

CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

OUR 11th YEAR

Number 39-40

October 4, 1982



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HOTLINE

Sept. 11 - Wisconsin Rapids, Wisc. - A missing persons report was filed with police for Mary Herman. Later she was found dead and authorities said she had been killed by an elephant. Murder charges were then filed and warrants were issued for two elephant handlers, who, it was reported, had gone to another state in the mid-west to perform with a circus.

Sept. 19 - Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers went on strike and according to reports the hardest hit areas were those states in the South and West.

It was not known what effect this will have on the Ringling scheduled dates, and those carnivals moving by rail.

The Blue Unit was closing in Portland, Ore. and was scheduled to move to Seattle, Wash., 183 miles.

The Red Unit was closing in Toledo, Ohio, and was scheduled to move to St. Louis, Mo., 486 miles.

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PEOPLE

PAT BISSONETTE had a display of clown props, wardrobe, pictures, posters and publicity on display in July at the Great River Regional Library in St. Cloud, Minn. Pat is currently working the Morning News Report and doing phone sales for Radio Station KKCM.

MIKE PHILLIPS & TRICIA recently completed a series of six full scale stage shows in the Delaware area. Also on the show were the variety acts of BURKE's BARKING BUFFOONS, VIDBEL's Performing Chimps and BOOTS the Clown. The shows were booked by Amandis Entertainment of Sarasota, Fla.

TONY DUNCAN, of the No Elephant Circus, is now the recognized champion in 7 ball juggling. Tony won first place in the numbers competition held at the International Juggler's Association convention in Santa Barbara, Calif.

WALLY and CZIGI BICKMORE and daughter TOSCA are working with the Happytime Circus and recently wound up a date at Newark, Calif.

FRANK BUCK, the late animal hunter, is the subject of a new TV series which will find him operating in the jungle wilds against both man and beast. No mention has been made about the time he spent with the Ringling-Barnum Circus in '38.

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East Coast Notes

by FRANK D. ROBBE

Hoxie Bros. Circus has a coffee mug for sale which includes the title, 1982 tour and Hoxie Tucker's signature which sells for \$4.00. The show will head out of New Jersey soon and those on the east coast route to winterquarters might want to keep an eye out for it.

The 1983 CFA convention will be held in Philadelphia. Its slogan will be "Back Where it all Began". This title was suggested by Robert Houston, CFA, CMB and encompasses Rickett's and the birth of the Nation. Currently Mr. Houston, James Dunwoody and others have a fine circus exhibit at the State Museum located at Penn's Landing.

Big Apple Circus closed its summer season on July 25 at Fordham University in the Bronx. It was champagne and tears but the show will open its winter season at the Lincoln Center again this December. Among the highlights of this very successful tour were the outstanding acts of Ben Williams and Anna Mae; John Herriott and his horse, Apache Bandellero and spotted Great Dane, Bojangles; Paul Binder and Michael Christensen's hilarious juggling routine and Barry Lubin and Jim Tinsman's classic clown routine "The Ventriloquist."

Bergen Mall in Paramus, NJ, was the location of a three day Mini Circus produced and directed and MC'd by Ted Chirrick, of Moonachie. The show was composed of Tom Cathro, illusionist; Bob Good, hand balancing; Lottie Brunn, juggling superstar and clowns Frank Carbone, Middy Streeter and Mart Ricky. Toby Johnson and wife did clown face make-up for children. It was a neat show that got better with every performance.

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Chirrick are currently working at Loews Monte Carlo. Soon they will go to Paris to visit Montego, Mike's uncle and then two weeks working in Cannes. Mr. Chirrick has signed with the Harlem Globe Trotters for an indefinite period.

After the Big Apple Circus season closed John and Mary Ruth and Weiner Herriott went over to Hoxie Bros. Circus and will finish out the season. Hoxie lost a tent in Point Pleasant, NJ, during a cloudburst and the replacement was not high enough for the

AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9th

BALTIMORE, OHIO, AUCTION CENTER - 20 miles Southeast of Columbus, Ohio. Location at High Street at Route 256, 1 o'clock sharp. Sat. Oct. 9th.

Items from Novelty and Book Store and Lifetime Collection of old and new books on CIRCUS, TENT SHOWS, CARNIVALS, Theatre, Magic, Vent, yes, all lines of show business.

Large collection of the best in sheet music, western and hill-billy folios, old magazines on big bands, theatre including "Bill Brunos Bulletins", posters, window cards, glossy 8 x 10's motion picture stars, the big old bands on 78 rpm and 331/3rd old stock certificates, commemorative and old coins, trays, tin toys, banks, jewelry, fine collection of 8 x 10 circus photos, some very old from Wallace show.

Just too much to list. This is truly a collector's sale.

Remember, Baltimore, Ohio, Saturday, October 9th, 1 o'clock sharp.

Terms of sale, cash or check with proper ID, Master Charge or VISA.

Auctioneer - John Erhard

flying act. Later in the season the show's light plant rolled over and the tractor was destroyed. It's replacement was delivered in Fairlawn.

Charlie Moyer, cometist extraordinaire, has a six piece circus band on the Hoxie show which is so traditional and excellent that it just melts the ears off a circus fan and show folks alike. Voted the best on the east coast,

Showmen and circus fans are happy that Don Marcks is back in business and well again. The Circus Report was missed by all.

PEOPLE

CAPTAIN DON LESLIE, tattooed man and sword swallower, was featured in a photo story in the Daily Hampshire Gazette (Northampton, Mass) on Sept. 9th.

Show Dates

Brickle's Wonderland Cir.

Oct 4 Springfield, SC
5 Cottageville
6 Ruffin
7-8 Walterboro

Castle Int'l Circus

Oct. 7-10 Utica, NY

Circus Knie

to Oct. 13

Place Bellerive, Switz.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Oct. 5 Crystal River, Fla

6 Tarpon Springs

7 Fort Myers

8 Naples

— End of Season —

Liebel Family Circus

Oct. 4-9 Newberry, SC

No Elephant Circus

Oct. 3 Newburgh, NY

9 Nassau

Olympic Int'l Circus

Oct. 7-16

Birmingham, Ala.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Oct. 7-11 Denver, Colo.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Oct. 5-10 Indianapolis, Ind
Ind.

Swan Bros. Circus

Oct. 8-10 Delano, Calif.

Texas Shrine Circus

Oct. 4-10 Austin, Texas

Zoppe Circus Italia

Oct. 4-9 Pottsville, Pa.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

Oct. 3-10 Fryeburg, Me.

James H. Drew Exposition

Oct. 4-9 Dublin, Ga.

--- MAGIC ---

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Oct. 4 Sterling, Colo.

5 Longmount

8 Rocky Ford

9 La Junta

10 Burlington

Tannen's Magic Jubilee

Oct. 8-10

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(After 6 p.m.)

Don't you just love these chimps? They're so clever and cute, it's really fun to be working with them and they're just natural performers.

Sometimes, though, they get a bit wild and reckless and then they get to be a real handful.

It's times like that they remind me of a guy I used to go with. In fact come to think about it, he even looked like one of these guys!

Beatty-Cole Circus

by ALBERT F. HOUSE

Here's the most recent line-up of the show program for Beatty-Cole, plus a truck list.

The program: Overture and Spec with the band led by Russell Darr; Dave Hoover's wild animals; Clown Walkaround; Aerial perch, Edward & Cherry; Inclined Wire Walk by The Great Vashek; Juggling display by Tina Storey and Benny Rico; Clowns and Safe Cracking (8 buffoons); Trampoline and casting, Oscar Brothers (5); Ground perch display with Antonio & Julio and Del Moral Duo; Welde's Dancing Bears; Clown Fantasy leads into the Aerial Ballet with 13 girls in the air; Tina Storey, single trapeze, Cindy Herriott, cloud swing, Heidi Herriott, single trapeze; Intermission.

Elephant rides and autograph party during the intermission and sale of color book.

Rolling globes, Les Verdus; The Flying Alvarez Troupe, flying trapeze; Dressage display with Cindy Herriott and Heidi Herriott who finish in center ring; Clown walk-around; Teeterboard display with The Estrada Trio, Ayala Troupe and Martin Trio; Elephant display with 5 bulls, Fred Logan and 2 girls in Ring 1, and 3 elephants, Alan Keunzie and 1 girl in Ring 3; Aerial Motorcycle, The Vashek Duo; Finale, 5 girls in Ring 1 and 4 girls in Ring 3, Flag drops in center ring and Barry Sloane does stilt walk with entire company coming out to take a bow.

Russ Darr's band of 8 men plays for the exit march.

BEATTY-COLE TRUCK LIST - 1982

Veh. No.	Type	Description
7	Semi	Big Top Poles/Rigging
11	Semi	Midway diner
16	Semi	Concession supplies
24	S.B.	Canvas Spool Truck
27	Semi	Bibles, Stringers, Jacks
31	S. B.	Stake Driver
33	Semi	Ticket Office
34	Semi	Props, Band Sleeper
44	Semi	Generator, Lights, Prop dept. Sleeper
51	Semi	Bleacher seats, chairs
60	Semi	Elephants (4)
62	Semi	Elephants (4)
63	Semi	Sleeper (big Top)
64	Semi	Generator, Electric Dept. Slpr.

74	Semi	Cookhouse
78	Semi	Hoover's cat cages (10) No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15
81	Semi	Seats (bleachers)
85	Semi	Painted Panels - sleeper
86	Semi	Painted Panels - Concession sleeper, harnesses, elect. equip.
91	S. B.	Fuel Truck
96	Semi	Seats - bleachers
99	S. B.	Water (pulls doniker)
110	Semi	Bleacher seats, chairs T. Doniker
1	Semi	Maintenance, Sleeper T. For Fork Lift Fork Lift S.B. Maintenance, Weld. Equip. T. Hoover's cat cages (6) No. 5, 7, 9, 10, 21, 22

The basic color of the following trucks was changed from red to white in 1982:

11	Midway Diner
16	Concession Supplies
64	Generator
74	Cookhouse
85	Midway Panels
86	Midway Panels

Ticket wagon No. 33 Continued to have the same basic white paint scheme as last year, yellow scrolls and red and yellow lettering on the white background, provided a very clean, flashy front end. Bob Rawls did an outstanding job on the painting. He also painted the numbers and scroll work on the Great American Circus vehicles and his excellent work on this job make the trucks look 100% circus.

Tractors No. 1, 7, 16, 27, 44, 60, 62, 64, and 78 were diesels. The following trucks were not on the show this year: No. 30 side show poles and canvas, No. 61 elephants, No. 120 Bleacher seats and No. 121 Bleacher seats.

Inventory and photos were taken by Fred Heatley on Aug. 4, 1982, at Mahwah, NJ.

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Feature Acts

Many acts were the rule rather than the exception in the "All-Star International Super Circus" produced by Bauer-Hall Enterprises from Aug. 21-Sept. 5, in the Great Arena of Six Flags Great Adventure's entertainment center at Jackson, NJ.

The line-up included: Tarzan Zerbini's lion and tiger act; Human Cannonball, Hugo Zucchini; The Winn Troupe, with two aerial motorcycle trios, separate slides-for-life by Miss Roverta (Winn) and Miss Debby (Kelly) and a "Skywalk and Crossover" involving Karl Winn and his brother Mike, who was attired in a Spiderman costume; Douglas MacValley's Globe of Death, with riders including MacValley, Charles Winter (Speedy Cliff) and Humberto Fonseca; Bob Atterbury's "Young Rasini Rocket Car", with Klint Olson as the daredevil driver; Rietta Wallenda's "Playamte of the Planets" aerial rocket act; The Flying Ibarra; the Sue and Rudi Lenz Chimps (5); the Hubert Castle-Zerbini Circus Elephants (6) worked by Gary and Patricia Thomas, with Sylvia Zerbini outfitted

as a Spiderwoman rider; Jorge Rosell's Unpredictable Car; Miriam France's Yorkshire Terriers (8); The Dionnes, perch duo; Jurgin Timmermanns, knife-sword balancer; and a three ring Indian fantasy juggling display, involving the Dionne and Sampion Timmermanns families.

Show credits included Ernie McLean, announcer-ringmaster; Clement Toca, musical director, Tarzan Zerbini, performance director; and Bauer-Hall Enterprises, producers. Consisting of Joseph Bauer, of Sarasota, and William B. Hall III, of the Philadelphia suburb of Churchville, Pa. Bauer-Hall is currently in its 15th year of operation.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM (Bill) BAXTER, concessionaire, died on July 29th at the Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco, Calif. He was a former Ringling-Barnum Circus concessionaire and in recent years had worked for Danny Craig.

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ALBERTO ZOPPE CIRCUS ROUTE

Zoppe Circus Italia	Aug. 23-28	Dover, Delaware
" " "	Held Over Aug. 29-Sep. 4	" "
" " "	Sep. 6-11	Hazleton, Penna.
" " "	Sep. 12	Boscov Corp. Picnic, 14,000 people Reading, Penna.
Zoppe Circus Europa	Sep. 18	Little Rock, Ark.
Zoppe Circus Italia	Sep. 20-26	Reading Fair, Reading, Penna.
" " "	Sep. 28-Oct. 2	Sunbury, Penna.
" " "	Oct. 4-9	Pottsville, Penna.
" " "	Oct. 11-16	Wilkes-Barre, Penna.
" " "	Oct. 18-23	Lebanon, Penna.
" " "	Dec. 18	Little Rock, Ark.

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Show Visit

by DONALD V. SWING

On Aug. 23-24, the Clyde Beatty-Cole Br. Circus played in Wilmington, Dela., sponsored by the Wilmington JC's.

The night of the 23rd, the John W. Pugh Tent No. 117 of the CFA hosted the 11th Anniversary party for the personnel of the circus. Ed and Penny Phillips, who were married in the center ring of the circus one year ago, rode in the opening spec on the elephant "Helen."

We were honored to have as our guests Al and Maxine House and Allen Duffield, the President and Secretary/Treasurer of the CFA respectfully.

During the party, which consisted of hot dogs and sauerkraut, beer, soft drinks and cake, we were treated to music by Bob Paisley and the Southern Grass.

Sew What?

by BOB STODDARD

In "Where Credit is Due," Aug. 23rd Circus Report, I inadvertently missed due credit, so I'll "sew-up" the error in this addition.

Dot Stone is in charge of the wardrobe department on the Carson & Barnes show, where she and her assistant Doris U, from Peru, keep the Pfaff and Elna's humming.

Not only are they responsible for the basic costumes for the Flying Randals, cradle acts,



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clowns, etc., they also perform such duties as: keeping the elephant blankets repaired and clean, the prop crew in clean uniforms, the webs, back door curtain and the big top flags in flying condition. They make and repair the plumes for the horse department, dispense safety pins at critical moments - and there's more.

This year Dot is also mail agent and general "go-fer" for the office staff and is handling the route cards.

(If you aren't the type that loves to be "kept busy" - don't get a job in the Carson & Barnes wardrobe department).

Investigation Planned

A Virginia woman who recently visited the zoo in San Antonio, Texas, has set off an investigation into the care and handling of the elephants at the zoo.

In letters to the city's mayor and the governor, she charged the zoo keeps the elephants chained most of the day. "They were miserable, swaying back and forth, flailing their trunks on the hot concrete."

The elephants are reportedly kept chained to a ground cable that enables them to walk around the enclosure. They are freed three times a day to perform in the zoo shows and to swim in the elephant pool.

Bill Meade, a regional director for the Humane Society said he would consider it cruel if the elephants are chained constantly. He also said this would be a violation of the federal Animal Welfare Act, under which zoos operate through a license by the USDA. He said he would be looking into the matter.

A veterinary inspector for the USDA, Dr. Gerald Drew, plans to investigate the treat-

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ment of elephants in San Antonio. He normally makes his visits unannounced and said, "we always check out complaints."

Tigers Killed

At least four Siberian tigers were recently killed at the zoo in Detroit, Mich. Officials at the zoo said the animals were put to death because two were old and arthritic, one was ill-tempered and the other had a hip disorder.

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PEOPLE

KENT GHIRARD has returned to his home in Honolulu after vacationing at the Circus World Museum and visiting with Rich Deptula and Jim Parker.

THE FLYING FARFAN family has rented a house on Lake Lavon, Texas, so they will be able to take flyer **GINO** for his daily trips to the hospital for therapy, in Dallas. Gino has been improving steadily, and is exercising regularly.

JERRY FRIES was with the Ringling Blue Unit in Fresno, Calif., working on the choreography with showgirls and performers.

DALE WOODCOCK, who is with the Ringling Blue ring stock department, was injured during the Fresno, Calif. date when he was kicked in the knee by a horse.

JIM GIBSON, band director with the Ringling Blue Unit, was formerly with the George Matthews Circus as well as Circus Vargas.

Some film and TV stars seen attending the Ringling Blue Unit show during its Southern California engagements were: Kirk Douglas, Burt Lancaster, Leslie Meriwether, Kim Novak, Connie Stevens, Lou Gosset, Brooke Shields, Jack Klugman and Alan Nathan.

In Memoriam

DIRTY SHIRT DAVIS (82) concessionaire, died recently in Coolidge, Ariz. He worked celebrations, parades, etc., in the Pacific Northwest area before retiring to Arizona. A sister survives.

WERNER F. "Dorny" DORNFIELD (89) a close friend of Houdini and Thurston and dean of magicians, died in Chicago, Ill. on Sept. 5th. His fame dates back to World War I when he toured with "Elsie Janis and Her Gang." He toured for years as a Vaudeville star with his act "Painless Magic" and later became a popular MC. He is survived by two sisters and a brother.

NENA EVANS, wife of famed circus band master Merle Evans, died in Sarasota, Fla., on June 24th. For years she served as the Paymaster on Ringling-Barnum Circus, and was a friend to countless show people and circus fans alike.

JACK HURLBUT (53) well known in Las Vegas and at the Magic Castle, died suddenly on Sept. 8th.

LEWIS KOHRS, noted rare magic book purveyor, died on Sept. 6th after a long illness. His contacts in the rare book field aided many a collector looking for a treasure.

The Flying Vasquez

by BOB STODDARD

How did Oscar Levant put it to John Garfield in the movie "Body and Soul"? Something like this. "You suffer from the old American itch. You want to get there and get there fast, but you don't want to pay for the ride."

That's exactly why you don't see many Americans on the flying trapeze and the other high risk skills of the circus world. It's easier to pay to watch someone else perform these dangerous acts that require



5 year old Yana Vasquez who will join the act soon.

so much practice and dedication because your very life depends upon it.

Having said all that, I will now jump head-long into an exception to the rule.

Listed as a Mexican act, the Flying Vasquez is making their debut with the Red Unit of Ringling-Barnum this year and it turns out that three out of the four are Americans (and three out of four ain't bad) it's unique, for sure!

Vinicio Vasquez is the leader/organizer of America's newest and boldest flying troupe. His lovely American wife, Golda and seventeen year old Brian Miser, of Peru, Ind., are the other flyers. Gordon Howle, of Sarasota, Fla., is the catcher.

Vinicio worked with his brothers on the blue unit before and he and Golda have

worked together for two years. Brian and Gordon have each worked with Vinicio before, but not at the same time.

Even though they were all veteran fliers it was a brand new act that only had a little over one month of practicing together before starting this season with RBBB-Red.

Since then they are getting it all together and the act is smoothing out.



THE FLYING VASQUEZ - L.t.R.: Brian Miser, flyer, Golda Vasquez, flyer, Vinicio Vasquez, flyer and Gordon Howle, catcher.

Vinicio and Brian both do the triple somersault and Golda works the passing leap with Vinicio.

"Flying is the most exciting thing in my life," Golda said.

Vinicio says, "My 17 year old brother Miguel being the first to do the Quad is the most exciting thing in my life."

Golda grew up in the circus and was one of the Seven Ashtons, of risley fame. She became a flyer after marrying Vinicio.

She has two little girls who both fly.

"Five year old 'Yana' will be in the act next year," says Golda. "But four year old Bianca will have to wait awhile."

Shrine Dates

Compiled by Michael Sporrer

Ontario, Ore. - Snake River Shrine Club

1956 - Aug. 5 - Tom Packs Western

1957 - Aug. 6 - Tom Packs Western

1958 - July 22 - Rudy Bros.

1959 - July 31 - Rudy Bros.

1960 - Aug. 2 - Rudy Bros.

1961 - 1963 - None

1964 - June 24 - King Bros.

(All dates at Fairgrounds, but King Bros. played under canvas - May not be complete)

Franzen Bros.

by *KEN HOLEHOUSE*

Pedro Morales and son Paul are featured performers with Franzen Bros. Circus this season. Pedro opens his act with a one finger stand and continues with a variety of head-to-head balancing maneuvers with his 11 yr. old son, Paul. He finishes the act walking up a flight of stairs on his hands. Pedro comes from a show-biz family and the classy act and style of his routine are a pleasure to watch.

In the second half of the Franzen show, Pedro does a fast-paced foot juggling act.

Also featured this season are Amy and Harry Muller. Amy is a strikingly beautiful young lady and does a variety of routines on the web. She and her husband team up to do a beautifully-choreographed cradle in the last part of the show, ending with a show-stopping neck to neck spin.

Some of the traveling personnel with the Franzen Bros. Circus this season include: Fred Marsh, props; Brian Jungck, cat supt; and props; Mark Norton, lighting boss; John Burns, head butcher; Bill Baker, stock and canvas; Kevin Alsing, mechanical dept; Emma Anderson, kitchen boss.

Show Girls

by *ALBERT HOUSE*

Girls working on swinging ladders in the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus aerial ballet number, including their sitters are:

Cherie Cunningham - Jose Ayala
Blanca Estrada - Antonio Estrada
Monica Lopez - John Welde
Cindy Potter - Enrique Ayala
Lillian Logan - Oscar Ayala
Narda Galendo - Dean Coley
Naomi Logan - John Kane
Elba Walker - Mark Snider
Cherry Fossett - Edward del Moral
Mirna Murillo - Tom Weiss
Lilly Hernandez - Pedro Murillo
Chris Baltzley - Armando Ayala
Ruth Ayala - Julian Estrada
Rorma Martinez - John Eckstein
Freida Logan - Robert Temple

PEOPLE

JIMMIE and EVELYN FOSSETT have a custom-designed semi trailer (designed by Jimmie) that is 55 ft. long. It is pulled by a beautiful new Kenworth tractor.

CFA Officers

The following officers were elected at the recent CFA Convention in Little Rock, Ark.

President, Albert F. House, of Oakland, NJ; President Elect, Hardy O'Neal; District 2, George Morrison; District 4, Shirley Ryan; District 6, Marilyn Parkinson; District 8 Warren Downing; District 10, Anne Wurl; District 12, Albert Turner; District 14, Richard Johnson; District 16, Lucille Lane.

National officers include: Central VP, Dale Riker; Eastern VP, Robert Kitchen and Western VP, Ralph Decker.

Fair Dates

by *ALMOND KNIGHT*

The first week of September brought four big carnivals to middle Tennessee, playing within a 50 mile radius of each other.

Playing the Humphreys County Fair, in Waverly, Tenn., Aug. 30-Sept. 4 was the Key City Shows with about 20 rides and shows.

Just 20 miles away was Myers Amusements at the Benton County Fair in Camden, playing the same dates. In Dickson, Tenn., just 25 miles away from Waverly, was the Blue Grass Shows, playing the Dickson County Fair. They had some 25 rides and shows.

While at the Montgomery County Fair in Clarksville, Tenn., was the Link Amusements. This is a big carnival that plays the larger cities. They have 25 or more outstanding rides and shows.

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Manuel King has his big Snake Show on this carnival. He along with the carnival got big write-ups in the papers. Also Cristiani has his 3 elephants on the show and gives a free performance each day.

Miscellaneous

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus big top for this season measures 139 ft. 8 in. in width and is 282 ft. 4 in. long. The side wall is 12 ft. high and the top has three center sections that are 47 ft. 7 in. wide.

Mail Returned

Circus Reports addressed to the following people were recently returned by the Post Office who says they can no longer deliver them as addressed:

Thomas J. Hunt
Henry L. Hoover
Ralph Crosby
John Senhauser
Ray Matthews
Len Leonard
William and Jeanne Reynolds

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PEOPLE

MIKE TWOMEY (oldest son of Dave and Judy Twomey) and his fiance **SUE PIRRO** have their double trailer haunted house on the carnival 'Carnival Time Shows' this year, playing fairs and celebrations throughout

the west.

BRUCE ANDERSON, sway pole act, played the Colusa Country Fair on July 4th, and a circus in Carlsbad for agent Gil Miller, as well as the Butte County Fair in August (all dates were in California).

Now Booking

by *JIM MIGHELLS*

Booking for 1983 - Some time open in November 1982. "Animal Behaviour - why they do what they do."

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Jim Mighells, Rare Animal Breeding Center, Rte. 2, Box 55-C, Bear Creek, NC 27207 or phone: 515-837-5123.

If you prefer contact your favorite agent.

Shrine Dates

Compiled by Michael Sporrer

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Shrine Club

1940 - June 24-26 - Polack Bros.

1980 - July 2 - Carden-Johnson

1981 - June 27 - Carden Int'l

1982 - July 10 - Carden Int'l

(All dates played at the Fairgrounds - may not be complete)

The Windjammers

The Windjammers will hold their next session in Florida (Jan. 27-29, 1983) at which time they will hold a belated birthday party for Merle Evans. Merle actually will celebrate his 90th birthday on Dec. 26th.

Bob Peckham, of Athens, Ga., and Dr. Fred Dettman, of Ft. Myers, Fla., are serving as co-chairman of the Windjammers meet.

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Facts of the Past

by *EMMETT KELLY, Jr.*

Recently I unearthed some interesting information about an old-time circus.

Frush's Oriental Circus wintered in Tombstone, Ariz. in 1886. They put on their first show inside the newly opened Elite Theatre which was formerly the Bird Cage Theatre, which originally opened on Dec. 15, 1881, and closed in 1883.

The theatre remained dark until Jan. 16, 1886, when the Frush Circus played there on its stage.

The song "She's Only A Girl In A Gilded Cage" was penned in the Bird Cage Theatre. It represented the Call Girls (called Doves) who worked the cages (box seats on each side with closing door, drapes and a couch).

Magic Meet

by LLOYD E. JONES

Some 2000 people attended this year's meeting of the Federation of International Societies of Magic (FISM) which was held at Lausanne, Switzerland. This was the organization's 15th meeting, with meetings held every three years.

The Grand Prix, a coveted award this year went to Lance Burton whose rise to fame has now brought him magic's top honor.

A second prize was awarded to Jay Scott Berry, of the Magic Castle. The close-up winner was Michael Ammar and for card work Daryl (Martinez) won the prize.

An award for the best illusion went to Wayne Alan and Sandy who had a new twist on the Zig-Zag. No prize for first or second place were awarded in Mentalism, but a third prize was presented to Howard Schwarzman.

In all about 100 contestants presented acts for the judges, while 40 people competed in the close-up contest. As a result the judges

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had quite a chore selecting the winners.

Bellachini XII, of Germany, was quite a show stopper, with an act that used collector's pieces of magic and he imitated a 19th century magician.

Another hit of the show was Die Agapis, of Germany. A girl locked in a cabinet is apparently penetrated with blades and swords. Then the middle section was zig-zagged and the lower section was closed down and the blades removed. The girl then stepped out, shorter and years younger. When the box was reassembled the doors are opened and the original girl steps out.

PEOPLE

DUDLEY RIGGS, former Kelly-Miller circus performer, recently opened a video game facility in St. Paul, Minn. It's called "Videosyncrasies or Rich Man, Pac Man."

MAE NOELL, who with her husband have helped revive the Medicine Show in Florida, and who are authors of the book "The History of Noell's Ark Gorilla Show" recently was a guest speaker at the Tarpon Springs, Fla., Library.

Elephant's Death

by ART "Doc" MILLER

Exactly 64 years ago this month, Mary, a performing elephant, was hanged by the neck in the Clinchfield railroad yards in Erwin, Tenn.

While a good performer, she was never trusted, having killed several people on other shows. Each previous circus owner had followed the rule to file a notch on her tusk each time she committed a murder. The John H. Sparks nine car circus was aware of this when she was purchased. A few days before the Erwin date, a greenhorn, Walter Eldridge, was hired to help handle the elephants. In Kingsport, as usual on parade, Walter Eldridge sat up on her head, while making eyes at town girls along the sidewalks.

Mary spied a portion of a watermelon in the gutter and turned to pick it up with her trunk. To show his authority, Eldridge promptly hooked her on the ear with his bull hook. With a squeal of rage, Mary then reached up with her trunk, picked him up by the neck and dashed him head first into a peanut stand. Not satisfied that this had killed him, she placed her foot on his head and squashed it flat, then trumpeted with pride.

The next morning as the show train pulled into Erwin, both John and Charles Sparks noted the huge wreck derrick, nodded and silently agreed, "we'd better have her hanged before she kills someone else." Arrangements were made with the railroad officials to execute her after the matinee, and the news spread like a prairie fire.

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Perhaps Mary sensed it was her final performance, she outdid herself and acted as gentle as a kitten. Later she was led chained to a docile elephant, the largest crowd ever seen in Erwin swarmed into the Clinchfield rail yard to watch this astonishing sight.

A one-inch chain was wrapped around Mary's neck and the derrick gave a mighty snort. She was barely off the ground when the chain snapped and down she came, shaking herself and trembling with fright.

A much heavier chain was found and was double wrapped around her neck and up she went. Mary made a few feeble kicks, then was still.

No one seems to remember where Mary was buried, nor who later stole the notched tusks from John Sparks.

(In his most recent Route Sheet, Charlie Campbell relates the story of Mary's death and says she was buried by the railroad's roundhouse. Later a crew from the Smithsonian Institute dug up her bones).

THE SPECIAL BRAVURA WORLD OF THE CIRCUS

by *JOSEPH T. ROZMIAREK,*
Honolulu Star-Bulletin Reviewer

IT'S the Continental Circus, produced and directed by Paul V. Kaye, and brought to the Neal Blaisdell Center by Kane Fernandez and Ralph Yempuku. What better way to tangibly confirm that it's summertime and that life can be showy and grand.

The Continental Circus is a tidy and well-paced mixture of animal acts, clowns, acrobats and aerialists that holds together well despite a sluggish reception from a large but luke-warm opening night audience.

It's a one-ring circus, and while it may lack some size and spectacle, it carries itself proudly and with assured showmanship.

Early into the first big act, one wonders why anyone these days still makes a living by entering a cage full of big cats with a whip and a prod. Doug Terranova's act features nine Bengal and Siberian tigers who jump through flaming hoops, balance on pedestals, and pose for snarling tableaux.

THE SAME question surfaces again over the "astounding aerial audacity" of Bob Top and Edna, a pair of roller skaters who perform a variety of spins on a card table-sized platform fifty feet above the arena floor.

Before long we give up that recurring pedestrian question and give in to the special bravura world of the circus. It is enough that the circus exists,

and especially remarkable that it exists despite the bland workaday existence of most of the rest of us.

Despite the hyperbole and the shameless hard sell, in the circus the risks are real, the thrill is genuine, and the experience is a vicarious release. After another two hours we are ready to forgive the flag-waving grand finale, because the individual acts themselves have shown a great deal more substance than that which characterizes the final hollow gesture.

Castles' Bears features an impossibly large black brute that looks like a Goldilocks illustration and rides bicycles. Scott's Unrideable Mule may be the show's most popular act as it fends off all attempts at being mounted.

THEN THERE are Scott's Foot-

ball Playing Boxers, which create a special canine mayhem as they battle for a floating balloon and upend any human who gets in the way.

Clyde Brothers' Elephants are a trio of stately looking, intelligent animals that perform a synchronized routine, seemingly without much obvious direction from their trainers. Best of all, they smell—unmistakenly and wonderfully—exactly like elephants.

The trapeze star is the lithe and lissome Lorelei, who despite her billing is one tough athlete who performs a series of bare-foot heel and toe catches. The other big trapeze act are the The Flying Miklins, who include a triple somersault and a passing leap among their routines.

Christopher James does a wire number divided between some comic drunken bum maneuvers

and some strictly sober balancing. The Plunkett Family are a trampoline act that features several tumbling poses and catches.

A CURIOUS addition are Los Gauchos, who do a noisy drum and Spanish dance routine that looks exactly like a three minute fill spot from the old Ed Sullivan Show.

The last big act is the Karl Winn Trio—a combination of motorcycle, high wire, and trapeze that isn't fully understood even when seen. The concept starts with a motorcycle fixed to a high, inclined tight wire. Strapped to the motorcycle and hanging below the wire is a rigid trapeze arrangement. As the driver runs the machine up and down the wire, a pair of riders perform underneath. The effect provokes a certain amount of

disbelief.

A number of clown alley routines are inserted into the show with the company clowns assisted by the Aloha Shriners and a guest appearance by Professor Fun. Earl Michaels does the ringmaster duties and the circus band is directed by Jack Cervone.

The Circus is a ritual experience and one especially precious to childhood. This one satisfies both of those basic needs.

In Memoriam

JOHN SHUFERT (Roll Dawn Red), concessionaire, died Nov. 11, 1981, in San Jose, Calif. and was buried in Chicago, Ill. He worked most of the major football games in the country, usually selling pennants.