



8th Year

December 3, 1979

Number 49

SF's PAL Circus

This year's annual PAL Circus in San Francisco was held at the Cow Palace on Saturday, Nov. 24th, with three shows presented on that one day.

The circus moved back to the Cow Palace, with its greater seating capacity and easier parking arrangement, after having been presented in San Francisco's downtown Civic Auditorium last year.

The show was produced by the U. S. A. National Circus (Simone Finner). They had produced the PAL Circus several times in the past.

The circus production staff included: U. S. A. National Circus, Simone Finner, executive producer; Chester Cable, stage director; Bob Chase, lighting director; Ralph Cable, Alvin Cable, Chester Cable, Jr., Rick Cleland, Tom Green and Darwin Benjamin, stage crew; Parley Baer, ringmaster/performance director, and Al Bell, musical director.

The program featured: Overture; Introduction of Lt. Spelman; Police Color Guard; Hollywood Jungle Stars presented

by Wayne Ragen; The Keystone Comedy Kops Klowns; Ruth Hill, Dive of Death; Karl Winn, sky walk; Tina's Pets, dogs and pony; Lani Ironberg, high school horse; Hollywood Pony Parade; Wini McKay, swinging trapeze; The Rianos Duo, tight wire; The Winn Duo, aerial motorcycle.

In the second half, after a brief intermission were: The Flying Artons, flying trapeze; The Clowns; Sebastyian's Poodle

(Continued on Page 2)

SPECIAL**TIGER HOSPITALIZED**

While playing at Akron, Ohio, the Ringling-Barnum Circus sent a 500 lb. tiger to Akron General Medical Center for a check-up.

The tiger, Rajah, had been having dizzy spells and problems walking. Veterinarians attributed this to a possible brain tumor.

At the hospital, Rajah underwent a brain scan, then was returned to the circus. The study reportedly showed there was a lesion on his brain and surgery plans may be scheduled in the near future.

PAL CIRCUS IN S. F. (Continued)

Revue, Ron Perry, juggling; Mike Davis, juggling; Lani Ironberg, rope spinning; the Prima Ballerina a Clown comedy painting sketch; Greg Lillie's chimps; The Tramp Guys, trampoline; Chester Cable, foot juggling; The P. A. L. Circus Elephants, presented by Carol Buckley, followed by Santa Claus descending from the roof of the Cow Palace.

Classified Advertising

Classified Ad rates are 5 cents per word per issue. Please send remittance with order.

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Rose Adair



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Show Dates

Circus Vargas

Nov 30-Dec 3 Abilene, Texas
Dec. 4-6 Big Spring
7-9 Odessa

Kelvin Hall Winter Circus

Dec 3-Jan 26 Glasgow, Scotland

Monte Carlo Circus

Dec. 6-10 Monte Carlo

---- MAGIC ----

Amazing Conklin Magic Show

Dec. 3 Wahpeton, ND
4 Lisbon
5 Edgeley
6 Lehr
7-13 Fargo

Kim Dixon Magic Show

Dec. 6 Twenty-nine Palms, Ca.
8 Lake Havasu
9 Madera

Kramien, the Magician

Dec. 8 Bellevue, Wash.

Magic Convention

Dec. 7-10 Tokyo, Japan

Prf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Dec. 3 Dolton, Ill.
5 Warsaw, Ind.
7 Montpelier, Ohio
8 Marion

Tom Ogden - Magician

Dec. 6 Womelsdorf, Pa.
7 Reading

---- OTHER DATES ----

Boo Lu the Clown

Dec. 7 Berkeley, Calif.

Cher Show

Dec. 4-9 San Francisco, Cal.

Ethel's Greyhounds

Dec. 8-9 Moline, Ill.

Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit

Dec. 5-9 Tampa, Fla.

ANIMAL ACT for Gary, Ind.

DEC. 7

ALSO VARIETY ACTS FOR
DEC. 10 AND 15 Pt Huron MICH

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Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Dec. 5-9 Atlanta, Ga.

Ice Capades - Western Unit
Dec. 4-9 Seattle, Wash.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Dec. 3 Albuquerque, N.M.
4 Las Cruces
5 Tucson, Ariz.
6 Tempe
7 Phoenix
8 Los Angeles, Calif.

Santa's Xmas Revue - Red Unit
Dec. 4 Salt Lake City, Utah
6 Denver, Colo.
7 Colorado Springs

Santa's Xmas Revue - White Unit
Dec. 6 Kansas City, Mo.
7 Omaha, Nebr.
8 Des Moines, Iowa
9 Indianapolis, Ind.

Whizzer the Clown
Dec. 9 Cincinnati, Ohio



THAT REMARKABLE young lady from Menasha, Wisc., who fell from an elephant 23 times but who lived to write about it in one of the funniest books ever written about the circus, CONNIE CLAUSEN, is thriving (sans elephants) with a literary agency in New York City. In the '40s Connie Clausen published I LOVE YOU HONEY BUT THE SEASON'S OVER which chronicled her misadventures as a show girl with the Ringling show. Since its initial publication the book has been re-released twice in paperback but is currently out of print (though it can still be found in used book stores) and Connie advises there is new interest in publication, plus movie rights and she'll let me know if anything happens.

Connie gravitated to publishing in 1971, was with MacMillan as Marketing Director and Vice President, where she pushed the best-seller JONATHAN LIVINGSTON SEAGULL to the pinnacle. By discovering WATERSHIP DOWN she added new laurels to her crown. Three years ago the witty writer started her own literary agency and has packaged such best-sellers as "Scuvullo on Beauty" and Way Bandy's "Designing Your Face". This year she sold "Womanstyle" and Lisane: A Young Model - the latter was sold to TV as a series. She also came up with "Village Creek" which has been sold to the movies. Connie says she sees a lot of the old Ringling people (MARY JANE MILLER and the CRISTIANIS). Welcome back Connie! Even if it is a trip made only via this column.

MORE LITERAT: Rodeo veteran FRANK DEAN's new book "Cowboy Fun" has been accepted for publication by Sterling in New York and they hope to have the book on their 1980 Spring List. This is the third book published by Frank which includes "Will Rogers Rope Tricks" and "The Complete Book of Trick and Fancy Riding." Both books are still in print. I have more stories on Frank coming up in next week's column.

WHILE Ringling Blue was in Boston, BUCKLES WOODCOCK phoned in his plans when he and BARBARA leave the Ringling fold in February, ending a long and profitable tenure. Buckles has agreed to spend up to 14 weeks breaking in a new man to handle the herd at Circus World after which the glamorous couple head for Europe. Buckles said they were married 20 years ago in

Paris, Texas, and they intend to celebrate their wedding anniversary in PARIS, France. Beyond that, however, they've made no professional plans for the future but will let me know the minute they come to a decision. . . PETER KINOSH (the Wild One) was visiting the Fabulous Barbara that night and Buckles had to break off to escort her to a party with Petey and BOBBY JOHNSON.

FRANK & ESTRELETA report an outstanding season of fairs and claim there is a definite trend in fairs booking aerial attractions to beef up the not always successful "names" heralding grandstand shows (took them long enough to find that out I'd say. Novelty acts have always been the mainstay of such shows). Following the Springfield (Ill) and Hammond (Ind) Shrine dates they returned to Florida where Ruthie has gone berserk buying furniture for a new home they've not seen since March. Next Season the act appears at the Medinah Temple in Chicago, the Des Moines Sports Show, and GRACIE Mc Intosh's M & M route.

CLOSEUPS: CHARLIE BAUMAN and the TITO GAONA Flyers scheduled for Ringling's aussie tour. . . DEBBIE CHAPMAN with Royal Hanneford doing her single trap act. . . BILL and TRUDY back at their Ohio farm rebuilding the damaged rocket ship - lucky to be alive, both of them, after that terrible accident. . . LARRY GARDEN told me BETTY said to hell with the road this Fall and elected to sit by their cozy fireplace while Larry went off in the cold to handle a string of November Shrine dates. Larry's unit kicks off its 1980 season in Tulsa in March. . . WALLY & CHERYL (of Royal Hanneford) spent almost a week at a campground about 11 miles from my home, were frequent visitors. At the campsite also was ringmaster SENOR RAI. . . Nice things are being said about the up and coming MARC SCHULTZ who is growing more and more important to his dad's well-known agency. . . IAN GARDEN sold his liberty horse act to the young man who's been working them. The act was once owned by JOHNNY and MILONGA CLINE. . . EGON KLEMENTI is recovering nicely from his accident during a performance at Harrah's at the Lake.

NOW is as good a time as any to thank all those

In Memoriam

Mrs. Genevieve Beatrice Polack, who died at 2:17 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 8th, in the Fort Madison, Iowa, Community Hospital, was an equestrienne and aerialist with the Hagenbeck-Wallace and Russell Bros. Circuses. Mrs. Polack also rode with the world famous Poodles Hanneford Riding act.

Mrs. Polack was born Dec. 11, 1902, in Fort Madison, where she was a life-long resident. Following her circus career she was employed for 15 years at the former Sacred Heart Hospital until she retired and began to accompany her husband Sam T. Polack, on his annual round of circus dates.

Her marriage to Sam Polack took place Dec. 15, 1939, in Fort Madison, Iowa. Mrs. Polack died after a long illness and is survived by not only her husband, but also a son, Samuel Polack, Jr., who makes his home in Topeka, Kansas.

Miscellaneous

Now touring the College Circuit, are three multi-talented former Ringling clowns, Bounce, Flip and Cyrus. Based in Boston, they call their program "The Loco-Motion Vaudeville Circus" and it includes mime, juggling, unicycling, dancing, magic and tumbling.

It's official now, the Syrian Shrine Circus in Cincinnati, Ohio, will be held under a tent in April 1980. The run will be for 10 days and the tent will be set up on the grounds of the old Coney Island Amusement Park.

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The 1980 season of the Castle Circus will feature a grand opening number based on "Outer Space" which was designed by Tarzan Zerbini. At a cost of almost \$60,000, the big number will feature magical illusions, elaborate costumes, remote control space creatures and special lighting, all built by Philip Morris.

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MAHAG

... from Hal Haviland

About the shooting criticism at the Beatty Circus. For the love of people! Take it easy when you let some magician turn jack-a-leg journalist for the day.

We love our Circus Report. We need it! We all realize that working men should be spotless. But isn't it tough to keep poor, sometimes ignorant, working stiffs spotless while moving a big show thru hills in coal mining communities.

A true critic should cushion blows. Even God Almighty does that!

Acts

Acts touring with the Jimmy Hetzer Show in W. Va., last month included: Joanne's dogs and pony; Ivy Upton's trapeze; De Mille, wire; Upton's Mountain Lion; Cathy Hetzer, songstress; Rejean Robinson, juggling; Joanne Pinson, dressage; Upton's French trapeze; Veno Berosini; Coco, stilts; Pinson's baby elephants. Clowns were Co Co and Dennie Pinson, Jr., with Ray Hartzell, at the organ.

JERRY DICNEY

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new ARRIVALS

COLE ADAM MORRISSEY was born to Judi and Brian Morrissey on Nov. 16th. The youngster weighed in at 7 lbs. 12 oz and measured 20½ inches long.

Miscellaneous

San Francisco's Fine Arts Museum's Downtown Center (Three Embarcadero) will feature a display of magic advertising and equipment for the period of Dec. 19th thru Feb. 22nd.

The Clowns of America magazine "Calliope" for Sept. 1979 is dedicated to the late Emmett Kelly. It contains 31 pages of pictures and reading matter about the famous clown.

Magic's "Genii" magazine has a special feature section on magician Mark Wilson. This item appears in the Oct. 1979 issue.

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REPORT

SANTA'S XMAS REVUE SHOWS

Personnel and the routing for his three Christmas show programs were announced last week by Big John Strong. The shows are called "Santa's Xmas Revue" and each will feature a variety of acts in a full stage presentation with live music background. Big John plans to be on hand for the opening of each unit, to see that they get off to a good start, then he will tour with the major unit. The tours start this week and run close to Christmas Day. Acts featured with the shows are:

Red Unit - John Strong, Jr., Ed Russell, Herbert Weber and Marcella, Chester Cable, Wini McKay, Jose Cole, Tim Tegge and Jim Bouvay.

White Unit - Chris Kennington, Swami, Marcia Griep, Lenny Mazel, Phil Kavanaugh, Bob Owens, Rosa Douglas, John Lohner, Grinn & Barrett, Henry Crowell and Mindy, and Lee Reynolds.

Blue Unit - Ken Dickson, Sandy Strong, Ron Perry and Pam, plus clowns Phil and Paul.

SPECIAL

NEW JERSEY LAWS

The basic requirements for those who own captive exotic wildlife within the State of New Jersey are:

A permit is required to possess exotic and native wildlife in the state. Non-resident circuses currently receive a "Letter of Authorization" at no cost, which substitutes for the permit. However the circus must make a complete application, be approved and receive their letter of authorization well in advance of their first engagement in New Jersey. The letter is valid for a year, but the circus must notify the division prior to each engagement in the state.

Due to a fatal accident in New Jersey in 1979 which involved a circus leopard, the regulations are being enforced more strictly than ever.

In Memoriam

CARL A. ROMIG (86), old-time Circus Cowboy who had "Romig & Rooney" Circus Attractions in the '30s, '40s and '50s, passed away Nov. 7th, in Beaumont Hospital, Troy, Mich.

He was a noted horse trainer, who owned and trained the original Hi Yo Silver horse of the Lone Ranger, radio program WXYZ Detroit.

Romig trooped as far back as 1914 with Young Buffalo Bill & Texas Rangers Wild West Show. He also toured with Ringling Bros., Hagenbeck Wallace, Gollmar Bros., John Robinson, Sun Bros., Wallace Bros., Russell Bros., Seal Bros. Al G. Kelly-Miller Bros., J. Gould, the Orrin Davenport dates and several others.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Rooney Romig, a son, Irv Romig, grandson Chris, daughter Fay Yvette Snyder, and adopted daughter Grace McIntosh.

Miscellaneous

Britain's "King Pole" magazine, the issue of Sept. 1979, has a special report on the two big Ringling Units, plus a page story about Sue and Rudi Lenz, as well as a story on Charley Baumann.

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REPORT

The smuggling of exotic birds into the U. S. is as big an operation as the drug traffic, says an official with the USDA. The business, he adds, has been "getting out of hand" and now requires a great deal of time and effort.

The birds are smuggled in by both tourists and professionals, often by the hundreds. They come in, placed inside of toys, clothing, hats, cars and even strapped to a traveler's body.

USDA officials worry that smuggled birds will bring in diseases, which in some cases could all but wipe out the poultry industry. An outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease last spring was traced to a bird dealer in Florida who was importing birds from Puerto Rico.

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

IF I'M GONNA RUN THE
HIPPIE TODAY, BELIEVE ME,
I'M TAKING NO CHANCES.
I'M PUTTING IN LOTS
OF PADDING.



YEOW
OUCH!
HELP!



REPORT

MAGIC MANIA

The Doug Hennon produced show "Magic Mania" is playing a Nov. 30-Dec. 20 engagement at Shinjuku, Japan, and drawing rave reviews. The show is at the Koma Stadium Theatre which has seating for 2500 people, all shows were virtually sold out before the opening date. Seats are priced at \$16.50, \$12.00, \$7.50 and \$3.00.

The show has a cast of some 50 people with lots of singing and dancing. More than 20 illusions are presented by popular Japanese comedians trained by Doug Hennon.

Included in the program are many of the big illusions that were seen on Doug Hennon's TV specials - the motorcycle vanish, the elephant vanish, the levitation on a fountain of water, and the sequence where the stars are transformed into children and then back to adults.

The first show starts each day at 12:30 p.m. and runs for an hour, then breaks for a half hour for lunch. The second half runs an hour and ten minutes, ending about 3:40 p.m. The doors are opened at 4 p.m. for the second show which ends at about 8 p.m.

JACK RYAN

has moved from
Valencia, CA to:

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By Crane



MAIL BAG

... From Circus Joe Valenciano

It was a "Double Feature Week" for circus fans here in the Tampa Bay area when on Sunday, Nov. 11th, the purple and white Hoxie Bros. trucks pulled onto the grassy smooth parking lot of Tampa Stadium, homebase of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (football) and The Rowdies (soccer) teams.

The circus gave two shows, sponsored by the local Jaycees. The program was much the same as last year with the Campa, and Stimax families. and Jim Royal, with the exception of the Loyal Repensky riding act and three aerial acts added to the show. Music was by a good trio on organ, drums and trumpet.

Also helping the show was a good PA system, and for once you could understand everything the ringmaster said.

Visitors included The Valencianos, Eddie Zucchini, the Diaz Family and Dick Johnson.

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus played at Tampa's Eastlake Square Mall for the 3rd annual run, Nov. 12-14. The show looks good with its larhe blue and white big top. Shows were presented at 4:30 and 8 p.m. for all three days. It's program was listed in CR on Oct. 29th.

It is a fast moving program, with good crowds attending. Visitors included Hoxie Tucker and John Lewis.

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Acts

Acts scheduled to tour for the National School
Assembly programs during 1980 are: The Haw-
ley Bros., English musicians; Bob Wood, chalk
talk show; Chief Red Dawn and Blue Eagle,
Sioux Indians; Leo Gasca, balancing act, and
Phil Temple, magic and illusions.

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PEOPLE

THE YOUNG DUO reports they were not in Elkhart, Ind. as reported in the Nov. 12th issue of CR (Page 2). Instead they were in their home at Las Vegas after having completed a successful tour with the American Continental Circus.

MEL HALL visited with friends on the Carson & Barnes Circus when the show played Jasper, Texas, on Nov. 15th.

BOB EMERICO, clown/magician, jumped from Oregon to Oakland, Calif., to take care of some business deals, then rushed back to Oregon for a long string of Christmas dates in the Pacific Northwest. While in California he visited with Cas Boxley, Stan Kramien and Marie Boxley.

WILL ROGERS, Jr. will write the foreward for the new book "Cowboy Fun" authored by **FRANK DEAN** and soon to be published by Sterling Publications.

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Acts

Acts appearing on the Hal Haviland Vaudeville Show at Elmira, N.Y., (Nov. 25) were: The Cy-clonians; Karen Nyce; Curbstone Setters; Terini; Helen and Billy Scott; Crawford and Gloria; Eddie Dale; Joey Woods; Peggy Farrel; Timothy O'Leary; and Hal Haviland.

Duane R. Klinko was the musical director.

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- NO COLLECTS -

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PEOPLE

JOE CAMPASSI, wild animal trainer, handles the tiger used in the Disney movie "Sultan and the Rock Star".

FRANK DEAN, western performer, has been named to the Advisory Board of the Hollywood Stuntman's Hall of Fame. He will help with the upcoming "Stunts Galore Academy" show program. Frank has been touring with the Funs—a Poppin Circus.

RAY COSMO still works dates as a clown and stilt walker.

CHUCK HUTINGER recently produced a circus for a high school in Peoria. The event raised some \$1000 which will be spent to buy the science class a computer.

ROD MacKENZIE III is presently doing his solo single trapeze act as a feature attraction at Chicago's "Sugar Shack" club.

C. V. "Bud" PAYNE, Jr., has been named entertainment director at Circus Circus in Reno. He previously worked for the Clyde Beatty Circus, was a drummer with the Ice Follies and San Francisco Symphony, and worked in both radio and TV.

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CIRCUS QUIPS... by Karl J. Bischoff

SOME PEOPLE THINK that they are one of the "400" if they have "500" in the pocket.

ALCOHOL REMOVES the finish from show people faster than on furniture.

IT IS WISE TO REMEMBER that a round of applause or compliment after your act should be inhaled not swallowed.

OVER HEARD owner of a show teaching new employee to drive, go on GREEN, stop on RED and slow down when I turn WHITE.

REASON some show girls are such "live wires" is that they have so little insulation.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

people for their letters and phone calls, all of whom seemed concerned that owing to my hectic schedule (my writing career, plus heading for Europe) that I would give up my column. It's not true, so stop worrying about it. Nor am I retiring from my act. I have already set dates with GEORGE HUBLER, GARDEN, ED MIGLEY, and others and plan to work a full season in 1980. My next novel is already outlined and will only take six weeks to get in shape and I only expect to be in Europe for ten weeks.

Clown DENNIS STEVENS reports that ANNA DEL MONTE'S son PINKY is doing an exceptional contortion act at the Circus Hall of Fame in Sarasota, raves about the young man in fact and Dennis ought to know - he did contortion for years.

RUTHIE CLARK is convinced her parakeet is a genius . . . writes that the bird says quite clearly, "Send pictures, lowest price" . . . and . . . "Don't call me, I'll call you." Build the pet a bird house Ruthie, install a phone, and put it to work - the reasons being quite obvious.

SEE you down the road, luvs.

SPECIAL**THE ZACCHINI FAMILY . . .** by Mike Martin

The year 1864 marked the publication of a classic story of adventure and fantasy - Jules Verne's "The Earth To The Moon". The premise of the captivating book advanced the idea that the conquering of gravity was indeed a possibility by using a gargantuan cannon large and powerful enough to propel human projectiles to the moon.

This fantastic proposal so appealed to and inspired circus performer Ildebrando Zacchini that he dreamed of and determined to one day accomplish this mind-boggling feat. Azcchini's seven sons and their descendents were to become active participants in his dream and the means to its' accomplishment.

Raised as circus performers in their native Italy, the seven brothers - Edmondo, Mario, Bruno, Vittorio, Emmanuel and Teobaldo, received well rounded educations, not just in the performing arts, but also as thorough a formal schooling as possible.

The eldest of the brothers, Edmondo, now 86 years of age, had a degree in mechanical engineering and is credited with being the principal designer of the first cannon. During the First World War, the four oldest Zacchinis conceived the idea to build a cannon capable of shooting men over the enemy lines, landing with the aid of a parachute. Still remembering the dream of their father, this seemed a most logical scheme to the brothers - sheer lunacy to the Italian government! The idea lay dormant then through the end of the war.

Following their discharge from the service at the conclusion of the war, a joint effort was undertaken to make the cannon, with it's human cargo, a reality. The ultimate creation and presentation of this "death defying act" became the ticket to international acclaim spanning almost six decades.

The original cannon, built and tested in Cairo early in the 1920's, was beset with many problems. Though the structure wasn't strong enough to weather the force of the firing, it proved that compressed air could indeed be used to propel a human cannonball without injury to the projectile. The basic principle vindicated, it was applied in the subsequent eleven editions which were to propel the brothers into stardom the world over.

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Extremely successful in Europe, John Ringling brought the first cannonball, Hugo, and his brother Bruno to the U. S. in 1929, featuring them with his mammoth circus. Edmondo and Vittorio followed a season later performing their version of the act for the George Hamid Agency productions. The adulation of the show-going audiences helped to firmly establish the Zacchini's as one of the most remarkable and durable circus families in America. For with as many as three branches of the family performing their individual editions of the act at one time, the cannon presentation has been unequalled in quality and showmanship by the many inevitable imitators.

As if the sight of a single 'human cannonball', garbed in the striking white horsehide jumpsuit and protective helmet, hurtling through space wasn't startling enough, in the mid 1930's the family introduced a new and more exciting variation. To the sheer amazement of the gasping, awe-struck crowds, the Zacchini family proudly demonstrated the formidable double barreled cannon, eclipsing even the fame of the previous cannons by firing simultaneously two human projectiles to the spotlighted out-stretched nets, over two hundred feet away!

Still not content as the foremost exponents of a true thrill act, the Zacchinis "out-Zacchinied" themselves by perfecting the cannon presentation, with all its' inherent dangers, to the zenith of possibilities by replacing the double barreled cannon with a model that exists today - capable of firing two gravity-defiers from the same barrel!

The technical feat of 'shooting' a man from a cannon is not infallible. At any time the machine can malfunction. Happily, in the nearly 60 years the act has been presented, none of the Zacchini family has been killed or permanently injured. Although close calls have occurred, the problem hasn't always been due to something wrong with the cannon. Traveling a distance of over 200 ft.

(Continued on Page 18)

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THE ZACCHINIS (Continued)-

arcng 100 ft. high at speeds of 90 miles per hour presents problems of its' own. But a major portion of the success of the act depends upon a safe landing net. The net must be set with precision as to position and tension. For an improperly executed landing or net too tight or loose could signal disaster instantly.

Of the seven brothers originating the act, six remain; Hugo having succumbed to a heart attack in 1977. The others live in retirement in Florida - Edmondo and Mario in Tampa, Bruno, Vittorio, Teobaldo and Emmanuel in Sarasota.

Over the years, Edmondo, his six younger brothers, some of their children and a select few outsiders have performed in the family act. The 'human cannonballs' haven't always been just males either. For instance, only one of Bruno's three children became a projectile and that was a daughter. Of this younger generation raised in the U. S. only one of their number has chosen to pursue the family tradé as his career - Edmondo's son Hugo - who is now the lone Zacchini still performing the traditional cannon act.

Although the financial rewards coupled with the critical acclaim have always been very good ever since the beginning, the danger of physical harm or death and the other hardwork associated with presenting the act seem to outweigh the benefits. Perhaps these are part of the reasons why the other Zacchini children chose not to follow the traditional form of show business employment.

Joseph C. Reisinger

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DON McLENNON will have his horse acts with the Big John Strong Circus for the 1980 season. Also touring with that show will be RON PERRY and PAM.

JOANNE and PEE WEE PINSON visited with DIME and CONNIE WILSON, DONNA and BILL BANNISTER in Texas after their tour with JIMMY HETZER. Then they jumped into Springfield, Ohio, to see BILL and TRUDY STRONG before heading out for Christmas show dates.

Accepting the rigors and dangers involved, Hugo, for over 20 years, has tempted the fates as did his father, uncles and other relatives. To him has passed the legacy of perpetuating the traditions begun so long ago in the dreams of Ildebrando, reflecting on a 'journey to the moon'.

Perhaps in this age of actual visits to the moon, of instant contact by TV with all parts of the globe, the daredeviltry of a lone man propelled heaven-ward has lost some of its' excitement. Perhaps what was once the extra-ordinary has become common place, taken for granted. More's the pity. Still, when the spotlight illuminates the gleaming cylinder aimed skyward, when the deafening explosion and billowing smoke fill the arena highlighting the flight of the solitary remaining human cannonball - the luster and excitement seem bright and new once again.



.... From
DON
MARCKS

WHAT ABOUT 1980?

Several news ideas have been planned for the future and we think they will help improve *Circus Report*. It means we'll be able to offer much more in the way of news and information.

One definite move in 1980 will be to make the Lloyd Jones publication "*Bat Droppings*" a part of *Circus Report*. Lloyd's fine publication is a quarterly and so four times a year it will become part of CR.

Bat Droppings offers personal comments about magic, show business, the post office, the government, and a few other things. It will also include reports on books and items of interest for each and everyone of you.

We're merging the two papers for a number of reasons. It will provide a wider circulation for

both papers, thus increasing the number of readers we can reach. It will also help in the matter of production and should even solve some of the paper problems that seem to be so frequent here of late.

At the present time some readers may be subscribing to both CR and BD. Those who wish to continue their CR subscription will receive BD as part of that yearly subscription. Those who want to subscribe only to *Bat Droppings* may do so by writing to Lloyd E. Jones, 4064 - 39th Ave., Oakland, Ca. 94619 (Phone: 415-234-2495). It will cost you \$2.00 per year for four big issues.

We think you are going to enjoy the new feature and look forward to its arrival.

So, better tell your friends. You can't find a better bargain anywhere, than the \$15.00 per year that *Circus Report* costs.

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