

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 44

November 2, 1981



ARTURO RAMOS

Hall & Christ

The line-up of talent with the Hall and Christ Showtime show at the Ohio State Fair, Aug. 14-30, included:

Johnny Rivers, diving mules; Bob Maxwell, All American Diving Team; Dancing Waters with Brian O'Toole at the console; Tom Johnson, animated Lord's Last Supper; April Fossett, high pole; Harry and Bea Fee's trained monkeys; Connie Dougherty, contortion; Dick Brisben, penguins; Doug MacValley's Globe of Death, with Orlando Diaz and Guillermo Wheel; Kelli Carlisle, knife throwing; William B. Cole, horizontal bars; Pete Terhurne, fire act; Carlos Campa Family (5), unicycle and comedy musical act; Johnny Meah, sword act; Tina Repal, fan dancer; Bernie Tommie, Louie Hill, Daniel Gopher, Seminole Indian Alligator wrestlers; Bob Fairchild, juggling; Ken Fess, milking rattlesnakes; Cindy Martin, Oriental dancer; Elizabeth and Sonya, juggling; Craig Armes, escapes; Roy (the Great) Huston and Susan, illusions, with Mary Payton, Mary Hanna and Sharri Johnson, illusion girls.

Chorus girl dancers: Michelle Malvern, Lisa Johnson, Lisa Barnes, Mary de Leon, Sissy Kane, Lola Monte, Jaine Showden, Kathryn Capps, Penny Dunn, Sally Brickle, Joni Syzoki, Angela Patterson.

Boy dancers: Christopher Enfante, Dennis O'Bryant, George Morris, Jack Regas, Tim Anderson and Bill Christy.

Showgirl models: Bertha Janas, Candy Smarka, Susan Constantine, Judy Woods, Beverly Negas and Jo Ann Constanza.

The musicians were: Local musicians under the baton of Al Roberts, with musical arrangements by Bob Amato and Chuck Schlarbaum.

Announcers: Joe Eddy, Jon Friday, Jack

Korie and Wayne Murray.

Stage Managers: Tim Brown and Harold Mudry.

Head Electrician: Herman Payton

Equipment Supt.: Jimmy Silverlake

Big Top Canvas boss: Jimmy Long

Side Show Canvas: Jim Hanna

Supt. of Suots.: Joe Frisco, Jr.

Head Usher: Richard Flint

Front Door Supt.: Leonard Farley

Concession Managers: Wileen Bacon and Mrs. Allman

Office Manager: Mavis Johnson, assisted by Debra Caps

Gilly Bus Driver: Bill Johnson

Press Agent: Herb Pickard

General Manager: C. M. Christ

Performance Director: Ward Hall

On the first night a mishap in the Globe of Death sent both riders to the hospital, but they were back performing the next day.

On the second to last day, Alligator wrestler Barney Tommy had an arm and a hand badly mangled and lost a finger to a gator. He is still recuperating and receiving therapy at Hollywood, Fla.

Circus Acts

Acts working at the 71st annual fair in South Boston, Va., Oct. 5-10, were:

MC/Organist, Jessie Griffith; Killer Willard, boxing Kangaroo; The Francarros, foot juggling; Irene and Tongo, gorilla; Frank and Estreleta, aerial perch and Christine's Chimpanzees.

SHOW DATES**Brickle's Wonderland Cir.**

Nov 2 Cottageville, SC
 3 Hampton
 4 Wagener
 5 St. Mathews
 6 Manning

Carson & Barnes Circus

Nov 2 Port Gibson, Miss
 3 Winnfield, La.
 4 Many
 5 Leesville
 6 Jasper, Texas
 7 Dayton

Castle Int'l Circus

Nov 6-8 Chattanooga, Tenn

Coronas Thrill Circus

Nov 4-8 Kansas City, Mo

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Nov 2 Crystal River, Fla
 3 Tarpon Springs
 4 Wauchula
 5 Fort Myers
 6 Naples
 7-8 Deerfield Beach

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

to Nov 8 Cleveland, Ohio

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Nov 3-15 Chicago, Ill

Royal Lichtenstein Cir.

Nov 2 Clinton, Miss.
 3-4 Jackson
 5 Atlanta, Ga.
 6 Jacksonville, Fla.
 7-9 Winter Park

Texas Shrine Circus

Nov 5-15 Ft. Worth, Tex

--- MAGIC ---

Ken Griffin & Roberta
 Oct 21 Salyersville, Ky

Krystali

Nov 3-4 Costa Mesa, Ca
 - End of Tour -

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Nov 5 Rola, Mo.
 7 Malden

Nordlaw

Nov 4 Elaine, Mich.
 5 Ubey
 6 Mikado
 7 Ovid

Tom Ogden

Nov 3 Davenport, Iowa
 4 Omaha, Nebr.
 5-8 Lincoln

Starfire

Nov 2-5 Omaha, Nebr.
 6-7 Council Bluffs,
 Iowa

PEOPLE

Alicia Farfan, a former circus flyer now living in Las Vegas, visited her daughter who is presently performing in the Flying Farfan act on Ringling Red when that show played Salt Lake City.

Miguel Ayala, tightwire star on Ringling Red recently purchased the tightwire teeterboard equipment from the retired Feller Bros. Miguel is practicing his two daughters on the wire/teeterboard unit. Miguel's wife, Marguerite Michelle does the hair hang feature on the circus.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney World on Ice
 Nov 3-8 Indianapolis, Ind

Globetrotters

Nov 1-2 Mexico City, Mx
 3-4 Torreon
 5-6 Chihuahua
 7-8 Monterey

Holiday on Ice/Ice Follies

Nov 3-8 Atlanta, Ga.

Royal Scots Dragoons

Nov 3 Oakland, Calif.
 5 Portland, Ore.
 6 Victoria, BC
 7 Vancouver
 8 Seattle, Wash.

FLASH . . .

An Asiatic male elephant was born at Bucky Steele's facilities in Texas, at 5:55 a.m. on Oct. 22nd.

The new arrival has been named "Showney" and is 168 lbs and 34 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. high. His parents are Wimpey and Buke.

The Big Apple Circus will open its 5th season in New York City on Dec. 4th. The show will have a 1,600 seat tent which will be fully heated and set up in Damosch Park in Lincoln Center.

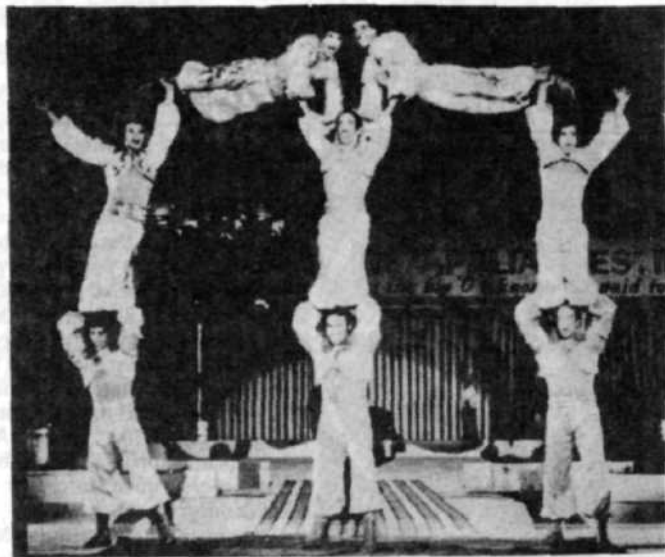
Among the acts scheduled to appear in the show are: The Flying Gaonas; Philippe Petit, high wire walker, The Back Street Flyers, acrobats, The Bertinis, unicyclists, Michael Christensen and Paul Binder, jugglers.

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From Florida

from MARJORIE HACKETT

Since moving to Florida from Minnesota in 1977, David and I have enjoyed the October Shrine Circus, produced by Bill Kay for Morroco Shrine at Jacksonville, Fla. The dates this year were Saturday, Oct. 10 and Sunday, Oct. 11th, with three shows on Saturday and two on Sunday.

We made a long weekend of it, driving up on Thursday and leaving for home Sunday a.m., with a stop at Lakeland to visit with Milonga Cline who was surrounded by text books as she pursues her college degree. She teaches school all week and studies all week-end but maybe we can persuade her to take a break soon and join us in one of our jaunts.



The Great Orlando balances his partner Celing as she performs on the gyro circle for the Wm. Kay produced Morroco Temple Shrine Circus at Jacksonville, Fla. (Photo is from the Florida Times Union, Oct. 11).

Morroco was enjoying its 21st circus and Bill Kay has produced the show for 18 of those 21 years and is, himself, a member of Morroco Temple. The performance this year was as usual, excellent. I have said it before but will mention it again, I think that Bill and Pat Kay do more to "showcase" young talent than any other producers. Their close

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affiliation with Showfolks of Sarasota helps as they are in a spot to know which kids are working on new acts, etc. We watched many third and fourth generation members of circus families at this recent show, what a thrill it is to watch them as they grow into graceful and skilled performers.

Morroco is also justly proud this year to be the Home Temple of the very 1st Imperial Potentate to ever be elected to head the Shrine from the State of Florida. Randolph R. Thomas is a self-made business man whose biography reads like "Horatio Alger" as he was one of a family of 12 brothers and sisters that grew up in Macclenny in rural Baker County.

The program began with the National Anthem (band directed by Leo Maschitto); Introduction by Bill Kay (always dignified, impressive and a fine voice); Overture by the Circus Band; Andre Serengethi lions (young act, handsome blonde trainer); Miss Michele in a lovely single trapeze turn (a member of the Albani family); Orlando & Celing, forehead balancing perch was the most unusual act that has appeared in a long while as he balances a huge, chromed ring on his forehead while she rides a tiny chromed bike inside the ring. Also balances another ring on which she does aerial work, hanstands, etc).

Morroco Funsters, no pro clowns, only these unit members, but they do good gags; Erik and Bobbie, clever poodles, Erik Adams and wife, a beautiful brunette gal; Jup-

(Continued on Page 27)

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Dr. Pepper Circus

by BOB STODDARD

Steve Baker (Checkers) and I visited the Gil Gray produced Dr. Pepper Circus at the State Fair of Texas on Sunday afternoon, and evening, Oct. 11th. We caught both the 5 and 8 p.m. shows.

As usual Gil Gray has come up with a very good show, mixing the perennial favorites with some new faces in a fast moving, one hour entertainer, well paced by Cleo Plunkett.

The show opens with a bang as The Great Uberto (herbie Weber) ends his backwards slide-for-life, as he reaches the bottom of his inclined wire (actually, the show starts when he walks up this same wire to the top of the tent).

The show moves quickly into a display of white ponies with Rosa Gibbs, Trudy Luvas, dogs and six mules with Bobby Gibbs; Herbie Weber and Marcella as Los Latinos are always great on the tightwire!

In rings one and three: Eight year old Tavjanna Luvas in her cradle act (much expanded since last year) with father Pete in the cradle and mother Isabelle on the ground. Sister Tavanna in ring three does

Pete and Petrova's old act, but husband Joe Lopez is playing Pete's part.

After the clowns there is a three ring display with Rosa Gibbs and llamas, My-Imba's Baboons, Bobby Gibbs with camels.

Clown Johnny Peers and wife Jacqueline in the center ring assisted by Don Basham, James "Jim-Bow" Decker and Poppy Benner.

Then in ring one Ramone Espana, rola bola, while part of the Pablo Martinez family (I missed their names) worked the rolling globes.

Cleo said that these were the only female duo working the high wire: from Bogata, Columbia, the Mary Dunn Duo, doing a fine job of it.

In ring one, Grinn & Barrett (Vicky Hendricks and Gary Baker) performed their casting act, while Mr. Freddy & Co., (Ramone Espana) did a comedy act in ring 3, and this was followed by two rings of clowns.

A three ring perch display: Del Morale in ring one, The Pablo Martinez Family in the center ring and Vickie Hendricks and Gary Baker in ring 3.

Bobby and Rosa Gibbs worked their In-

(Continued on Page 25)

From Denmark

by JACK NIBLETT

Just finishing a successful tenting season, the Cirkus Max Schumann, will by now be safely back in winter quarters in Trustrop, Denmark.

During the late summer, I spent a few weeks traveling with this show, as a guest of Tony Carroll, English, but billed as "Ivan Karl, the World's Smallest Strong Man" and I was able to observe the smooth way in which this circus functioned despite its largely one day stands and journeys which sometimes included ferryboat or steamer trips.

The famous Schumann Circus ceased operations in 1969. Only Katya, daughter of Max Schumann with her high school riding act kept the name alive and in 1977, her family revived the title, now the "Cirkus Max Schumann", a smaller, more compact and mobile show, but still a circus of style and quality.

Danish laws do not permit caged wild animals to be worked in circuses, but Schumann's in addition to their own horse acts, featured some first class performing domestic animals which included several breeds of horned cattle, Bactrian camels, zebras, zebroids, llamas, donkeys, Hungarian pigs and even an Indian antelope, a nylghai.

Program opened with an overture by the splendid Polish Circus Band of nine musicians. Then followed Max and Katya Schumann in a Russian-styled high school performance.

3 - "The Loonies" a comedy acrobatic act and 4 were the donkeys of Uwe Schwichtenberger, a trainer responsible for all the exotic animal acts from Eastern Germany.

5 "The Nightingale's Courtship" with the clowns Bocky and Randel in a classic European entree; 6 was the Hungarian long-snouted pugs, very pleasing performers; 7 "Les Kansas" the French Family Santus in a fast juggling routine. The "Pause" came with No. 8 when the audience was invited to take a look at the animals in the stables outside, free of charge.

The second half opened with the Santus Julien Family, now in full force with their bicycle act. 10 - Ivan Karl, small in stature but mighty in strength, casually lifting "Great Danes" above his head; 11 - Schu-

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mannship 1981, Katya demonstrating the special way the Schumann's have always had with horses; 12 - Bocky, Randel & Co. typical European clown number involving slap-stick and music. A very popular act.

13 - an astonishing group of mixed animals, presented by Herr Schwichtenberger, an incredible carousel of galloping horns and hoofs; 14 - brought the Finale with all the Company parading in Roman Costume and with the Schumann family thanking the audience and bidding them farewell in a shower of "golden rain" fireworks.

This program went down very well with the Danish customers, and there seemed to be a genuine rapport between artists and audience.

While in Copenhagen, I paid a visit to the

(Continued on Page 23)

Birthday party for 93-year-old performer

(by Betty Kubik - from the Oct. 12, 1981 issue of the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News).

Wilmington, Ohio - The Queen mother of the small-town circus got a royal birthday party this weekend.

Thirty members of her "circus family" - The Royal Hanneford Circus - helped ringmistress Katherine Hanneford celebrate her 93rd birthday Saturday evening in this Southwestern Ohio City.

The circus arrived early to prepare for its performances this afternoon and evening at the Clinton County Fairgrounds. It is the troupe's third annual visit, sponsored

Circus Acts

The acts appearing in the program of the Carden International Circus at Victoria, Texas, Oct. 7-8 were:

Zerbini and Hanzini and Sissy Connor, sword display; Joe Via, cats; Gloria, trapeze; Zerbini table act; David Connor, unicycling and juggling; Voza birds; Cardens dogs; Maya, trapeze; The Grimaldis and their Musical Poodles; Intermission.

Flying Act; Veno Berosini, sword balancing; Adele and Glory, human gorilla; Zerbini, teeterboard; Elephants.

When the Carden International Circus played at El Paso, Texas, they included Dancing Waters as a part of the program.

The show opened with music by Lee Maloney and Scott Emerson, with a complete light show and spec, ending with Sheila Winn's slide for life.

Acts featured were: Joe Via, lions; Cuccillo; Mark Voza; Vino Berosini; Miss Evelyn in the Moon; Aerial ballet featuring Mia and Gloria with Dancing Waters and vocals by Mike Pike.

The Flying Marquis; Adele and Gory; The Zerbini Riding act; David Connors & Co; Miss Janie's Canines; Grin and Barrett; Les Duvans, globes; Karl Winn's wire act and the Carden International Elephants.

Mike Pike was ringmaster and vocalist, Al King was producing clown and David Connors was prop boss.

Betty Carden is show comptroller and Larry Carden is president and producer.

by the Wilmington Jaycees.

"Katie Nana" as her family calls her, has been in show business most of her-life. Born into a vaudeville family, she was a toe-dancer in New York City when she met her future husband, a member of the Hanneford family of horse performers. The circus continued as she reared three children and she came out of retirement to pace the horses in the family circus, operated now by son Tom.

"They can't get me to stop," she said with a smile as she sat in a chair outside the silver trailer parked alongside the fairground track. "I keep the horses moving to the music."

"I hope the weather stays warm," she said. "I'll be wearing an evening gown and will have hardly anything on." The costume is turquoise with white fringes to follow the Indian theme of this year's performances.

The circus travels 11 months of the year, from January through Thanksgiving. It returns home, near Sarasota, Fla., for the holidays, but departs again shortly after New Year's Day.

"Where we live, there's only circus people. If I stayed home, I'd have nobody to talk to," said Mrs. Hanneford.

Because the troupe spends so much time away from home, birthday celebrations "on the road" are a special treat. Two members of the troupe also celebrate their birthdays this week. Bobby Parker, one of the organist and drummer, was five years old Sunday and got a special birthday party of his own.

Horse performer Mark Caroly, who will be 23 later this week, will have his party when the troupe reaches Akron.

"We're just one big happy family," said Mrs. Hanneford, "and we all celebrate together."

PEOPLE

GIL De MELLO (Flippo the Clown) began his career as a vaudeville tumbler more than 40 years ago. When vaudeville died he and his partner joined the 101 Ranch Circus as "Flippo and Floppo - The Tumbling Clowns"

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From Seattle

by MIKE SPORRER

The 1981 Pacific Northwest circus season is now history. For the most part it was a quiet year when compared to the media blitz of last year between Vargas and the RBBB Blue unit. Hubert Castle and American Continental made their annual dates. John Strong the only tenter to make it here, stayed in Eastern Washington away from the population centers. The Bill Kay show also made its annual dates in Idaho and Carden & Johnson made some new dates in Idaho, and Reid Bros. made their annual tour.

The highlight of the season was the annual appearance of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows. This year it was the Red Unit's turn to come in, every year since 1969 Seattle has had either the Red or Blue unit, and since 1974 the route has been on the first year tour.

The advance media campaign was quite small newspaper ads. A local paper called 'Week's End' had a full color photo of Gunther and a leopard for their Sept. 16th issue. Sears stores had a coloring contest and the Seattle Times purchased 4,500 seats for selected performances - Sept. 23-25.

On Monday, Sept. 21st, the 40 car show arrived at the Galler Street yards in time for the Sept. 22-27 run in the Seattle Center Coliseum. The train contains 8 flats (19-26),

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1 by-level (27), 2 tunnel cars (28-29), 5 stock cars (30-34), 2 concession supply (38-39) (car 38 is an ex-Monte Carlo baggage car No. 231), 22 coaches (40-60) and 505.

A week before the arrival in Seattle the show scored a front page photo in the Times of the arrival of the elephants in Portland, Ore. During the Seattle run the Times had another front page photo of Dickie, the 19 month old giraffe and Gunther Gebel-Williams had a nice write-up on Sept. 22, also in the Times. Opening night, Sept. 21, television people covered the show on tape for the news program, it was a great media hit.

I understand that business for both Portland and Seattle was up over last year, mainly because Circus Vargas failed to show here this year.

This year's 111th edition of the Greatest Show on Earth offers more chills and surprises. This year's program contains another fine article by Greg Parkinson and is a real buy at \$2.50. Top reserved seats sold for \$7.50.

I was pleased to find a page in the program listing the three clubs - Fans, Model Builders and Historians. The show deserves a vote of thanks for this. Also in the program are photos of Circus World Museum wagons.

It was a great evening and season and I'm sorry it had to rain on the load out, but the train crew did a great job.

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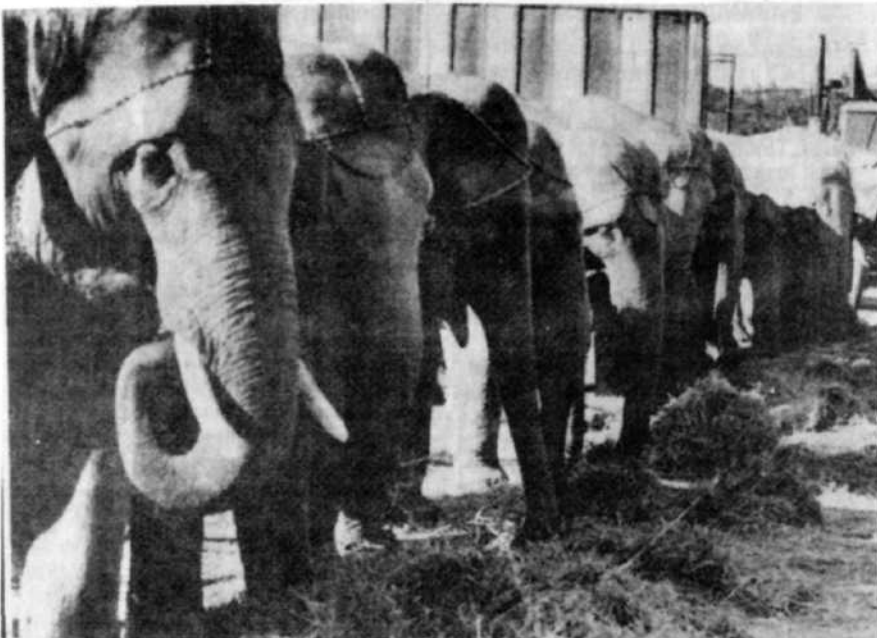
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FLYING VAZQUEZ!

Special Thanks to Tito & Chela Gaona for putting me on a trap at age 2

*** LOVE TO EVERYONE FROM KAREN ***

Elephant's early exit causes stir



Nine elephants munch on their pre-show dinner at the Carson & Barnes Circus in the Chillicothe Mall. During the performance, one elephant went out to lunch - er, perhaps to shop. The elephant crashed through a plate glass window display of fall fashions at the J. C. Penny Co.

(From an article in the Chillicothe (Ohio) Gazette, for Sept. 25, 1981).

There's an old, old joke about how to stop a charging elephant - take away its credit card.

It wasn't that easy in the Chillicothe Mall on Thursday evening.

Delreda, a 3,000 lb. elephant, made an early exit from a circus act and later crashed through a plate glass window at the J. C. Penny Co, on North Bridge Street.

"She apparently decided she wanted to shop instead of working tonight's show," said Luciana Loyal, a performer with the Carson & Barnes Circus.

The elephant escaped during the final performance in front of a standing room only crowd. Ms. Loyal said, a 25 year circus veteran.

Harry Locker, who was working with the elephants during the performance, said Delreda got away from her trainer and ran out

of the tent.

Locker said there was no difficulty in finding her. "They can run, but they can't hide"

Locker, who works for the Locker Performing Bears, said once Delreda calmed down she returned to the other elephants. But not before breaking a large window where a fall line of women's clothes were displayed.

Store manager William Reitz said he was contacted at home about the stampede. The window was replaced immediately. The circus paid for damages, he said.

None of the items were damaged, but a Chillicothe police officer guarded the display until the glass was replaced.

As for Delreda's escape, she joins the list of other friends who have tried similar capers, although none have ever left during an act, said Ms. Loyal.

Show Visit

by RANDOLPH RICKETTS

The members of the Al G. Kelly-Miller Br. Ring paid a visit to Franzen Bros. Circus in Paris, Mo., on Oct. 3rd.

We arrived in time to see the big top being raised. This is the first year for this new top and it looks great. They have a nice spool truck.

We visited with Dennis Michael who is Freddie the Clown. He introduced us to most performers and to Wayne Franzen, producer and performer on the show. Lynn Michael is the show's organist and announcer.

Wayne Franzen does most of the animal acts. The cat act consists of 2 lionesses and 2 tigers. They also have a new (4 months old) performer, a tiger cub, who stole everyone's heart. Wayne also does the elephant act with Okla, who walks on a ball, which is a real good act. He also has a 12 Appaloosa P.O.A. liberty act and the camel and llama take a turn around the ring.

Tina Grieser does a beautiful job on the

web, and she also does the single trapeze. Brian Grieser, Tina's husband, does the pick-out act with Tonto.

Edgar Ayala from Colombia, So. America, does a real good hand balancing act, he also does the rola bola.

Curtis (Kid) Canon does the juggling for the show and the wire act. He also does a good dog act.

The clowns on the show are Dennis Michael (Freddie) and Marion Searns (Sam).

This is a good clean show. They have really had a busy season. Dennis told us they had only 3 days off since March 1st and on many of those show days they had 3 shows.

They have the best looking paint job on their equipment. All their trucks are blue with terrific murals of elephants and tigers emblazoned with Franzen Bros..

The show was enjoyed by all, and the people on the show were very friendly and courteous.

Tenn. State Fair

by MARIA ALBRIGHT

Patrons of the Tenn. State Fair were privileged to witness as a free show, the International All Star Variety Revue. The show which was produced by World Wide Attractions, Inc., was truly a highlight of this year's fair. The show was managed by Dorian Blake who kept things running smooth as silk during an extremely hectic schedule of performances.

Music was provided by Kenny Owens and The Travelers Band which gave the audience a pre-show warm-up consisting of popular country western tunes. When the show began the Travelers proved their versatility by providing back-up music for all the acts involved.

Dorian Blake acted as MC and kept the audience amazed at his rapid fire costume changes which took place prior to the announcing of each act.

Kenny Owens and The Travelers began an overture for the opening act which consisted of current rock-and-roll hits when suddenly in amidst explosions of flame and smoke appeared illusionist Dorian Blake.

I must state that Dorian Blake's presentation of magic is rivaled only by his magnificent sequin and rhinestone covered wardrobe. Dorian then handled the chores of announcing and instantly became a favorite

with the audience.

Next came Miss Constanca and her uncaged leopards and jaguars. The highlight of this act came when a huge jaguar rode a bicycle without the aid of the trainer. A truly amazing act!

Then, Eddie the Clown, kept the audience in stitches as he performed his professional photographer skit.

Once again it was time for magic, as Dorian Blake again held the crowd in utter suspense. The crowds approval of this performer was overwhelming.

Next the show shifted to a country atmosphere as it presented country music stylist, Miss Dixie Harrison.

The closing act was truly a favorite with the patrons. Lipko's Internationally Famous Chimps kept the crowd in waves of laughter. A favorite with the crowd was Miss Lucille, truly a lovely lady among chimpanzees. This act was presented by Col. Jerry Lipko and is an extremely well rehearsed and costumed spectacular for any show.

In all, the revue was truly a success and raves of appreciation came from all of its patrons.

Jerry Lipko, of World Wide Attractions, Inc., was responsible for booking the acts for this highly successful and appreciated show.

Circus Photos

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- 2 - Winter quarters scene 1926 - 1960
- 3 - Winter quarters scene inside practice building 1926 - 1960
- 4 - Aerial view Ringling Fire (1944) at Hartford, Conn.
- 5 - Ground view of Ringling Fire at Hartford, Conn. (1944).

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PEOPLE

HEIDI HERRIOTT has joined the Beatty-Cole Circus for the remainder of the 1981 season.

DAVID McMILLAN's big cat act was recently filmed for the "You Asked For It" TV show, as well as for TV's "Evening Magazine" show.

BILL WALTERS, of the Harold Ronk CFA Tent No. 128, has been named chairman of the CFA's July 4-7, 1982 convention which will be held in Little Rock, Ark.

JIMMIE and MILLIE, rola bola juggling act and balancing act, performed at Hancock's 102nd Old Home Days in Hancock, N. H., where DWIGHT DAMON did magic and JERRY COYLE presented his unusual musical number, working with 3 trumpets.

Do You Remember

by TED LaVELDA

In 1936, Eddie Kuhn took out the 'Kuhn Circus.' He was the owner and manager and 'Dud' Lawrence was the show agent. 'Slim' and 'Bobbie' Brown handled the bill posting.

Jerry Kerns had the banners, Lee Daniels was side show manager and the show was a 10-in-1 type, with several acts, including vent, punch & judy, Magic, a Tattooed man, with Jackie Francis, the Half-and-Half for the blow-off.

'Dutch' LeBlair was lot supt., and 'Tiger' Bill Snyder was the program director. The acts came and went during the short season and included: Russell Hall's animals, Jack and Clara Moore, wire walkers, Borghild Ford, aerialist, Freda La Velda, aerialist, Bobby Gordon and Leon Snyder, comedy rings, Ted LaVelda, contortion and hand balancing, Jack Rogers and Tom Haydon produced the clown numbers.

The Wild West Concert was presented by the 'Tiger' Bill Troupe which consisted of whip manipulating, rope spinning, trick riding and Chief Two Feathers doing an Indian War Dance.

Business was poor from the start due to bad weather and the show folded on July 7th at Sisston, So. Dakota.

In Memoriam

GLORIA GRAHAME (55) film and stage star died of cancer Oct. 5th in New York City. She had been appearing in a show in London, left and came back to New York to enter the hospital. Born on Nov. 28, 1926 at Pasadena, Calif., she became a film star at an early age and appeared in some 30 movies, among them "The Greatest Show on Earth."

EDMUNDO ZACCHINI (87) the man who created the first human cannonball act, died Oct. 3rd at Tampa, Fla. He developed the cannon act in Cairo in 1922 using a spring powered system that shot him 20 ft. Later he developed a compression system for the cannon. He and his brother came to the U. S. in 1930 and eventually the 27 member family moved to this country.

PEOPLE

JOHN ADAMS, of Lancaster, Pa., visited the Carson & Barnes Circus at Lynchburg, Va., and reports he had a great time. "Hats off to Dorey Miller, a real circus showman and Bill Reynolds, a real circus band leader."

FROM DENMARK (Continued)

Cirkus Benneweis, which has a summer season in the handsome permanent circus building situated right in the center of the city.

Benneweis had an interesting program, which opened with the overture by the Circus Orchestra, followed by an introduction and welcome by Nelly Jane Benneweis.

Diana Benneweis then presented an act comprising three Arabian stallions and three Shetland ponies.

4 - introduced Vladko and Pepi, original clowns in Russian style humor; 5 - was "King's Toys" an act involving adagio, contortion and comedy skills; 6 - Gabo, Benneweis "House Clown" in stilt-walking and comedy dancing; 7 - Bettina and Miller presenting Benneweis' two large and stately elephants; 8 - The Ding Bats, English comedy acrobats in eccentric tumbling; 9 - Vivi's sea lions presented by Addie Jepsen; 10 - Diana Benneweis with liberty horses presented in "rococo style" with music by Mozart; 11 - The Flying Germaines

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a good standard trapeze act.

The second half of the program, which for the first part of the season had been taken over by Russians from the State Circus (including Popov the clown) was now occupied by Dominique Webb and Company, French illusionists, hypnotist and fakir. While the illusions were acceptable, I do not care for the hypnotic items or the fakir. I thought them unsuitable for a family circus audience, but this is purely a personal view.

Eli Benneweis also runs a tenting circus during the summer months, a show about the same size as Schummanns, but I did not get a chance to see this show.

There are at least two more circuses in Denmark, smaller shows, well run and attended, I am told, and it says much for the popularity of circus entertainment that this small country can maintain these shows.

At the splendid Tivoli Gardens, also right in the center of Copenhagen, among the many attractions I sampled for a small entrance fee were circus acts (constantly changing), Les Chabris, poodle act; Duo Waleska, perch act and Al Fleischer, eccentric juggler.

Comments

by HARRY J. JENKINS, Organist for Theatre, Radio, TV and Circus.

I read with interest the article "Where's the Music" by Dudley Hamilton, about the music played in some circuses these days and specifically Carson & Barnes. I agree with his reaction.

With all the fine Circus Music - so traditional and so appropriate to the acts, why go to the disturbing so-called modern music, rock and roll type, where the composers don't seem to have enough musical knowledge to get beyond a four measure theme, repeated over and over.

A good lively musical composition normally will have an eight measure (8 Bar) beginning theme; an 8 or 16 bridge which leads into a sort of reprise of the first musical theme as an eight measure (bar) closing a total of 32 bars.

Those rock and roll 4 measure tunes do not comply with the mathematics of good music and become irritating to the audience. Witness the complaints since Circus Vargas

PEOPLE

HARRY GRAHAM, magician, was a guest performer on the Merv Griffin TV Show on Oct. 12th.

JOSH SILVER, is starting the second year of operating his 'Joshola Entertainment' agency located in New York City.

THE CHANDLERS (Phil, Linda and Lauren) will be touring for six weeks with Ron Bacon, Billy Martin, Don Phillips & Co., and the Dave Miller Combo, all in Ohio, starting Oct. 28th.

ANDREW STEVENS, star in TV's "Code Red" series, will be working in an aerial number in the upcoming "Circus of the Stars" Show.

changed the music they played when the show first hit in the San Diego area. In San Diego the music was circus - then they changed to un-musical compositions and complaints have mushroomed.

Franzen Bros.

by HAROLD FLINT

On a recent trip to Chicago, my wife and I stopped over at Dixon, Ill., so I could catch Franzen Bros. Circus, playing at Oregon, Ill.

I got on the lot about 9 a.m. in time to see Wayne himself driving a few stakes before the big top went up. Also cut up a few jackpots with CFA's Bill Fee from Rochelle and Frank Graham from Dixon. Frank, incidentally, went to school in Dixon with Ronald Reagan.

This was the first time I'd seen the show since the summer of 1975, and a lot of credit must be given the Franzens for building it into what it is today - clean, efficient and professional.

My wife and I saw the 6 p.m. show (Thursday, Sept. 17) and a good crowd turned out. The program has been previously listed in CR, so I won't duplicate it.

After the show I ran into Walt Hohenadel, White Tops publisher, in the backyard. We cut up a few more jackpots with Wayne, Byron Burford, the drummer, and Freddie, the clown.

A great show on a grassy lot made for a wonderful day.

DR. PEPPER CIRCUS (Continued)

dian elephant in ring one and Tavanja Luvas worked her African elephant in ring three into the finale.

A fine show to a full house at 5 p.m. and then a ¾ house for the 8 p.m. performance.

Meanwhile, the lot was teeming with visitors, among them: Allan Gold (lions) enroute to Circus Vargas, Johnny and Mary Ruth from Beatty-Cole, Joe and Peggy Zoppe, The Wong Family, Fred Morris, from the Fred Morris Agency in Trinidad, British West Indies, Gary Henry who had just closed with Great American as producing clown, Joe McKennon, he has more books, Joe Schmitt, Jr. (clown) and his wife, and Checkers and me.

Garland Parnell (the monkey man) is a strolling entertainer at the fair and Henri French (Frenchie the clown) is the official clown again this year at the fair. Vic Hyde (one man band) is a great free act!

A real fun day for me!

Circus Book Sale

Barton: Old Covered Wagon Show Days

... \$5.00

Baumann: Tiger, Tiger - \$6.00

Bryan: The World's Greatest Showman

... \$3.50

Chipperfield: My Wild Life - \$4.50

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In My Zoo - \$4.50

Fenner: The Circus Lure and Legend -

... \$6.50

Garis: Tom Cardiffin the Big Top - \$3.50

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Mannix: Step Right Up - \$2.50

Martin: My Zoo Family - \$2.50

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Miscellaneous

The Pickle Family Circus worked a benefit date in Berkeley, Calif., on Oct. 19th, raising money for the fire damaged Eureka Theatre in San Francisco.

Seven Alley 85 clowns taped a segment of the Peppermint Place Show on WFAA Channel 8 in Dallas, Texas. The show was aired as a promo for the Clown and Circus Days at Traders Village on Oct. 17-18.

New Rules

For a quarter of a century, people have eaten fire, swallowed swords, slept between beds of nails, even devoured a bicycle and a tree, just to get into the world's most famous record book.

Now, the Guinness Book of World Records is "closing the book" on some of its records declaring some winners for eternity in categories the editors consider life-threatening or particularly dangerous.

No more sword swallowing. No more bike eating. No more bodies sandwiched between beds of nails.

"There is sufficient planned lunacy on television without our having to add to it," said Norris McWhirter, the book's co-founder and editor in London.

"Something eventually reaches a point that we don't want to include it," McWhirter added. "People can do what they like, but we're not going to chronicle it. Maybe the obituary columns will, but we won't."

The 1982 American edition of the book was released on Oct. 15th. Since it was first

published in 1955, it has been the superlative book of superlatives. But there are a few things it's never been, namely a place for what the editors call "gratuitously dangerous" feats like the lowest height from which a handcuffed parachutist has dived or the thinnest burning rope ever to suspend a man in a straitjacket from a flying helicopter.

"We are 3 or 4 percent zany, 25 percent sports achievements and the rest almost academic - the sciences and the like," says McWhirter.

Among the many zany entries are:

+ M. Lotito of France, who ate a bicycle during a 15 day period in 1977. He ate the frame in the form of metal filings.

+ Joe Swaltney, who ate an 11 ft. birch sapling - branches, leaves and a 4.7 inch diameter trunk - in 89 hours to win a Chicago radio station's "most dangerous" contest.

+ Count Desmond, of Binghamton, NY, who swallowed 13, 23 inch long sword blades.

FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

iter Trio, three Nocks in a cradle act; the Shrine Circus Ponies, all white, Al and Joyce Vidbel and twin grand-daughters, the little girls look like future "stars."

The Albanis, aerial motorcycle act with 4 people. This one has more class and grace than any we've seen in a long time. Breathtaking! Intermission.

The Flying Lantonys, two girl flyers and the catcher as the main flyer had just undergone an operation, he directed from the ground, but what they did was fine.

Morroco Clowns; Katinka's Poodles, period costumes, music and a clever act by the Nocks; Morroco Clowns; Adams' Chimpanzees, Erik and wife Bobbie and two smart chimps; Cook's Comedy Car, introducing another generation from this family.

Elephants by Al and Joyce Vidbel, quiet, gentle presentation of bulls; The Brothers Nock, the younger Nocks, they never do anything wrong with their always exhilarating sway poles; Exit Marches.

The show "moves", since every act works alone, one's neck does not have to be on a

"swivel" and it is over, making you want to see "more" long before your "seat" goes to sleep. . . pure circus, talent, music, costumes, etc., all were "tops".

Next year's show is scheduled for the month of September, we'll have our tickets and we'll be there!

PEOPLE

THE GRIMALDIS taped a one hour TV pilot for Storer Cable TV in Garland, Texas in September. The show is scheduled for nation-wide airing on cable TV.

JIMMIE and MILLIE, iron jaw and comedy balancing act and the LIPKO CHIMPS performed at the New Bedford Historic Festival in New Bedford, Mass., Aug. 22nd.

JERRY COLLINS, show owner, visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at Brownsville, Texas, this past month.

Flood Sweeps thru zoo

An elephant caught in the branches of a fallen tree amid surging floodwaters survived by using her trunk as a snorkel until rescue workers could ford the swift current and free her.

However, many other animals who escaped rising waters at the Texas Frank Buck Zoo were still at large after three days of heavy rain.

"We don't have a full count of what animals are missing, but none you could consider dangerous. Mostly they're fleet of foot, like deer," said Assistant Police Chief Carl Dunlap. "I saw a moose standing on the interstate highway, but we got him."

Gerry, a 13 year old female elephant, survived rushing floodwaters by staying put and using her trunk as a snorkel.

"We could see her, but we just couldn't get to her because of the swift water," Dunlap said. "She was able to keep her snout above water and breathe after she became

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LETTERS WRITTEN BY
COL. WILLIAM WOODCOCK, Sr.
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I am editing Bill Woodcock's letters into a book. This is the first time a showman's correspondence has been put into book form. I would like to hear from anyone holding letters from him. This is not a commercial venture, and has the support of Babe and Buckles Woodcock. Its purpose is to preserve the circus and elephant history in Bill's letters, and to honor him for his great knowledge of the American circus. All letters will be edited to exclude anything of a personal nature, or anything negative concerning any show or showman. I have no interest in defaming anyone, only to record show history. Have over 1500 already, but on the lookout for more. I will pay any postage or copying costs, all letters returned.

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entangled in the treetop. When we finally got to her, there was about a foot of her back sticking out of the water and her snout. We could see her eye every once in a while."

Zoo Superintendent Vince Reynolds said the elephant's trunk was scarred and her neck was sore.

"She's pretty tolerable and calm to go through what she went through," another zoo official said.

Cowboys in this north-central Texas area began rounding up the Zoo's inhabitants after the flood waters went down. A bush cow and a Gnu were lassoed and returned to the zoo, then a llama was found walking near an interstate highway and a deer was discovered just south of town.

Julie Broyles, 11, watched a bear swim downstream in the swollen creek which is just behind her house.

In 1974 a flood caused the zoo to evacuate its animals, but this time the flood caught officials by surprise. At last report the zoo grounds still had a lot of water in it.

Letters

Thank you for your quick response regarding my assisting a person in establishing her true identity. It has taken some time to get all the material together, but these are what we have:

In the 1950's the Pons Circus from Tennessee came to the 4-H grounds in Nevada, Iowa every summer. Nancy Pons played with a little girl who lived near the grounds.

In 1967 a man and a red haired woman came to the home of the girl in Nevada, Iowa. The person they spoke to is now convinced of their story, but needs proof.

Anyone knowing these people can contact me at this address or call (309 - 467-4536).

We appreciate your kindness in publishing this.

Sincerely,
Virginia Huisinga
501 North Callender
Eureka, Ill - 61530

I have been reading where some people have now taken up the hobby of painting ceramic figures of clowns and circus properties.

Dr. Jim Riley, of Tucson, Ariz., has over 200 of these items. All were hand painted by him. Each one completely different and all are in his office, for he is a dentist.

So, when you go to the Dr's office you would think you are in a circus museum. He has them displayed there, but often is showing them at malls, banks and some other such public places.

He is also a clown and does his act for



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children, with much delight to him. He is well known among circus folks, and is the dentist for the shows when they are in Tucson.

W. W. O'Brien
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Oct. 1 - Salt Lake City, Utah - Felipe Vazquez, flier with the Flying Vazquez troupe on Ringling Red, was injured when he was struck in the face by the trapeze bar during his dismount to the net at the conclusion of the performance. He was rushed to a local hospital where he was treated for cuts on his nose and face. Doctors said he should wait until the show reaches Chicago before returning to the act.

Meantime the three remaining members of the Vazquez troupe, Juan, Miguel and Patricia continued with the act, augmented by Gino Farfan, who normally works in the Flying Farfan's act.

PEOPLE

THE LAZAR TRIO have ended their tour with Circo Tihany and are now back in Romania. They report Circo Tihany is the most elegant of shows to work for.

POPCORN and ETCETERA, clowns, will be working Christmas dates for ALLAN HILL in Pennsylvania, after they complete their tour with Carson & Barnes Circus.

KATHY BATCHELOR, trick and fancy rider, has left Circus Vargas to fulfill other engagements.

JIMMIE and MILLIE performed at the Gardiner Manor Mall, Long Island, NY, Aug. 22 thru 30th., then at the Auburn Mall for a Circus Week in Auburn, Mass. On the bill were: THE CYCLONIANS, unicycle act; AL YOUNGMAN's Circus Band; NORMAN BIGELOW, escape artist; VICTOR the Raslin' Bear; GEORGE GREGORY, calliope music and WILLIAM RICE's Miniature Circus exhibit. Camel and Elephant rides were offered in the parking lot.

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TIM HOLST, Ringling Red performance director, hosted his parents and other members of his family at the show when the circus played Salt Lake City, his hometown.

BILL BIGGERSTAFF visited the Ringling Red Unit at Salt Lake City. He and his wife JAN live in Las Vegas and operate a printing business there since they retired from Circus Vargas.

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There's a continuing flow of new books and as a result there will be plenty of them for Holiday gifts.

The Postal increase will be in effect when you read this and I wonder what the new book rate will be? Who are they kidding when they say First Class Mail is going to cost more? The whole structure is going to change and that means more money to the Post Office, but will they improve the service - only time will tell.

The postal increase will surely decrease the number of Christmas cards that are sent out. I'm sure the P.O. set the new rate at a time when they thought they would benefit the most. I don't send cards - just calendars and since I was able to mail them before the increase, I felt I was ahead. Just that 2c extra really counts up when you have a large mailing. It also gave us an opportunity to clean up of our file of former subscribers to Bat Droppings and occasional buyers.

Our second annual Magic and Book Fair is set for Bjornson Hall in Oakland for Nov. 14 a Saturday and will run from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featured, of course, a wide display of books, plus posters displayed by the Walkers and Phil Temple. And magic, both old and new, by Steve Dawson of the Magic Touch and Dave Berry of Magic-Magic.

Collectors items and some best buys, plus a lot of information, instruction and the GREAT AL GOSHMAN! Yes, I've seen him a dozen times, but I never tire of watching this superb close-up man. He's a lesson for anyone on misdirection and entertainment, and of course, he'll also have his sponges. It is something you won't want to miss.

Oh yes, just as last year there will be some great door prizes and you need not be present to win. The \$5.00 admission charge will

give you a \$3.00 book (choice of several), a \$1.00 door prize ticket and the opportunity to browse, ask questions and watch.

There'll be a Round Robin discussion on Children's Magic, talks by PHIL TEMPLE and so many other things, it is difficult to squeeze them into this allotted space. Better send for a circular - you still have time to get one to try for a door prize.

Magic instruction by tapes is fairly new and magic film and even video instruction discs are obtainable. That is, if you have unlimited money. A taped lecture is just out from David Ginn, an experienced school magician and is titled '51 WAYS TO MAKE CHILDREN LAUGH' and gives you 94 minutes of instruction. Covered mainly is his warm-up session which breaks the ice so to speak and gives the audience time to relax, get into the spirit of the occasion and thus be ready to be entertained. Excellent advice and time tested. He also includes some of his routines from his shows which are certain to give any listener some helpful hints.

New Arrival

Henry Crowell and Dolores Coronado, who are presently working with Betty Wendany's Funs-A-Poppin Circus, are proud to announce that their "son" "Neighbor" has become the proud daddy of 4 puppies born on Sunday, Oct. 18th in Tucson, Arizona, at the K.O.A. on their day off.

Neighbor, of course, as all proud fathers do, passed out cigars to all those present. The mother "Soda Pop", owned by Heidi Wendany, is doing fine and says she expects to have her girlish figure back very soon.

Miscellaneous

TOMMY SCOTT's Last Real Medicine Show was featured on the NBC-TV "Today Show" on Thursday, Oct. 15th,