

THE CIRCUS REPORT

Number 36

September 7, 1981

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year



...person in ...
...SUMERSAULT
...on the Flying Trapezes
...in Long Beach, Calif.

Congratulations to
the FLYING VAZQUEZ

especially to

MIGUEL VAZQUEZ

*the first person in the
world to catch the*

QUADRUPLE SOMERSAULT

on the Flying Trapeze

in Long Beach, Calif.

at 11:45 p.m., Aug. 19, 1981



I feel proud to be their agent

Raul Prada

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Sep. 6-7 Greenwood, Miss
8-9 Greenville
10-11 Ruston, La.
12-13 Mt. Pleasant, Tx

Carson & Barnes Circus

Sep 6-7 Tallmadge, Ohio
8 East Palestine
9 New Castle, Pa.
10 Sharon
11-12 Pittsburgh

Circus Arts Troupe

Sep 9-12 Odessa, Texas

Circus Europa

Sep 12 Little Rock, Ark.

Great American Circus

Sep 8 Mt. Airy, Md.
9 Sterling, Va.
10 Marshall
11 Luray

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep 7 Aurora, Ill.
8 Crystal Lake
9 Waukegan
10 Wauconda
11 Wilmington
12 Shelbyville
13 Neoga

Pickle Family Circus

Sep 12-13 Santa Barbara,
Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Sep 9-14 Fresno, Calif.

Royal Crown Circus

Sep 9-13 Omaha, Nebr.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Sep 7 Bryce, Calif.
8 Oakland
9 San Francisco
10 Monterey
11 Santa Clara
12 Hayward
13 Oakland

Royal Imperial Circus

Sep 8-9 Orem, Utah
11-12 Provo

Swan Bros. Circus

Sep 10-13 Auburn, Calif

---- MAGIC ----

Krystali

Sep 9-10 Tyler, Texas
11-15 Dallas

Manzini

Sep 7-12 Huntsville, Ala

Darwin Ortiz

Sep 4-7 Houston, Texas

Starfire

Sep 4-7 Las Vegas, Nev.
10-13 Carson City

---- OTHER DATES ----

Bryan's Clowns, Inc.

Sep 12 Frizzleburg, Pa

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

Sep 10-12 Clinton, Me.

James H. Drew Exposition

Sep 7-12 Newport, Tenn.

Poco Plus . .

to Sep 20 Des Moines, Iowa

Scott's Medicine Show

Sep 8 Oshawa, Ont.
9 Lindsay
10 Peterborough
11 Belleville
12 Trenton

Steamboat Days

Sep 10-12 Jeffersonville,
Ohio

Tip Top Shows - Blue

Sep 10-13 Richland Center
Wisc

Tip Top Shows - Green

Sep 11-13 Mazomanie, Wisc

Bauer-Hall All Star Circus
to Nov. 1 Jackson, NJ

Franzn Bros. Circus

Sep 12-13 Westmont, Ill
15 Geneva

NOTICE

The report about Jim Hoelzer of Chicago, in last week's issue was a complete falsehood. We regret that such an error was printed in CR.

Flying Vazquez 'catch the quad'

by Harry L. Graham - Special to C.R.

Forget that line about the quadruple somersault on the flying trapeze being an impossible trick.

Mexico's Flying Vazquez have proved it isn't so.

Miguel Vazquez spun the quad to his brother Juan at the Long Beach (Calif) Arena on Wednesday, Aug. 19th, and they locked wrists and held on.

Their brother-in-law, Mario Droguett, recorded the big trick on video-tape. Juan replayed it at regular speed and in slow motion for me the next night in his trailer home.

It was "one, two, three, four, catch!" And a smooth catch at that.

I got a phone call at 2:30 a.m., on Thursday, from Eddie Howe, AB circus editor, telling me about the historic event.

Miguel and Juan had tried the quad, but missed, five times in a practice session following Ringling-Barnum Red's opening night at the Long Beach Arena.

On the sixth try Miguel made a perfect

swing, began his spins, somersaulting two or three feet above the flying frame, opening eight or ten feet below the frame and made a perfect wrist-to-wrist lockup with Juan.

Eddie Howe, Wally Naghtin, Raul Prada, the Vazquez's agent, Juan's wife, Patricia, his brother Felipe, sisters Marguerite Michelle (of the hair hang fame) and Wendy, and his mother, were among the 30 or more persons who witnessed the historic trick.

Howe said a shout for joy rocked the arena when the Vazquez brothers held on, swung away and back in before Miguel did a half pirouette return to the flybar.

Armando Farfan and his son Tato, 12, who have been practicing the quad, left their trapezes over ring one and were among the first to congratulate Miguel and Juan.

Patricia, also a member of the Flying Vazquez, broke out a bottle of her wedding champagne and all joined in a toasting to the great flier and his marvelous catcher.

"It was an easy catch," said Miguel, when I asked him about it. "No jerk."

"Like a late triple," said Juan. "I was going away. I was so happy I felt no added weight at all."

Raul Prada said, "This is the greatest moment in flying history."

"Guinness Book of World Records" lists Ernest Clarke as having completed the first quad to the hands of his brother Charles during a practice session in Mexico City in 1915. Fay Alexander told me several years ago that when he worked with the Clarke's after Ernest's death, around four decades ago, that Charles said they never caught it. "I knew he could do it," Charles said, "but I was afraid I might ruin his shoulders. So [he just turned in to the net and we didn't try to catch it."

Tito Gaona told me he completed the quad to the hands of his brother Armando last January in Tunja, Colombia. Among the witnesses, he said, were Juventino Fuentes of Circo Union's Modelo unit. The trick was not recorded on video-tape and Tito said for that reason he was not claiming it as a catch.

"We've got proof we caught it," said Juan.

(Continued on Page 7)

RAYMOND
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FORD BROS. CIRCUS and CIRCUS VARGAS

BY HAROLD E. FLINT

I caught Ford Bros. Circus at Hankinson, N.D., on July 23, but did not get to see Gopher Davenport. When I arrived on the lot about 9:30 a.m., poles for the big top and assorted rigging were being erected. The show side-walled here, however, because the circus has been plagued with a labor shortage of working men all season.

A good crowd attended the 6 p.m. performance, which opens with a small but circusy spec. The program that followed was given in two rings: Miss Jackie, bounding rope and Miss Beck, tightwire; Orteez, knife throwing and Jumping Jacks, tumbling; a Peanut Pitch; Princess Josee Yuma, hair hang and Senorita Marino, traps; Wizards, high wire; Miss Patti, horses; Senorita Catalina, web and Senor Alfonzo, cloud swing; Miss Beth, elephants and Turtle Benson, elephants; Intermission.

Balloon sales; Senorita Marino and Senor Alfonzo, iron jaw; Flip and Flop, revolving ladder; Miss Patti, canine revue; Senorita Marino, contortion; Miss Margo, hand balancing. The show concludes with the very professional Orsorio Family on the flying trapeze. All over and all out in about 1½ hours.

Show carries four bulls, of which only two performed at Hankinson. I also counted two llamas, five goats, two horses and the dog act. Show also has four lions, but I was told they temporarily had no one to work the act.

Bud Manley is the organist/announcer. He

does a good job in both categories and gets off some good circus music. Unfortunately the sound system was being repaired and the make-shift amplifier did not do justice to Bud's talent. Turtle Benson recently joined as elephant man, and I was told that Whitey Black was with the show, but I did not see him.

Midway has a snake show, elephant rides and a concession trailer.

Show equipment is in generally good condition but none of the equipment carries the Ford Bros. designation.

After Hankinson, the show moved to Valley City, then was booked into a number of other North Dakota towns before heading into Montana.

I drove about 1300 miles (Fargo, N.D. to LaCrosse, Wisc. and return) to make my first visit to the much heralded Circus Vargas. They played a shopping center in that city July 29-30.

During set-up, Mr. Vargas himself, was busy re-arranging the midway layout, and at the 4:30 performance (which my wife and I attended) he was on the front door.

The program has been previously reviewed in CR, and I would echo only two criticisms.

The printed program, which is an impressive four-color magazine, lists the 1980 acts which are not the same in 1981. And the band, while excellent, did not play enough "Circus" music to please an old-timer like me.

In every other way, however, Circus Vargas lived up to my expectations. As an example of how tight a ship Mr. Vargas runs, the morning I was on the lot one of the drivers was washing and polishing the cab of his truck. Moments later, while buying my tickets, I had to step aside for a young lady who was cleaning and polishing the windows on the ticket wagon.

PEOPLE

GARY BAKER and VICKY HENDRICKS, of Grinn & Barrett, low comedy trapeze act, spent a week at the new home of DON and FRAN BRIDWELL in Valley View, Ohio. They also caught the Hoxie Bros. Circus together at Findlay, Ohio, along with Magician TERRY MILLER and wife CAROL.

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THE FLYING VAZQUEZ (cont)

"We're shooting for a 40 percent completion rate."

Prada said the Vazquezes were paid to do a triple on the show. "When they are paid to do a quad, they will do it."

Miguel Vazquaz is 16 years old, 5 ft. 8 in. tall and weighs 122 pounds. He is shy but friendly.

Juan showed me video-tapes of Miguel throwing 5½ spins to the net, and a triple full (one twisting somersault followed by a straight double) to his hands earlier this year. He is submitting these two tricks and the quad caught in Long Beach to Guinness as world records.

"We don't use any gimmicks on our quad," Juan said. "We don't lower our catch bar for the trick. The ropes are the same length as they are for the other tricks."

The Vazquez are fifth generation circus performers. Their mother, Reyna, was a Rodriguez, a name well-known in Mexican circuses as Vazquez.

The Vazquaz started their flying act 3½ years ago, and set out six months ago to

practice the quad until they could catch it and prove to the world it was no impossible dream.

Ironically, it was in Long Beach that the great flier Alfredo Codona shot and killed his wife, Vera Bruce, then turned the gun on himself, and died, in July 1937.

Catcher Lalo Codona's widow, Anita, who lives in Long Beach, and daughter came to the circus the Sunday after the Vazquez caught the quad to congratulate them and to give them some photos and mementos of the Flying Condons.

PEOPLE

EMMETT KELLY, Jr., is a write-in candidate for Honorary Third Vice President in the upcoming AGVA election.

TOM UPTON has been busy showing his circus films to members of the Ringling Red Unit personnel at both Oakland and San Francisco, Calif.

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EUROPORAMA

Ever since its begining several years ago, Europorama has operated as a "thrill-type" show. They featured a variety of high acts and novelty ground acts, plus some special features, but no animal acts were ever used.

Their advertising carried the information that it was not a circus and its single ring was in the form of a square. An interesting program was featured which gave patrons an opportunity to see unusual and different acts.

Last year the show changed its image and moved to a full-circus presentation, featuring a large number of animal acts. This new concept brought good response from both patrons and sponsors alike, and this year Europorama expanded its circus program.

Europorama continues to play outside in front of grandstands for the most part. A colorful backdrop with the show's title in large black letters covers the full performing area. A small band top matches the backdrop and provides shelter for the six piece band that is carried throughout the tour.

This year, the show, operated by John Winn, played dates only on the west coast and offered a program that featured: Otto Berosini, mixed wild animals; The Pablos and Robertos, aerial cradle numbers; Evy Karoly, high school horse; Heidi Wendany, high school horse; Dion, clown and his steel drum; The Deliakis Sisters, rolling globes; the Winn Bros., inclined wire walk; Lucky Bros., table comedy; Angela, Dianne and Elizabeth, hair hangs; Clowns and the Strong Lady; Mr. Mario and Mr. Robert, sword balancing; Hans & Co., chair balance; The Juggling Jewels, juggling; Aerial Ballet with five girls on webs; The Riding Zerbini Family; Intermission.

Roverta, slide for life; The Rodriguez Troupe, double wide flying act; The Young Troupe, teeterboard; Clowns and Baseball; Miss Heidi and Miss Evy, dog acts; The Winn Troupe, aerial motorcycle; Parade of Performers and flags.

DARRELL WALLEN and his horse "Mr. Rhythm" were recently featured in the All American Horse Show.

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HANNEFORD FAMILY SHOW

by Don Sandman

The Hanneford Family Circus played the Darke County Fair, Greenville, Ohio, Aug. 21-28. This was the seventh year for the Hanneford Family at Darke County.

The circus presented three shows daily at 2, 7 and 9 p.m. and offered the following show:

Announcer, Victoria Hanneford; The Hanneford Mixed Animals (Elephant, Llama and Pony), George Hanneford; Clowns, The Professor and Georgie in Let Me Have It; The Bounding Keys, trampoline (Kathy and George Hanneford 3rd); Clown, Professor Balloon Blow Up; Deanna, The Goddess of Flight on the single trapeze; Clown, Professor and the Skunk; Hanneford Canine Revue (Kathy and Diane); Hanneford Riding Act (Hanneford sisters and George Hanneford, Jr., with George Hanneford 3rd, the youngest performing rider).

Carl (Professor) Gray and George Hanneford made up clown alley.

New this year was the added attraction of

the Wambals Menagerie & Petting Zoo, which allowed the children in the audience to visit with and pet the animals.

All is set up along the midway of the fair with the one ring performance presented in a red and white striped big top and the menagerie alongside in a smaller tent.

Seen on the lot the day your writer visited were: Porky South, Bob and Judy Woodruff, Nancy Gray, Angie Bowman and Don and Grace Sandman.

MAILROOM

Circus Reports addressed to the following people were returned this past week by the Post Office who says they can not be delivered as addressed.

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Pio Nock, Jr.
Jack Ryan

Enrique Peres
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LUCASVILLE, OHIO

Circus Continentale, produced by Klein's Attractions and Peggy and Bob Kaltenbach of Palatine, Ill., made its annual trek to Ohio with a very strong 90 minute grandstand circus for the Scioto County Fair in Lucasville.

Show day, Aug. 13, was a beautiful clear day and SRO crowds, the circus gave two performances, utilizing 2 rings and a newly constructed stage area at the grandstand.

Show acts and staff were: Susan Sheryl's Afghan Dogs; Annie & Her Soldier, hand balancing; The Olmeda Arabian Horse Fantasy; Clowns with 'Moonscope' (Fran Bridwell and Terry Miller); The Laddies, ladder act; The Bakers, perch; Torinos, juggling; Davide Zoppe with the Johnny Zoppe Rehsus Monkey Revue; Grinn & Barrett, comedy low trapeze; Clowns with Buggy the Strong Man; The Antonio Bros., bikes and Lee, Jeanette and Tanya Keener with the Diano elephants.

Staff: Producer, Bob and Peggy Kaltenbach for Kleins Attractions; Band leader, Bob Ferney with six men; Show announ-

ELEPHANT CROSSES ALPS

Eleven British researchers led a circus elephant across 90 miles of the Alps to retrace part of the route taken by Hannibal 2000 years ago.

Wolf Zeoner, a Cambridge University biologist, said the 18 year old elephant was fresher than the exhausted academicians at the end of each day and often had to be bribed with chunks of bread, her favorite food, to slow down.

Mena, a 1½ ton pachyderm on loan from the Chipperfield Circus, covered an average of 15 miles during a nine hour day over passes as high as 7,590 feet.

In one of the most celebrated campaigns of military history, Hannibal led an army of elephants and men over the Alps in about 218 B.C. in an attempt to subdue Rome.

(From the Seattle, Wash., Times, dated for Aug. 19th).

cer, Don Bridwell; Producing clown, Fran (Spunky) Bridwell.

To Whom It May Concern

Aug. 16, 1981
3209 Henrietta Pl.
Sarasota, FL 33580

To Whom It May Concern,

Recently some matters have come to my attention that my family and I are not pleased with. I'm not interested in criticizing, just bringing out the true facts.

Mr. Jay Cochrane, also known as the Canadian Prince of the Air, is doing "SKYWALKS" and appearing in local papers. The papers claim he "learned the art of walking the tight wire from the late Karl Wallenda." 2C Friday, June 5, 1981, Philadelphia Inquirer. If the Prince heralds the fact that he was associated with the Great Wallenda's, this is true. He was with us for approximately nineteen working days in 1979. However, he could not withstand the rigorous professional training program we use. But if he claims to be a disciple of my grandfathers, it becomes another matter.

As far as we in our family know, my grandfather never heard the name Jay Cochrane in his life. And before he died my grandfather raised up a generation of wire walkers who still dominate the top of the line.

I will begin with Mendez and Sietz, who have been a standard for over twenty years. And Farrell of the Farrell Brothers, winner of the silver medal in Monaco in 1979. As well as family members like Delilah and Tino Wallenda or my current partners Rietta my sister and David Klukow.

These people were all trained by the late Karl Wallenda, but let it be known, Jay Cochrane was not.

Sincerely



Enrico Wallenda Bogino
Manager: The Great Wallenda's

HURRY! HURRY!

It used to be that kids longed to run off and join the circus. Now they long to run off to join Wall Street. And what a pity it is - for them and the circuses.

There now are fewer than 15 tent circuses traveling through America. A few decades ago there were almost twice that number. The kids who used to water the elephants, fetch hay for the horses, and help pound tent stakes now sit home and watch cartoons on television. And the circuses slowly die with half-filled tents.

But the circus is not an anachronism. The word itself brings to mind laughter, joy, excitement and fun. And the remaining shows still bring clowns, acrobats, elephants, jugglers, lions and tigers to the backyards of America.

Some of these tent shows will be coming through the Chicago area during August and September.

I hope people will join me in helping keep this unique part of show business Americana alive. Someday, if we let it happen, kids will never know the thrill of seeing the colorful circus trucks roll into town. They won't know the excitement of seeing the elephants raise the big top; the wonders of meeting circus clowns face to face; the live suspense generated by the aerialists; and the edge-of-your seat thrills of the lion and tiger acts.

Join me and savor the excitement of a day

at the circus.

And bring another kid with you.

... Ken Holehouse

(From the Chicago (Ill) Tribune, Aug. 16th)

FLORIDA SHOW NEWS

(From the "Sands" publication of Egypt Temple Shrine, Tampa, Fla.)

Sarasota, Fla., was granted a dispensation for their own Shrine Temple to be called "Sahib." (This is good news for Shrine Members in Sarasota, Hardee and DeSoto counties). Egypt Temple, Tampa, will retain jurisdiction in Highlands and Manatee counties. Although Egypt knew they would be losing some of their members to this new Temple, they realized the enormous growth merited the request for Sarasota.

Sarasota has a fine Shrine Club and an item in their column noted that Helen Wallenda widow of the late Noble Carl Wallenda, held an auction of many of Carl's effects and as a result presented a check for \$310 for our building fund. Many thanks, Helen, for your thoughtfulness.

A further note, as of this writing, Helen is in her new home in Sarasota.

... submitted by Marjorie Hackett

THE ASHTON CIRCUS

BY DON COVINGTON

My ship, the USS Kitty Hawk, visited Perth, Australia, in July and I was fortunate enough to visit Ashton's Circus while I was there.

Ashton's is Australia's oldest circus, having been founded in 1832. It has been touring continuously since that time and is one of the best known Australian shows.

Posters throughout the greater Perth area announced the two week run of the show at McCallum Park, the traditional city showgrounds. The park is a beautiful setting for a tent show, a wide grassy lot, centrally located next to Swan River.

This year's posters featured a full color picture of American TV star Will Hutchins who is best known as "Sugarfoot" in the western series popular in the mid 70's. Hutchins appears throughout the show as "Patches" the clown. Visitors expecting to see a guest appearance by a cowboy were surprised to find that Hutchins worked the entire show as a clown. He was in white face make up throughout and participated in several traditional clown numbers such as the boxing match and a balloon blowing contest. There never was any attempt to exploit him as anything other than a member of clown alley and all of his appearances were with the rest of the very capable show funsters.

The performance is presented in a sparkling PVC tent colored red, white and blue. The interior features traditional European single ring format. Three rows of folding chairs surround the ring, while bleachers provide traditional seating on three sides of the performing area. The rear of the arena is framed by a colorful backdrop depicting two clowns topped by a lighted proscenium.

There is no band carried, but an excellent taped music program accompanies the show. A small midway outside the big top included a carnival style bumper car ride, a truck mounted arcade featuring electronic games, a trampoline, concession wagons and a small menagerie tent.

Tickets were priced at \$4.00 to \$10.00 in Australia (about \$4.50 to \$11.00 U.S.) Discounts were available for children, servicemen and senior citizens. Performances were scheduled at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. On Sunday only a 2:00 p.m. matinee was presented.

Ashton's tours the entire continent of Aus-

tralia, playing approximately 300 locations a year, over a 12 month season. The majority of the two and a half hour program is performed by members of the Ashton family. The Ashton clan includes owners Doug and Phyllis Ashton, their children Mervyn, wife Nikki, children Pepe, Bekki and Golda; Lorraine, husband Gary, children Tanya, her husband Cifuentes and baby Marcos, Tammy, Chino, Marty and Tara-Lyn, Jan, husband Brazil and daughter Tamara.

These family members supply the boss clown (Gary), ringmistress/announcer (Lorraine), whips (Lorraine), trampoline (Marty), performing pigs (Gary), camel liberty drill (Mervyn), web (Tanya and Tammy), bareback (Cifuentes), elephants (Brazil), and flying trapeze (Tanya, Marty, Cifuentes) In addition the very strong program includes the Tommy Chipperfield mixed tiger and lion act from Chipperfield's Circus in England. Tommy also presented a fast paced and delightful single pony drill early in the show. Augmenting the program as well are the American cousins of the Australian Ashtons, the fabulous 6 Ashtons risley act most recently seen at the London Palladium and prior to that on Ringling Bros.

Ashtons is a slick professional show, timed to the second with sparkling costumes, crisp lighting, professional prop crews and a genuine rapport with their audience.

The midway and track area were completely covered with sawdust for the Perth stand a welcome sight for this American fan used to rubber mats on shopping center parking lots. The entire show was gracious and hospitable happily visiting with their audience after the conclusion of the show. It's easy to see why they have endured so long.

The program at Perth was: Welcome, including brief history of Ashtons Circus; the Circus on Parade (introduction of all performers); Novelty Spanish Riding; Ashtons Performing Pigs (6); Trampoline; Chino Lopez, rola bola; Clowns (Bullfight); Six Ashtons, risley; Clowns; Performing camels (8); Web; Intermission; Tommy Chipperfield's Tigers (5) and lions (3); Clowns; Iron Jaw by Jonas and Co.; Rodriguez Troupe, bareback riding; Clowns; Elephants (2); Lorraine Ashton and family, whips; Space Angels, the Flying Ashtons.

Report

TEBALA SHRINE CIRCUS

BY CHRISTINA L. ENGLISH

Once again Ron Kelroy has outdone himself by turning out the best Shrine Circus in his six year series of excellence. Rockford (Ill) newspapers had daily features on various members of the show including one who was lucky enough to get up in the aerial motorcycle for an experience that he will long remember, and TV cameras were on the scene Saturday and Sunday, the final days.

Between July 20-22 the circus played in Woodstock at the McHenry county fairgrounds to record crowds and from the 23rd to 26th at the Rockford Speedway. The crowds were magnificent in spite of the fact that another circus had been in town the previous week.

On Saturday night it rained and everyone was prepared not to perform. In came literally hordes of people armed with umbrellas to see the show. Of course, as long as Ron's around the show will go on no matter what. Even when the rain came down full force the people sat there mesmerised by the show seemingly impervious to the precipitation and stayed to the last. Only two acts could not perform in the rain.

A rundown of the show was approximately: Overture '81 directed by Keith Killinger; ring

master Col. Lucky Larabee; The Great Huberto, slide for life; The Jupiter Trio, triple trap; The Roils Duo, cradle; Rix's performing bear act; Tino and Kehail; performing horse; Miss Loni and Miss Barbara, foot juggling; Olinka, upside down walk and revolving trapeze; Kattinka's poodles; Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire; Intermission; Don Giovanni, comedy on a lamp post; Los Latinos, wire act; Ben Williams and Anna May, single elephant; Napoleone's Roman Riders; The Nock Brothers, swaypoles; The Albulet Brothers, aerial motorcycle; Patriotic Finale.

Correction

The Circus Report, in its Aug. 3rd issue, incorrectly reported that The Flying Wallendas were appearing at Sea World Park in San Diego, Calif. No such act is appearing there.

Miscellaneous

Roberts Bros. Circus, playing in Plainville, Conn., Aug. 14-15, reduced all of their admission prices. Adults were charged 90c, senior citizens were charged 75c and children under 14 yrs of age also were charged just 75c. The show played on the Joe Tinty lot, and played to three full houses and one $\frac{3}{4}$ house, and played in the open due to the stric state laws regarding show tents.

SHOW ACTS

The following acts worked fairs in Canada, booked by Gastoni Attractions:

Sherbrooke - Aug. 16-20 - Diana, foot juggler, The Dions, perch act, James Plunkett, wire, Erik's Dogs, Rolling Diamonds, skating act, Plunketts, trampoline.

Victorville - Aug. 11-15 - Volvo, revolving ladder, Vickinis, teeterboard-risley, Diana, foot juggler, The Wazzans, trampoline, The Rolling Diamonds, skating act, Joyce and Charley, unicycles.

Barton, Vt. - Aug. 21-23 - The Charleys, acrobats, The Cyclonians, unicycles, Diana, foot juggler, The Rolling Diamonds, skating act, The Gutis Family, comedy number.

PEOPLE

THE TONY FOSSET FAMILY and THE HANSEN FAMILY are set to work the Springfield, Mass., Big "E" Exposition on Sept. 16-20 for Wayne McCary.

HOTLINE

Aug 19 - Long Beach, Calif. - During the evening performance of Ringling's Red Unit a major battle erupted between several of the leopards being worked in the arena by Henry Schroer. Animal trainer Gunther Gebel Williams, who was standing outside the arena, dashed in and helped to break up the fight, after which the act was continued. There were no injuries to either trainer.

SHOW VISITORS

Visitors seen at Ringling's Red Unit during the show's recent Los Angeles area engagement include:

Parley Baer, Roland Kaiser, Cliff Vargas, Dorothy Herbert, Eddie Howe and daughter Karen, Jack Bailey, Mohammed Ali, Chester Cable, Wini McKay, Doug and Sally Ashton, Harry Graham, Doug Lyon, Jerry Digney, Mike Gorman and Millie Ward, as well as Harry Zevin.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

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JOHN PUGH
General Manager and Vice President
P. O. Box 1570
Winter Park, Fla. - 32790

PEOPLE

EUGENE A. NOCK graduated from Roter-Air on Aug. 13th, with a Commercial Pilots License in Helicopters and Airplanes. He kept up the equivalent of a 3.9 average for two years. His school attendance was in addition to his performing three shows a day with his family at Tommy Bartlett's Water Ski, Sky and Stage Show in Wisconsin Dells, Wisc.

RICHARD FLINT, who produces the Smithsonian's annual Spring Celebration, is serving as consultant to the Hertzberg Circus Project video productions. He conducted 11 hours of video interviews on Carson & Barnes last March. He reports catching numerous circuses and fairs and is spending two weeks vacation with Ward Hall's several side shows on the Ohio State Fair Midway in Columbus. Flint reports that the Smithsonian's May 1-3 Celebration was again attended by just over 100,000 people.

HARRIS REYNOLDS, retired wire walker, now residing in Forest Park, Ga., was slated

In Memoriam

EDWARD PEEBLES (60), known as Mr. Twist Balloon Sculptor, and husband of Gloria Peebles of the Busy B's Dogs and Monkeys, died Aug. 14th, of pneumonia following surgery to remove a blood clot on the brain. He was in Windsor Western Hospital, Ontario, Canada, for six weeks.

to give a talk on his career at a meeting of the George Fans. Harris recently became a member of the CFA. Harris is one of five wire walkers trained by the late and great Mayme Butters. He was also a member of the Young Nelsons Acrobatic Risley Act in the 1940's.

LUIZ BAUTISTA (Caballero) who is 8 years old, is working in the family's flying act on Carson & Barnes Circus and is already catching the double somersault.

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PEOPLE

GRINN & BARRETT (Gary Baker and Vicky Hendricks) and **WHIZZER the Clown** (Don Bridwell) put on two stage shows daily (Aug. 4-9) for Variety Attractions at the Jefferson, Ohio, Astabula County Fair, with Bridwell also acting as show announcer. Headliners on the bill were **BRENDA LEE** and **DEL REEVES**.

GARY BORSTELMANN will be working the Bruno's Breakaway Swaypole in Ronkonkoma, NY (Aug. 31-Sept. 7). Then he will meet "Bruno" in Sparta, Tenn., to finish the date there, Sept. 7-12.

JAY COCHRANE is doing his "Skywalk" twice daily at Kennywood Park until Sept. 8th. Then he goes to Philadelphia for the "Hero Scholarship Fund" with the Breakaway Swaypole, Sept. 11 at John F. Kennedy Stadium.

ALL EFFORTS FAIL

A circus trainer who bought a malnourished 22 year old Asian elephant for a dollar and tried to help the animal regain its health came up empty as the circus left town.

Julie, a four ton elephant that had been allegedly mistreated in a Canadian zoo had to be destroyed Friday morning (Aug. 14) after another elephant and tow trucks could not raise her. She had fallen onto her side Thursday morning from exhaustion and did not get up.

The elephant was destroyed with 20 shots from a high-powered rifle by York police. The Bentley Bros. Circus had been sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Buckey Steele, an animal enthusiast who is a trainer with the Bentley circus, bought the elephant two weeks ago. Steele, who owns other elephants and allows them to roam around his Texas home, had heard of Julie's plight.

Circus workers said officials at the Canadian zoo where Julie had been kept wanted to shoot the animal.

Steele bought the elephant for a dollar, brought her into the country and said he would try to help her regain her health.

The elephant joined Steele while the circus was on tour and traveled in a trailer while Steele took care of her.

When the elephant fell in its trailer Thursday, tow trucks were used to get the animal into fresh air. Another elephant and a tow truck tried to get her to stand up, but the animal did not respond for a day.

Steele said the elephant appeared exhausted and very ill.

"Some of those zoos don't feed them right and when they become a problem they just want to shoot them," Steele said.

"Those Asiatic elephants are an endangered species and we don't do anything to save them," he added.

As the circus packed up to leave York (Pa) Friday for an appearance in Philadelphia, Steele said that despite the disheartening experience with Julie, he would continue his efforts on behalf of the elephants.

"Someone has to try to save them," he said. "You lose one . . . and well . . . I'll do it again."

(From the New Era, Lancaster, Pa., dated Aug. 15th).

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BY LLOYD E. JONES

The "It's Magic" show dates have been announced for Oct. 28th thru Nov. 8th. Once again it will be held at the Variety Arts Theatre in Los Angeles and the bill is headed by Richiardi.

I assume that is Richiardi, Jr. and also his son will present the great black art act of the late Pasha. A full bill and prices will be announced soon and an effort is being made to obtain group sales to pack the house on week day nights. The weekends are usually sell-outs.

The Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences (Magic Castle) is ending its \$1000 Life Membership fee at the end of September. Serious thought is being given to increasing that fee to \$1500. If a Life Member passes on, his membership can be transferred to a spouse or the children.

John Booth will be honored by a Champagne Reception at the Castle on Sept. 13. Members only, and their next big Swap Meet is set for Oct. 3rd.

Do we have tricks, you ask? Yes, we do and still have some of the "Madcup" at just \$13.00. It's a combination chop cup and a dice cup that offers many close-up possibilities (postage runs 63c). Use your own dice and crocheted balls as you wish. It's a neat job.

Also hear that John Fedko's "Beads of Prussia" were going out of production, so

WEEK LONG MAGIC

BY PAT BISSONETTE

Roger Despard, one half of the team of "Roger and Shar Magic Show" presents mostly illusions. Their five day stand in the Crossroads Center Mall (Minn.) Aug. 12-16, was well received by shoppers in the roped off 100 chair section.

This hard working pair, doing three a day are completely self-contained with elevated stage, pipe frame back drop and curtains. Floods and spots, taped music strategically placed speakers, portable 8 x 16 ft. dressing and prop room are behind the stage.

The half hour show consisted of plenty of dove productions from balloons, confetti filled plates, long handled fish net, egg bag, silks and boxes. After each trick the varied colored doves were assembled in a large cage and all are vanished in a silk scarf.

Larger illusions were four scattered boxes stacked up to produce his assistant, a Zig Zag Lady, Guillotine and a fancy substitution trunk made by Roger who hails from Belvidere, Ill.

Don't get caught short . . .

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we bought several. If you've seen it, you'll want it. You drop large beads into a plastic tube and they come out strung!

It's surprising and easy, and I like that! Our price is just \$30.00 and I think the actual price is more (?). Better add 10% for postage and any excess will be returned.

SPEAKING OF

BY JIM PARKER

Seanor Lydick (Helga Hoffman, the German Giantess) was given a surprise birthday party on Aug. 13th by Carl Reed and Joe Miller. A fabulous home cooked dinner of ham, turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, salad, baked beans and an open bar were provided under Seanor's Single-O top.

Among those in attendance were Helen Bates (his mother), Sara Leonard, Lucy Harrington, Carmen and Chic Del Rio, Bob and Ruby Boto, Billy Rodgers, Billy Harris, Kim Longwell, Clyde Kelly, Bobby Farina and myself.

Seanor is one of the last of the true annex attractions and will be joining Dean Potter's side show on the Reithoffer Shows, Sept. 10th in York, Pa., and will continue for the rest of the season.

To our knowledge, there is only one other Half & Half and she is not on the road this year as such. Years ago, not only the carnivals and fairs carried such an attraction, but many circuses also used them for the blow off in their side shows.

Truly a dying breed of performer, with very little documentation known on this type of the "Strange and the Unusual".

Seanor certainly will bring color to the world of the side show. Seanor will be going down the road in a new Dodge Aspen, a surprise birthday gift from Carl Reed, plus he received numerous owl figurines to add to his collection, which now numbers close to 400.

Seanor claims he is briefly returning to the road to make more money so he can come

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back this winter and build an addition to his home to house his owl collection.

Having never seen him work, I think even I would pay that extra admission to go behind that secretive side wall to see Helga Hoffman, the German Giantess!

Report

GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS

BY GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

Great American Circus preserves the tent tradition of our national mud shows in that the name truly represents what you see in Hoxie Tucker's traveling troupe of artists, managed by Allen C. Hill Productions. Snappy, funny, lively, talented performances - that's what they were as I followed GAC from Mechanicsburg to Linglestown to Elizabeth on July 4, 5 and 6. Under the big top the fast-moving show was engineered by excellent accompaniment of organ and drums.

Highlights of this sparkling show were dazzling displays by new artists who unfurled their stuff in mesmerizing presentations. Mike Kohlieser makes you forget Picasso when he juggles his way to your heart, climaxing with the fantastic five ping pong balls from the mouth.



Hoxie Tucker (left) owner of the Great American Circus and Allen C. Hill, GAC manager.

Debonair Tino Ferreira enters in space attire followed by mouth-hand-foot rola bola climaxing with an unsurpassed seven high moveable base. Classiest rola bola of this decade.

Miss Elizabeth's foot juggling in center ring combines those two requisites beauty and breath-taking skill. Seven year old Yum Yum captures everyone's heart with a sensational center ring contortion sparkler.

GAC gives animal entertainment extraordinary largely by way of the exceptional talents of Dick Kohlieser who has won his spurs as a big top trainer. Kohl's dog pound revue featuring America's favorite Dog Catcher is great

dog action. He returns with four liberty ponies whose spunky sequences lift the audience from canvas and mud to idyllic fairyland. Dick comes back later with a skunk-tailed monkey-horse review featuring a marvelous macaque. Dick handling Hoxie's camel is a change of pace for dromedary performance.



Manager Allen C. Hill, in new custom-built office trailer, a really plush one-of-a-kind modern circus traveling office.

There were three fine displays of three ring entertainment. Gary and Zoanne Henry, veterans of the tanbark circuits, insure the class of GAC's fine show. Zoanne's roman riding commands her recognition as America's top equestrienne. She adds the classic feminine beauty contrast later as Walt Hoff handles two ponderous pachyderms. Gary's clowning is always superior buffoonery as he features his comedy car and later his horse-car comedy pony.

Enter Ming Wong, exotic hair-hanger of the East! Rising to the canvas top she drops countless robes in her hair-standing opener. Then nonchalantly she takes dinner aloft in squatting posture, legs tucked as she partakes of the rice chopstick style, pours tea from a pot and imbibes, winding up with a smoke from a spectacular long-handled cigarette. A superior hair-hanger!

GAC sports a midway consisting of moon walk, Great Jungle Snakes, concessions and Side Show, with Zoo superintended by Isom Null and assisted by Sammy Johnson (fire and swords), Mdmse Honey as Miss Serpentina

(Continued on Page 27)

MAILBAG

FROM FRANK CURRY

The recent write-up on the Smithsonian was not quite authentic as to medicine shows and tent reps. While I do not dispute that some tent reps may have made medicine pitches I should like to state that there is a real difference between a medicine show and a tent rep. To wit: The reps presented drama mostly for the regular nightly performances. Then for an "after show" at an extra charge they gave a tabloid musical and comedy revue.

The Medicine Show: (some were under canvas and others were on vacant lots) always stayed in a spot for at least a week, mostly two or more weeks according to the 'take'. The show opened with the entire cast with a song sequed by a skit (which was called a bit). Then the 'Doctor' made the lecture and 'turn' on a lower priced article, usually Snake Oil, Magic Oil, etc. Then another bit and Doc worked the salve and so on down the line. The last sale was made on the prize candy, which by the way quite often made 'the nut' and kept many weak med men in business.

But tent rep and med shows made the badly by loading musicians on a horse drawn wagon (in later years a truck) and drove about the community making announcements. Never have I heard of a med show giving a parade.

Many is the time that this individual had to go into a nearby town on Saturday and make a pitch atop a fish box to get 'scratch' to meet the pay roll and get to the next spot.

When the livestock sales spread over the country the med men moved in and worked them just before the sale was to start, paying a percentage to the sales barn. We found this medium more to our accommodation for the reason that a 'blank' today did not hurt so much because we could go to the next sale tomorrow, while a blank spot with a big show found us struggling for at least the entire week. Therefore, the Saturday pitch in the next town.

There were two med men with more guts than an abbatoire. They were Joseph M. Wallace and J. C. Miles. If our readers are interested in this account I will further elucidate on them in a future issue.

GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS (Continued)

and magic assistantace by Dayne Mull.

The order of displays: Circus on Parade; the Kohl's Dog Pound revue featuring America's favorite dog catcher Dick Kohlriser; three rings: Rola bola (Sammy Johnson), Miss Elizabeth (foot juggling), Unicycles, Mike and Steve; America's Greatest comedy car, Gary; Liberty Miniature, Dick; Traps, Mademoiselle Honey; Coloring Book; Clown Firecracker, Gary, Jose, Foto; Three rings: camel, elephant, llama; Comedy pony, Gary, featuring Count Smyrnaoff; Ming Wong, hair hang; Juggling Jamboree featuring Mike Kohlriseser, Roman Riding, Zoanne Henry; Intermission.

Emporer of Space, Tino Ferreira, rola bola; Clown Hot Dog; Balloon Pitch; Three rings: Carlow, head balancing on a soccer ball (unique), contortion, Yum Yum, hand balancing and one finger stand, Oscar Macias; Macaque and horse, Dick; Two ponderous pachyderms (Zoanne aboard Jennie) presented by Walter Hoff; Cloud Swing, Oscar Macias.

A Great American Circus!!

(All photos were taken by the writer)

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Report

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

BY ALLAN BABCOCK

I spent two days with the Carson & Barnes Circus, at Lincoln, Ill., July 22 and Chatham on July 23rd. I arrived in time to watch the big top go up and then stayed 'til the top came down on both days.

It's always a pleasure to visit D.R.'s show since everyone is so friendly and it reminds you of the real old time circus. They always have a good strong show and it is even much stronger now with the addition of the following acts: 3 camel act, 5 llamas and a pony, 1 high school horse, 6 white mules, plus the 40 ft. truck and the harness. This all came in from the Carden Circus. Bobby and Rosa Gibbs came with the animals and work the acts during the show.

The three flying acts really top off a great show, especially with 11 year old Ruben Caballero and Julio Gaona throwing triple somersaults.

Bill Reynolds circus band adds a lot to the



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show with their great traditional circus music and James Royal does a great job as the ringmaster. Laura Herriott Walker is back on the show after a short stay with Beatty-Cole.

We've had a great deal of rain in our area this summer, with quite a bit of heat and humidity. On the 22nd when C&B played in Lincoln it cooled off some and we had a nice day. The Lincoln area, as I understand it, has had over 15 inches of rain thus far this month.

The show lot was very soft with some water on it, so they moved the big top area a few hundred feet to the east and there wasn't any trouble getting on or off the lot.

At Chatham it rained hard the morning as they set up the tent. It was a rather tight lot, but then most lots are tight for this show. It took two and on a few occasions three elephants to get some of the trucks on and off the lot.

The sun came out in the afternoon and that helped a lot. Two of the five rings were on a baseball infield which was quite muddy, but by showtime they had improved the situation by spreading out several bales of hay inside

(Continued on Page 29)

CARSON & BARNES (Continued)

the rings as well as in the track area. It was also spread around the entrance area where people would have to walk to their seats.

There were fairly good crowds both days. I was surprised at the size of the crowd in Chatham since it is a small town, about six miles south of Springfield, where Circus Vargas had played for two days, just three weeks earlier.

Bill Doyle, a trumpet player, was hospitalized at Clinton, Iowa, with blood poisoning due to an infection in his right arm.

Faye Reynolds, organist and school teacher on the show, was featured on the NBC-TV Show "Today" on July 8th. They had several shots of the Reynolds family and the band, as well as the rest of the show.

Bobby and Rosa Gibbs took 6 animal acts to Davenport, Iowa, for a big John Strong date on July 25th.

The big rhino got loose in Aledo, Ill., and from what I heard they must have had quite a time getting it caged again.

A big disappointment was that Luciana Loyal's horse came up lame in Lincoln and so I didn't get to see that act at either spot.

PEOPLE

HARRY CHIPMAN, former circus man, has been named Ad Director for The Bulletin, at Montebello, Calif.

AL BELMONTE, magician, of New Jersey, will be playing the Hershey Park in Penna. the weekends of Sept. 12-13 and Sept. 19-20th.

HANABELLE, the Lady Clown, has been booked for pre-school and Christmas promos by Macy's Roosevelt Field and by the Mall Administration for their 25th anniversary celebration (New York).

JOHN GRIMALDO, RUSSELL the Clown, ILLESE ALEXANDER and HANABELLE are currently filling dates for the New York State Dept. of Parks (arrangements courtesy of BACA, Brooklyn Arts and Cultural Association).

If the Carson & Barnes Circus gets anywhere near where a person can see it, I sure would advise them to go to the show. It will surely take them back to those good old days of the circus - as it was yesterday!

THE HOUSE THAT ROARED

English authorities hit lion tamer Martin Lacey with a noise abatement order after his neighbors in Margate, England, complained that the roaring of his five circus lions was keeping them awake at night.

Lacey, 38, said his lions only make noise when they are moved or want to mate.

"It's just not practical to ask them to shut up, but the residents are welcome to come and try," he said.

From the New York Daily News, dated Aug. 16, 1981.

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

BY CLARENCE HASTINGS

The Optimist Club sponsored Hoxie Bros. Circus at Ann Arbor, Mich., on Aug. 16-17.

The show ran two hours with the traditional circus acts. The line-up was:

Welcome to the Circus; Circus on Parade; Bruski Trio, unicycles; The Bertloffs, adagio; Randon's Chimps; Holveck & Co., magic; Spanish web; Clowns; the elephant Rajah, presented by Mike Rice; Intermission.

Miss Amdromeda, balancing ladder; Horse, Dog and Pony, presented by Mike Rice; the Randon Canines; Holveck & Co., illusions; Miss Que Yen Cheng, hair hang; Elephants and the long mount, presented by Col. James Crawford.

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A CIRCUS VISIT . . .

BY BILL KAY

What does a circus producer do on his day off? He attends a circus performance of course - The Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wisc., Aug. 15th.

Ada Smieya - 8 tigers, two lions, truly an outstanding animal presentation. Ada Smieya's dynamic showmanship really makes this act a winner.

Miss Reyna - Spanish web - well received by a packed house because of the intimacy of the one ring show - a beautiful young Mexican star.

The Great Gabriel - cloud swing - fast paced with plenty of oohs and aahs thru-out.

Shannon Woodcock with single elephant had the audience in the palm of her hand, while showing off the accomplishments and the latest in elephantine training.

Flores Duo Cradle (Reyna and Gabriel) - awe inspiring feats of aerial artistry.

Woodcock's elephants - typical Woodcock presentation - 1st class all the way! The outstanding feats executed by the pachyderms were exceeded only by Bill Woodcock's wardrobe - resplendent!

Entertaining prior to the performance proper with some good new magic numbers was Happy the Clown (Jimmy Williams) he does a fine job especially working with kids from the audience.

Ringmaster-announcer Peter Sturgis' fine appearance - good clear announcements and paces the one hour show in a fine professional manner.

The show was backed by calliope, organist and drummer.

The overall production makes for a solid one hour family presentation - good acts - beautiful costumes - credit to our great profession!

PEOPLE

MIKE PHILLIPS & TRICIA will present their "Jump of Death" at the CBS "Sixth Annual Circus of the Stars" to be taped in Las Vegas, Oct. 2-5.

DARWIN ORTIZ, gambling lecturer, will be featured at Conventions in Houston and Atlanta later this year.