

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 23

June 7, 1982



JEANETTE SOLE
Ringmistress with Sole Bros. Circus
Australia

A Rare Day

by GUS TALIAFERRO

On Aug. 26, 1945, the Cole Bros. Circus train pulled into the railroad yards at Des Moines, Iowa, to unload for a show date.

At the same time the Ringling-Barnum show train pulled into the yards and was spotted alongside the Cole Bros. Circus for a feed and water stop.

On the far side of the yards, the Royal American Shows train was passing thru en route to their next engagement.

PEOPLE

BOB WELZ is appearing with the ice show at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif. during the summer season.

BOB EMERICO, is presently with the Americana Combined Shows in the Pacific Northwest area. He recently visited with JOHN EADS, magic shop operator, and KARL and SHEILA WINN in Medford, Ore.

HOTLINE

Apr. 25 - Zimbabwe, Africa - Carole van Zeeland, of Kaukauna, Wisc., was injured by a charging male elephant while on a safari tour of animal reserves.

The elephant charged their van and Mrs. van Zeeland ran and hid behind a tree. The elephant tore up the tree, grabbed her in its trunk, swung her in the air and then trampled her. She suffered crushed ribs, a collapsed lung, a damaged pelvis, a broken femur, a dislocated neck vertebrae and a gashed arm. Hospital officials report she "is recovering well."

The hunter, Paddy Curtis, who led the safari tour, had his license suspended for two years because he did not have his rifle ready when the elephant charged the first time. After the attack he got his rifle and killed the animal with six shots.

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SHOW DATES

Aahmes Shrine Circus
June 5-6 Pleasanton, Ca.

Beatty-Cole Circus
May 31-June 1 Freehold,
N.J.
June 2-3 Valhalla, NY
4-6 Milford, Conn.
7-8 Danbury
9-11 Waterbury
12-13 New Britain

Big Apple Circus
June 5-13 Queens, NY

Carson & Barnes Circus
May 30 St. Louis, Mo.
31 Festus
Jun 1 O'Fallon
2 Cahokia
3 Bethalto
4 Gillespie
5 Jacksonville

Circus Knie
Jun 4-17 Rosentalanlage,
Switz

Circus Vargas
May 28-31 Concord, Ca.
Jun 1-3 Cupertino
4-7 San Bruno
8-9 Santa Rosa
10-13 San Jose

Coronas Circus
Jun 8-11 St. Louis, Mo.

Dunn Buggy's Suitcase Cir.
Jun 12 Ninety-Six, SC

Franzen Bros. Circus
Jun 7 Johnsburg, Ill.
8 Antioch
9 Gurney
10 Waterford, Wsc
11 Palmyra
12 Delavan
13 Oconomowoc

Garden Bros. Circus
Jun 9-10 South Bend, Ind

Ford Bros. Circus
May 24 Malad City, Idaho
25 Soda Springs
26 Arco
27 Shelley
28 St. Anthony
29 Rupert
30 Jackpot, Nev.
31 Weiser, Idaho
Jun 1 Cascade
2 Kooskia
3 Potlatch
4-5 Pinehurst
6 Spirit Lake
7 Bonners Ferry

Hamid-Morton Circus
Jun 11-13 Lindenhurst, L.I.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Jun 4 Greensburg, Ind.
5 Connersville
6 Springfield, Oh.
7 Yellow Springs
8 Tipp City
9 Covington
10 Delphos
11 Wapokoneta
12 Findlay
13 Ypsilanti

Int'l All Star Circus
Jun 7 Danville, Ill.
8 Champaign
9 Decatur

No Elephant Circus
Jun 12 Ossening, NY
13 Brooklyn

Pickle Family Circus
Jun 12-13 Santa Cruz, Ca.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Jun 8-20 Philadelphia, Pa

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Jun 9-13 Syracuse, NY

Roberts Bros. Circus
Jun 1 Hookstown, Pa.
2 Ellsworth
3 Everson
4 Grindstone
5 No. Versailles
6 Pleasant Unity
7 Crabtree
8 Murrysville
9 Sewickly
10 Warrendale
11 Fredonia
12 Rimersburg

Royal Hanneford Circus
Jun 10 Dimondale, Mich

TNT & Royal Olympic
Jun 1-5 Columbia, SC

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Funorama
Jun 7-12 Nashua, NY

James H. Drew Exposition
Jun 7-12 Bluefield, W.Va.

Elliott Amusement Co.
Jun 8-13 Hamtramok, Mich

Great Wallendas
Jun 8-11 St. Louis, Mo.

Royal American Shows
Jun 11-27 Davenport, Ia.

Scott's Medicine Show
Jun 7 Abilene, Kans.

9 Hays
10 Holdrege, Nebr.
11 Hastings
12 York
13 Broken Bow

Dieter Tasso
Jun 13-19 Frankenmuth,
Mich

Tip Top Shows
Jun 9-13 Sheboygan, Wsc

SHOW DATES

--- MAGIC ---

Harry Albacker

Jun 7-12 Reading, Pa.

Annual Magic Picnic

Jun 13 Lafayette, Ind.

Michael's Magic Circus

May 29 Fairmont, Ill.

30 Clinton, Ind.

31 Atwood

Jun 1 Ridge Farm, Ill.

2 Arthur

3 Newman

4 Oakland

5 Catlin

6 Oakwood

7-8 Villa Grove

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Jun 13 Monoca, Pa.

Cole Bros.

by GUS TALIAFERRO

Some of the Dept. heads with Cole Bros. Circus for the season of 1942 were:

Front Door, Noyles Burkhart, Cecile La Bell, Dan Mettelt, Sheak and Red Roberson.

Tax Box, Frank Orman; Red Wagon, Bobbie DeLochte and Lorne Russell; Time Keeper, Herbert Leemany; General Agent, Jake Newman; Advance Car, Vern Williams and Press Staff, Ora Parks, Harry Chipman, Emmitt Sims, Foster Bell, C. S. Primrose and Norman Carroll.

Contracting Agents, William Lester and P. Branson; 24 Hour Man, Al Hoffman and Karl Kaudson; Purchasing Agent, Arthur Sturmak; Mail Man, Horace Laird; Side Show, Arthur Hoffman; Electrical Dept., Louis Scott and Raymond Miles; Sleeping Cars Head Porter, Jack Bursliem; Legal Dept Joe Haworth and Bill Kellogg.

Cook House, Frank (Mitt) Carl and Elmer Voris; Train, Jack Biggers and 2 Gun White

(Continued on Next Page)




The Ringling-Barnum Circus train is shown here as it passed through Orange, Va., early this year. Traffic in both directions was stopped until the long train, carrying personnel, animals and equipment was cleared through the city. The photo has been taken from the Orange County Review, dated May 6, 1982.

COLE BROS. (Continued)

Warn; Carpenter Shop, Charlie Lucky, Fred Walker and Bill Zastrow; Harness Dept., Waxie Dyke; Amplifying System, Walter Rice; Wardrobe Dept., Josephine McFarlin and Katie Lucky; Ushers, Joe Kuta and Bill Hill; Lot Supt., Fred (Cap) Seymore and Curley Stewart.

Big Top Canvas, Charlie Young and Big Henry; Baggage Stock, Dutch Warner, Bloomer English, Buck Schuler; Barber Shop, Dan Mittal; Big Show Tickets, Dutch Wise, Yellow Burnett, Leo Gindlesparcer, Eddy Grady, Stanley Dawson, (also Fred Logan got his start in the business under Dutch Wise, selling reserve seat tickets).

Menagerie, Arkie Scott, Ted White and Bill Woodcock; Ring Stock, Malicom (Alabama) Campbell; National Advertising, Richard Scatterday; Banner Collector, Billy Grifinn (who is in the office on Hoxie Bros.); Big Show Announcer, Harry Thomas; Big Show Band, Vic Robbins; Side Show Band, P. G. Lowery.

In Memoriam 

The wife of George Humes (Bumpy Anthony) died peacefully in her sleep on May 23rd at their home in Florida. She was 75 and had been ill for the past several weeks.

Special Party

by *NORMA CRISTIANI*

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Trippe hosted a weekend party for friends, show agents and sponsors and other folks connected with the business. The event, held at their Texas estate, featured pony rides for the kids, cotton candy and a display of some 2000 balloons over the swimming pool.

Tents were set up for the Bar-B-Que and bar, and a dance floor and band were also set-up.

Among the guests were: Mr. and Mrs. James Dolan, of San Miguel, Mexico, original owners of James Bros. Circus; Sid Kellner, of Old Time Vaudeville, just back from a cruise on the Love Boat with Tony Martin and Cyd Charisee, Clara Stevens, former owner of Stevens Bros. Circus and widow of the late Little Bob Stevens.

Patrick Joseph Plunkett with his wife, Conchie and son Don; Peggy and Mickey Johnson; Kay Riddley; Mr. and Mrs. Contev and family; G. E. Oliver; James and Loretta Witten; Robert "Smokey" Jones; Bobby Cox; Mr. Davenport; Billie and Jim Plunkett and Kathleen Stevens Davis.

Bob Trippe had the stage show Clown-around with Gene Kelley which operated for a few weeks sometime ago. That show is now in the planning stages again and is expected to be back on the road soon.

I Remember

by *BILL WOTSCH*

I remember when Clyde Beatty and his cat act appeared on the stage of the Palace Theatre in Cleveland, Ohio, in the middle 1930's.

Some of us kids would go in before the prices changed at 1 p.m. We'd watch the movie from the back rows, then when the acts started we would move up closer to the front. What kid wanted to miss Clyde Beatty in the cage with his cats?

It was great. The stage lights on, us kids in soft seats and Clyde Beatty up there in front of us dressed in white, with his white hat, a whip and chair. Shots would be fired and echoed through the theatre. The cats would go through their routines and when the act was over Clyde Beatty would step out of the arena, smile and bow, amid the cheers of the audience.

The cats were kept downstairs in a tunnel that was backstage. Going down a ramp, we could walk by the stage entrance and look down to see the cats in their cages.

We really got a bargain in those days

Band Feature

by *GEORGE LEHMANN*

The Old Mapleton Circus Band of Oconomowoc, Wisc., opened the parade season in real style. The band rode the old circus band wagon in the parade culminating the three day Syttende Mai celebration in Stoughton, Wisc. This is a yearly event in commemoration of the signing of the Norwegian Constitution. The band played with the usual gusto, rendering many old time circus tunes. From the driver's seat it sounded like we are going to have a super parade season.

We would like all of you circus fans who enjoy good old time circus music to "get in on the fun". Enjoy an old time circus parade at home.

For just \$8.00 you can have this album to enjoy at your leisure. Play it alone, at a party, one of your tent meetings, or whatever.

Forward check to:

Robert Ludwig, Manager
Old Mapleton Circus Band
38050 N Street Monterey
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The Mecca Shrine

by CHRIS AUDIBERT

On May 14-15, the Mecca Shrine sponsored Hamid-Morton Circus which played at the Community Center in White Plains, N.Y.

The program featured: Marcan's Lions (2) with 11 tigers (1 being white), plus 6 Cuneo tigers for a total of 19 cats in the arena; the Weldons, single traps; Davide's Ladder; Dubsky, spinning plates; Clowns with cannon (car shades of Ernie Wiswell); Gorilla act; Winky Blinky Light Pitch; Dubsky's Leopard act; Susan's Afghans; Clowns and the sharpshooter; The Lunas flyers; Intermission.

Eddie and Julie Ventura, iron jaw; Zoppe's Monkeys; Sir Harry, one finger stand; Weldons, balancing; Cuneo's elephants (4) with John and Laura Walker.

John and Mary Ruth Herriott stopped to visit with daughter Laura enroute to their own date with the Big Apple Circus. Also visiting was David Orr, of Bridgeport, Conn. Show had 3/4 houses at both shows this writer caught.

On May 15th, after catching the M & M Circus the writer drove up to Hartford to catch the Ringling Red Unit.

On May 16th, the Great American Circus played Patterson, NJ, giving two performances, 1:30 and 4 p.m.

Their program featured: Spec; Dave Up-ton and cougar on leash; Billy Martin and Sherry, rola bola; Lu Wong, hair hang; Book Pitch; Pony and Dogs; Clowns with telescope and slapstick; Balancing; Yum Yum, contortion; Peanut Pitch; Dogs; Gorilla act; Intermission with elephant rides.

Palomino Ponies with Egard, Jr., Ballet

girls on swinging ladders; Clowns with the sharpshooter gag; Balloon Pitch; Pretty Boy ridden by Egart, Jr., dressage; 3 elephants; Oscar in a cloud swing.

All seats are general admission with 9 high blues; top is blue and white, an 80 with three 40's; 3 elephants on show, Bonnie, Jessie and . . . ; two elephants used for rides out front and also inside the big top before and during the show.

Band consists of organs and drums mounted in trailer; a 3/4 house at both shows. The side show did good business, as did the pony ride on the midway.

Acts

Acts appearing in the Col. Howe's Traveling Circus Extravaganza, at Knotts Berry Farm, in Southern California, this summer are:

Tarra, the roller skating elephant; Mdme. Sally (Ashton), single trapeze; Dougie Ashton, Australia's funniest clown; The Vickinas-Aguilar Troupe, risley/teeterboard; the Howe's Circus Gypsies, singer/dancer/acrobats; and Col. Howe's Circus Concert Band of 5 pieces.

In Memoriam

GLORIA BUCHAL (52), died in Australia on April 23, 1982. She was a former acrobat with the Seven Ashtons Risley Act. She was the wife of Joe Buchal, mother of Jimmy and Dougie Buchal, and a sister of Neville, Mickey, Hoody, Dingie, Goldie, Ruva and a twin sister of Dougie Ashton.

Circus Notes

by ART "DOC" MILLER

I was on the Beatty lot for a short time in Gainesville, Fla. The show is painted up nice and makes a neat apparence. A bad wind hit the town, but the show had plenty of know-how in the big top canvas dept., so no trouble was experienced.

On the lot I learned about a circus that once gillied in the Pittsburgh area with trolley system's little box cars. Those interurban lines covered most of the east back in the era before 1920. How about someone recalling their grand pappy telling about this show - A special thanks to Harry Rawls for hearing about this show years ago.

Rumor also floats around that Knoxville, Tenn., keeps a few old circus wagons for use in local parades. These are no doubt from the Witt Wagon Works, once well known to wagon shows for their shell band-wagons. But beware! That's a strange town, if you plan to visit the world's fair there, be on your guard.

I, in all innocence, once broke a circus jump there and was immediately grabbed, whisked away in the paddy wagon to the clink, my billfold snatched, mugged, fingerprinted and no phone call allowed. Seems they thought I was Willie Sutton, the famous bank robber. I was released in the morning, but very shy on my amount of folding money.

Most any show has a multitude of humorous happenings if only remembered by some one with it. The late Ken Couchman up in New York State orginally trouped for a short time, with a wagon show.

Because he was here, there and everywhere to see that the show went up like clockwork different workingmen were furious at this constant over-seeing. So they hit upon the idea of bringing up a suitable topic soon as everyone was seated in the cook house.

"Say," remarked someone, "did you see that cage wagon back there in the weeds by that old barn?"

"Yea, I saw it. Wonder what show it was off of?"

By this time Ken's ears had picked up the conversation and immediately he wanted to know just where they noticed the wagon.

"Oh, back there five, six miles, it was off to the side a bit and looked like it was abandoned."

Gulping down his coffee, Ken would hitch up his buggy and away he would go to find the wagon. This scheme carried on as long as the short lived show existed. Ken never found the wagon, seats or poles, he was sent to look for, but he always came back, nearly late for the matinee, with a generous heap of horse blankets he had bought along the way.

Marguerite Clark, an early rival to Mary Pickford, was perhaps the first movie star to appear in a circus themed movie. This was filmed around New York and the show used a small top and carried two bulls, one a small tusker. Perhaps this was one of Charley Hunt's first tenters? (The film was "Still Waters").

Gladys Walton, one of Universal's earliest stars, made several circus films, in Al G. Barnes quarters. They were filmed during

(Continued on Next Page)

CIRCUS NOTES (Continued)

1971 thru 1921, as Ms. Walton, still active, recently wrote me.

As a youth, Wallace Berry joined out on a circus as a bull man. With salary a whopping big \$4.00 a week, Wallace soon felt that all the glamour of the circus was very much over-rated.

Around 1921, the Barnes advance car carried a nifty kid item that to my knowledge has not been seen or used since. It was a folded cardboard gun which popped when you quickly gave it a downward yank. Seems like the wording ran something like: "It's a big bang of a show, etc." Then passed out free, today it could easily be sold for two-bits as something extra special.

Back when I was knee-high to a grass hopper, I delivered newspapers to home owners. The paper (the original one of the now giant Gannett chain) sold for 15c a week, out of which I retained 3c. Well, my grandfather gifted me with a Brownie camera and I spent 35c for a roll of film, all of which was used to photograph some outstanding billboards of the Barnes show. When I returned to the drug store to pick up the finished pictures, I was given a stern lecture by the druggist on how a fool and his money were soon parted.

He had opened my envelope and taken an advance gander at my pictures. I often wonder what that nose-trouble druggist would say today if those beautiful pictures still existed and at an astonishing value.

Girl Clowns

by AMANDA KATE THOMAS

Instead of the standard ten females in the RBBB Clown-College class of sixty students this year, there were only eight, (although



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all eight finished, whereas a number of the male students did not make it to the end).

All three of the female clowns on the red unit were replaced by only two female clowns. This means there are two female clowns in an alley of over 25 clowns. The reduction in the number of female clowns on the blue unit was even more startling as their number was cut in half from four last year to now only two this year.

I, as an admirer and believer in the effectiveness and the joyfulness of the female clown, believe that this is a sorrowful trend . . . a trend which I hope you can bring to people's attention in your magazine.

Wondercade

by ART "Doc" MILLER

Folks, you ain't seen nothin' yet! Wait until you catch the great big Wondercade extravaganza.

For years it was Col. Swain's 3 Car RR tent show, then along came Ricton, Barnum of the sticks, surpassed in time by that whopper of a tent show, Bilroy's Comedians (90 people, mostly girls).

Now, believe no false announcements to the contrary, it's Hall & Christ giant Wondercade. It's so huge it requires the entire equipment needed for the once popular King Bros. Circus.

Folks, if you, with a sigh, think wistfully of the old days of vaudeville, stop fretting, Wondercade is a conglomeration of vaudeville (with plenty of elaborate and new ideas in illusions by that silent and clever Mystic, Huston, from I believe - er-r-r-r Australia.)

There is one bevy of smartly gowned damsels that know how to sing and dance, there are even some high kicking routines. Wow!

Novelty acts that could have pleased audiences at the old Palace in New York, nerve shattering tight and slack wire dancing, even some fancy aerial antics by a clever blonde looker from the Balkans in Europe.

But, this isn't all by any means, there are Oriental and comedy numbers, even a fast moving routine by dainty "Sassafrass" the cute baby elephant. Col. Hall brings out his vent dummy which sure startled the smallest moppets in the well filled top.

Last but by no means least, is a dandy orchestra, schooled in show world know-how, which did their part to make this show a real honest to gosh Wondercade.

By all means catch this show, even if you must drive a hundred miles. You'll be glad you did. Bring your camera, that huge two story high front entrance is well worth photographing. The show is a great credit to these hard working fellows.

Correction

There was a mistake in the advertisement for The Great Wallendas which appeared in The Circus Report on May 24th (Page 9).

It is the 1983 season that this famed act will be with the Hubert Castle Circus.

PEOPLE

GENE RANDOW and TOMMY HANNEFORD were on the same circus - The Arabia Temple Shrine Circus at Houston. After not seeing each other for 20 years there was a lot of ribbing and jokes going on and they were seen together during most of the engagement.

Visitors at the circus included: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Zoppe, Raul Prada, Ray and Slick Valentine, Peter Luvas and family, along with John McConnell, vice president of the Royal Hanneford Circus.

Senor Rai, ringmaster for Royal Hanneford Circus, announced the Shrine Circus at Houston, except for one day when he had to leave for a circus date at the Super Dome in New Orleans, at which time Tommy handled the announcing chores.

New Book

by **GEORGE BINGAMAN**

"LITTLE OL' SHOW" by Arthur "Doc" Miller. Published by Ashmur Publications, P. O. Box 1487, Woodland Acres, Starke, Fla.

LITTLE OL' SHOW is delightful reading for anyone who enjoys a good story. "It's an education" for fans and circus friends who claim circus savy. It's the perfect antidote for all "First of May-ers" whose blind-spots require eye-openers so they can view the backlot of tanbark and tinsel - the hard realities, the hand-to-mouth existence of the mud show troupers, the merciless catastrophes of moving a show, the improvisations demanded by ruthless nature via fire, hurricane or flood, or by preying towners in the form of rowdy gangs, or unscrupulous politicians or wary citizens weary of fly-by-night circus transients.

Where truth starts and fiction ends in LOS I'll never be able to determine. Doc dedicates the narrative to Dorothy who helped encourage him to make "This fictional story possible." They say truth is stranger than fiction. This is a strange book because there must be loads of truth in it to wet such fictional imagination!

What a television series LOS could make, a Perils of Pauline thriller in seven chapter parts. The author helpfully gives a summary of each chapter at each chapter's beginning. It does not take a wise man long to see that each chapter is a book of adventures in itself! All this excitement is packed into 150 well written pages.

The book cover is an attractive, interesting composite of circus prints, posters, tickets, passes, script and scenes. The final thirty pages are comprised solely of rare black and white photographs taken from the lesser known small shows such as Great Zanger, Golden Bros., Yankee Robinson, Cooper Bros., Sam Dock's, Silver Bros., Ferris Cir-

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cus, Sig Sautelle's Wagon Circus, Elmer Jones 2-car Cole Bros., Lemon Bros., Famous Jarvis Magical Wonders Tent Show and the Princess Olga Shows.

Art "Doc" Miller's volume is well written in circus spiel interpreted via a helpful glossary. It has humor, action, fast pace. Before you realize it, you have reached the end of a captivating tale of our pioneer circus mudders whose ingenuity in adversity adds a heroic chapter to the story of pioneer Americana.

The Acts

The All American Circus, which recently completed its tour of dates in Southern California, featured the following acts:

Bob Moore's mongrel revue; Wini McKay and Richard St. John, aerial display; Alan Gold, lions and tigers; The Zerbini's, teeterboard; Chester Cable, foot juggling; Lucky Brothers, knock-about; The Flying Seguras, flying act; Intermission.

The Zerbini's riding act; The Willetts, balancing; Sheila Winn, slide-for-life; Bucky Steele's elephants; Karl Winn's aerial motor cycle; Tim Tegge, producing clown.

John Regis served as ringmaster and George Goulding directed the band.

Show Acts

by *ALMOND KNIGHT*

The Al Menah Temple Shrine Circus, produced by the Olympic International Circus Corp., was presented at Nashville, Tenn., May 6-9 and featured the following acts:

Arias Bears; The Valentino Duo, aerial cradle; The Valla Duo, The Great Mike and The Rotinis, variety acts; Clowns; Trudy's Liberty Dalmatians; Rietta, The Goddess of the Galaxy, aerialist; The Kolmedys and The Bertinis, unicycles; The Loyal-Repensky Troupe, riding act with Timmy Loyal; The Flying Lantonys; Clowns; The Kolmedys and The Walten Trio, balancing; The Great Wallendas, high wire; Benny Williams and elephant Anna Mae; Clowns; The Tangier Troupe, Arab tumbling; The Quassers, space ship aerial feature.

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PEOPLE

BILL BURGER is spending some time visiting and sightseeing in the East before he returns to the west coast.

BARRIE and SHEILAH SLOAN appear on stilts in the Beatty-Cole spec and their big heads are used several times during the show. Barrie also appears as 'Uncle Sam' in the show's finale.

NOLLY and POLLY TATE, former circus clowns, are living at: 6820½ Valmont Street, Tujunga, Calif. 91042. They'd love to hear from friends.

JOHN ZWEIFEL's model of the White House was damaged by an anti-war group when the model was recently displayed in The Hague, Netherlands.

APRIL FOSSETT visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at Exton, Pa., during a day off from her engagement at Rocky Glen Park, in Pa.

FRANCARRO & ESTRELETA, taped a segment of the TV show "Circus" in Toronto just recently. The show will be aired as a part of the coming fall series.

BILL GREEN, FRANK SMITH and DON EDWARDS, all of Beatrice, Nebr., visited the M & M Circus when the show played at Lincoln, Nebr.

DAVE TWOMEY recently had his Happy-time Circus at the Orange Show in San Bernardino, Calif.

In Memoriam

LOIS WINDER, wife of Ray Winder, of Sarasota, Fla., died on May 9th in a Richmond, Va. hospital, after a long illness.

Showtime Follies

by *LOGAN PRITCHETT*

Bill Garden's "Showtime Follies" presents an unusually strong 1982 show.

Playing Arkansas dates a month after opening in Pennsylvania, the troupe has traveled thru Maryland, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas. Louisiana was next to be followed by Alabama, Georgia, North and South Carolina, closing in Florida.

The unit will shut down for the summer and resume fall bookings, according to Wesley Oler, manager.

Dorian Blake is the handsome, well-costumed MC and illusionist (he had six very smart mod costume changes), ably assisted by the stunning Janice.

Florence Oler's wizardry at the organ carries the show, with strong assists from drummers, Harold Ashton (principally) and Mike Ashton.

A well-done foot juggling turn by Mike Ashton and Leslie opens, followed by Blake's astounding illusions. Janice is produced from an empty crystal casket, followed by dove catching in the air, dove tray, dove bag, paper coils from mouth, Hong Kong pigeon production, pigeons change to rabbit on table, dove carousel vanish and an effective Indian basket.

Danny Cary and Randa present a very strong hand-balancing act (Randa worked with a cast on her leg, and still managed to style beautifully).

The kids loved the knock-about Popeye-skit with little Harold Simmons as the hero. Morgan Ashton as the mean Bluto, and Jackie Ashton as Olive Oyl. Vidbell's Chimps (2)

are extremely talented and Jack and Sharon Burke (Al's daughter) are effective in their presentation. Intermission followed, with Blake's magic book pitch. Balloons and cotton candy were also offered.

Dorian's second magic turn opens the duo half, with duck production from square circle, duck goes into Temple of Benares, disappears, reappears, followed by the surprising appearance therein of the beautiful Janice. They close this with the venerable sub trunk. Blake works silently, with terrific music accompaniment, and is a most effective MC/magician who is about to be a big star.

Unbelievable rola bola by the Kerry Brown Duo (Danny and Randa Cary) was next, followed by Burke's dogs, well-trained and charmingly presented by Sharon, with Jack as the mean dog catcher.

The Morgan Ashton Family were strong closers. Australia's gift to the circus, the Ashton's risley act features Jackie, Leslie and cousin Harold Simmons, air-borne on the quick feet of Harold and son, Mike. Morgan establishes direct rapport with the audience after every trick and is a delightful performer.

All the company were warm and friendly. Visiting in Little Rock were Bill Walters (CFA convention chairman), Charlie Hermann, Frank Caple, Charlie Roark (veteran circusman), Logan Pritchett and the Alberto Zoppe family (just closed with Larry Carden in Baton Rouge). Zoppe was here to discuss the upcoming Circus Italia, which he is producing for the 1982 CFA convention in Little Rock, July 4-7. Zoppe will continue working the Carden dates for the season, in addition to producing his own independent dates.

Roberts Bros.

by DON SANDMAN

Roberts Bros. Circus played Lorain, Ohio, for the JC's on May 17th at the fairgrounds with two performances, 6 and 8 p.m.

On entering the midway there is a pony ride, elephant ride, moon bounce, Joe Myers novelty stand, the combined ticket wagon concession stand and the Elephant Skinned Dog, pit show.

On arriving at the lot circus fans were made to feel at home and to be a part of the family. It is definitely a family show where all pitch in and help where needed.

The show as presented at Logan was as follows:

Organ music as the crowd enters the tent; Joe Myers, the Royal Clown King of Hearts with a color book pitch (a young lady sells the books and Joe autographs them); Ringmaster George Rowe then takes over the mike to welcome the people to the circus.

Opening spec with all performers; Three rings of juggling with Miss Sonya, Bobby Fairchild and Ian Craik; Miss LeeAnn on the Roman rings, concluding with an overhead upside down walk; Dogs in ring 1 and 3 presented by Jeff Earl and Yvonne Stephens; Clown Joe Myers with his Atomic Incubator; Ladders over ring 1 and 2 with Miss Lee Ann and Miss Tammy, while in the center ring Miss Sonya works on the Spanish web; Ian Craik with his military ponies in ring 1, Miss Yvonne and Frosty the Wonder Pony in ring 3; In the center ring Bobby Fairchild with sword balancing on the ladder; Miss Lee Ann Stephens and the aerial trapeze; a

10 minute intermission.

The second half opened with Miss Sonya on the silver strand; Balloon pitch; Kalimar & Co., magic interlude (George Rowe); Joe Myers, clown with The Three Bears; Berio with spinning tops; A Salute to the Sponsors; Lisa the elephant presented by Capt. Jeff Earl; Christopher and Dorito, aerial cradle act.

The show is owned by Bob and Doris Earl and if you ask anyone on the show their name it will be one of the Roberts brothers or sisters, a real family event.

Sorry that we had to miss seeing Bob as he had just left to go to North Carolina for the second unit at the fair. Our thanks to Doris and all the rest for a wonderful day.

A small Enquirer pictorial was well posted around town and date sheets used with the pictorial covered a couple of store fronts. The show enjoyed two full houses here.

Show Acts

The circus-themed "Posh Bosh" of the year held at the Terminal Tower in Downtown Cleveland, Ohio, on May 15th, featured the following performers.

Pat and Gwen Davison, juggling; Framcarros, juggling; Wainwrights, trampoline; Emmett Kelly, Jr., The Tangier Troupe, tumbling; The Patricks, rola bola; Miss Carol, trapeze; Fabulous Damells, magic; Frank and Estreleta, aerial perch.

There was dancing and fabulous food and Emmett and Nancy Kelly, presented roses to all the girls on the show.

At the circus

At the circus, 4-year-old Bob was admiring a woman aerialist who appeared in the spotlight wearing a plumed headdress and a flowing robe. Overwhelmed by the costume, Bob exclaimed, "Mom! Is she ever bee-U-tiful!"

The woman then shed her headpiece and flowing robe and approached her ladder in a brief sequined costume. Again Bob gasped. "Wow!" he said. "And her insides are beautiful too!"

— Doyle K. Getter, Milwaukee Journal

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ON THE ROAD DOWN UNDER

... by SALLY ASHTON

The adventure really began when the men in short pants boarded the jumbo 747 (after landing in Sydney) to spray all its Australian bound passengers. After 'disinfection' we were rushed off through immigration upon acknowledgement of the age-old Australian circus name on our passports. "What took you so bloody long to get back, mate?" snorted the officials. It didn't seem like it had been over 33 years.

Whisked over the Australian highways past leaping kangaroos, snoozing koalas, screeching cockatoos and laughing kookaburras, we were welcomed by the sight of the dark blue big top settled on a grassy field with the SOLE BROS. CIRCUS banners waving on high. Somehow, show business looked different down under - and we soon found out that it was indeed.

Soles, the largest circus in Australia, play a week in every town, performing once a night at 8 p.m. On weekends there are afternoon and evening shows scheduled at 2 and 8 p.m., one matinee on Sundays and Mondays are always off. The jumps average 7-20 kilometres. Life, in general, is less hurried with plenty of time for swimming, boating, fishing, shopping, sightseeing, bbques, parties or another favorite Australian past time.

There were many things we had to get used to: the time change, plus the fact that we were actually standing on our heads, down under the world, the gruff Aussie slang as well as the giant bullfrogs that inhabited the toilet bowls.

Then there were always the black-faced aboriginals peeking under the sidewalls. The countryside and natural wildlife were unreal and enchanting at the same time. Our 3 month tour with Soles sped by quickly - from Sydney up through the lush, tropical banana republic of New South Wales to the gorgeous (and often topless) white-sanded beaches of Queensland's Gold Coast and Surfer's Paradise, into the thriving metropolis of Brisbane.



JEAN and JOE PERRY, owners of Sole Bros. Circus and our gracious hosts.

The circus owners, Jean and Joe (the Jackie Gleason of Soles) Perry, couldn't have been more gracious hosts. We were wined and dined and laughed 'til all hours of the night on Joey's uproarious tales. One of the favorites was his rendition of how Minyak, the elephant, demolished Mr. Whippy's ice cream stand to make front page headlines.

(Continued on Next Page)

DOWN UNDER (Continued)

Soles menagerie circumnavigates the one-ring plastic tent. There are 4 elephants: Lena, 85-yr. old lead, originally from the Wirth Circus, Tara, Minyak, and baby Dolly - who all enjoy traveling open-air town-to-town, pulling down the trees and bush behind their International lorry. Three formerly wild Australian camels (from the North of Queensland) also perform in the show and are easily coaxed by the wooden pegs through their noses. In the tradition of their 1850's horse-powered circus, Soles still hold an equestrian interest the 23 Appaloosa horses and 2 Arab stallions that they keep grazing at tentside. There are also 12 ponies, 1 donkey, 3 rhesus monkeys and 9 lions at last count.

Inside the big tent sawdust covers the ring floor while the topside is decorated in orange and white stars with red stripes. Red velvet curtains embroidered in spangle designs cover the back performer's entrance, topped with Sole's insignia in lights.

Bleachers and elevated chairs span the tent-sides, along with the more popular ringside

seats.

Opening fanfare commences the show (via taped music and live drummer Dougie Buchal) and then amidst whistles and wolfcalls steps petite ringmistress Jeanette Sole.

First to open is big Joe Perry, probably the only lion trainer in the world who is actually allergic to his cats. Producing clown Dougie Buchal entertains as the cage is pulled away, followed by the equestrian expertise of Lindsay Sole riding his Arab stallion, Silver Condor and cousin Lana Perry riding her Anglo-Arab, Silver King. Teeterboard acrobatics are provided by the 7 member Hungarian Urban Troupe, featuring a 4 man high by top mounting youngster Robika Urban. The Australian Queen of the Air, Ella Lota, per-



DOUG ASHTON with Koala friend

forms her daring solo trapeze (in equally daring wardrobe); Australian camels by Joseph Aroni; clowns Dougie Buchal and Dougie Ashton in the pump-up gag; aerialist Susan-Marie Perry in a classical and innovative web to Rhapsody in Blue, followed by elephants (4) with Lindsay Sole and riders Lana Perry, Sally Ashton and Michelle Szombati, featuring tub routines, long mount and baby Dolly walking the plank as trainer Lindsay Sole cracks his whip double-time to the Baby Elephant Walk. Interval finds action on the midway games, pony rides and Dougie Buchal selling his clown nose souvenirs.

Second half opens with Lindsay Sole and 'Mustard' the football playing pony; The

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(Continued on Next Page)

DOWN UNDER (Continued)

Michelle Duo, graceful aerial cradle by Gabor and Michelle Szombati; comedy antics of Dougie Ashton's musical revue; perch pole by Ella and Julbert Bradford (featuring neck hang and one-toe hang); Jungle Jockeys, rhesus monkey riding ponies with Lindsay Sole; comedy telescope skit by Dougie and Joe Buchal; and the Flying Corolly closing the show with a magnificent passing leap under black lights, a double forward by Gabby Urban and a triple somersault by 13-year old Robika Urban.

Our last 10 day spree in Brisbane was sold out every show with endless lines at the box office and standing room only. Soles were getting rave notices from Brisbane newspapers and television stations. They claimed the show was the best ever, the costuming superb, the acts first class and the clowns, the funniest, especially the trumpet-playing clown, Dougie Ashton, was delightful.

We are proud to report that circus - the intimate, traditional theatre on the grass, under the big top, sawdust, animal smell and



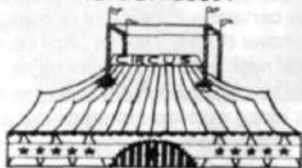
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all - is alive and well in Australia in 1982 - Soles IS full of soul.

The show's staff includes:

Jean Perry, business, booking, box office; Joe Perry, owner, overseer, lion trainer, entertainment; Paul Templeman, promotions; Lindsay Sole, general manager, animal trainer extraordinaire; Jeanette Sole, ringmistress; Susan Perry, aerial chief; Joe Buchal, equestrian director; Dougie Buchal, producing clown, drummer; Lana Perry, wardrobe mistress; Stuart Gill, big top boss, blue room; Kim Anderson, musical coordinator; Knock-er, head electrician; Michelle Szombati, front door, ringside seating.

PEOPLE

MARK YOUNG, winner of the 1982 Outstanding Sailor Circus Senior Award, and **BRENT KWENSKI**, winner of the John Sullivan Award, of Sarasota's Sailor Circus, hope to become full-time pros in the circus world.

Antonio

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This show in Las Vegas is the only one doing great business. The night I was there it was packed (\$26.00 minimum which includes two cocktails).

Here is a partial list of illusions: Crystal Cabinet, Double Flash Appearance, Production of a horse, Roy levitates, Burning Alive, Hindu Basket, Shooting a Cat from Cannon, Aga Levitation, Ashra Levitation, Thin Model Sawing, Substitution Trunk, Man to Lion, Vanish of an elephant, Production of tiger in fire, Double Hangman's illusion, Stretching a Girl, Motorcycle illusion.

Special effects included: Criss Cross Lasers, Laser Battle, Laser Tunnel, Fiber Optics, Chaser Lights (thousands), Dry Ice, Chemical Fog, Mirrored Ball, and beautiful lighting by my friend Ken Billington.

All these effects are performed with the famous Siegfried & Roy flare and all have a spectacular surprise finish.

Also in the show are a division of the King Charles Troupe (comedy basketball on unicycles), and The Hsiun Family (martial arts

THE COSTUMER

By Philip Morris



stunts). There are also 31 male and female dancers in the show (some topless).

Beyond Belief is produced by Irvin and Kenneth Feld, Choreographed by Crandall Diehl, Music Direction, Jerry Bilik, Costumes, Don Foote, Lighting, Ken Billington, Scenes designed by William Bellin and the Al Aljaro Orchestra.

PEOPLE

ENRICO WALLEDA did a skywalk billed as a "Wild Animal Walk" about 40 feet above the tiger exhibit at the Columbus, Ohio, Zoo on May 15th, to promote interest in the zoo.