus since his youth. In recent decades, Mr. Seeley could always be found helping the circus when it came to town with whatever was needed. He made many friends with many circuses and he will be missed by them on the lots.

Mr. Seeley retired as a planner for Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. He was also an army veteran of World War II. Surviving is his sister, Mrs. Henry H. (Vera) Gravely.

This writer wished to acknowledge that I had the good fortune to personally know Mr. Seeley quite well. As a young circus fan,

he shared with me many of his experiences in his over 60 years of circus chasing. He had seen them all, big and small, from dog & pony shows to "The Big One." He introduced my dad and me to the fine art of being a circus fan.

We will miss the many fun days we spent with "Charley" on the many grassy lots and muddy lots and through Charley we learned the true meaning of being a friend of the circus.

..... Donald R. Kowell -

## PEOPLE

RUTH MIX, western star, was featured in the 1935 movie "The Tonto Kid" which was aired on West Coast TV on April 16th.

## Tour underway

The World of Fantasy Players have just opened their 17th annual season. This year the 36 week tour of one nighters will include both Canada and the U.S. Each year the cast presents a *different childhood classic* with the aid of magical illusions and this year, producer Philip Morris has chosen "Pinocchio" with a cast consisting of: Susan Jackson, Billy English, David Tilson, Linda Smith, John English, Bobbie Adams, Karen Goodheil, Joe Blume and Lee Jackson, road manager. The tour is still under the exclusive

management of Greater American Entertainment Corp., Sarasota, Fla., William J. English, president.

## PEOPLE

VIC GARRETT, of Kerrville, Texas, will hold an Exotic Animal Auction at Kerrville on May 21st. Auctioneers will include Dave Hale and Bob Hale. For additional information contact Vic at: (512) 896-0675.

## Club Circus Date

by JAMES CONLEY

The Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club is a rather informal group of circus people, both professional and fans, who meet every Monday noon at Philippe's Restaurant in Los Angeles. Their official business is the presenting of an annual circus for crippled and hospitalized children. The acts, equipment, etc. are donated by the members. This year, the circus was a side-wall show presented at Rancho Los Amigos in Downey, Calif., on March 8th.

Starting at 8 a.m. the members began setting up the two ring circus on the hospital grounds. Everyone from circus star to circus fan pitched in to get the show rolling. Chester Cable, Ed Russell and Smokey Jones were seen driving stakes in rotation, just like the old days. By noon, the striped, plastic back-ground, Cable-McKay's two inflatable ring curbs, Twomey's seats, concession tents and everything else was ready for the matinee.

The cookhouse, organized by Rainbow Webb, served lunch of fried chicken, rolls



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from Don Como, cakes from Pat Craig and elephant-shaped cakes made by Georgia McKay.

The young hospital patients were wheeled into place and the show started at 1 p.m. Clowns Bruce "Charlie" Johnson and Tim Tegge did the warm-up. Paul Eagles President, Hunt Bushnell, was introduced by the hospital management. After greeting the children he turned the show over to ringmaster Ed Russell who promptly opened the circus with Moore's Mongrel Revue, Bobby Moore, assisted by Winne McKay, in his fast moving dog act.

Twinkles the clown was next, followed by Heidi Wendany's juggling of clubs, balls and fire. Heidi continues to polish this routine and was very well received by the kids. Bill Patterson, as Mario the Magician, did a stock escape, a box escape and finished with the straight jacket.

Chester Cable was on next with his Guinness Book of Records foot juggling act with a 130 lb. table. He also juggled a long cylinder and a large wagon wheel. Kim Lindeman then did a demonstration of movie work with dogs and house cats. Kenny the Tramp and Starlette did a clown bit with a newspaper and chair.

Cathy McCoroan presented Tina, a very small miniature horse. Phillippe (Phil Shear) and Cindy clowned with an unusual number in which they each tried to outdo the other in growing two huge flowers, climaxed with the long shirt gag.

Next was Clark McDermott and the Cold Nose Five, his well-known dog act. The Ferges Troupe followed with their fast moving trampoline act, featuring acrobatics while wearing regulation size skis. Heidi Wendany returned with her horse to do dressage which was appreciated by the audience.

The show concluded with the elephant act of Ralph Olsen, presenting the baby African 'Akeli' in her first public showing. Needless to say, the children were fascinated with the baby elephant.

Virginia Lee Fenton furnished the lovely organ music for the show. Danny and Pat Craig with Red Moyer donated helium-filled balloons for the young patients. Jim Withrow and Leonard (Dota the Clown) did walk around and afterwards went through the hospital wards, passing out plus animals to the young patients, presented by the club.

## Circus Visit

by JUDY TWENTER

Members of the Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros. Ring of Central Missouri, enjoyed a terrific circus in Kansas City, Mo., on March 12th. It was the Hamid-Morton Circus sponsored by the Police.

It was a great show with Earl Michaels the singing ringmaster who was in fine voice, and the band was one of the best I have heard in some time. As a warm-up Gene Randell did his act and really got the audience in the mood for the show.

The show began with a slide for life by E. T., then came one of my personal favorites the tigers with trainer Wade Burck. He has 6 white Siberian and 8 Bengal tigers. It was an excellent act and he has their attention throughout the act.

Next was the single trap act with Philicio and Olga, which was very colorful and well executed. Your attention was then drawn to the far end of the arena where there was a very large perch pole. After a very good act on top, the pole breaks away, for a very exciting end to a great act.

Next was the liberty pony act by Darrell Walleff, which was done very well, ending with a long mount. This was followed by two rings of juggling and followed by one of the best high wire acts I have ever seen, performed by Miss Goldie and King Arthur. The act was great and if it is possible, the monolog throughout was better. Also in the act, King Arthur rode the smallest bike,

which was 6"x9", across the wire, with Miss Goldie in a swing hanging below.

After this Oliver and the Gauchos did a nice act with bolos. The next offering was a magician act by The Darnell's & Co. The costumes were beautiful and they did a super act, with dogs and swords and things disappearing and reappearing before your eyes.

There were clowns galore. The last act before intermission was the Flying Vasquez Troupe, which was a real good flying act. They completed the very difficult triple somersault.

After intermission the Newmares act did a sword balancing number and the Patricks thrilled the crowd with a rola bola act. From Morocco the Tangier Troupe did a very good balancing act, followed by the aerial acts of the Eddy's and the Colombo's. Darrell Wallen took a turn around center ring on Mr. Rythm, the dancing horse. And last, but by no means least, the Hawthorn Elephants ended the show in fine fashion with a great act by a 4 yr. old African who rode a tricycle, he was superb. It is truly a great show and one worth seeing. Don't miss it.

DAVID WEDGE, Eagle of the High Wire, planned to establish a world's record for chair balancing on the high wire at Bartow, Fla., the weekend of April 30-May 2. For additional information phone Circus Clown Pa-co at: (813) 533-2997 or 533-2096.

THE SMAHAS and their Lipizzan Stallions work the opening at the Circus World Museum (May 7-8) after which they will join the M & M Circus tour.

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# Bruce Hearon

by JOHN GAIZICK

"Start spreading the news" is the beginning lyric of the Frank Sinatra hit "New York, New York," which can also serve a double purpose in the performance of "Jubilee On Ice" star Bruce Hearon. With the Sinatra hit playing in the background, Bruce mesmerizes the audience with his Olympic style and grace which prompts this writer to "start spreading the news" that Bruce is as fine a performer on ice as Randy Gardner, John Carlow or Scott Hamilton. Costumed in a simple black outfit, touched with gold and silver, along with a proper black top hat, it's no problem for the audience to realize he's "A number one, top of the heap." Making every move look so incredibly easy this polished skater is a perfect example of a show business performer at work.

Bruce is a native of California who now resides in Orangevale, Calif., started ice skating just for the joy of it at age 14. Professionals noticed his talents and they successfully convinced him into trying the competitive side of ice skating.

As a competitor, Bruce accumulated a wall full of gold medals and the reputation as an excellent skater. The highlights of his five year competitive career include gold medals at the Junior Olympics in San Diego during 1979; artistic achievement awards at Squaw Valley, Calif., in 1978 and 1979 and also high placement at the Pacific Coast championship during 1979. On the night of his 18th birthday, in 1980, Bruce won the prestigious

Camellia Cup in Sacramento. This award is presented for the best theatrical ice skating act. Bruce competed with over 400 skaters from all over California and neighboring states and won the gold medal by unanimous vote of the judges. The winning of the Camellia Cup changed Bruce's goals as an ice skater. The thrill of performing for an audience was so appealing that he made the decision to turn professional and seek a job with an ice show.

In the summer of 1980, Bruce joined the Continental company of The Ice Capades as an understudy to one of the principal stars. Learning the ropes enabled him to sign a contract with the 1981 Holiday On Ice production where he spent the next 12 months touring the populated cities of Europe as one of the shows principal performers. At this point, Bruce had attained one of his early goals of becoming a feature performer with an established ice show. He returned to the United States in June 1982 for a well earned rest when "Jubilee On Ice" asked him to skate with their show.

East coast audiences from Sarasota, Fla., to Montreal, Canada, have been entertained by Bruce's athletic and graceful skating style. His backflip performed on ice is his trademark and electrifies spectators of all ages. Bruce's love for ice skating is obvious in his performances and his desire for perfection leaves a deep impression on critics and audiences alike.