

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 15

April 12, 1982



ELVIN BALE

Royal Hanneford

by JON FRIDAY

The Royal Hanneford Circus played Lansing, Mich., Mar. 4-7, sponsored by Caravan Youth Center. Business was good with packed houses being normal for the run.

The program featured: Pre-show Bedpan (not plate) spinning by 'Bedpan Molly' after Clown Come-in.

National Anthem, Overture with Kay and Bob Parker (organ, drums) with 6 sidemen (5 brass and bass) and Al Leonard, vocalist

Introduction of Senor Rai, the million dollar ringmaster (wearing a powder blue, rhinestone-studded, tailcoat with matching tux slacks, boas on shirt cuffs, blue coat (sans hat) at performance caught here).

Jungle Drums, opening spec with company in African garb to introduce Jorge Barreda with 7 African lions (unique finish in strobe light with both fire hoop and hurdle jumps); Light pitch by Senor Rai; Dynasty Duo, (Zoppe) cradle; Warrenians (Warren Adams and Dana), aerial hanging perch; Molly and Dolly (Wally and Cheryl Jones) washwomen gag; Jacki Althoff, uncaged bears (5); Michael Dean, juggling; Franciscos (Gaonas), teeterboard; Ricardo, roly boly juggling; Solo finish by Michael Dean with mouth propelled ping pong balls (5); Sanger's Riding Academy, riding mechanic mishaps involving Nellie Hanneford, Dennis Zoppe, Show-youth Matt, Wayne Liikala and Tommy Hanneford as 'Kenny Feld'; Nautical Aerial Fantasy featuring Danuska, swinging head-balancing trapeze and four web girls; Fabulous Barnells (Elkins sisters), magic/illusions, including production of doves, poodles and afghans; Zoppe-Karoly Riders, highlights include back somersaults by Mark Karoly and Dennis Zoppe on trotting horsebacks and a thrilling somersault horse-to-horse by Mark Karoly from the shoulders of Dennis Zoppe, completed after two misses and a 'spanking' administered by ringmaster Tommy Hanneford; Clowns and balloon gag; David Rosaire's Pekinese Dogs (11) novelty dog act with Great Dane-powered stagecoach with 'Fast Draw' monkey driver; Pinocchio In Toyland, Fairy-tale spec featuring Nellie Hanneford in the title role, giant inflated toy/animals in end rings and many running lights; Intermission.

The Flying Gaonas, flying return act featuring triple somersaulting Julio, 13 yrs. old (just missed his triple by a cat's hair at show caught); The Guerros (3) high wire act from Columbia, S. A. Seen by many CR readers in the 110th (Blue Unit) Edition of Ringling-Barnum Circus; Royal Hanneford (4) Elephants presented by Mark 'Hanneford' Karoly and Nellie Hanneford.

Grand Patriotic Finale with entire company, stilt walking clown and capped by center ring introduction of 93-year-old Catherine Hanneford, mother of George, Tommy and the late Kay Francis and Grandmother of Nellie, daughter of Kay Francis Hanneford.

An additional animal display composed of: Zoppe's Pony drill, Elke's (Althoff) Comedy Chimps, and Nellie and Midnight, dressage, were omitted after first Lansing performance due to time limitations.

Staff credits: Tommy Hanneford, executive director, John McConnell, vice president, Glenn Parkins, executive director, Kay Parker, musical director, Senor Rai, ringmaster/announcer, Al Leonard, vocalist, Phillip Morris, spec. designer and director, Sandra Smith, assistant to spec. designer, Dwight Hanson, prop boss, (however prop boss duties are currently done by Warren Adams), Gertrude (Struppi) Hanneford, aerial director, Wally Jones, producing clown, George DaDeppo, art designer, Keith Killinger, musical arranger, David Jones, lighting director, Ray Orszak, wardrobe master, Cheryl Jones, wardrobe mistress, Supt. of animals, Harold Katzsu, Master of transportation, Ed Kenyon and Company physician, Dr. Charles Mays.



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Show Dates

Larry Carden Circus
Apr 12-14 Bismarck, N.D

Carson & Barnes Circus
Apr 12 Corsicana, Tex.
13 Cleburne
14 Mineral Wells
15 Graham
16 Breckenridge
17 Snyder

Circus Odyssey
Apr 12-18 Wilkes-Barre, Pa

Circus Vargas
Apr 12-14 Carson, Calif
15-18 Costa Mesa

Coronas Circus
Apr 9-18 Atlanta, Ga.

Hamid-Morton Circus
Apr 12-18 Harrisburg, Pa.

Hubler Int'l Circus
Apr 15-17 Lexington, Ky

Jr. League Circus
Mar 27-28 Pasadena, Cal.

McCary Shrine Circus
Apr 16-17 Lewiston, Me

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
to May 31 New York, NY

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Apr 6-18 Washington, DC

Roberts Bros. Circus
Apr 13 Ft. Meade, Fla.
14 Lithia
15 Land-O-Lakes
16 Brooksville
17 No. Port Richey
18 Lakeland

Royal Hanneford Circus
Apr 17-19 Staten Island,
NY

Sarasota Sailor Circus
Apr 14-17 Sarasota, Fla.

Shrine Circus
Apr 15-17 Sioux Falls, SD

Swan Bros. Circus
Apr 15-18 Blythe, Calif.

Syrian Temple Shrine Cir.
Apr 13-18 Cincinnati, Oh.

Zerbini/Castle Circus
Apr 16-25 Columbus, Oh

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney on Ice
Apr 13-18 Tulsa, Okla.

James H. Drew Exposition
Apr 12-17 Augusta, Ga.

Holiday on Ice
Apr 13-18 San Antonio,
Texas

— End of Tour —

Scott's Medicine Show
Apr 12 Cleburne, Tex.

13 Ennis
14 Georgetown
15 San Marcos
16 New Braunfels
17 Bloomington
18 Gonzales

The Great Wallendas
Apr 15-18 Lexington, Ky

--- MAGIC ---

Corky's Magic Circus
Apr 13-18 Savannah, Ga

Abbott's Magic Exhibit
Apr 16-19 Galion, Ohio

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
Apr 14 Carlisle, Pa.
15 Shiremanstown
17 Manhiem

Dick Oslund
Apr 1 Norris City, Ill.
2 Clay City
5 Centralia
6 Salem
7 Kimmundy
8 Charleston
13 Toledo

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Hong Kong is a great place to visit. Accomodations and weekly food allowance provided, plus all return air fares and freight for props paid.

We are just completing our first season here which has been a great success, so PLEASE MAIL DIRECT: Full details of acts, list of tricks, time of each act, where performing this season, number of persons and nationalities (please bear in mind it is unlikely we can cover costs of family members not performing). Full set of photographs (Black and White and Color if possible) and lowest terms for 14 shows per week contract.

(No fancy figures please, cost of living is same as the States, pay is in hard currency, no currency restrictions and it is a long comfortable winter season).

There is also another possible booking in other Far East countries for 10 weeks (Mid-September - end of November) this year prior to Hong Kong season.

**SEND DETAILS NOW TO: Gerry Cottle/Richard Chipperfield
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HONG KONG**

Telephone: 5.550679 (2 pm - 6 pm HK hours) Telex: 63132 Opark HX

SENSATIONAL OUTDOOR ATTRACTIONS (especially Aerial) WANTED FOR: Feature in Far East Theme Park - July, August (6 to 8 week booking) 1983.

Beatty-Cole

Cole Bros. Circus, Inc., a Florida-based corporation formed in Jan. 1982, has purchased the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus from Florida State University on Feb. 1st for approximately \$2 million. FSU had received the circus as a donation from the show's previous owner, and will continue its interest in the future of the circus, allowing Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. to continue using the FSU-owned winterquarters property in Deland, Fla.

John Pugh, president and chairman of the board of Cole Bros. Circus, Inc., has years of expertise in the entertainment industry in both Europe and the United States. Pugh owns one-half interest in the show. The other fifty percent is owned by a group of investors; the group includes Kent F. Holwadel, a vice president of Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner and Smith, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio, Richard Heiser, an attorney with the firm of Strauss, Troy and Ruehlman, Cincinnati, and is headed by E. Douglas Holwadel, vice president, marketing of the Santee Cement Co., of Columbia, S.C.

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and vice president of Cole Bros. Circus, Inc.

The "World's Largest Circus Under the Big Top" will have a brand new look. Painted a radiant white, the circus vehicles will be colorfully embellished by ornate scrollwork. A European type entrance, with banner art depicting featured circus performers will lead the way into the huge canvas arena. The three ring performance has been augmented by spectacularly costumed production numbers, and enhanced by sparkling Italian stream lights. Show equipment has been completely refurbished and antiquated equipment has been replaced.

Ned Toth has been appointed vice president of marketing. Key personnel in the circus management team have been retained; Wilson Storey continues as talent coordinator and office manager, Art Branning is manager and Harry Hammond is road treasurer. Supervision of vending operation is the responsibility of Harry Rayls, the concession manager and Renee Storey is corporate administration manager.

Premiering the 1982 edition on Apr. 4 in Deland, Fla., Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus will continue its tradition of bringing the real circus, under the big top, to the people. The 1982 tour, already book-

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(Continued on Page 27)

Speaking of . . .

by JIM PARKER

"A Family Fun Night" with Dick and Mavis Johnson and Friends was how a recent benefit was billed for a fund-raising event for the Easy Bay (High School) Drama Students which enabled the Gibsonton, Fla., area high school to send their students to the State Drama Competition. All kinkers donated their time and talents to help out as Lisa Johnson, Dick and Mavis' daughter, is a member of the Thespian Troupe No. 3020 and one of the drama students.

The program ran as follows: Juggling by the Three Langs; Little Pete's fire eating act; Magic by Dick Johnson, assisted by Mavis and Lisa; Clown Camera with Diamond Jim Parker and "Cha Cha" (Bonnie Bonta); Student Neil Beightol; Roly Boly by Dennis Michaels; Jargo with Dick, Little Richard and Lisa Johnson; Student J. K. Lee; Bonnie Bonta and Her Canines; Student Linda Campbell; "Perky Perkins" vent by Ward Hall; Sword Swallowing by John Teower; Student Evie Ford; The Langs teeterboard act; Australian whip cracking with Dick and Mavis Johnson; and "Stoney" the elephant presented by Mike La Torres.

Ward Hall did an outstanding job as Master of Ceremonies and for each and every act he changed wardrobe. Circus music was at its tops with Floyd Bradbury at the organ and Bob Houston on drums. Considering it was a quick put together show on a one time basis, those two really cut it perfectly with no rehearsal - and both are well known magicians - Brad with Holiday Hippodrome and Huston with Wondercade.

Also, Holiday Hippodrome star Grumpy Kimes donated his time backstage running the prop department.

The Mar. 22nd engagement brought out many of the show business personalities from the immediate Gibsonton/Riverview area and is an example of their community support, which was applauded time and again by the drama coach. Ward Hall's watchful eye caught almost every kinker in the audience and took advantage of the opportunity to introduce them to the town, with clever comments.

A recent communication from Jim Windland indicates that Franzen Bros. Circus is doing very well and that they are rapidly adjusting to their new role as concessionaires. The show is immaculately clean and Wayne now works the camel and llama in the ring together with beautiful blankets on them, and he is in matching wardrobe.

Also he has obtained a new fiber glass ring curb with chaser lighting inside which do four different things and really enhances the interior of the big top.

This is one show I'm dying to see as from all over for the past few years there has been nothing but praise for this show, and the many talents of Wayne. They say his pony drill alone is worth the price of admission, and Franzen Bros. has a variety of animal acts that some of the major circuses can't hold a candle to. Anyway, here's hoping that Franzen's good business is an indication for all the shows that this year will be great for everyone.

Mike and Sally La Torres have taken over the bottle feeding of a newly born pigmy goat from the Windland herd. The mother had triplets and all are doing well but the two bigger kids have grown so fast they pushed the little one around so animal experts Mike and Sally came to the rescue and naturally the little kid is getting spoiled rotten.

If you want jungle atmosphere stop by Billy Rodgers gift shop on U.S. 41 in Gibsonton as he has enlarged his store and now has a whole new section devoted to parrots, conjures, macaws, cages, etc. and it certainly reminds you of a tropical bird sanctuary. The rest of the shop holds all kinds of goodies for those into making wild wardrobe, clown and animal figurines

(Continued on Page 25)

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Circus Vargas

by PRETTY HAT

If you ever had one of those days when you needed a pick-up, stop by and see the 1982 edition of Circus Vargas.

We caught the show in Montclair, Calif., on March 6th.

Due to a tragic accident the tiger act had been pulled, however, the show was beautifully opened by the Vargettes in a production number of dance and web work, choreographed by Dione Paray. The pink Flamingos, all very talented young girls, showed great skill in their timing in the dance and web routines. It was a great feat to be together on the one arm swings. To have six girls all synchronized this early in the season, shows the hard work that has gone on between shows.

Following the Vargettes, one of the world's finest acrobats, Mitko Dimitrov, thrilled the crowd with his flying double somersaults to the back of an elephant, using elephant power on the teeterboard. He is style in motion. Rex Williams has trained his elephant well to assist in this act.

Billy and his clown alley have performed their numbers with care and just the right amount of humor.

In ring 1 and 3 the Arriz Brothers have two juggling acts and in the center ring the Anastasini Brothers performed their back somersault to one foot. What made this feat so spectacular is that the younger brother was working with a very injured right heel.

The spotlight lit up the Franconi Duo, on the double trapeze. They did their usual fantastic performance with poise, skill and beauty. These two girls are a credit to the circus world.

Into the center ring came the silver clad Cemon and his lovely wife and the charming chimpanzees. Every year I have had an opportunity to watch this fine trainer. He is one of the best presenters of chimps in the circus. When Cemon uses the high perch with his three chimps doing handstands and then he rotates the perch and the chimps, there is a roar of approval by the audience.

Mr. Vargas has found a very nice way to present his camels, liberty horses and llamas

They are presented by their trainers in all three rings at the same time. The children around me, were very pleased with this type of act.

Next, in ring 1 we see the Kneisleys and in ring 3 the Parrays. Komel and his lovely wife, Dione. These two add glamour, style, strength and precision to the show. Dione does both the toe hang and heel hang while Komel holds the silver ring by his teeth. Both Donna and Bill were in the exact same neck spins at the same time. This move is very hard to do in this type of act. The Parrays rigging brings a lot of class, at the top of the tent. You must see them, to believe how much they have accomplished in such a short time.

In ring 1 was Macaggi on the tight wire doing his front and back somersaults with great height and sureness. In the center ring doing his fine work on the bounding rope we found Li Suanf, flying through the air doing his fine back double somersault. We were pleased to see the Rianos Duo, working a double slack wire act. When these two mount their balancing wheels and cross the wire, they bring out the best number on a double slack wire, using very unusual props.

The Les Victoria Statues were outstanding in the adagio number. It is a shame that the audience does not know how difficult it is to do slow adagio.

To end the first part of Circus Vargas, they presented 'Circus Vargas on Parade.'

The second half of Circus Vargas started with the Flying Espanas over rings 1 and 3. We enjoyed the passing leap using the leg spread when doing the forward somersault to the catcher. The triples were high and cleanly caught. Freddy is following in Pepe's footsteps as a fine catcher.

When you see Circus Vargas, you will see Cliff's beautiful Samoyeds. These dogs are presented in all three rings. In ring 1 we find Vanessa, the lovely Darlene in ring 3 and the handsome Anastasini brother is in the center. Luciano is becoming a fine trainer.

The dressage shown in ring 1 and ring 3 showed the new skills of General Vargas, Mr. Crawford has shown great skill in training this fine animal.

The high wire has always been one of

(Continued on Page 23)

Magic Show

by DON BRIDWELL

Rick and Sharon Legg concluded their 1981-82 winter tour of "Kelmar & Co.'s Showtime USA" on March 1-3, in northern Ohio.

Despite heavy snow and ice storms business and attendance were up over last year and over-all the tour was termed very successful.

The show carried a new sound and light system designed by show owner Rick Legg and very elaborate scenery and wardrobe. Much of this was custom designed for the show by veteran costumer Jim Douglass and Vern Woerner, of Circus Creations of Daytona Beach, Fla. The entire production is freshly painted and re-worked and designed to be fully set-up for a performance in two hours.

The production for Ohio was as follows: Pre-show come-in by Whizzer the Clown (Don Bridwell), followed by taped overture and announcement.

Show opens with "Star Wars" theme and utilizes a unique remote controlled Robot on stage with smoke and strobe lighting. Kelmar (Legg) then makes his appearance utilizing Abbott's Flash Appearance Portals.

There is then a silent production of silks and Garden of Flowers and the Nest of Boxes effect from the original McDonald Birch Show; then a section of rope tricks; Doll House Illusion, the Blackstone Spirit Hankerchief, Cabinet, Sucker Egg Trick, followed by Whizzer the Clown's comedy cake baking. Kelmar closes the first half with his own version of the Super X Levitation.

At intermission there is a magic coloring and magic kit pitch. The show also carries its own concessions.

The second half opens with Kelmar's version of "Cutting A Girl in 6ths", followed by Whizzer the Clown's Chalk Talk "Salute to Emmett Kelly." Kelmar then does an ESP number and Hypnotism. More silk and dove magic follow, after which Kelmar presents his forte and specialty, the Houdini Straight Jacket Escape; and closing with the entire company in an Oriental setting, with a huge production of animals, silks and flowers.

Show staff consists of: Produced and directed by Rick and Sharon Legg; Stage assistant, Ms. Mary Hernandez; Stage manager, Dave Shaub; Concessions, Terry Allen;

(Continued on Page 21)

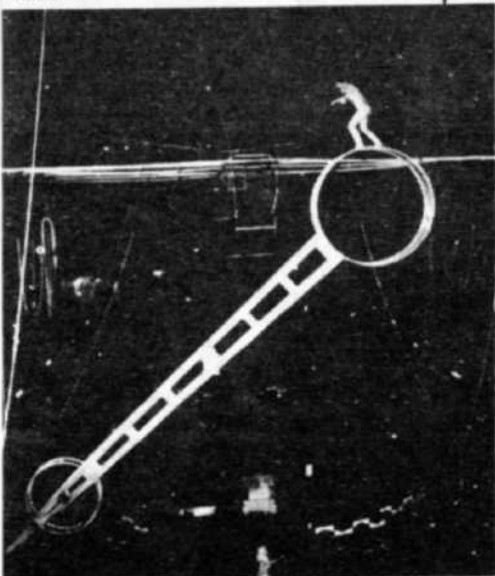
BEGGING HIM TO THINK IT OVER FIRST

by JOHN GAIZICK

Elvin Bale, the blond superstar of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' Blue Unit, is the English lad who makes you forget to breathe as he runs blindfolded on the outside edge of his specially designed circular gyro wheel. Measuring eight feet in diameter, it's suspended on a long arm some awesome 40 ft. in the air. Later, the maniacal mechanism revolves at speeds reaching 70 miles an hour while Elvin runs along it's outside edge. Outside the circus, a guy like Elvin would have a priest and a paramedic team gently begging him to think it over first.

Evel Knievel told Elvin, "You're crazy to do stuff like that." "I took it as a great compliment," states Bale.

This season he returns to the Greatest Show on Earth following a highly acclaimed tour of Australia and Japan. Considered the world's most celebrated aerial daredevil, Mr. Bale presents two spectacular aerial feats this season. The second is the show's finale as he becomes a Human Space Shuttle. He's jet propelled from the mouth of a giant rocket - hurtled more than 100 ft. thru the air at some 90 miles an hour. Launched from a rocket propelled by an oil-powered hydro-



"I like to do daring things, and I like to be different. Today, mostly everyone in the circus wears a safety belt attached to a wire that keeps a performer from hitting the ground should they slip. Even tho I was born in London, I still consider myself American. I was raised and went to school here. We Americans consider ourselves daredevils - so I use no safety devices."

"When you're really risking your life you feel good. It's even better than being high. It's a relief when your feet are finally planted firm on the ground."

After watching Elvin's act, famed daredevil

lic ram operating under extreme pressure, he flashes through space to his net landing.

During his world-wide career he has performed other numerous feats including an aerial motorcycle act and his famous heel catch trapeze act. In 1976, His Serene Highness Prince Ranier III of Monaco presented Elvin with the greatest honor the Circus World has to offer: the coveted Gold Clown Award at the prestigious International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo. In professional stature such an award equals an Oscar or the Olympic Gold Medal.

(Continued on Page 19)

THE FRENCH CONNECTION - Georges Ghezzi



by **BOB STODDARD**

Behind Georges Ghezzi is five generations of circus performers, mostly bareback riders. His father, Albert, started out with all of the secrets of the resinback riders from generations before him coursing through his blood.

In his early twenties, Father Albert's love turned to comedy and he became a great comedic acrobatic tumbler.

As soon as baby Georges learned to say "Papa", papa Albert began to train him to follow in his footsteps.

Young Georges learned his lessons well. He and brother John, and another partner named Fatah, performed in Europe for 14 years before coming to the United States in the 1950's, as "The Ghezzi Brothers."

Their acrobatic tumbling act was evidently hilarious because they made almost all of the shows, almost everywhere in the country, for ten years, before Fatah decided to retire, bringing to an end, 24 years as partners.

They played the Hollywood Palace with Bing Crosby and the London Palladium

with Bob Hope; toured with "old" George Hamid's vaudeville show and Louis Armstrong's show, with Connie Frances in the U.S. and Ertha Kitt in London; the Perry Como TV Show was one of many; from Radio City Music Hall and the Latin Quarter in New York to the Last Frontier and the Tropicana in Las Vegas (where his oldest daughter "Giselle" was born). After that the family went on tour with Jack Benny from Lake Tahoe through many top spots and state fairs.

After the Ghezzi Brothers act split-up, Georges went into the Latin Quarter in New York City as a single. When it closed in 1967, he went back to France and worked all over Europe for a year before coming back to this country and residing in Denton, Texas, where his brother and his family live.

Since his return, he has continued with the Builders Act, which received rave notices all over Europe as the finest slapstick knockabout act in all of Europe, with partners David Steinman and Roger Taube.

(Continued on Page 18)

GEORGES GHEZZI (Continued)

When he came to Denton, Georges picked up a new partner for a new act. His name is Sparky and he is an 84 lb. giant of a boxer dog. In the act, Sparky makes his French Gendarme partner look foolish as he yawns through all of the commands to stand up, jump upon a bench, or through a hoop until the act is over. Then he demands to do all of those same tricks - too late. It is a funny act, by a well trained dog and a fine comedian.

The dog act has been presented in many places such as: the Shrine Theatre in Indianapolis, the Flamingo in Las Vegas, the Champlain Hotel in Montreal (where they specialize in the French type of shows). They have worked the San Juan Hotel in Puerto Rico, Tommy Bartlett's Water Circus and Frank Sinatra's Terrytown Theatre. They toured the northern tier of states with Tony Martin and Syd Charise.

Last year they did the Builder's Act on British TV which wound up with a summer tour in England. They had to leave Sparky here because of the British animal quarantine laws.

Now Georges has to decide whether to accept an offer to tour England again this summer, without Sparky, or, accept an offer to tour France with the Continental Circus, using both acts (Georges is leaning

toward the Continental Circus).

Last year they made a lot of Sport Show dates, using both acts and they have been doing the same thing this year, through towns like Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Albuquerque, Denver and Wichita, until right now, in Dallas, where the fire marshal made them stop doing "The Builders" because they use pyrotecnics that Dallas law restricts so over-much.

I was disappointed because this is one of my all time favorite acts and I was looking forward to it.

The show goes to Des Moines next, and maybe there, the people will be rolling in the aisles and splitting their sides watching "The Builders."

I hope so!

PEOPLE

THE WALLENDAS, high wire act, will be featured in a TV special called "World of Entertainment" which is scheduled for nation-wide airing on April 25th. The book ing was handled by Gunnar Amandis.

Candy Butchers

by GUS TALIAFERRO

That was an interesting story about candy butchers in a recent issue of CR, written by June Plunkett.

Today's butchers couldn't hold a candle to the butchers that I worked with on Cole Bros. Circus from 1940 'til the show was sold in 1948. Here are some of them:

W. H. (John Baptist) Neal, No. 1 candy stand on the midway; Homer Cantor, Grease Joint with helper Harold Hall, clown in the big show and Paul Hudson, who in later years was manager of the Freedom Train and manager of one of the Ringling units. I gave Paul his first job on the circus.

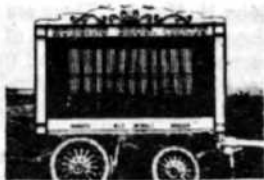
Apple Eddy Watson, No. 2 candy stand on the midway; Herbert (loway) Farrington, seat butcher; Sam Taylor, seat butcher; Samuel (Tex) Reppert, seat butcher; Frank (Zoot Suit) O'Connell, seat butcher; Alex Duncan, seat butcher.

Gen Weeks was boss butcher and supt. of concessions, Winn Partello was his assistant and candy stand cashier, Meeks was ice house porter, Gus Taliaferro, supt. of programs and stock man for concessions, Bill Shelford had the candy floss, Benson had

outside novelties and later on Jimmy Wilson had the same.

The butcher could sell snow to the Eskimos and they were the best in the business, and there will never be any more like them.

Also on Cole Bros. in the concession dept. was Arthur Stahlman or better known as Arthur Sturmak who later was owner of Biller Bros. Circus. Arthur and I married the Biller sisters, Ritta and Betty. Arthur was purchasing agent on Cole Bros. for the concession dept. George Soble was a seat butcher who in later years was 24 hour man on the Clyde Beatty Circus.



ELVIN BALE (Continued)

From many generations of circus performers, Elvin literally grew up backstage at Ringling. His father, Col. Trevor Bale, is one of the top horsemen of all time and once presented a tiger act with the Ringling show.

Although he's an expert equestrienne it was the aerial acts that most fascinated Elvin. "When I was a teenage I had to take care of my father's horses. They were never allowed to be alone for one minute. I used to live with them." With a smile he jokingly remembers: "I would get my oats with them each morning. All the other teenagers my age went to the movies and I had to stay with the horses. When I was 17, I told myself I was going to teach myself an act without animals. I started a heel-catching trapeze act (Diving freely into space, he catches himself on the trapeze bar by his heels alone - without a net!!). I stayed with my family until I was 20 and then decided to go out on my own."

For someone who got his oats each morning with the horses, he's not doing bad at all!!

(Sources of material used to write this article included show programs; The Chicago Tribune; Mr. Rodney Huey of the promotion Dept. at the Ringling Bros., Washington, DC office; and Mr. Bale himself. Thank you one and all!)

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East Coast News

by FRANK ROBIE

It's called "Up the Down Staircase or Jewels from June" and the kind good wishes of the resident members have awarded it a Certificate of Appreciation. Who is the writer, this Second Floor Faulkner? None other than June Dewsbury, who pens puffs and jots jocular jottings for her building's newspaper. Kudos to June.

"Maryland" the magazine of the State of Maryland, has an article about Annie Oakley by John H. Murphy. There are six pages and five pictures at least two of which were never before published and the article covers her life in Cambridge, Maryland, from 1913 to 1917. Vol. 13, No. 2, Winter 1980 issue, can be obtained by writing "Maryland", 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Md. 21401. The price is \$1.75.

There were 140 circus fans among the 4000 very happy spectators watching the

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recent showing of the Hanneford Circus at White Plains, NY, when the entire company took the salute at the finale the audience applauded for two minutes. Needless to say it was a good show, it was a beautiful show, it had wonderful talent and richly deserved the applause it had earned. The Times-Herald Record called it the Best Bet of the Week and there were six sold out performances.

Under the direction of David Orr, the ladies of the company were presented corsages and Nellie Hanneford and Mrs. Albert Rix were given bouquets by the Popo DeBathe-Eddie Allen-Bill Browning Tent No. 108 CFA of Bridgeport, Conn. Southern Sawdust would have had a field day photographing all the lithesome lovely ladies, among whom were Danuska, Kim Loyal, Nellie Hanneford, Jeannette Rix, Karen Zoppe and Joyce Vidbel, to name a few.

The Hanneford Riding routine was outstanding. There were artists from four legendary riding families - Dennis Loyal, Kim Loyal, Nellie Hanneford and Mark Karoly.

Kay Parker's 6 man band really produced good circus music, adding great charm to the occasion.

A number of visitors appeared to see friends of countless years and they were: June Dewsbury, Tibor Alexander, Lottie Brunn, Paul Binder and John McConnell.

Number Two on the program was Billy Barton, author and aerial wonder. He says that his new book "Ashes" is in New York in the hands of the publisher and there should be announcements, hopefully, soon. When asked about his autobiography, he said, that was "five years down the road, Luv."

Collectors will be pleased to see Hanneford's brand new pennant, quite flashy in several colors and sells for \$2.00 on the lot. Not many shows carry them anymore and it's a pleasure to see a new one.

PEOPLE

DAVE KNODERER recently completed painting a merry-go-round for JIM ELLIOTT. The unit now sports scroll work and flowers, clowns, elephants, historical wagons, performers and animals.

Shrine Date

Tigris Temple's 49th Shrine Circus was presented March 19-21 in the Syracuse (NY) War Memorial. Approval and adulation was poured upon Bill and Pat Kay and their crew for presenting one of the greatest circuses ever.

Praise came in quantity from the press and the great publicity provided by Joan of Art Advertising effectively produced two sell out and 4 near capacity crowds.

The local flavor came when 74-year-old Ruth La Rock fulfilled a dream of a lifetime by riding one of Bill and Barbara Woodcock's elephants, George, round the ring prior to opening.

Circus chairman, H. Joe Snyder, was praised by Charles L. Clark, Illustrious Potentate, for getting it all together.

PEOPLE

A. W. "Art" MILLER, long-time circus agent, is a patient at St. Bernard's Medical Center (Room 333) in Jonesboro, Ark.

MAGIC SHOW (Continued)

Tour direction by Shartell, Inc.; Advance representatives, Richard Allen, Dave Shaub and Sharon Taylor; Costume and Set Designs by Kelmar Studios and Circus Creations, of Daytona Beach, Fla.; Illusions and show props by Kelmar Studios, Abbott Magic Co. and Theo Mandrake of Findley, Ohio. Posters by Enquirer Printing, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Show announcer was Don Bridwell.

The Showtime USA fall tour will run Sept. 20th thru Oct. 8th.

where he underwent major surgery.

BERNIE KALLMAN, former clown, and ROB FUGATE and DONNI STAMBAUGH, clown, were seen visiting with ROBERT HANNIGAN at the Baltimore (Md) Civic Center on Mar. 20th.

BUCK NOLAN, giant clown, will be on The Great American Circus this season.

DON BRIDWELL (Whizzer the clown) was the keynote speaker for the Ohio Convention of the Ohio Association of Campground Owners at the Hilton Inn.

Show Acts

by JON FRIDAY

The annual Medinah Shrine Circus, this year their 40th year, was produced by Eddie Zacchini and presented at the Temple in Chicago, March 1-21.

The program included: National Anthem and Overture with Keith Killinger directing the music. Spec, "Circus Days Are Here Again"; Alan Gold and his wild animals, 4 Nubian lions and 5 Bengal tigers; Light Pitch; Ventura Duo, cradle (Larry Gill and Sarah of the Flying Larrays); Lucky Bros. (Zerbini), comedy knockabout; Light Pitch contest; Vidbel's Chimps (3); Clown Boxing number; The Waltens, equilibrists; Trudy's Liberty Dalmatians; Tino Wallenda and Olinka, high wire with trapeze finish; Intermission.

Zerbini Family (5) of bareback riders, features somersault and passing horse-to-horse by Roberto and Mario Zerbini; The

Droguetts (3), juggling and hat tossing; the Clown Safe Cracking Gag; Living Statues, Estatuas Vivientes (3), Garzas' brothers (slow motion acrobatics and hand balancing with special lighting); The Tangier Troupe (8), Arab style pyramid and tumbling; Benny Williams with Anna Mae the elephant and assisted by Miss Debra; Miss Lorelei (Patterson), single trapeze featuring barefoot half twist to heel catch; Flying Larrays, flying act with Larry and Jennifer Gill, Sarah and Bill; European style finale with all featured acts being introduced and standing on ring curb.

The staff included: Eddie Zacchini, executive producer; Keith Killinger, musical director; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster/announcer and Bela Ezsias, prop boss.

Clowns included Habibi and Dinky.

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CIRCUS VARGAS (Continued)

the outstanding acts of the circus. The Les Blocks have kept this tradition at its highest level.

A quick change of pace was the presentation of the Arias Brothers. Their acrobatic skills and their timing is to be admired by all tumblers.

In preparation for the final number, the Vargas clowns did the Superman bit.

Rex Williams brought in his elephants and their cowgirl riders. The cowgirls' red outfits made a lasting impression on the crowd. Rex is to be complimented for the fine handling of his herd of elephants.

As always Joey kept the show moving at a fast pace. He is one fine showman.

If you have one of those days when everything went wrong, when you leave Circus Vargas, you will leave with a light heart and many happy memories.

PEOPLE

DONNA "Twirlee" McBRIDE, a professional clown currently appearing at the Oxford Valley Mall, Levittown, Pa., will appear in two national magazines this month.

In "Spring" magazine, a new national magazine for today's energetic woman who wants to live and look better naturally, Donna is featured in an article entitled "Clowning Around" in its premier issue.

She will also be featured in an article in the Inaugural Issue of "The Laugh-Makers" of Syracuse, NY, a serious magazine for the light hearted entertainers.

In Memoriam

FREDERICK E. DAW (74), widely known as "Freddie the Clown", died unexpectedly at his home in Sarasota, Fla. on March 18th. A native of Chicago, he performed as a musician in Chicago night clubs and hotels, was an orchestra leader and saxophone player.

He and his wife, Betty, established the Circus Hobby Hall in Coral Gables, Fla. where they entertained children at birthday parties for 14 years. He had a TV and radio show in Miami and took part in the Orange Bowl and Junior Orange Bowl parades.

After his wife passed away in 1977, he moved to Sarasota where he dealt in circus memorabilia. Survivors include a son, Frederick, Jr., of Chicago and a nephew, Richard Nichols, of Titusville, Fla.

In Memoriam

FATHER DAVID HENNESSEY, the circus priest traveling with the Ringling Blue Unit, died March 21st at Charlotte, NC.

Father David was found in his trailer after the circus had moved on to its next engagement. Services were held in Charlotte, followed by special services in New York City, which were attended by the circus personnel.

FRED PHILLIP TURNEY (97) a retired bricklayer, who in his early years was a trapeze star and wire walker, died March 14th at Coraopolis, Pa. He was known as "The Great Signo" when he toured with Campbell Bros. Circus from 1899 to 1911 and was considered at that time to be the greatest performer in his field.

After he left the circus he settled down in Coraopolis where he worked as a bricklayer. He is survived by a daughter Virginia T. Hazan.

SPEAKING OF (Continued)

and a number of hard to get circus and animal books. Also make it a stop if you are a collector or need a gift for the circus minded. If he is not in, Billy Harris and Sally LaTorres are well versed on birds and the merchandise.

Wouldn't you know it, it is either feast or famine as within a single weekend there is a Shrine Circus in the St. Pete/Tampa area produced by Tommy Hanneford, a Shrine Circus in Orlando produced by the Coronas, and Hoxie Bros. Circus in Melbourne.

Oh well, ya can't win them all!

PEOPLE

DON BRIDWELL (Whizzer the clown) has signed for the Iowa, Nebraska and Michigan, M & M Circus tour with **JIM DOUGLASS'** clown alley. Bridwell will also work dates for Klein's Attractions, Variety Attractions and several Campground shows, booked by his own Bridwell Theatrical Enterprises.

WANTED - Re: Tom Mix

Clippings, Photographs, Information, etc.
What happened to the bus that Mix used
as his mobile home (1934-1938).

Where is Hank Durnell and Cyse O'Dell?

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Dallas Sports Show

by BOB STODDARD

I visited the 34th Annual Sports Show
combined with the RV and Vacation
Shows.

Sponsored by the Dallas Morning News,
and much bigger than ever, it covers acres
and acres on three levels at the big Con-
vention Center complex in Dallas.

Under the headline "Top Star Stage and
Tank Show", the ads had promised "a vari-
ety of circus-type acts to please all ages."

The show, which was produced and MC'd
by Bill Brown, presented the typical Sports
Show attractions like; log-rolling contests
and canoe jousting, Ann Clark's expert arch-
ery, 50-year-old Hank Peters reeled in a
canoe with two strong young paddlers try-
ing to prevent just that, and 11-year-old
Shauna Smith belting out country songs in
front of her band, "The Buckboards."

One of two things that I saw that would
even make one think of the circus was the
band, which was five pieces of the Dr. Pep-
per Circus Band under the direction of Karl
Wahrmond (who has fronted that band
with his trumpet for 19 years) - and they
weren't playing circus music.

The other thing was really a circus act by



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a clown without make-up - a dog act pre-
sented by Georges Ghezzi and Sparky. This
is a class act that lived up to its billing and
because it is, I've covered it in a separate
article in this issue.

PEOPLE

PATRICIA ZERBINI and GARY THO-
MAS were married during the intermission
at the Zerbini/Castle Circus in Detroit on
March 26th.

BEATTY-COLE (Continued)

ed well into the fall, will bring the circus to over 100 cities in the eastern half of the United States. Future plans for Beatty-Cole include the launching of a second unit, one which will tour in the western states. Activities in conjunction with FSUs Flying High Circus are also projected.

Active and aggressive administration of Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus by its new owners provides assurance that exciting things are to be expected from the giant tented circus.

PEOPLE

DONNA MARIE and **DARREL WALLEN** were featured in a special photo story article in the News-Banner of Bluffton, Ind. on March 20th.

ERNIE McLEAN was the subject of an interview by the Detroit Free Press on the 19th of March. The item appeared on the front page.

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Show Acts

by DR. DAVID E. REID

This writer caught the Blue Unit of the Castle Show in Eugene, Ore., at the Lane County Fairgrounds on March 17th.

The program ran as follows:

Shrine Color Guard and National Anthem followed by Herbie Weber as the Great Huberto, slide for life; John Cox, with the Hawthorn tigers; Billy Barton, cloud swing; Donacheck, unicycle; Dionisio, juggling (the Terrys did not work here, no stage); Fornasari Clowns, musical number; Miss Sasa, trapeze (no ladders or web); Mariana and her dogs; Baby elephants (two were said to be in Seattle for publicity purposes); Foot juggling by Miss Barbara, Miss Loni and Miss Rosa; Lee Marx, juggling; Marco Polo; Clowns; Benicis, trampoline; Intermission.

The Flying Fornasaris; Clowns; the Hawthorn chimps; Clowns; Wire display with O'Briens, Latinos, Playboy and Bunny; the Star Lords, aerial motorcycle; Ben De Wayne with the Hawthorn elephants.

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The show announcer was Inga Lowe, and music was directed by Clement Tocca (the band had trumpet, drums, organ); while Clown Alley included Lee Marx, Giacomino, Bobby Davis and Rick Legg.

DALE LONGMIRE, former clown and TED POPE, are assisting VINCE CARMEN with his illusions and magic show at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas.

Garden Bros.

by BILL SLENKER

Garden Bros. Circus opened its 1982 tour in Allentown, Pa., for the Rajah Shrine. A very strong show was presented under very trying conditions. The Muhlenberg College Field House is presently under going a large new construction program and as a result trucks could not get near the building, so everything had to be gillyed (hand carried) into the Field House, some things from as far away as a couple of hundred yards. With the exception of the cats, no animals were housed in the building. The chimp and bear trucks were parked on the street and animals had to be walked on a public sidewalk, up a stairway and into the front of the building, thru a lobby always filled with people milling around the concession stands.

The bulls had to kneel down and stretch out to get thru the small doors. This required a lot of volunteer help to clear the way and keep the people from reaching out to touch the animals. All the acts made their entrance on time and there were no mishaps. The Garden Bros. staff and the Shriners solved all the problems very nicely.

The performance got off to a great start with Charles Schlarbaum and a good band (9) playing a good circus overture. Charlie still plays good standard circus music.

The first number was Wayne and Ingrid Ragen with the cat act. This is a real fine cat act which moves very fast. Two cradle acts were next with the Gemini Duo and The Roberts Duo.

In Ring 1, Ian Garden, Jr. presented a nice palomino pony drill and in Ring 2 a lovely young lady whose name I didn't get presented Murray's dogs and ponies. The clowns were next, and are Rumpy, Coco and Coconut, with Roger Prystanski the producing clown.

The Hall Duo had the next spot, unicycle and juggling, Jerry Lipko's Chimps followed with lots of laughs. A "Salute to Broadway" a production web number with lavish lighting and colorful costumes were next, with Mrs. Mickey Garden singing two songs in this number. She has a very lovely voice.

The trampoline guys and gals had the next spot. It is a terrific act, not standard

circus trampoline, and one you will have to see to know what I mean. A clown spot followed and then came Castle's bears to close the first half. Hall has the largest black bear I have ever seen.

The second half opened with a hair hang (3 girls) and an iron jaw (2 girls). A clown spot was next followed by two rings of rolling globes. Capt. Craig's big bulls were next and the show closed with The Flying Rodriguez, a double-wide trapeze act. I haven't seen one of them in a long, long time. It was a large act, 2 catchers and 6 flyers.

The circus staff includes: Ian M. Garden, owner/manager, Frank Dailey, supt and Cornell Nicholas, concession manager.

Show Report

by J. SCOTT PYLES

The 1982 edition of the *Aut Mori Circus* at Youngstown, Ohio, ran 2 hrs. 15 min. This writer attended the Mar. 17th performance which drew a good crowd.

Acts on the program included: The Wallendas, high wire; Al Vidbel's elephants and ponies; Lili Kristensen's leopards; David Rosaire's dogs; Killer Willard and the Fawcett Chimps; the Pablo Rodriguez Troupe, 8 person flying act; Doug Mac Valley, Globe of Death; Danuta, aerialist; Terry Parsons and comedy car; plus Albert and Jeanette Rix, bears.

Boom Boom Bowling directed the 17 piece band and Austin Miles was the ringmaster. Concessions were handled by Harry Mills.

PEOPLE

MICHELE MALVERN is keeping busy doing singing and dancing telegrams in the New Orleans area.

AUSTIN MILES, ringmaster, has been signed for the George Hubler Lexington Shrine date on April 15-17. Miles is currently in California as a house guest of Bobby Yerkes and is preaching in several Los Angeles area churches. His daughter Lori (Lorilini the clown) is with him and both have been interviewed by a major movie studio for possible work in films.

He builds equipment

By Brad Peterson

Carlos Farfan quit being the daring young man on the flying trapeze 13 years ago, but his head remains in the clouds. Now he is spending his time realizing a dream born while he was performing with the international trapeze/acrobatics group, the Flying Farfans.

Farfan says, "I always dreamed of making riggings and circus equipment the way they should be made: safe and beautiful."

The 33-year-old Farfan presently does just that through a one-man Las Vegas operation, Carlos' Designs. "When I started this business, I never thought it was going to be a one-man business, but it's the only way I can trust what I do.

"It would be extremely hard for me to find somebody who would have my dreams and have my ideas and be extremely careful and have my concern."

A plaque in his office — an innocuous hideaway off Spring Mountain Road — bears a saying that seems to describe his attitude toward life and business: "Small minds talk about people. Average minds talk about events. Great minds talk about ideas."

For a man who spent years swinging upside down as the catcher in the trapeze act, Farfan has many upright ideas about how circus equipment should be made.

"My intention, really, is to create a different image, a different look. More modern. I'm not trying to break circus tradition. I'm just trying to modernize things and go into more sophisticated equipment, such as electronics and hydraulics, and things we hardly ever used before," he says, conversing loudly over soulful Mexican music blasting from a tape player in his workroom.

With stainless steel pipes, miniature cars and motorcycles around, the shop resembles that of an enterprising teen-ager trying to make an extra buck by salvaging broken down equipment, fixing it up and selling it.

His workroom is almost his home when he is building circus apparatus; he often spends from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. working a job. "The time in the business gives me very little time for myself or my family," he laments. "I force myself to the extreme."

The time he devotes to the actual construction of trapezes, miniature clowns' cars, and other equipment barely surpasses that which he spends personally bringing it to clients in Europe, Mexico, the Eastern United States and other places far removed from Las Vegas.

"I do not believe a person should manufacture such a delicate piece of equipment and ship it by other sources. I ship it myself."

You name it; if it is any type of circus equipment, Farfan will make it. Or at least try. For the right price.

"I can say I'm quite sure I'm making the most expensive equipment. I can say that in my own heart, I'm making the Rolls Royce of circus equipment.

"Most of my clients are extremely high class circus performers. They do appreciate what I manufacture."

One of the things Farfan is working on is a small motorcycle which high-wire artists ride over a tightrope.

Then there is the motorized rotating platform which will have a ladder attached to it so that a daring balance artist can precariously climb it while balancing the blunt end of a sword on his nose. "It sounds a little crazy, but it's unique," Farfan said. He, too, is making a small table with electronic circuitry and lighting effects for a contortionist.

Farfan is finishing another one of the clown cars. A clown merely rides around the arena in one of these cars; it is actually driven by remote control from off-stage. At a predetermined time, the person controlling the car pushes a button on the control panel causing the rear end of the car to "explode;" actually, it is lifted hydraulically. The clown jumps out of the car, and the car seems to take on its own personality, "angrily" chasing the clown around the arena.

Farfan devotes so much time and effort to making each piece of circus equipment for performers to feel safe, "I believe that a piece of equipment should be 20-30 times stronger than what is being used.

"There is hardly any piece of equipment that leaves my shop that isn't tested. I feel my experience in the business gives me the capacity to judge."

He even uses his father, Marcial, a former Flying Farfan, in that. "There's no way to retire my father. Once in awhile, when I have to test equipment, he goes up."

The Flying Farfans trapeze group was formed 40 years ago in Chile by Farfan's grandfather, Rosendo. The family traveled all through 26 countries before settling in Atlantic City, N.J. As a result, Farfan learned four languages besides his native Spanish — Portuguese, Italian, French and English. "My English is a little bit colorful yet," he said, slurring the word "yet."

Over the years the Farfans toured with the greatest circuses in the world, including Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey's.

"There has not existed a show anywhere that the Farfans have not worked on. But for me, the greatest show in the world is still in my shop, where I find great joy working."

Farfan's biggest dream now is to build a circus big top.

"That will be the most secure and beautiful big top ever . . . A man's dreams have no limits but that is one of my biggest dreams ever." The big top will be designed by Farfan, built in Milano, Italy and put in Las Vegas.

The fulfillment of his dreams "has not been so easy. The business itself is hard. My life has been going up and down. I hope to God I'm in the right track now."

PEOPLE

ROSCOE the Clown, who had his left lung removed in July, is back working the Michigan area, doing birthdays and grand openings.

ROBERT BAY, of Sarasota, Fla., was recently featured in a full page article in the Sarasota Journal (Mar. 19) entitled "Presto! Could It Be Magic." The article told about Bay's work as an entertainer and his Magic and Costume Supply Shop.