



7th Year

April 10, 1978

Number 15

High Wire Star Slips

Two world records were reportedly achieved by Steve Wallenda on March 25th at the Oakland, Calif., Zoo. The longest high wire walk — a quarter mile on an aerial tramway cable and a 100 Foot blindfold walk — were accomplished as some 1,000 people watched.

Wallenda walked the tramway cable each day during Easter Week, once when it was raining, and then set the records on his final appearance at the zoo. The "skywalk" feature was part of a promotion to boost interest in the zoo.

However, the event on March 25th was not without its mishaps. Some 25 feet along the wire it became apparent that his balance pole would not clear a nearby pine tree. Wallenda squatted on his heels and then carefully worked the pole around the tree.

Later, about half-way along, as he was stepping from the wire to a high platform, he slipped and fell astraddle the cable. He clung to

the balance pole and grabbed for a support beam with one hand, then hung there unable to extricate himself. Former high wire performer Leon Fort, on hand to offer his assistance, scrambled up to aid him and helped Wallenda regain his footing.

Wallenda was obviously shaken by the fall and suffered a groin injury as well as several gashes on his legs. However, he went on to complete the walk.

Aerialist Hurt

Circus aerialist Jerry Beeman, known as "Cronos, the King of the Cosmos" was hospitalized at Orlando, Fla. after falling 40 feet from his aerial rigging on Mar. 18th. He was appearing with the Shrine Circus in that city which was produced by Carden-Johnson Circus.

Beeman who suffered a broken elbow, a dislocated hip and multiple bruises, calls the fall "an occupational hazard" and blames it on physical exhaustion. As soon as he recovers he plans to resume his part-time circus career.

The aerialist works on a T-bar opposite a rocket prop which counterbalances his weight at the other end of the bar. The mishap occurred just before the show was over, when he had completed a spin while hanging from a neck loop.

According to a UPI newsrelease Beeman was grasping the T-bar, but found he was too tired to boost himself up. Freeing himself from the neck loop to maneuver he said the more he kicked to reach the bar "the farther out of the way it got. I was exhausted.

"I was thinking how to get out," he added, and finally decided "the only way out was to let go."

During the week Beeman is manager of a Tampa restaurant. He said he had been putting in 12 hours a day, six days a week at his regular

WANTED

Need information about VIRG E. M. WARD and wife CORDIA WARD, They traveled with the "S. W. Brundage" and "Rice-Dore" water shows. Mr. Ward played the cornet and directed the band, while Mrs. Ward had a small dog act (she told me her dogs were trained to climb a ladder and jump into a tank of water, much like high divers do). They stopped traveling about 1920.

Any help would be appreciated. This family is the grandparents to my children (both dead).

Mrs. JIMMIE WARD
Route 3 - Box 195
Guthrie, Okla. - 73044

job and it finally caught up with him on Saturday.

"I had to work the day before and that evening I had to get everything together and come over here to set up the rigging. That's the most physically demanding part."

Beeman says he will continue the act, after all "a cook doesn't quit when he gets burned," he said. "It's an occupational hazard."

Show Dates

BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

April 10 Taft, Calif.
11 Earlumont
12 Shasta
13 Wasco
14 Lemoire
15 Fresno
16 Tulare

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

April 10 Snyder, Texas
11 Anson
12 Breckenridge
13 Mineral Wells
14 Garland
15 Hillsboro
16 Copperas Cove

HUBERT CASTLE CIRCUS

Apr. 13-16 Indianapolis, Ind.

GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS

April 10 Lake Butler, Fla.
11 Perry
12 Lake City
13 MacClenny
14 St. Mary's, Ga.
15 Boxley
16 Tifton

HAMID-MORTON CIRCUS

Apr. 11-16 St. Paul, Minn.

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

April 10 Gainesville, Fla.
11 St. Augustine
12 Jesup, Ga.
13 Vidalia
14 Milledgeville
15-16 Augusta

HUBLER INT'L CIRCUS

Apr. 14-15 Dodge City, Kans.
15-16 Lexington, Ky

SAM T. POLACK CIRCUS

Apr. 14-16 Duluth, Minn.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue

to June 4 New York, N. Y.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red

Apr. 12-16 Rochester, N.Y.

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS

Apr 13-16 Farmingdale, L.I., N.Y.

ROYAL INT'L CIRCUS

Apr 14-May 6 Maine Dates

ROYAL LICHTENSTEIN CIRCUS

April 10 Evanston, Ill.

11 Chicago
12 Park Forest
13 Crawfordsville, Ind.
14 West Lafayette
15 Kalamazoo, Mich.
16 Grand Rapids

FRED, the COCKATOO

April 12-16 Winston Salem, NC

HOLIDAY ON ICE - Int'l

April 13-16 Jackson, Miss.

HOLIDAY ON ICE - Nat'l

April 12-16 Lakeland, Fla.

ICE CAPEDES - Eastern

April 11-16 Denver, Colo.

ICE CAPEDES - Western

April 13-16 Austin, Texas

ICE FOLLIES

April 11-16 Oklahoma City, Ok.

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11 Seguin
12 New Braunfels
13 Lameso
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CLOWNS

Clowns appearing with the Carden-Johnson Circus are: Marc Diamond, Pop Corn (Henry Egelson), Peanuts (Marsha Smith) and Mark Anthony.

Mailroom

Last week the Post Office returned several parcels of mail which was marked "Unable to Deliver As Addressed".

The mail was addressed to:

Carl Helbing	Tony Steele
James McKnight	Don Madeiros
Patricia Tompkins	Craig A. Webb

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COMING

The annual International Jugglers' Association Convention will be held July 13-16 at the Valley River Inn, Eugene, Oregon. All those interested in juggling, circus, etc., are invited to attend.

The I.J.A. competition will be held at the convention. Events will include: ball juggling, club juggling, juggling on auxiliary equipment (unicycle, globe, etc.), numbers juggling (5 clubs, 7 hoops or balls, longest), and object manipulation (cigar boxes, hats, etc). Each event, except the numbers event, is a 3 minute routine scored on number of moves, showmanship, originality, body movement and difficulty.

Numbers juggling is becoming extremely popular among professional and non-pro jugglers today. Perhaps the greatest numbers feats are: Enrico Rastello, 10 balls; Albert Petrovsky, 11 hoops; Sergi Ignatov, 11 hoops; Frank Le Dent, 11 balls; John Breen, 7 clubs; Jack Bremlov, 7 clubs and Francis Brunn with his combination of 12 objects.

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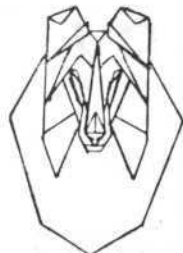
Program

The circus program presented by Carden-Johnson at Tulsa, Okla. on March 16-19 featured:

Overture, Spec, Gibbs' ponies, Joe Via, camels, Galambos and Franceros, cradle acts, the Gilberts, Ruban and Royce, wire, Clowns and Jargo, Armando, hand balancing, Bob and Edna Top, aerial act, "Maro" the gorilla, Gibbs' dogs, Via's llamas, Fay Alexander, comedy car, Sparkey and Phil, clowns, Aerial ballet, with ladders, webs and Ms. Pike, Mr. Frank and Ms. Mogaly, Wayne Ragen, wild animals (6 cats), Clown and cane, The Flying Iberras, Rudy Lenz, chimps, Rogers, sway poles, Heini-juni, Chin Biaz, Iberras, Clown boxing, Bibbs' elephants, Via's elephants, the Zapata Bros., high wire, Rogers Sky Cycle, long mount of 6 elephants on track.

The band was directed by Mike Pike, while the announcements were handled by Cleo Plunkett. Frank Galambo was prop boss and Bobby Gibbs was spec director.

We need your help to keep Circus Report going out each week. Please send in your renewal or new subscription order at once.



ANGELA WILNOW

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861 Oak St., Ft. Myers Beach, Fla. - 33931



Under terms of an agreement obtained by the Attorney General at Providence, R. I., the state police are prohibited from selling tickets or soliciting contributions for an upcoming circus. The order reportedly has the approval of the State Supreme Court.

The action was announced after an investigation by the Attorney General's office into complaints that solicitors left the impression the Rhode Island State Police were sponsoring the circus. The actual sponsor is the union of the State Police, the Fraternal Order of Police.

Gregory L. Benik, an assistant attorney general, said the complaints had been referred to his office. Our investigation, he said, found that "any problem was inadvertent and not by design. There was no conscious effort to deceive people."

The show's promoter has been ordered to turn over to the attorney general all posters, flyers, stickers and other materials previously ordered. Any future promotional material must describe the sponsor as only being the FOP.

Miscellaneous

Because of a dispute over who is going to sell programs and novelties, the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit will not play Pittsburgh. The show is scheduling a Sept. 1-4 date at Milwaukee after an absence of several years.

The Los Angeles (Calif) County Dept. of Parks is offering a class in "Clownology", meeting on Tuesday evenings, for six weeks. Instructor of the course is Richard Huntley, known as Richard D:Clown.

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TOWNS BOOKED AND NOW READY

PEOPLE

ALLEN J. DUFFIELD, CFA, JOHN HERRIOTT, TIM STINSON, DOUG LYONS and FRED LOGAN were among the visitors seen at the Carden-Johnson Circus in Orlando, Fla.

COL. JERRY LIPKO and his Comedy Chimps jumped from Biloxi, Miss., to Toronto, to Plymouth, Mich., to Omaha, Nebr. for dates this month.

LARRY RICH, clown, worked promotion for a Florida radio station recently, and hopes to be doing promotion and advance work for several Mid-west Fairs during the summer.

PAUL and JO FRITZ are with the Primate Foundation of Arizona (Tempe) where they are breeding and rehabilitating chimps. There are 38 chimps at the Foundation and the latest birth was on March 21st.

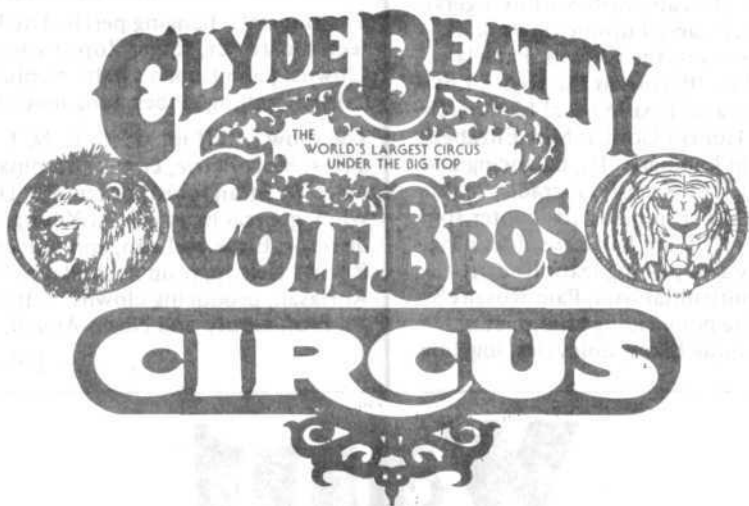
VIVIAN GRAHAM recently spent a week with husband PAT on the Foley & Burk Shows.



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Report

36th Annual Medinah Shrine Circus
Chicago, Ill. - Feb. 27-Mar. 19

The program for the show produced by L. N. Fleckles featured:

Overture and National Anthem, Al Youngman director; Miss Lydia (Burkett) single trapeze and one arm planges; Wade Burck, with the Hawthorn tigers (17 cats, with 5 white tigers); Miss Tina (Munoz), aerial upside-down walk and pinwheel revolves; the Clowns; Pamela's dogs; Aerial Ballet "Puttin on the Ritz"; Los Argentinos (Luis and Tina Munoz) high perch; Norbu, Almost Human Gorilla; Miss Elizabeth, hair hang; Martin Lamberti, Jr., balancing and one finger stand; The Kneisleys, cradle, featuring trapeze toe suspension and helicopter spin; Clown Magic; The Flying Lar Rays, featuring double cut-away and passing leap; Rodriguez Troupe, aerial horizontal bars; Pam Rosaire's chimps, including pony riding chimp, etc.; The Bruskis, antique bikes, unicycles, juggling;

PEOPLE

KEN "Turtle" BENSON reports he has pretty well recovered from the recent attack by a camel and is back doing all of his acts now.

CHRISTI MORGAN and DENYSE and De WAYNE PITTENGER, who graduate this year, recently performed with the Sailor Circus of Sarasota for the last time (Mar. 29-Apr. 1).

The Burketts, hanging perch; The Hortobagyis, teeterboard act; Roger Zoppe's Arabian Riders; Clowns; John Cuneo's baby elephants, foreleg balance, rolling globes, long mount.

The show's staff included: L. N. Fleckles, producer; Mort Petrie, circus coordinator; Lawrence W. Strandquist, tentate; Dorothy E. Winn, general manager; Al Youngman, musical director; Ernie McLean, announcer/vocalist; Ronald Kelroy, prop boss; Happy Kellems and Al Hasan, producing clowns, with Mustafa, Jo Jo, Prof. Goofy and Norm Atwell.

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Show Acts

The 33rd annual Tadmor Temple Shrine Circus played the Canton (Ohio) Memorial Civic Center from March 15 to 18th. For the first time in it's history the show was not produced by Polack Bros. This year's show was produced by Sam T. Polack and played the Canton date only. In the past the show played in Akron for one week, then traveled 15 miles south to Canton for another engagement. However, this year the Shrine Circus committee decided to cancel the Akron date which has proved to be a financial disaster for many years.

Eight shows were presented in Canton with each one drawing a three-quarter house or better.

Henry Barrett once again handled the promotion for the Shrine. Russell Darr directed the nine piece band, Al Dawley announced the cir-

cus and Harry Mills operated concessions. The clowning was provided by John McKay, Les Schmidt, David Chabira, John Benaka and Michelle. The show ran 2½ hours, including a 15 minute intermission.

The program featured: Princess Whitecloud, cloud swing; Joseph Hartman, wild animals; The Comanchero Duo, aerial cradle; Clowns; Miguel Ayala, tightwire; Clowns; Burger's dogs, pony and monkey; the Canestrelli's, Russian swing; Doubleday & Co., gorilla parody; The Obando Troupe, high wire; Intermission.

In the second half were: The Freddis, unsupported ladders; Senorita Carolina, contortion; Jose Cuenco, hand balancing; Senorita Margarita, hair hang; Burger's Chimps; Clowns; Francony Duo, double trapeze; Roman Schmitt, elephant and rhino; Jorge's Komedly Kar; the Clowns; The Espana Troupe, flying act.

... Tom Morrison

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March 15, 1978

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Yours very truly,

Ray Winder

Review

Gerry Cottle, possibly the most enterprising of all present British circus owners, had, as last year, the first tenting circus of the season to take to the road. Cottle opened in Coventry on Feb. 27th for one week, then moved to Birmingham for two weeks.

The show featured Cottle's own elephants, horses and exotic animals presented by Carlos and Pat McManus; Capt. Howes with the lions; Babette's dogs; the Sisters Inarios (Fossett) and Princess Aysha, aerial act; Samson (World Championship winner strong man) and Delilah; Al-Hakim, Fakir; Hoppe's Unrideable Mule; Clowning with Jimmy Scott and Matto; Western act by the Fossett sisters; midget clown Bean; and a special engagement of the famous clown Charlie Cairoli for the opening weeks, until he goes to the Blackpool Tower Circus for the season starting there on May 18th. This was quite a scoop for Gerry Cottle as Charlie Cairoli very rarely appears in any other circus than the Blackpool Tower, where he is always the top of the bill.

Cottle has two units operating this season — Red and Blue, after the manner of Ringling Bros. The Red opened at Sheffield and then moved to Nottingham for an opening on Mar. 21st for two weeks.

This show features Mary Chipperfield and her tigers, elephants, exotics and horses; the Cimmarros, high wire; "King Kong" sawy pole; a high wire motorcycle act on the sloping wire by the Cimmarros; the Santus cycling act; Les Kansas, juggling act; Willie Cottrell, chair balancing act; clowns and a couple of acts not yet finalized.

Gerry Cottle's Circus will once again be the basis of BBC's "Seaside Special" (circus-vaudeville) TV programs, presented weekly during the summer months.

There are also plans for Gerry Cottle's Circus to return to the Middle East for a short stay in the early summer. This circus obtained a great deal of publicity when it visited Oman in the Arabian Gulf, last year, at the invitation of His Highness the Sultan for his birthday celebration.

..... JACK NIBLETT

RON and BETTY PIDDINGTON

after traveling with Circus Vargas for a month in Texas, wish to thank CLIFF VARGAS and the many friends we made for their warm welcome, generous hospitality and co-operation.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

Sadness came to the circus world and all of us as fans and to this reporter on Mar. 22nd, when the news announced to the world the tragic death of Karl Wallenda. Millions viewed his death as a camera crew was on hand for the scheduled publicity stunt for a circus in Puerto Rico. This reporter was driving in his car when NBC broke into the program to announce that Wallenda was dead. It seemed only a few short weeks back when I had the pleasure of taking him to the CFA Convention in Dallas in '76.

He died as he lived, doing what he loved best, "walking the wire." Others may duplicate Wallenda but no one will equal him. Not long ago I heard a child talking about her grandfather who had been a baseball player and who had died. She was telling her mother not to worry about grand daddy "cause whoever heard of anyone getting hurt sliding into a cloud." Well the same goes for Karl - he can build his 7 man pyramid now - for whoever heard of anyone getting hurt falling into a cloud.

Ringling-Barnum opened in Madison Square Garden on that same day (Mar. 22) and the opening show was dedicated to Karl's memory. Tino Gaona tried a quadruple somersault, which just barely missed the catch and several acts have been appearing on TV shows.

Since Ringling-Barnum has been playing the Super Dome in New Orleans no other cities in Louisiana have hosted the show, but now Monroe is tentatively booked for June by the Red Unit. Fans can mark their calendars for June

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..... JACK BENNETT

20-21 for this date. The Ringling plans will kill the Shrine Circus date which had been tentatively set for June 24-25. Yes, the Red Unit will still go into the Super Dome.

The AP report says "the elephant was not at fault because she was mistreated by her trainer" in their report on the death of the trainer at Chicago. The elephant was "Joyce."

Motorists and children were delighted with the animal march through downtown New York enroute to the Madison Square Garden date of RBBB. UPI even carried a special story on the event.

This reporter had a letter from John Kunzog, author of several excellent circus books. John says his daughter is urging him to rewrite his books for children. I for one hope that John does this for there is a lack of books on the library shelves for children of all ages.

Louisiana Purchase Garden & Zoo at Monroe (La) opened its gates Easter Sunday. The zoo isn't completely ready, but the demand from the public to see Shirley, the new resident was such that director John Hession decided to open on a limited basis. Shirley, the 27 year old Indian female, was donated to the zoo by Dorcy Miller, owner of Carson & Barnes Circus, in Sept. 1977. Shirley is in her new home and is ready to meet all her new friends.

..... M. L. DUPONT

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year. Overseas via Surface Mail is \$15.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$25.00



2nd Section

April 10, 1978

R - B in NYC

..... by AL HOUSE

Members of the Felix Adler Tent, CFA, attended the opening of the Ringling-Barnum Circus at Madison Square Garden on Mar. 22nd., sitting between Rings 1 and 2 on the 31st Street side. The Garden was decorated in solid deep purple bunting, not only to denote this was the "Blue UNit" but also that it was the second straight appearance at the Garden by Royalty.

Prince Ranier and Princess Grace were in the Royal Box, along with Irvin Feld, and a young couple, probably the youngest daughter and her husband, Also seated in the box were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Feld, Mrs. Israel Feld, Michael Burke and other unidentified people.

The performance started at 7:30 p.m. and ran a good three hours, with a 15 minute intermission. Probably the most popular act with the opening crowd was Elvin Bale, who not only loves the applause, but lets the audience know it and thus they in turn love him.

Press reception has been good and the New York Times had one of its intellectual reporters covering the show. His review was favorable and even had some good quotes. He said, "the circus remains the finest children's entertainment in existence, and to judge from the excited squeals, waves and exclamations of glee, this year's version is no let down."

Of course folks like Ben Williams, who appears with Barbara Woodcock in a special number and there is the Gaona family of top-notch flyers. On March 19th, the New York Times did a special feature on the Gaonas.

Tito's quadruple somersault was accomplished right in front of our group and they

just barely missed catching it. But it was a real accomplishment, nonetheless. Most of us have known Tito since he first appeared with the Faria's flying act in 1959 with Beatty-Cole. So it is most gratifying to see Tito reach his present rating as a top aerialist.

Returning as the singing ringmaster/announcer is Harold Ronk. Incidentally, he was the guest speaker at the CFA Convention banquet at Atlantic City.

An item in the "Evening Record" in New Jersey, by Ellen O'Brien said, "Ronk is the apex in ringmasters. He is Cicero and Bert Parks and Doctor Marvel. He makes pyramids of hyperbole. He is the consummate host and unabashed facilitator for the 108th edition of The Greatest Show On Earth."

Of special interest is the new style of rigging the show is using. It is built differently and of tube steel, being square, not round. Also an in-

(Continued on Next Page)

Child Mauled

A 4½ year old youngster — Corbett S. Maples — was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital in Tehachapi (Calif.) after being mauled by a lion in a local animal farm.

According to a Sheriff's report the youngster was visiting the animal farm with his parents, he threw a paper airplane which landed inside the lion's cage. When he reached under the fence to retrieve the plane, the lion grabbed him, pulling him into the enclosure and shaking him violently.

After all efforts to distract the lion failed, the sheriff's deputies were summoned and they destroyed the lion with a high-powered rifle.

The Maples boy was said to have suffered multiple head and internal injuries.

IN MEMORIAM

TONY AZZARD CAZZARA (Long Shot Tony) (86), died at a San Francisco, Calif., hospital on Nov. 27, 1977. He worked tip sheets at various race tracks and also worked ballpark and football games, selling novelties and souvenirs. Burial was at Showman's Rest in Colma, Calif.

Miscellaneous

Both Pat Graham and Ray Harris have written to report that recent photo credited as being of the Al G. Barnes Circus in 1938 was in error. The show personnel group was probably photographed on a Jimmy Woods Show.

About 100 couples volunteered to get married in the steel arena with lions and tigers at a performance of the Garden Bros. Circus in Maple Leaf Gardens. The lucky couple will be married on April 2nd.

Crescent Park, at East Providence, R. I., a fixture since 1886, has been closed and will not be operating this year. There have been reports the 49 acre site will be sold to a developer.

I REMEMBER KARL WALLEDA

We have lost a truly great human being in our lifetime. Karl was an inspiration to all who worked with him and to those who watched his performances. He was always

He was always friendly to those he met in his travels and had time to say Hello. He always attempted to accomplish what he planned to do.

Since our first meeting in Toledo in 1970 to our last talk in Columbus at the Ohio State Fair in Aug, 1977, I've always enjoyed his company. Any free time we both had at the fair, we talked together, mostly of having ambition and motivation to go on.

Karl will always be an inspiration to me, especially since we talked last summer in Columbus. I will miss Karl Wallenda.

..... TOM HENRICKS

R-B in NYC (Continued)

teresting point is the preparation for Tito's new quadruple somersault.

On the rigging, on the catcher's side, special hydraulic pistons drop the catcher's trapeze down about 12 to 18 inches. By lowering the catcher, the fourth somersault can be completed and caught.



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CIRCUS MEMORIES

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CIRCUS AUT MORI, Youngstown, Ohio's Grotto Circus, is unquestionably one of the most beautifully staged and produced indoor circus dates in the U. S. The Struthers, Ohio Field House (in a suburb of Youngstown), is totally refurbished for the date. Walls are draped in blue and silver, a unique figure 8 (or hour glass) ring curb outlines the floor linking two sets of ring curbing into a single ring (closed at times during the performance to create a regulation circle for animal acts); an elevated bandstand, draped and outfitted with chaser lights spelling out the show title; four spotlights and a multitude of smaller spots and color effects mounted in the girders.

Between shows, each day, the floor area is freshly painted, and the performance is high-calibre, harking back to the Polack show heyday when that show used NOTHING but top-flight acts. Circus Chairman Mac McGuffin calls his circus "The Las Vegas of the Circus World", a subtitle that cannot be quarreled with.

Great credit must be handed to Mac and his staff for the concentration of meticulous detail lavished on the production. Every working member of the Grotto (and EVERYBODY works) deserves to take a bow. The show was not without its mishaps: Opening day JOY HOLIDAY was injured when their jaguar, spooked by spotlights, tried to escape to his cage and headed for an open doorway instead. The animal dragged Joy over the ring curb entangling its leash in her hands, resulting in lacerations, an injured nerve, a cut tendon. Joy will be A-Okay, however, in about 8 weeks at which time plastic surgery will be performed on the little finger of her right hand. Meanwhile the team are now back in Florida recuperating from Joy's injury and an exhausting tour of many months without a break.

Also injured during the run were Prince Najvez, with a torn shoulder, prop boss Bobby Davis with a severely sprained ankle (requiring a hospital visit) and Mario Celario (The Gauchos) who injured his leg and knee when he went through the stage. All continued without missing a performance.

BLOWING TOWN: WAYNE LIIKALA, Supt. of Hubler Int'l, trekked to Steubenville several days prior to the date to do some publicity and was "evicted" when a Chlorine Plant exploded and caused a mass evacuation of the city.

BLOWING BUBBLES: PAT ANTHONY didn't know

what to think of his first entrance in Youngstown when mistimed "flash pots" erupted as he passed thru the curtains, and a bubble machine began spewing bubbles as he entered the cage. Pat merely stood against the bars, shaking his head. One thing is for certain, DON'T call him "Bubbles Anthony."

Was there a PHANTOM OF AUT MORI? Sure seemed like it when a block and fall was pilfered from Gene Mendez's high wire rigging, and a shackle was loosened on the net spreader of the Sergio Ramos Flying act. And later in the week, when the mirror ball fell, missing Pat Anthony by only a foot, while he was in the cage, the company felt they were involved in a movie-melodrama.

SNAPSHOTS: GUY GOSSING sold his tigers to the brother of ROMAN SCHMITT. . .JEANNINE HALL and brother, IRWIN, are with Beatty-Cole. . .AURELIA HALL has made an incredible recovery from her accident on Circus Vargas in Jan. She is truly the Indestructible Woman. . .PALACIOS are taking out their own circus in Mexico. . ."Dinky" PATTERSON is doing her trap act on Circus Vargas. . .The VIDBELS to the Catskill Game Farm for the summer. . .It was the ALEXANDERS who went to Vargas, not the STAN-EKS, who have a year to go on their European contract. . .JIMMY HALL took his bear act to Royal Hanford for dates in March. . .ARTURA SEGURA, back from Spain, is breaking his kids for an unusual trampoline/risley act. . .LOS ARGENTINE GAUCHOS stopped at Las Vegas enroute to the L.A. Sports Show. . .The ELKINS SISTERS are practicing their new "musical, magic, dog act" (hope to have it ready by fall) and playing the Texas Dates. . .BILLY SHEETS visited JOE SHERMAN during the BILL KAY date at Madison, is moving to Texas, and plans to clown this season. . .GENE MENDEZ goes to Great Adventure for the summer, returns to Europe in Oct. . PAT ANTHONY has 3 tigers waiting in the wings to be added to his act. Meanwhile he is playing dates for SAM T. POLACK and PAUL V. KAYE. . .GEORGE HUBLER has resigned the Youngstown Grotto date, Mar. 13-18, '79. . .JOYCE VIDBEL was panic-stricken when she found herself accidentally locked in Mac McGuffin's office while making a phone call. Turns out she has a fear of locked rooms. . .Two Aut Mori show clowns arrived in the dressing room one morning charged over pranksters who picked up their two small

(Continued on Page 6-A)

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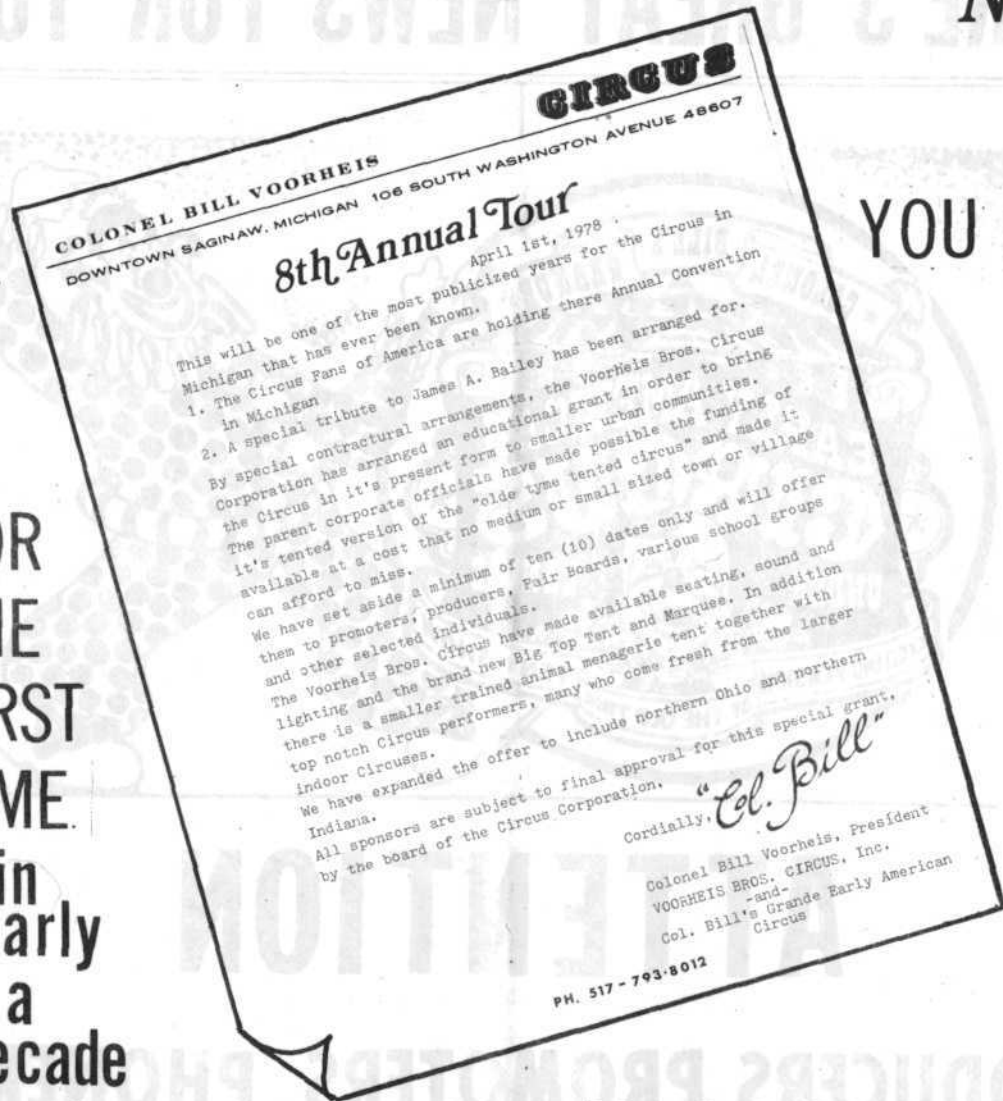
Colonel Bill Personally guarantees that you will not have to be ashamed nor embarrassed because you brought this great show to your community. He has been producing this Circus for nearly a decade, and exhibiting it in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia. This is an entirely new concept in the Circus tradition and only 10 dates are available for this special funded grant.

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Our Show has been released for Outside Promotions

An Educational Grant has been set aside for the Exhibition of this Circus with dates restricted to lower Michigan, Northern Ohio and Northern Indiana. Individuals or Organizations who obtain one or more of these dates must be reputable, honest responsible persons. No con-men or limbsters need inquire.

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PEOPLE

ERIK ADAMS, Jr. is busy training four new poodles for his act, and he recently purchased a new trailer.

REV. AUSTIN MILES got lots of publicity in Youngstown (Ohio) during the Aut Mori Circus and a religious TV film was shot there with Austin at the mike.

TIM BICKMORE was guest of honor at his 17th birthday party, hosted by members of the Concession Dept. on Circus Vargas.

BILLY L. SMITH will be touring with the Van Bros. Circus this season.

MESHA T. CLOWN, ZANITA (Anita Desmini) and the **BAY CITY REDS** (jugglers) were among the many acts appearing at a San Francisco Lively Arts Festival on April 1-2.

D. H. RIGGS, Sr., tattooed man, who last season was with Royal Bros. Circus, reports he has not made any arrangements to tour this year.

The **FLYING ESPANAS** and the **FREDDIE CANESTRELLI** Family were among the visitors seen at the Hubler Int'l Circus in Steubenville, Ohio.

KAREN NYCE, RED HARTMAN and **JOE SHERMAN** visited the Aut Mori Circus during the show's run at Youngstown, Ohio.



BILLY BARTON (Continued)

autos (while the pair were frolicking at their nightly watering hole) and parked the cars smack dab in the middle of the street.

BATTLE OF THE CENTURY: (Between **HAPPY DAVIS** and **Mac McGUFFIN**) or: **THE GREAT WATER CHASE:** It started when Happy put pony droppings behind Grotto Clown J. J.'s basket-horse in the dressing room for a gag, and the Grotto Clowns, with Mac behind them, decided to retaliate. Thus started the "Great Water Chase" on a Friday night during Hap's comedy car act that lasted for two more days. When Happy asked for water, he got it, a bucket full in the face from Kurt Elkins. On top of that, Mac had put real booze in the prop bottle. On Saturday, Happy set up his next moves by stalking the Directors' Booth during his act, bucket of water in hand and, by striking on the night show during his trampoline act when they least expected it. A mightily surprised Mac and others, dove in a body to the floor only to find paper cascading upon them.

During the comedy car act, which appeared in the second half, Helmut and Ego Klementi whizzed on bicycles like twin silver streaks across the ring to douse Happy with two buckets of water. But, a prepared Happy Davis, dressed in raincoat and holding an umbrella, stood and laughed at them.

On closing night Happy pulled a switch, drowned Mac (attired in a blue tuxedo) with a bucket of water, then scrambled into the audience and said, "Now, I need some water!" — to a standing ovation from Grotto Clowns, Members and fellow performers. The battle was over, and so was the fun-filled date.

See you down the road, luys.

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ART "Doc" MILLER

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TO THE CIRCUS INDUSTRY:

Please be advised that the **Minot Entertainment Contracting Agency** has been closed since December 31st, 1976. My listing in the Great American Circus directory was requested before my decision to close the business, and with this notice, I hope that it will be removed, whenever possible. Be also advised that all debts to me, of any amount, that stem from, either a loan to a circus act, or any overdue commission from a talent buyer, is hereby discharged.

The Obligations that seem to remain my responsibility, either through misfortune, bad management, or plain stupidity, are being dealt with, even at this late date, if, though, in a manner which could have been avoided, had I seen to it sooner. At this time I want to forgive anyone, who, also, might have gone to misguided extremes, thus, at times, making my years as a performer, or agent, uncomfortable or unhappy.

No person is totally without faults or flaws, but I always thought that I was in command of mine, and those that remain, I am dealing with them the best that I can. I am glad to say that some major flaws, that may have greatly influenced some people's opinion of me have been corrected, through a great deal of help.

Also, it is no surprise, that you can leave this business, or any business, with some sore, and nagging regrets, that could have been avoided, with a chance change of fate, or the exercising of your own beliefs more strongly. Since leaving the business, I have always regretted certain mistakes in judgement, which have resulted in alot of mental anguish for me, or others, bringing them to think of me in anger, or to regard me as being less principaled than I am, in truth. I therefore ask their forgiveness and in turn I forgive them, for anything said or done, that may have caused me unjustified harm.

I remain a friend to all those who knew me, and to those that didn't. I will always remain a Circus Fan, but the difference here is that I can proudly, and sadly say that, I can never look at a circus again, with the same detachment I once had. I loved performing more than anything I have done to date, and to a lesser degree my work as an agent. I love you all, and if I don't see you again, may God be with you down the road.

Love,
Chris

IN MEMORIAM

JOSEPH BLANCO (49), animal man, died in New York City on Jan. 30th of a heart ailment. Known as "Specs" and "Injun Joe" he worked a variety of wild animals as a handler, trainer and presenter for such shows as Ringling, Kelly-Miller, Beatty-Cole, Hamid-Morton, Cristiani and Gran Circo Norte Americano. Primarily an elephant man, he became known over his 15 year circus career as an outlaw and runaway man. Survivors include his wife, Robin, a sister two nieces and a nephew.



AL KADER SHRINE CIRCUS Portland, Oregon - March 22-25

by Mike Sporrer

The annual Al Kader Shrine Circus was held in the Memorial Coliseum at Portland (Ore). It was the show's 18th annual presentation and this year, for the first time, no performances were presented on Sunday, which was Easter.

The circus was produced by Hubert Castle who brought in an outstanding show, with several acts making their first appearance here.

The program included: The Ronritas, sky wheel; Farzan Zerbini, lions and tigers; Clowns at the Dentist; The Shermans, cradle; The Paula Sisters, aerial perch; Karl's Poodles; Randy & Sylvia, perch; Martinez Trio, perch; The Laddies, balancing; Mlle. Jacqueline, single trapeze; Doug Ashton and Sally, comedy/music; the Golden Carlos Twins, acro; Gary Thomas, elephants (5); Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans; the Marhal camels and llamas; the Rock-Smith Flyers; Boomer & Co., boxing kangaroo; Aerial ballet with web and trapeze; Robin Medina, Roman rings; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus monkeys; The Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard; Clowns balancing eggs; the Friel-Smith cannon.

The show's staff included: Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster; Prof. Clement E. Toca, band director; Robert C. Dunham, personnel director; Pablo Martinez, prop boss; Hector Martinez, electrician; Irma Dunham, wardrobe. Clown Alley consisted of: Gene Randow, producing, Lee Marx and Mike Padilla.

SHOW FOLKS

Acts appearing with the Aut Mori Grotto Circus in Youngstown, Ohio (Mar. 14-19) were: Pat Anthony, Prince Najvez, Artuza Segura, Al's Ponies, the Karinas, the Elkins Sisters, My-Imba baboons, the Klementis, Gene Mendez, Rev. Austin Miles, the Vickinas, Sir Chadwicke Chase, Los Argentine Gauchos, Vidbel's elephants, the Sergio Ramos flyers, and band leader Bill Browning.

Acts working the Hubler In'tl Circus at Steubenville, Ohio (Mar. 18-19) were: Jorge Barreda, Aerialetta, Joselito, Luxem, the Vasquez Trio, Ethel Jennier, Jo Ann and Sunny, Javana's Jungle Jubilee, Karen Nyce, Charlie Van Buskirk, Irwin Hall, the Flying Vasquez, Brenda Casey's Goldiggers, Marie Louise, Hall's dogs and ponies, Joe Sherman, Wayne Liikala, Irwin Hall, with Paul De Vault directing the show band.

Acts appearing with the Tangier Shrine Circus at Omaha, Nebr. (Apr. 18-23) which was produced by Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine were: Harry Thomas, tigers; the Apollos, aerial; Carmen, wire; Ricardos, wire; Jose Francisco, balance; Miss Luna, hair hang; Baby Dondi; Lipko's chimps; Sandy's ponies; Johnson's bears; the Aquilars, perch; Pietro & Joyce, balance; the Carlos Bros., perch; Victor Julian, dogs; Land of Mother Goose, spec; the Flying Lunas; Canestrelli and Vickinas, teeterboard acts; the Gutis, comedy; Miss Carmen, Gracie, Luna, Ruth, Aquilar, Ricardo, Vicki, Joyce, Canestrelli and LaVonne, aerial feature; Fulbrights, horses; Los Abandos, high wire; the Diano elephants; the Vashek Duo, high wire.

This latter show, produced by M&M Productions had Jimmy Douglass, ringmaster; band leader, Bill Browning and clowns numbers directed by Vern Woerner.

Miscellaneous

Members of the Orrin Davenport-Jake Mills Tent, CFA, spent two days at the Stagecoach Motel in Youngstown, Ohio, and with the Aut Mori Circus, presented in that city.