

# CIRCUS REPORT

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OUR 12th YEAR

Number 6

April 11, 1983



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## Show Dates

--- MAGIC ---

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Apr. 2 Bigerville, Pa.

4 Chambersburg

5 Carlisle

7 Shiremanstown

8 Sunbury -

9 Ephrata

11 Brockway

13 Towanda

15 Taylor

16 Langhorne

24 Coraopolis

Felix Snipes

Apr. 1-2 Louisville, Ky.

8-10 Brenham, Texas

15-17 Memphis, Tenn.

22-24 Jacksonville, Fla.

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**Show Dates****Beatty-Cole Circus**

Apr. 1 Gainesville, Fla.  
 2-3 Jacksonville  
 4-5 Brunswick, Ga.  
 6 Orangeburg, SC  
 8-10 Wilmington, NC  
 11-13 Charleston, SC.  
 14 Florence

**Carden Shrine Circus**

Apr. 8-10 Fargo, N.D.

**Carson & Barnes Circus**

Apr. 1 Jacksonville, Tex.  
 2 Longview  
 3 Dallas  
 4 Grand Prairie  
 5 Stephenville  
 6 Llano  
 7 Fredericksburg  
 8 Kerrville  
 9 Junction  
 10 Ballinger  
 11 Stamford  
 12 Plainview  
 13 Levelland  
 14 Brownfield  
 15 Lamesa  
 16 Hobbs, N.M.

**Castle/Zerbini Circus**

Apr. 8-17 Columbus, Oh.

**Circus Coronas**

Apr. 1-10 Marietta, Ga.  
 15-17 Monroe, La.  
 22-23 Little Rock, Ark

**Circus Vargas**

Apr. 5-7 Santa Monica, Ca.  
 8-11 Northridge  
 12-14 Simi Valley  
 15-17 Oxnard

**Garden Bros. Circus**

Apr. 8-10 Kitchener, Ont.  
 15-17 London  
 22-24 Hamilton

**Hamid-Morton Circus**

Apr. 4-9 Wilkes Barre, Pa  
 11-17 Harrisburg  
 19-24 Morristown, NJ

**Hetzer's Int'l Circus**

Apr. 18 Grayson, Ky.

**Kay Bros. Circus**

Apr. 6 Dennison, Tex.

**Lewis Bros. Circus**

Apr. 2 Bainbridge, Ga.  
 3 Cochran  
 4 Americus  
 5 McDonough  
 6 Eastman  
 8 Jackson

**M & M Circus**

Apr. 19-24 Omaha, Nebr.

**W. McCary's Circus**

Apr. 15-May 7  
 New England States

**Olympic Int'l Circus**

Apr. 13-17 Nashville, Tenn.

**Ringling-Barnum - Blue**

Mar. 29-Apr. 10  
 Washington, DC

**Ringling-Barnum - Red**

Mar. 29-June 5  
 New York, NY

**Roberts Bros. Circus**

Apr. 2 Sun City, Fla.  
 6 Zephyrhills  
 7 Land-O-Lakes  
 8 Lithia  
 9 Riverview  
 10 Crystal River  
 11 Arcadia  
 15-17 W. Palm Beach

**Royal Hanneford Circus**

Apr. 19-23 Cincinnati, Ohio

**Shrine Circus**

Apr. 14-17 Tacoma, Wash.

**Roller Bros. Circus**

Apr. 2-3 San Antonio, Tex.  
 4 Jourdanton  
 5 Eilley  
 6 Nixon  
 7 Canadian  
 8 Sutthuca  
 9 Geddine  
 10 Cedar Park  
 11 Mason  
 12 San Saba  
 13 Lake Beouville  
 14 Albany  
 15 Anson  
 16 Eastland  
 17 Cranbury  
 18 Decator

**--- OTHER DATES ---****Butler Bros. Carnival**

Mar. 31-Apr. 3 Richmond, Ca.  
 Mar. 31-Apr. 3 Oakland  
 Apr. 7-10 Piedmont

**Clown Convention**

Apr. 20-24 St. Paul, Minn.

**Disney's Ice Odyssey**

Apr. 19-24 St. Petersburg, Fla.

**James H. Drew Exposition**

Apr. 4-16 Augusta, Ga.  
 18-23 Belmont, NC

**Easter Carnival**

Mar. 25-Apr. 3  
 Hayward, Calif.

**Scott's Medicine Show**

Apr. 16 Comanche, Texas  
 17 Brady  
 18 Snyder  
 19 Big Spring  
 20 Odessa  
 21 Andrews  
 22 Kermit  
 23 Lake Arthur, NM  
 24 Levelland, Texas

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**BULLETIN:**

Mar. 19 - Australia - A circus worker and two elephants were killed in a road accident near Moree in northern NSW. Police report that they all died instantly when the Sole Bros. Circus truck in which they were travelling collided with a semi-trailer.

Walter Douglas Buchal, 24, was the driver of the circus truck. The driver of the semi-trailer escaped with minor injuries.

A third elephant in the truck was badly injured.

The circus, Australia's oldest and largest, was enroute to an engagement in Brisbane.

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Miss Pam Saunderson, a close friend of the Perry family, which has operated the circus for more than 120 years, said the family was devastated.

Buchal, she said, was a valuable employee, and the elephants will probably be impossible to replace. (An Australian law prohibits importation of elephants for a circus).

In the past few months the circus has been hit by a run of bad luck. Earlier in the year they lost their big top at Melbourne during a storm.

**In Memoriam**

LOIS MADDEN (71), died recently at a hospital in Denton, Texas. Burial was at Lake City, Iowa.

Mrs. Madden was a former circus performer, and she and her husband lived in Gainesville, Texas.

Survivors include her husband, Dale Madden, Sr., a son Dale "Boots" Madden, a brother and a sister.

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# Circus at Dayton

by DON SANDMAN

The Royal Hanneford Circus, of Tommy and Struppi Hanneford, was doing great business in Dayton, Ohio, for the Antioch Shrine's 41st annual circus. The circus was held at Hara Arena, from Mar. 14 to 20.

There was one sad note in the run as Barbara Woodcock was thrown from the head of an elephant during the opening spec and she suffered two broken wrists.

Philip Morris, ringmaster and announcer, opened the show with a Sawdust and Spangles Serenade.

Alan Gold opened the performance with his mixed group of tigers and lions, and following the cat act, high aloft in the arena The Kneisleys, The Jupiters and the Eduardos entertained as the cage was being dismantled.

The Antioch clowns held a fishing party in a small bucket.

The team of Walt & Wendy held the audience spellbound with their hand-to-hand stands from the teeterboard.

The Flying Fomasaris closed their act with the Passing of two flyers in mid air.

Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla, had the crowd roaring as he went up into the stands to try on hats and other pieces of wearing apparel.

Following the antics of Norbu there was a pitch for the Optic Flashlights by announcer Philip Morris.

Chimps in all three rings had the children in the audience happy - Vidbel's Chimps, Adams' Chimps and Bertini's Chimps.

High over the arena floor was the beauty of Wendy Patterson on the aerial rings while Laura Amandis worked the trapeze over ring three.

Sleek leopards and elephants were put through their paces by Buckles Woodcock, as Barbara was unable to work.

Unequaled balancing and dexterity was presented in all three rings featuring Eric Adams, hand balancing, The Delmorals, perch and Mr. Bell on the chair balance.

A sequined spectacular of Cinderella featured the poodle act of Katinka as Cinderella with the entire cast of performers and animals participating.

Intermission followed with a color book and Optic Light pitch.

The elephants of William Woodcock opened the second half with a well paced act featuring an elephant doing a one foot stand.

High above the arena floor, performing literally in the ceiling of the arena, the Nock Brothers worked their sway pole routines. At one point they were actually standing in the ceiling, with only their legs showing.

The clowns and their Rocket blasted into nothing with their fizzling fire cracker.

Closing the show was the Human Projectile Hugo Zacchini, who was blasted into space.

The entire company then returned to Salute America and its flag.

This unit of the Royal Hanneford Circus was managed by John McConnell, with Dwight Hanson, prop boss. The show was produced by Tommy Hanneford.

## PEOPLE

BILL "Boom Boom" BROWNING celebrated his birthday during the Aut Mori Grotto Circus engagement at Youngstown, Ohio. The band and audience joined in to wish him many happy returns.

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## B/C People

Many familiar faces in the staff of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus will be seen on location this season including: Manager Art Braning; Concession Manager Harry Rawls; Office Manager Harry Hammond and Comptroller-Talent Coordinator Wilson Storey. Roman Fleskoske, formerly with Royal American Shows, has joined the Beatty-Cole staff to handle payroll and ticket sales duties. Edward Firlein has been named Assistant Manager and Gene Hecker will be the 24 hour man. Corporate President John Pugh will be traveling with the show, keeping both the advance and road operation running smoothly.

In the advance department, Joe McMahon has returned to the organization and heads the Advertising Brigade. Marketing Vice President Ned Toth handles the engagement bookings and Renee Storey, Corporate Administration Manager, coordinates the marketing personnel from the show's office in Winter Park, Fla.

The circus is expanding its engagement format this season to include a greater number of sponsored appearances as well as co-promoted ventures at regional shopping centers. Several "buy-out" engagements are also set for the season. Co-owner Doug Holwadel plays a particularly active role in this area, and lends his sales and marketing expertise

to the corporation. Holwadel was recently named President and Chief Executive Officer of Giant Portland and Masonry Cement Co.

The circus this year is traveling on 31 units, which includes 11 diesel tractors, 16 gas tractors, 27 semi-trailers and 4 gas-powered straight trucks.

The new banner illustrations depicting circus main show performers were painted by artist Bob Rawls. The banner trucks line the midway, along with the concession semi, ticket office, moonwalk and elephant ride.

Some highlights of the circus performance this year include:

Lions and Tigers presented by Dave Hoover; a herd of elephants, presented by Fred Logan; The Great Vashek, high wire motorcycle act; Marie-Christine's trapeze act; My Immba's African Baboons; The Ayala Troupe on the trampoline; Barrie Sloan, stilt walker; The Flying Lunas, flying trapeze; Marie-France's Yorkshire Terriers; Antonio and Julio, acrobatics; Sampion, juggler, plus a group of clowns, and Jimmy James, circus ringmaster.

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THE SALSKEYS, twin space wheel act, are playing outdoor shows in England, which will be followed by a date in Denmark and a park engagement in Spain.

# Circus in Spokane

by RALPH HENDERSON

Tarzan Zerbini brought his Hubert Castle Shrine Circus into Spokane for the 29th edition of the El Katif Shrine Circus. Clement Toca was the musical director and Billy Barton is the talent co-ordinator. Clowns were Lee Marx, Bobby Davis, Habibi and Mike Brevig.

Lee Marx did a pre-show warm-up, while Gary Thomas offered elephant rides.

The show opened with Ringmaster Ernie McLean singing the National Anthem and then, accompanied by flashing strobe lights and a mirrored globe, came "Circus on Parade."

Miss Carla's cloud swing was the first act, followed by Tarzan working 2 male and 7 female lions and 3 tigers. Two cradle acts were presented while the cage was being taken down - The Dynasty Duo and The Magadur.

The third display offered three rings of juggling. In ring 1, The Torinos, ring 2, foot juggling by Miss Loni and Miss Barbara, and ring 3, The Kolmedys.

Lee Marx did an audience participation number and then the Lenz Chimps took over center ring.

A Space Odyssey followed featuring Rietta, Playmate of the Planets. A single elephant in each end ring followed, worked by Miss Sylvia and Miss Patricia, while Miss

Anita's miniature horses gave a pleasing performance in the center ring.

Alahandro on the bounding rope was then presented in ring 1 and Los Latinos, wire act was presented in ring 3.

Susan Sheryl's Royal Afghans were a real crowd pleaser, but four year old Justino stole the show. The Olmedas followed with their Arabian Horse Fantasy in all three rings, then The Great Huberto presented his slide for life.

The clowns took over after that for their funny Washerette skit, and then the first half was brought to a close with the Las Vegas type production web number with six girls up and featuring 16 year old Silvia on the single trapeze.

The second half opened with two bicycle acts - The Antonios and the Enriques. The Luberras Flying act featured a twisting double and the passing leap, and then came the clowns with their telescope and a chance to look at the stars.

Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys made a great display, followed by The Great Wallendas who brought back memories to a large part of the audience.

The Zerbini elephants were worked by Gary and Patricia Thomas to a good hand, and were followed by Johnny Luxem who gave the audience one last thrill with his Wheel of Destiny, after which the entire company filled all three rings for the finale.

Mr. Sensation, Mr. Billy Barton, was temporarily out of the line-up, due to a dislocated shoulder.

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## Miscellaneous

Franzen Bros. Circus was unable to play its scheduled March 24th engagement at Tybee Island, Ga., because of extreme bad weather.

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## In the mail

from Fay Snyder

The article on The Lone Ranger was read with interest. You see the original Hi Ho Silver horse was owned and trained by my father, Carl Romig, of the Romig and Rooney Circus.

I helped to train the second Silver, starting at the age of 10. I still train animals for the movies and also exhibit my white stallion "Cloud 9" which is featured on the "Young Maverick Show".

I also have two mini stallions - Sabor Dance and Mighty Michu - the latter is the most outstanding miniature horse in the country.



from Col. E. T. Bale

As you know I am now training horses and ponies for the Sally Chipperfield Circus here in England. They are very good to me and pleased with my work.

Just the other day they gave me a small mini car so that I can get around to see what ever I might like to go and see. They have also supplied me with a trailer in which I am living. They have a great many trailers and provide them for the workingmen and any performers who are in need of living space.

The Chipperfields have a great many wild animals as well as various hoof-type animals. They are trained by both James Clubb and Sally and their acts are sent all over the world.

Starting in June of this year the circus will be at the new big building in Bournemouth, Dorset for the summer season.

I've been meeting a lot of friends and circus directors that I worked for years ago, as well as many circus performers that I've worked with.

So, to all the people who have said that I was no longer able to work I would like to let them know that I am working regularly and successfully and am still liked by both children and adults. I'd also like to thank Mike Taylor for booking me here in England with one of the great circuses of this country.

## Detroit Anniversary

by JOANNE JOYS

March 10, 1983, marked an historical evening in circus history. On Feb. 26, 1906, the nation's first Shrine Circus was sponsored by Moslem Temple at the Detroit Armory on the northwest corner of Larned and Brush. Originally a one ring show, the Detroit Shrine Circus grew in importance and featured over the years the most exciting acts ever seen in America. Many, like Clyde Beatty, began their climb to fame here, while others achieved remarkable feats, like Antoinette Concello, who performed her first triple somersault at the Moslem Shrine Circus.

On the gala evening of the 10th, The Salvation Army presented "Heartstrings" - A Patron's Night Preview of the 75th anniversary Diamond Jubilee of the Moslem Shrine Circus at the State Fair Coliseum. The most thrilling part of the evening came when the first twelve inductees of the Moslem Temple's Circus Hall of Fame were introduced by Philip Morris.

Plaques were presented to: Ringmaster - Fred Bradna (Senor Rai accepting); Band-leader - Merle Evans; Single Trapeze - Struppi Hanneford; Bareback Riders - The Riding Davenports (Tommy Hanneford accepting); Wild Animal Trainer - Clyde Beatty (his daughter, Joyce Ferguson accepting); Flying Trapeze - The Concellos (Julio Gagona accepting); Featured aerialist - Mickey King; Acrobat - The Nelson Family (Gunnar Amandis accepting); Clowns - Shorty

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Flem and Emmett Kelly (Mrs. Evy Kelly Lentz accepting); Elephants - Cheerful Gardner (Mark Hanneford Karoly accepting); Thrill Act - The Zaccinis (Hugo Zaccini accepting); High Wire - The Wallendas (Mrs. Helen Wallenda accepting).

Following the introductions was a superb preview of the Hanneford Circus that featured Mark Hanneford Karoly and the Mighty Mastodon Monarchs, Miss Belinda who performed 51 arm planges, the Back-Street Flyers, Gaylord Maynard and Chief Bearpaw, the Shrine Circus Clowns and the show stopping Garzas, Living Statues.

The co-ordination between Moslem Temple, the Hanneford Circus with John Mc Connell, and the Salvation Army resulted in a very notable and exciting evening.

After the show the "Ringmasters" and "High Flyers" had a special gourmet dinner prepared by Detroit's top chefs, while the circus buffs went through the "connection" to the Agricultural Building where there was food, refreshments and entertainment waiting. Featured in the attractively decorated building were a menagerie, a side show, an elephant ride, a merry-go-round and special displays on the history of the Detroit Shrine Circus.

## They're Married

SANDRA MORRIS, daughter of producer Philip Morris was recently married in Charlotte, NC, to JOHN HOWELLS. Sandra has toured with the Hanneford Circus and the World of Fantasy Players. The newly married couple plan to live in Charlotte where Sandra has gone into the interior designing business.

## PEOPLE

PHILIP MORRIS, magician and show producer, recently visited backstage with magician Jeff McBride at the Sands Casino in Atlantic City, NJ, and with John Calvert on his yacht. John just completed a long run at the Playboy Casino with his magic show. He was the "Falcon" in the old movie series and at one time had his own railroad circus "Calvert Circus" in South Africa.

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## Cottle acquires show

Gerry Cottle has acquired all of the interest of his co-director Richard Chipperfield, in Circus Entertainment Management, Ltd. a Hong Kong based company which they jointly owned and which presented the Gerry Cottle Circus at Ocean Park, Hong Kong, from Dec. 17, 1982 to April 10, 1983.

Circus Entertainment Management, Ltd. will be presenting the Gerry Cottle Circus for an eight week period in Singapore, from April 29th to June 26th, sponsored by a leading Far Eastern Motor Distributor after which it is expected that the company will undertake an extensive tour of other Far Eastern countries.

The Gerry Cottle Circus program to be presented in Singapore is substantially the same as that presented in Hong Kong, including the groups of polar bears and leopards which are under contract from the Chipperfield Circus.

In the meantime, Richard Chipperfield, will return to England at the conclusion of the Hong Kong engagement, to direct the 1983 tour of Chipperfield's Circus.

## PBA Circus

The PBA Circus played three performances during its fourth annual engagement in Brookville, Fla., on March 26th.

Danny Chapman did the warm-up during the come-in, followed by a color book pitch. After which the show got off to a rousing start with an overture under the direction of organist Florinne Oler with Marie Ferreira on drums.

The opening act was a seven-high rola bola by Tino Ferreira, who was followed by the Reginne Duo with their sophisticated cradle routine.

This was followed by three rings of canines featuring: Lee Ann's Pets (Stephens), Yvonne Stephens and the Hanneford Dogs and Pony with Kathy Hanneford in the center ring.

Danny Chapman did a short gag, prior to Miss Isabella continuing the bill with a balancing bike number, after which came a juggling jamboree with Mario Ferreira and Ian Craik.

The Fornasari Family of Musical Clowns

then led the way to intermission time.

The second half started with an upside-down loop walk by Lee Anne Stephens. Three rings of ponies were next with Ian Craik in ring 1, Yvonne Stephens in Ring 3 and Miss Dianne presenting the Hanneford Ponies in the center ring.

A balloon pitch followed Danny the clown. The show finished at a lively romp with the Italos leaping to three-high bounds on the trampoline, concluding with the Hanneford Elephants smartly presented by George Hanneford.

The PBA Circus was produced by Ron Morris with all equipment leased from the Roberts Bros. Circus.

Personnel included: George Rowe, ringmaster/Performance Director; Jeff Earl, boss canvasman; Bobby and Teresa Earl, concessions; Doris Earl, executive sidewall supt.; Ian Craik, animal supt.

Visitors included Bonnie Armor, Hunky and Carmen Johnson, Harry and June Mills.

## **- CORRECTION -**

In a recent Circus Report, a Mr. Jon Friday reviewed the Detroit Shrine Circus produced by Tommy Hanneford.

Either Mr. Friday did not have his glasses on or he was terribly misinformed. He related the "Aladdin & His Wonderful Lamp" spec was costumed by Mr. Philip Morris.

The entire Spec was produced and costumed exclusively for the Hanneford Circus by Senor Rai (Ray Orszak) and Cheryl Jones. Every costume was individually sewn and created by Cheryl Jones and Senor Rai. Mr. Morris had absolutely nothing to do with the Spec, in any shape or form.

Outside of the other mistakes, Mr. Friday stated that the riding act costumes were in canary yellow, when in fact even in bad lighting gold sequins do not look anything like canary yellow.

He also stated that he could not tell the girls from the boys. Mr. Friday, the boys were the ones with the hairy, bare chests.

Also, how can you possibly review a show when you work for a competitive one?

In the future Mr. Friday, please wear your glasses or do get your facts straight.

**SENOR RAI and CHERYL JONES**

# PEOPLE

**BILL SWAIN**, of Ford Bros. Circus was recently hospitalized at: the Medical Center Hospital, Conroe, Texas.

**BILL BALLANTINE** is working on a new book about animal trainers and one chapter is devoted to **DAVID McMILLAN**, who is currently appearing at Circus World-in Florida.

**PHIL** and **ROSA KAVANAUGH**, clowns, are working out ahead of the Franzen Bros. Circus this season.

# HOTLINE

**BILL ATTERBURY**, of the Skykings Sway Pole act was seriously injured in a hit and run accident at Las Vegas. He would enjoy cards and letters and mail can be sent to him at: Bill Atterbury, Southwest Memorial Nevada Hospital, 1800 West Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, Nevada 89107.

**MARION "Sam" SERNS** and **BOB "Spiff" OWENS**, clowns, are working advance this season for the Big John Strong Circus.

## Show Animals

Animals carried by Carson & Barnes Circus and featured in the 1983 program include:

11 single elephants, 3 five elephant acts and 2 three elephant acts; 5 high school horses, 1 waltz and rear horse, 2 three camel acts, 2 six pony drills, 2 four llama acts and a cat act with 5 lions and 2 tigers.

The show's giraffe is led in spec and has been broken to ride.

## Good Date

Advance publicity by Joan E. White, professionally known as Joan of Art, touted Tigris Temple's Shrine Circus as the 'niftieth 50th'.

The stellar performance of William Kay's Shrine Circus at the War Memorial Auditorium, Syracuse, NY, March 18-20, proved her right. Both daily newspapers ran editorials endorsing the circus, and radio and TV as well as newspaper coverage was, in the words of the illustrious Potentate H. N.

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'Duff' Gerhardt and Circus Chairman, H. Joe Snyder, 'truly phenomenal' and 'sensational.'

Both Saturday and Sunday matinees were sell-outs with near sell-out crowds at the remaining four performances.

## PEOPLE

THE GRIMALDIS - Ken and Vesta - recently played the Virgin Islands for Bobby Yerkes, and they have just finished a run of dates in Florida, including their third return to the Roberts Arena, Sarasota, presenting a full evening's entertainment. Their latest addition is a new Chevy Sportsvan for a tour of the Middle West.

## ELMO GIBB . . .

by JOHN GAIZICK

"My brother looks just like me, only he's invisible."

The gentleman responsible for the above statement (which he uses quite often) is none other than 'Elmo Gibb', advance clown for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. When asked if he's related to the famous Gibb Brothers he sincerely says he isn't, but his twin brother is.

Elmo explains he's from the dry part of Florida (as opposed to the wet part) and away from all possible sink holes. His real name is D. Marshall Chambers, stating the initial doesn't mean anything - he thinks his parents wanted him to be a lawyer or stock broker so afforded him the proper name.

A graduate of Georgetown University with a degree in linguistics, the 31 year old Elmo is also a product of a new generation of educated clowns who learned his craft at Ringling's Clown College in Venice, Fla.

After graduating from Clown College Elmo spent two years with the Blue Unit of the Ringling Show as one of their silent clowns. During that time he also served as interpreter for Ursula Bottcher, the German performer whose sensational polar bear act was always highly acclaimed during her reign with Ringling. Because of her popularity she was often interviewed and Elmo learned a great deal on the technique of handling interviews. Many of the questions asked became routine and Elmo knew in advance what answers to give. A common question was: "How long have you been training bears?"

Ursula: "Sieh' auf die nase auf disem mensch." (literal translation: "Look at the nose on that guy.")

Elmo: "Fourteen years."

The two years also served as a great learning experience and he says that by observing other performers important lessons were learned.

From Mark Anthony he learned that it is important to make every child feel like an individual; from Prince Paul that the audience's eyes are never off you and you must never be tired or show boredom; from Peggy Williams, project and play big; from

Bobby Kaye, play to the people in the cheaper seats as well as the front rows, you must make them feel they are a part of the show. From Lou Jacobs, do slow gags; let the audience see it; emphasize certain key elements instead of continual fast pacing.

Elmo was severely bitten by the circus bug when he was a senior in high school. The Beatty show was to play the area, so he and several friends played hookey and guess where they went?



Elmo Gibb

Gaining front row center seats, it turned out to be a performance that Elmo clearly remembers to this day. All the clowns were outstanding and he vividly remembers the faces of clowns Ken Dodd, Shorty Hinkle and Lou Negy. Not only did they make a deep, lasting impression on him, but so did the elephant long mount stand which closes the show and the swinging ladder spec. All of the aforementioned sold him lock, stock and barrel on circus life and I quote him when I say he felt it was an "Awesome sight."

In remembering other circuses seen, Elmo singled out certain performers who he was most impressed by. The 1957 Ringling circus performer Gerard Soules whose heel catching left him speechless. The act was later done in recent years on the Blue Unit of the Ringling Show by Elvin Bale. As a child he was also impressed by the Hunt's Circus parade wagons as well as their Side Show's Punch & Judy act.

When he left the Ringling Show he went on to teach an eight week Circus Clown

(Continued on Next Page)

ELMO GIBB (Continued)

Course to some 20 children at the Burcks-rock Work Camp in New Milford, Conn. By the end of the eight weeks, the children, who ranged in age from 8 to 14, were ready to perform their learned skills in a public performance.

In 1978, Elmo wandered onto the Beatty show lot in full make-up and costume. Without any question or hesitation, chief clown Jimmy James asked him if he would be interested in being the show's advance clown starting in 1979 - an association that continues to this day.

Taking on the job as advance clown opened up a whole new area in which Elmo had no experience. It means being on your own with no other clowns around, promoting the show prior to it's play date and hope you haven't driven the public away with your tom-foolery. Not every clown can be an advance clown and Elmo was about to learn that the transition from silent clown to his new position was not all that easy.

He worked at length with Alan Tuttle in the fine art of verbal clowning, widening his range and rounding off the sharp edges. He also did a lot of what he calls "hard thinking" as to what direction and technique he wanted to develop. Most of that would develop with experience, but one has to start somewhere.

Former vaudeville performer Jimmy Johnston was a big help to Elmo by giving him unused magic tricks - an electric deck and fuzz balls. He started out with what he today refers to as too many props. Props are of no use when he does radio interviews and they play a major part in his promotion work. Today he limits himself in the prop department, carrying only what is essential. In a box measuring 18x24x9 is carried the items needed to do his magic show and his clown academy appearances. 'Clown Academy' being sessions held where children are instructed by Elmo in the fine art of applying clown make-up to their respective kissers.

With time and only time, Elmo learned that quick wit and verbal communication were his best means of reaching most folks. His very first radio interview was done in Georgia and turned out to be one of the most rewarding. The host took the time to give him numerous pointers on how to

handle radio talk shows - pointers that he still uses today.

Elmo feels he was born at just the right time to be able to enjoy and learn from those old TV reruns such as Burns and Allen, Jack Benny, Red Skelton, etc. He compares a lot of his style of comedy to Gracie Allen and feels he's learned a lot from these masters of comedy. Reading biographies and other books about these television personalities has also helped him develop the needed insight to deliver his own style.

Elmo also feels that the real reason he became a clown is because it allows him to combine all the important lively and visual arts such as - costume design - he designs his own wardrobe as well as the wardrobe for his dog Kitty; sculpture (he designs his own foam rubber hammer and props); music, the guy sings and plays the banjo; dance movement, you should see his walk when in character; animal training, remember my mentioning Kitty?? Also add juggling, acrobatics and his magic act. He loves doing his work and it shows.

"Consistency," he said, is the key to being a good clown. "You have to perform at the same level everytime. The trick is to be absolutely consistent but to make it look fresh and spontaneous. The hardest places to play are small towns - in Richmond and Salt Lake City, they hardly ever laugh. It's a social thing. I don't think they even know how."

The only time Elmo has any real problems with his work is turning it off after the circus season ends. "It takes me about two weeks to unwind. I have to time my energy to wear out at the same time the season does. People ask me if clowns ever get burned out. You know what I tell them? Only if they smoke in bed."

At one of his Junior Clown Academy make-up sessions a boy asks, "Are you a clown?"

"No, I'm a elephant," Elmo answers. "Don't swallow that balloon," he calls to a little girl ahead of him. "You'll get gas."

Eventually Elmo would like to design 'specs' (the highlight of a circus performance which usually involves the entire company and is built around a certain theme). He has ideas for one dealing with outer space and for a cowboy and Indian theme. Costuming and props are also in mind as well as the choreography.

(Continued in the Next Issue)



**BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS** under canvas, July 16-22, at E. Boston, Mass., gave such an excellent performance that I attended 4 shows, taking along friends. Alas! The attendance at all shows, all week long, was one-fifth of the 4,000 potential for the 150 ft. round-ender with three 50 ft. middles, superintended by Walt Davis.

Even tho the top was on the harbor front pier - weather was hot and I had a heated argument with my friend promoter Dick Wilson, of the Variety Club-Jimmy Fund. My contention is that today people in a tenement area of big cities stay away from \$6.50 circus prices and unfresh Madison Ave., discount gimmicking. Right now, to the uninitiated a circus is a circus and management should realize that getting audiences thru the marquee takes more than the artistic excellence of the kinkers and animals themselves, regardless of advance funding.

Producers Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy had a dirt-base for the horse acts in each of the tree rings. Walt Stimax bolstered the concession dept., 6 musicians furnished a mix of hot and lively music led by Brooks Greer.

Jon Friday announced and comedic clowns Phil 'Pappy' Granger, Gary 'Maxo' Maxima and Jeff 'Dinky' Konicek proved that the best clowning comes from getting sawdust in the shoes rather than from attending student seminars conducted by the inexperienced.

After an overture the circus started with Miss Jule's electrifying slide-for-life. Spec followed and 3 sword balancing acts worked during the colorful circus pageantry - Rebecca Zerbini, Ethel Jennier and Maya Zerbini; Next, Alan Gold with lions and tigers; trap acts of Aerialetta and Maya Zerbini; Lucky Bros., acro-knock-about; Elena Omar's one finger stand, head and acro balancing; Nicholas Brothers, teeterboard, unique Maneul Gonsalves, rola bola, Gomez Sisters, rolling globes; Clowns and The Dentist gag; Ethel's Greyhounds, Lipko's Chimps, Evy's dogs and pony; Clau-

dia Sisters, revolving iron jaw; Peterson's outstanding 8 horse liberty; Clowns and The Boxing Match; The Venturas, aerial perch, the new Phoenix Duo with Jo Ann Jennier and blond Viking Bill Tjagvad, plus the Rosmonds, aerial cradle.

After intermission, the 4 Flying Lunas were followed by the Sensational Pablo Martinez, balancing pole act; trained equines featuring America's Fire Chip with Evy Karoly, Golden Star and Black Beauty with Rex and Charlotte Peterson and Sir Bingo with Dave Knoderer; Zerbini Riding Act; Clowns and Western Sharpshooting, and Bucky Steele's elephants (4) presented by Jo Ann Craigmile.

**VARIETY SHOWS** at Suffolk Downs Race Track, near Boston, have been showcasing excellent suitcase size stage acts like magicians, singers, musicians, jugglers, ventriloquists, comedians, etc. for the past 2 summers. These include Jerry and Ann Fields, Dario & Co., Lyn & Co., Valerie & Alexander, Joe Carota and many more.

Marie Hager was booked in with her chimp "Bongo" and reaction was favorable to use other circus animal acts. My small pony was small enough for the stage and my 4 dog comedy routine was garnished by raves from the track management.

Hopefully, these added friils to the business of gambling on horse races will start a much needed trend that produces added employment for many of the talented, yet smaller acts.

## Acts Booked

The following acts were booked by Rose Adair, Artists' Representative in New York City, for the Circus Odyssey engagement in Baltimore for Nov. 4-7, 1982.

Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds & Pomeranians; The Ruwills (original upside-down plate spinning act); and Hans & Sigrid, balancing act.

# PEOPLE

PHIL TEMPLE has announced his next San Francisco, Calif., Magic Symposium is set for Sunday, May 22nd. Guests will include Jane Thurston (daughter and chief assistant for Thurston, Glenn Falkenstein, Frances Willard and Lance Burton.

## BULLETIN:

March -- Dayton, Ohio - George, a 4,000 lb. elephant stumbled as he stepped into the center ring during the "Cinderella" production number of the Antioch Shrine Circus.

Barbara Woodcock, who was riding the elephant, was thrown off and clown Wayne Likala rushed to catch her. He missed and the elephant rolled on top of him.

Both performers were taken to the Good Samaritan Hospital for treatment and later were released. Barbara suffered two broken wrists and Wayne escaped with minor scrapes and bruises.

## A Giant

MAXAMILLIAN CHRISTOPHER MILLER - This man was born at Leipsic in 1694, and finally attained the height of 8 ft. He traveled through Europe, being exhibited as a giant. He went to England in 1733, where he attracted attention by his great size, his enormous head and face and his fantastic attire. His hand measured a foot and his finger was 9 in. long. He died in London in 1734, at the age of 40.

## USDA Report

Officials at Henry Doorly Zoo, Omaha, Neb. have accepted a *cease-and-desist* order to settle a U. S. Dept. of Agriculture charge of violating the Animal Welfare Act.

According to Dr. Richard Bowen, veterinarian in charge of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Nebraska, the zoo was specifically cited for shipping a polar bear from Omaha to Philadelphia on Oct. 1, 1981, in a crate that did not have sufficient ventilation. The bear died 13 hours after arrival, apparently from heat prostration, Bowen said.

To resolve the charge, zoo officials used a provision of administrative law permitting acceptance of the *cease-and-desist* order without admitting or denying the charge. The zoo further agreed to educate its employees in the regulations and standards of the act, and to take action to assure compliance in its future handling of live animals.

Bowen said United Airlines, charged earlier for its involvement in this matter, settled in a separate proceeding.

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A licensed dealer from Miami, Fla., Antonio Alentado, has agreed to pay a \$250 civil penalty to settle a charge of violating transportation standards of the Animal Welfare Act, USDA officials report.

Dr. W. B. Grene, veterinarian in charge of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Florida, said Alentado was charged in connection with shipping three white faced monkeys, a capuchin monkey and a baboon from Miami to Houston, Texas, on Nov. 9, 1981.

APHIS inspectors cited Alentado for using crates that did not provide enough ventilation and had no projecting rims or similar spacer devices to prevent accidental block-

age of ventilation openings. The crates also were not labelled "wild animals" or with the upright position indicated.

To resolve the charge, Alentado accepted the fine without admitting or denying the APHIS charge. He also consented to issuance of a *cease-and-desist* order against future violations. The order is a permanent injunction. Failure to comply can result in additional fines for each time a violation occurs.

## PEOPLE

HARRY ALBACKER, magician, recently worked at the Grand Opening of Pittsburgh's (Pa) new mall - Parkway Center Mall.

LOLLIPOP HARRY worked at the downtown Cumberland Mall in Cumberland, Md. for four days late last month.

## Show Acts

The program for the Aut Mori Grotto Circus at Youngstown, Ohio, produced by George Hubler (March 15-20) lists the following acts.

Harry Thomas, tigers; Los Robertos Duo, and Tweetie Bird Duo, cradle acts; The Lucky Brothers, table comedy; Janet's Pets, dog act; Manuel Gonsalves, rola bola; Captain Zellmar's pony drill; Clowns; Senor Miguel Ayala, tightwire; The Zerbini Family, riding act; Intermission.

Roberts Brothers, teeterboard; Clowns; Frank and Janet Burger, chimps; The Pirates of the Sky, aerial feature; Elephants presented by Elaine and Roy Wells; The Rodriguez Family, flying act.

William 'Boom Boom' Browning was the musical director, and Col. Lucky Larabee was the show's ringmaster/announcer.

# Ford Bros. Circus

1982

BY BOB STODDARD

After a long season in Canada and Alaska the Ford Bros. Kodiak Circus made its way South into the U. S. in October, and it's clown unit, Joe Schmitt, Jr., called me from Kansas and told me about the Texas dates and asked if the many Texas and fans and clowns could be on hand to welcome them back home.

On Nov. 3rd, the show played Whitesboro, Texas, and a nice crowd of show folks visited, but first let's get back to the show.

The show was presented, supposedly under the auspices of the local Kiwanis Club. But only one of them showed up and they didn't sell a single ticket.

I arrived at the lot just before 2 p.m. and found out that Joe Schmitt, Jr. was at the schools drumming up some business. I drove back to town following two elephants headed to town for the elephant races that were advertised in the paper and on the posters.

Tommy Randolph was already there, taking pictures, and we talked to Ken Benson and another elephant handler while they made some phone calls trying to locate some of the members of the sponsoring club to no avail, so they took the elephants back to the lot. At 4 p.m. they tried again with the same results.

The 5 p.m. show drew a few hundred in spite of the cold wind that brought out the heavy coats for the first time in Texas for the year. (By the 8 p.m. show I was chilled to the bone and had been for sometime).

Buddy Manley was the show's organist and announcer and two powerful speakers recently acquired has definitely corrected the complaint that the music wasn't loud enough.

The come-in was handled by the only clown on the show, Joe Schmitt, Jr. and was done well. The Ford Bros. Circus performing lions, usually presented by Harry Locker were not presented because Harry recently had surgery to remove a blood clot in his leg and he was having complications. As a result he did not present the bear act.

The next display was in three rings and included Ken Benson, juggling and rope spinning, Senor Victor's dog and pony act, and the Goweski Gypsy Goat.

A clown act, followed by Pati Antalek and her horses in the center ring were next after which there was a peanut pitch. Then came Princess Oreana (Luna) on the trapeze over ring 3 and the Amazing Victor (Flores) in a cloudswing over ring 1.

A clown turn was followed by intermission at which time there was a balloon pitch.

The second half opened with two rings of dogs. Linda (Flores) and Pati (Antalek). They were followed by the aerial ballet featuring Oreana and Frances Luna on the Spanish webs. Ken "Turtle" Benson then presented "Tommy" the single elephant.

The Amazing Victor on the high wire, a clown turn and then Buddy Manley was featured in a song "I Love A Circus," with audience participation.

The show closed with the Flying Lunas, Panky Oreana, daughter Frances and their twin boys, Anthony and Joseph (about 7 yrs. old).

Attendance for the second show was approximately 275 people.

The following night the show played Italy, Texas, and featured an attraction that has not been seen by very many people. Gopher Davenport worked the lions himself and did a good job. I told my photographer friend, John Manning, that if Gopher worked the bear act he should get lots of pictures. The bear act wasn't presented.

Attendance in Italy might have been 500 people.

Visitors in Whitesboro included Mr. and Mrs. Jim Howell and son Billy, Dorey Miller, Bobby Gibbs, Luciana Loyal, Pat White, Idelia Arizmerdi and Enrique Macias, Joanne and Pee Wee Pinson, Buckles the Clown, Tommy Randolph, John Walker, Gary Boyd, David Rawls, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Henry (who retired in 1978) and Jo Ann Henry (bareback rider with Hoxie for several years).

Dale and Lois Madden and son Dale 'Boots' Madden, Jr., Bruno Loyale (who made the show's big top) and last but not least, Bill Parker (head mechanic for Carson & Barnes) and his wife Gail who (when she was introduced to me) exclaimed "Oh, you're the one I want to thank for writing that my husband, as head mechanic, kept the Carson & Barnes show rolling. He cut that

(Continued on Next Page)

**FORD BROS. CIRCUS (Continued)**

article out and framed it and it's hanging on our wall. It made us both happy."

This lovely young lady made my day. You see, sometimes it doesn't take much to make someone happy. A pat on the back could do it! We should all do it more often.

Visitors in Italy, Texas, included the Flying Gaonos (from Carson & Barnes), catcher, Arturo, Mimi, Julio, David. The Bautistas, Fernando and Irene, Steve Church Loter (whose mother has the novelties on the show), Ted Bowman (Mr. Circus) from the front door of Carson & Barnes.

Last but not least, a very colorful character in the person of Lloyd B. Laster (and his wife) from Tyler, Texas. Lloyd has retired from 60 yrs. in show business, most of it (I believe) with Minstrel shows, and all of it covered in his book "Wagon Tracks and Peanut Sacks."

Gopher Davenport advertised his Ford Bros. Kodiak Circus as a complete tented circus that represented five generations of circus tradition. I'll say this, "It does show that Gopher has brought this show a long way up since he started out with it."

He claims that the tent is the largest European style big top in North America. I'll say that it would take a very large tent to beat it. This one is made of 21,000 sq. ft. of red and white striped European vinyl, measuring 130 ft. x 215 ft. It uses 174 steel and wooden stakes and 135 poles from 10 ft. to 40 ft. long.

Bruno Loyale, of Dallas, who made the tent was very pleased with the way it looked. "Would you believe," he asked me, "that this tent has been up and down almost two hundred times?"

"I sure would," I said, "and they told me today that, in one town in Kansas they tried to put it up for 2½ hours in winds of over 40 miles an hour before they decided to put on the show without the tent."

Buddy Manley, organist and announcer, used to do traps and a cloud swing, on the old Madden and Stillian Show. He joined Gopher in '75 to do banners only and within four weeks he was doing seven turns.

Visitor Lillian Howell came over from Denmark in 1953 as of the Four Arrigonies (a woman's cradle act) for the Polack Bros. Shrine Circus.

Pati Antalek, who has the horse and a dog act, has been in the business for 19 years. She started out in 1963 with a small show owned by Chester Cable and worked with several circuses including James Bros., King, Hoxie, Hamid-Morton. She had a dog act on the Steel Pier in Atlantic City and was a show girl for Ringling for four years. This was her second season on this show.

Photos appearing on the next two pages include:

- 1 thru 4 - Patti Antalek
- 5 - Victor Flores with dog and pony
- 6 - The Great Flores on high wire
- 7 - Linda Flores and her dogs
- 8 - Orena Luna on the trapeze
- 9 - Ken Benson, juggler
- 10 and 11 - The Flying Lunas
- 12 - Comedy Number
- 13 and 15 - John Davenport with lions
- 14 - Buddy Manley, organist and Ken Benson, show announcer
- 16 - Bob Stoddard and Lloyd B. Laster
- 17 - Joe Schmitt, Jr., clown

Photos were taken by John Manning.



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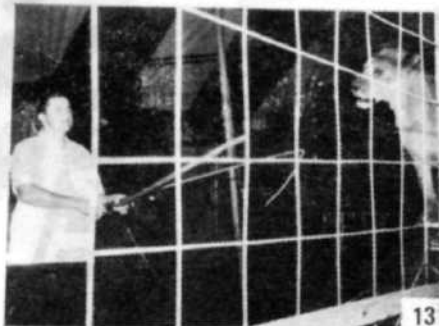
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