

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 41

October 12, 1981



DAVE UPTON
Uncaged Cougar

Sketch Book Due

by BILL CROUCH, Jr.

Ray Dirgo is a familiar sight at circuses in the northeast. With a large sketchpad and a handful of pencils he contrasts sharply with the photographers clicking furiously away.

A successful illustrator and cartoonist, Ray Dirgo's work is well known to circus fans. In the past several years he has drawn artwork for Ringling-Barnum, Beatty-Cole, Circus Vargas, Hanneford Circus and Sells & Gray circuses. Line drawings by Ray Dirgo have appeared in "White Tops" as well as "Circus Report" and "Southern Sawdust" magazines. He's the creator of the delightful cartoon character "Samantha Sawdust" a circus showgirl.

It is Ray Dirgo's belief that an artist has to give and not just take. Many drawings have been finished and then given on the spot to the person posing. It is not unusual for performers, showgirls, clowns and workmen to stop a second and watch the artist at work. Once at Madison Square Garden he sketched all the children on the Ringling Red Unit. He looked like the Pied Piper with a line of kids waiting for their pictures.

Although Ray Dirgo speaks a little Hungarian besides English, he often can't converse with performers from overseas. Art is the international language. Over the years, such interest has been expressed in his art that he decided to do the sketchbook to satisfy the many requests for his work. As an artist, Ray Dirgo is unique in the scope and authenticity of his drawings of circus life on both traditional mud shows and also arena shows.

The sketchbook was not planned as such, ahead of time. Rather it was formed by the editing of drawings done over the past six

years. The drawings have been edited into sections covering both units of the Ringling Circus, the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus and the Monte Carlo Circus.

"I'd love to sketch on Vargas, Carson &



Barnes, and other shows," says Dirgo, "but my schedule keeps me on the east coast where they don't appear. However, for a number of years I've been able to travel to Florida in December to watch the new Ringling show in rehearsals."

As a boy, Ray Dirgo was befriended by famed Ringling equestrian director Fred Bradna when the circus came to Bridgeport, Conn. Young Ray was introduced to the clowns, taken for a meal in the cookhouse and given a pass to the show, as his reward for running errands for Mr. and Mrs. Bradna. This began Ray Dirgo's long association with circuses. Years later he was invited to join Showfolks of Sarasota by the late Karl Wallenda.

An artist with his years of knowledge and the unique trust and friendship of show

(Continued on Page 6)

SHOW DATES

American Cont'l Circus
Oct 6-7 Las Cruces, NM
— End of Season —

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

Carson & Barnes Circus
Oct 12 Kings Mt. NC
13 York
14 Abbeville, SC
15 Washington, Ga
16 Snellville
17 Gainesville

Circus Arts Troupe
Oct 14-17 Gallup, NM

Dr. Pepper Circus
to Oct 26 Dallas, Tex.

Great American Circus
Sep 29 Claxton, Ga.
— End of Season —

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Oct 12 Gonzales, La.
13 Bogalusa
14 Brookhaven
15-16 Natchez, Miss.
17 Vicksburg
18 Granada

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Oct 14-26 Boston, Mass

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Oct 15-Nov 1 Rosemont,
Ill.

Royal Crown Circus
Oct 14-17 Rock Island, Ill

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Oct 12 Atchinson, Kans.
13 Kansas City, Mo
14 Cahokia, Ill.
15-18 St. Louis, Mo.

TNT & Royal Olympic
Oct 14-18 Forsyth, Ill.

Texas Shrine Circus
Oct 8-14 Houston, Tex.

--- MAGIC ---

Fantastic Felix Snipes
Oct 16-17 Ponca City, Okla

Krystali
Oct 13-15 Albuquerque, NM
16-17 Flagstaff, Ariz

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
Oct 12 Sioux Falls, SD
13 So. Sioux City, Nb
14 Plattsmouth
15 Hastings
16 Norfolk
18 Blair

Nordlaw
Oct 14 Ada, Mich.
15 Mecosta
16 East LeRoy
17 Robert

NYCAN '81
Oct 16-18 Niagara Falls, NY

Starfire
Oct 13-14 Billings, Mont
15 Sheridan, Wym
16-17 Casper

--- OTHER DATES ---

James H. Drew Exposition
Oct 12-17 Monroe, Ga.

My Heart In Your Shoes
to Oct 18 New York, NY

Royal Scots Dragoons
Oct 12 Birmingham, Ala
13 Nashville, Tenn
15 Owensboro, Ky
16 St. Louis, Mo.
18 Lafayette, La.

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Special

CHARLEY ROSS AND THE CIRCUS

by FRANK BARRY

Charley Ross and the Circus (America's most notorious kidnapping case, next to the Lindbergh kidnapping).

On July 1, 1874, Charley Ross, a child of 4 years, was kidnapped in Germantown, Pa. After an extensive search the hunt was given up and the boy was never found.

While the search was active, and as wax works and exhibitions were then popular, it wasn't long before shows started to display the Ross Family. A circus even carried the Ross Family in wax and offered a reward of \$2,000 for news about the boy.

On one occasion Mr. Ross saw the wax exhibit and spoke to the show owner and informed him that the figures didn't have the slightest resemblance to his family. The circus manager confided that the wax group had formerly done duty as "the temperate family" in contrast to another group called "the intemperate family."

RAY DIRGO (Continued)

people, Ray Dirgo brings a special love of the circus to his work. His sketches of cook house and clown alley, light plant and polar bear cages brings to light a side of the circus most circus fans never see.

And, Ray Dirgo never stops drawing. On Sept. 19th, he was sitting in the bandstand of the circus at the New England States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., the guest of band leader Bill 'Boom Boom' Browning, drawing sketches.

The sketchbook will be published in a limited edition and will be advertised in the circus trade and fan publications. It will be ready in late October.

Giving further endorsement as to his circus enterprise, the manager offered Mr. Ross \$1,000 a week for the exhibition of his son, if he was ever found.

Super Circus '81

by CHARLIE VAN BUSKIRK

The Eastern States Exposition, "The Biggest Fair in the East" which this year ran from Sept. 16-27 at West Springfield, Mass. again featured a circus as its main attraction for the first five days of its run. Wayne McCary, executive assistant at the Big E, produced the show himself for the first time since 1978, staging the show in the one-ring format he has traditionally favored.

"Super Circus '81" was a singularly appropriate title for a show that seemed to sparkle from beginning to end, leaping from high-point to high-point in fast-moving performances that played to SRO audiences in ten out of twelve shows in the fair grounds coliseum.

Much of the credit for the show's smooth pacing must be shared by ringmaster Austin Miles and William 'Boom Boom' Browning, who doubled as music-director and percussionist for the 12 piece band.

Roland Cote of Lewiston, Me., was in

charge of props and rigging; assistant prop boss was Pancho Magana. Their job was complicated by the fact that the building was used for other events during the morning hours each day, requiring that all props and rigging be either removed from the arena or "flown" after each evening performance.

Lighting was handled by building manager Ken Mattoon, and audio was provided by Lou Bianco and Rich Ribberdy.

The program opened with the National Anthem, followed by the overture; Jorge Barreda's lions; The Venturas (Larray) cradle; Killer Willard (Fossett) Boxing Kangaroo; Lou Ann Jacobs, single trapeze; The Rolling Diamonds, skaters (Hansen); Single elephant Anna Mae presented by Ben Williams with Mickey McDowell; Joselito (Barreda) high wire; The Fossett Chimps; The Flying Larrays and the Woodcock elephants

According to Wayne McCary, Super Circus '82 is "on tap" for next year's Big E. McCary is currently setting acts for the 1982 northern New England spring tour of his Royal International Circus, his fifteenth year producing "The Maine Dates."

Circus Arts Troupe

by GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

Circus Arts Troupe played Schuylkill Mall in Frackville, Pa., on Aug. 13th, where I traveled to see Dixon and Anne White and Jim Strenka stage a sharp, intimate and delightful exhibition of the circus arts of juggling, wire walking and unicycling on a three a-day basis in the Pennsylvania anthracite heartland's new luxury mall located top of a mountain in the Schuylkill County region.

Entering their fourth season on a cross country swing which started in Laurel, Md., through Virginia, N. Y., Long Island, Florida, the midwest, east coast and south toward Texas, this skillful trio seeks to per-



petuate the European heritage of this circus art in emphasizing the art form of circus skills as over against the manifest contemporary customs and daring acts of American circusdom.

The troupe performs incredible unicycling, juggling and tightwire feats in representing the elite of their specialties combined with a virtuosity of music and theatre skills in an innovative display. In their shopping mall work the entertainers disband between shows to captivate mall audiences before individual merchant's locales which serves the various small businesses in a pleasing separate approach.

In plain well-tailored white shirt and black bloomer attire Circus Arts Troupe makes a sharp and effective counter-balance to the giddy gilted flamboyance of much contemporary circus.

I enjoyed the piano accompaniment to each performance, each entertainer taking over where the other had reached the tran-



sition point on the beautiful scores of classical music backing the acts. Each player was an accomplished pianist which I found highly fascinating in contrast to the prevailing styles of current circus music selections.

The order of displays: Jim Strenka opened with a marvelous demonstration of juggling dexterity, employing 3 - 5 - 7 balls and clubs Dixon White exhibited top unicycling on a small mount and then a towering 6-footer winding up in an exchange passing clubs with Jim on a smaller cycle. Anne White and Jim did a great tightwire, climaxing with Jim's jump over Anne.

Dixon White's devil sticks represented a new circus skill for me as he balanced three sticks with an assortment of maneuvers in rhythmic style. Completely captivating!

(Continued on Page 20)



Needs Surgery

(From an A.P. report dateline Winston, Ore. and reprinted from the Sept. 5, 1981 issue of the St. Cloud, Minn., Times)

Tanga, a 5 yr. old African elephant has one leg in a sling because he got too frisky at a commercial wildlife park here.

Now the 1500 lb. bull is scheduled for surgery which could keep officials of Wildlife Safari from putting him to death.

Tanga was playing with Winkie, a 45 yr. old female pachyderm, when the older elephant flattened him with a swipe of her trunk, park officials said.

Melody Roelke, park veterinarian said both bones are broken in the bull's front left leg, a medical condition of "disasterous proportions."

Tanga will be trucked next week to the University of California at Davis (Calif.) and it is hoped that veterinarians there will be able to repair the leg by skewering the bones with stainless steel pins.

The odds on full recovery are not encouraging, but Tanga is small and young, factors which bolster his chances of healing fast.

Off to Monte Carlo

by DAVID JAMIESON

Following the close of the successful circus season at the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome, England, on Sept. 12th, Yasmine Smart and her husband Dany Cesar will head for the Continent.

They open at the Cirque d'Hiver building owned by the Bouglione family in central Paris on Oct. 28th for the winter season, with their three acts: Yasmine with her 8 Arab liberty horses, Dany in his aerial act in the suspended moon and Yasmine and Dany together on their Andalusion high school horses, Vito and Bailaor.

In addition, they will be taking part in the prestigious annual Monte Carlo International Circus Festival on Dec. 10-14 with their horses. Yasmine was ringmistress at a previous Festival but this is the first time they have competed.

Other top line artists scheduled for Monte Carlo this year are: Mary Chipperfield (last year's winner of La Dame du Cirque award) with her Royal Bengal Tigers and a number of acts from the Moscow State Circus, led by star clown Oleg Popov.

Busy, Busy

by BOB STODDARD

Busy, Busy Busy - these three words best describe the Texas Clowns and the members of the Texas Clown Allies in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.

The summer was a busy season with heavy promotion and clown activities for National Clown Week (Aug. 1-7). Alley No. 85 currently possesses the Charley Award, which was presented to them at last year's Clowns of America convention in Delavan, Wisc.

Being recognized as the alley who did the most to promote clowns and clowning during last year's National Clown Week was one thing. Keeping the award next year will be something else. We gave it a good shot, and any alley that takes it away from us will deserve it and a tip of our collectice (cow-boy) hats.

After National Clown Week, our clowns were able to rest up a little before throwing themselves into preparation for our fourth annual Clown Day in October, but

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I didn't get to participate in this luxury because I belong to another organization - Circus Fans of America. In fact I'm Vice President of the Ed Millette Tent No. 5 and our annual Millette Amateur Circus for crippled children and senior citizens was scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Matlock Day Care Center lot in Mesquite.

Bill Hooper, tent secretary, had scheduled several work days for: repairing our tent, ring curbs and concession tables; replacing broken sledge-hammer handles; making aerial hand loops plus a new web and ring cover.

There were rehearsals for opening and closing specs; clown, aerial and tumbling acts and costume fitting. Time was also found to have a surprise baby shower for the new son of Jackie and Harry Jenkins (our producing clown and canvas boss).

On Friday night, Sept. 18th, we set up the poles and loaded the trucks. Circus Day, Saturday, Sept. 19th began at 7 a.m. when the trucks arrived at the lot for the erection of the tents, a noon rehearsal and a 4 p.m. show time.

(Continued on Page 18)

Royal Horse Fair

by CHARLES H. LIEDL

Connie and Jerry Booker went all out this year for their annual Horse Fair at the County Fair in San Mateo, Calif., Sept. 4-19. One big improvement was the change of location, as their beautiful tent was set up at the entrance of the fair and their circus wagons made an attractive entrance to the big top itself.

The full tent was used with 2 center poles and 26 quarter poles. The size of the ring was increased to 45 feet, making it wonderful for Connie's daughter's pony acts. She first worked a 6 liberty pony act, and followed by a larger breed of ponies in a 4 pony liberty act.

The interior of the tent really looked nice for the night shows, as 12 horse stalls were added on one side, with nee-hite arches over each one, and each arch was lighted with a dozen lights, and the interior of the tent was well lighted.

Jerry's 8 year old son Randy was a main attraction with his bareback riding act on

the big horse Brigadoon. Jerry did a superb job of announcing and while the show was billed as a Horse Fair, Jerry still gave it the old circus atmosphere, with his broad circus experience, resulting in a very entertaining one hour show, that moved fast and when it was over you didn't realize the show ran an hour.

This was the fifth year for this horse show at the fair, being a free attraction and running the full length of the fair, with 2 or 3 performances every day.

Recorded music was used for the show, but a big improvement could be made in this area. If the Fair Board would use their stand-by band that they use for the Fiesta Hall it would certainly make an enjoyable addition, as this Horse Fair ended up being the best attraction on the grounds.

Do You Remember?

by TED La VELDA

"Conroy Bros. Circus" - season of 1935, was owned and operated by "Sonny" Burdett and "Curley" Easter. The show's agent was Charles "Pop" Lawless.

Side show manager was Ed Simpson who made openings and he and his wife, Josie, did an impalement act and mind reading. He also lectured on the caged animals.

Music was provided by a calliope played by a man named Brown. Dorothy Brown was the show's cook.

Performers included Kanerva & Lee, doing hand balancing, head balancing, trapeze and comedy acrobatics; The Lerches, Bill and Jennie, roman rings and table rock; Billy Lerche, Dutch Leidke and I did the clown numbers.

It was in that 1935 season that Dutch broke in a chair balancing trapeze act which was the beginning of the Aerial Ortons of sway pole fame. The Ortan name was taken from his wife's maiden name.

Freda Johnson did traps, web and contortion; Sonny Burdett, slack wire in addition to working the show's stock which consisted of dogs, ponies, monkeys and goats.

In addition to clowning I did a high pedestal contortion act which I finished with a jackley drop from the pedestal.

"Skip" Roy Kelly was boss canvasman.

The show wintered in Kansas City.

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Miscellaneous

Both the Beatty-Cole and Circus Vargas shows are playing major cities in Texas, as both try to beat the other into new towns. At the same time the annual Texas Shrine Circus dates are underway, while Ringling Blue already played most of the cities in the state.

Showmen are reportedly irked that the other circus has jumped into what they call their show territory.

PEOPLE

CIRCUS JOE was seen having a roaring good time at the East Bay Raceway in Gibsonton, Fla., just outside of Tampa, the night of Sept. 26th.

CLAYTON MOORE "The Real Lone Ranger" of film and TV fame, made an appearance at a Tampa, Fla., piano/organ shop on Sept. 26th.

OUCH!

by HARRY GRAHAM

When you question what is claimed as a circus record, you can find yourself in a red hot word war.

I found Ernestine Clarke Baer's letter very interesting, defending the Guinness Book of World Records, listing of her father Ernest making a hand-to-hand catch of the quadruple somersault with his brother Charles, the catcher, in Mexico City in 1915.

And, if he'd been my dad and I always thought he'd caught it, I'd probably be upset too.

But, nope, I didn't misquote Fay Alexander. Nor did I say he ever flew with the Clarkes.

Fay told me he did not fly with them. I believe he said he worked with them on the teeterboard and some other acrobatic acts.

I will excerpt the Fay Alexander quote from my story in the Sept. 7th CR . . . Charles said they never caught it (the quad) 'I knew he could do it,' Charles said, 'but I was afraid I might ruin his shoulders. So he just turned it to the net and we didn't try to catch it.'

Fay did say Charles told him that Ernest threw the quad to the net as part of their dismount routine for some time.

Fay made it clear that Clarke was the big name in circus flying for many years. I'm sure the last thing he would have wanted to do was to offend Ernestine Clarke Baer, herself a flier for many years.

As for Tito Gaona, I believed him when he said he caught the quad in Tunja last

HOTLINE

Sept. 29 - During the evening performance of the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit at Des Moines, Iowa., Johnny Zoppe, Jr., hit a guy wire, while doing a toe hang from his rocket ship and fell some 30 feet to the concrete floor, striking the ring curb as he came down head first. He has been hospitalized, suffering a broken pelvis, as well as other broken bones.

January. But my believing him won't land him in a record book.

I saw the Vazquez' first quad on videotape. It was a fact that Miguel turned the four spins and was caught by his brother Juan.

After that, on Aug. 28th, they caught the quad in Oakland, Calif., then in Fresno on Sept. 9th, Miguel and Juan caught the quad twice in a row. That's a record, because the quad has never been caught before twice in succession.

As of this date, they have had the four quad catches on videotape. I have seen only the first one, however. All catches were made during practice sessions. I'm not current with whether they have caught it again.

There are a lot of big names in flying history. Four of the biggest are: Ernest Clarke, Alfredo Codona, Tito Gaona and a 16 year old Mexican boy who's been flying less than four years named Miguel Vazquez.

PEOPLE

ALLAN BABCOCK has been visiting Hoxie Bros. Circus at several of its engagements in Illinois. He reports that JOE FRISCO, Jr. was handling the bulls and some visitors on the show were LEE and KATHY MERRITT, VERNON RICHARDSON, NORMAN SCHULER and DAVE WILLIAMS.

"SHOTGUN" PAGE visited the Hoxie Bros. Circus at Russellville, Ky. on Sept. 21st. He also caught the Ken Griffin Magic Show in the same city on Sept. 29th.

TOM and TAMMY PARISH, clowns with the Ringling-Barnum Circus, were the subject of a special photo story in the Topeka (Kans) Capital-Journal on Aug. 23rd.

ROY ROGERS and DALE EVANS 50 years in show business will be celebrated later this year with a TV special, called "The Nashville Palace." Some of the guests will be: The Sons of the Pioneers, Tex Williams, Eddie Dean, Clayton Moore, Monte Hale, George Montgomery, Sunset Carson, Jimmy Wakely, Iron Eyes Cody, Lash LaRue, Monty Montana, Pat Buttram and Jock Mahony.

In Memoriam

EARL A. BURNWORTH (74) a model builder and circus fan, died July 31st, at Wichita, Kansas. He built the big Burnsworth Miniature Circus which is now housed in the Miles Mountain Musical Museum in Eureka Springs, Ark.

MILTON A. ROBBINS (86) famous side show operator for more than 60 years died Sept. 22nd at Dunedin, Fla. He was born in Bridgeport, Conn., and moved to Florida in 1950 after having lived in New York City. He is survived by a wife and daughter.

Bentley Bros.

by B. EVERETT ESLINGER

Bentley Bros. Circus followed Circus Var gas into Springfield, Mo., by exactly one week with show dates being Sept. 11, 12 and 13, sponsored by the Police Association. Attendance was good to fair for all performances.

The show had promoted ticket sales at least five weeks before the Vargas promoter came in. Newspaper and television coverage, along with special school promotions were used with good results. Half-price kid tickets were placed in many of the business locations.

Show was produced by Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy, with Tommy doing the emcee chores. Greer Brooks directed a five piece band playing traditional circus music along with present day tunes blended in. Program lead off with all performers and animals in 'Circus on Parade.' Allen Gold followed in the center ring with four lions and three tigers, as the starting thriller in the big cage.

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Next Herbie Weber and partner performed on the low wire on the track with the Elkardis and Gomez Sisters on rolling globes in the end rings; then came Dion with marimba drum music; Evy Karoly and dogs and pony; Knocky Bros., knock-about comedy; Juan and Isabella, perch; Evy Karoly, long rein horse; clowns Dion and Beverly Aumaier, pistol shot; the Nickolas Troupe, teeterboard; Tia Ming Chow Sisters in hair hang; Philip Anthony, liberty horse act (6); The Winn Bros., high wire.

At intermission there was a color book pitch and Bucky Steele had good business with the elephant ride.

Second half started with the Rodriguez flying act, double-wide with two catchers side-by-side and five flyers; the Claudia Sisters, iron jaw (3); double slide for life by The Great Huberto and Roverta Winn; The Zerbini bareback riders; Jo Ann and Bucky Steele's elephants (4); The Winns, high wire motorcycle.

Visitors seen during the engagement were George Carden and wife, Murray Hill and family and Sonny Moore and wife.

Bucky Steele promoted a pig barbecue to which the writer was invited, but was unable to attend. We understand that some one on the show had a pet pig? I wonder how it all came out?

CIRCUS BOOKS

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Colorful World of Circus (signed)	7.50
G.S.O.E. (Bobby Kay - clown) .	9.00
Pic. Hist. Little People	16.00
Tom Mix Riding Up to Glory . .	13.00

FRANK BARRY

707 S. Warnock St. Phila. Pa. 19147

BUSY, BUSY (Continued)

Then the tearing down, and back to the barn (I can't say anymore about this because the muscles still hurt - even just writing about it - or, thinking about it).

That was on Sept. 19th and our annual Clown Day event was less than a month away.

The truth is that all of this "busy, busy, busy" and not enough rest time means I am going to have to leave you with this "cliff hanger" until next week. (I hope that the suspense doesn't tear you up.).

Just remember that we were talking about our Clown Day and our Amateur Circus (I sure hope this isn't too much for you).

Special

Ringmaster Austin Miles had just completed an on-location, in-costume TV interview at the Eastern States Exposition for Wayne McCary. Following the interview, a Melhi Temple Shriner from Springfield made his way into the area, and for the benefit of all in the vicinity, said loudly to Miles, "I knew you when you had another name!" and winked "knowingly."

"Yes," retorted Miles, "and the whole story is in this book that I've written and talked about on TV."

"You mean you told the whole thing?" sputtered the shriner.

"Yep, the whole thing," replied Miles, "how I faked my death, changed my name and why. And, I suggest you go out and buy a copy of it. Now, Good day sir!"

Miles says he had been harassed for years over the incident and one former clown followed him around for weeks attempting to blackmail him, especially when he got involved in the ministry. He further says a name circus star and a name producer threatened to "expose" him if he didn't "co-operate" with them.

"I finally had to write the book," Miles said, "and it has given me the greatest sense of freedom I've ever known. There's nothing more anyone can say or threaten. I've told it all!"

Austin's book, "The Real Ringmaster," published by New Leaf Press is in the Zondervan bookstores throughout the nation and independent Christian book stores.

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Circus Band

by GEORGE LEHMAN

The Old Mapleton Circus Band of Oconomowoc, Wisc., took part in the Fall Festival Parade held in Wisconsin Dells during the weekend of Sept. 20th. Of all the parades and concerts this summer that the band has participated in this had to be the best received of any. People ten deep lined both sides of the street, cheered and applauded as the band passed by.

This band is second to none, playing authentic old time circus music. These exceptionally talented musicians started off the season by participating in the Chicago Circus Parade on Memorial Day. This was followed by playing for an afternoon performance of the Franzen Bros. Circus in Delavan, Wisc., where the opening concert was played before a straw house and was well received.

The band has cut a record that should be a part of the library or collection of all circus fans. If you are interested in some real circus music, Merle Evans style, please order from the address below.

This recording is certainly well worth the price and it will be mailed as soon as your order is received. It will bring you many hours of relaxing entertainment for either an individual or for a group.

To order write: Robert G. Ludwig, 38050 No. Street Monterey, Oconomowoc, Wisc. 53066. The price is \$7.00 plus 80c for the mailing fees.

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PEOPLE

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PEOPLE

JOE SCHMITT, Jr., clown, was featured on the recent Benefit Telethon on Cable Channel 11 in Hurst, Texas (Sept. 19).

RALPH and DORIS HORTON visited Circus Osario in Tijuana this past month. Earlier in the year they visited Martin & Downs in Canada and Hoxie Bros. in Ann Arbor.

DANNY EGAN, old-time performer, was mugged and robbed in Oakland, Calif., on Sept. 16th while taking some things out of the trunk of his car for a show date. His wallet was later found with only the money missing.

MOI-YO MILLER, long-time assistant to The Great Dante, magician, was a guest at Phil Temple's home in California recently.

CIRCUS ARTS TROUPE (Continued)

Jim Strinka's return featured ring juggling, 5 - 7 - 8. His eight climax was a real show stopper.

Unicycling on the tightwire featuring a wheel walk gave Dixon the return to the center.

The ten foot unicycle featuring the passing of three lighted torches between Dixon on top and Jim on a smaller cycle wound up a sparkling twenty-five minute show.

Bravo, Circus Arts Troupe!

Circus Arts Troupe photo identification:

- 1 - Circus Arts Troupe - l. to r. - Dixon White, Anne White, Jim Strinka
- 2 - Circus Arts Troupe - l. to r. - Jim Strinka, Dixon and Anne White
- 3 - Circus Arts Troupe on high wire - Dixon, Anne, Jim.

From Florida

from MARJORIE HACKETT

A little notice in the church section of the Tampa Tribune and the St. Petersburg Times announced the "Circus Alleluia" troupe was to appear on Sept. 20th at the North Shore Park, across from the First Presbyterian Church. A "free will" offering would be taken after the 1½ hour performance.

The weather had cooled and so taking our lawn chairs, we drove down to St. Pete. It was a delightful and up-lifting spiritual event. How could you not enjoy young people performing out under a blue, cloud filled sky on a grassy lawn, surrounded by adults, children and with with a gentle ocean breeze wafting over all?

They are so sincere. They tell you what they believe and how they came to think as they do about God and Jesus Christ but they do not preach. They juggle, do tight wire, web, trapeze, double traps and eat fire.

They are not smoothly "pros" altho we found out from talking to them after the show that many of them have worked on circuses and some with well-known troupes. They now work at other jobs and do this little show, coupled with their religious messages in their spare time.

Most of them seem to be married and have small children. We loved them and should you see them advertised in your area, do go and see them. They are affiliated with a gos-

pel church in Tampa.

Old timers who know and love Sarasota and are dismayed at all the changes, will be happy to know that the famous old John Ringling Hotel is going to be restored to its former glory and probably beyond.

However, it will not be a hotel, but rather the Florida headquarters of the International (French based) Gardinier Phosphate Corporation.

Until now they have been headquartered in Gibsonton, on US 41 just where you would turn across the tracks to get to the Showfolks of Gibsonton Clubhouse and grounds. Phosphate mining is expanding into Manatee and Sarasota counties, hence the move of the offices to Sarasota.

How nice it will be to see the old hotel looking good again and best of all, a bit of nostalgia preserved.

in the **NEWS**

Mei Mei, a 7 yr. old giant panda, gave birth to a cub at the Chengdu Zoo in Sichuan Province, China, on Sept. 18th. The new cub was unnamed and is the third cub to be conceived naturally and born and still living in captivity.

"Comments"

from 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

I enjoyed the "Comments" article by one of your readers in the Sept. 14th issue of CR. I have some opinions of my own that I would like to add if you will print it. I agree with what George Bird writes on Page 31.

I think the tent shows should have better seating for the well dressed spectators. Years ago most all of the good sized circuses had chairs on the long side, and some on the short side. When someone mentioned the "blues" we all knew they meant the round end seating area.

But today all they have are the blues! Of course there are exceptions such as Beatty-Cole, Circus Vargas and Carson & Barnes, I am happy to say.

It is a shame. When the well dressed public sits on those bleachers they get their clothes dirty and most times will accidentally get kicked by spectators or kids behind them. For the elderly people, those hard, narrow planks are not exactly comfortable and they may not come back!

The last good sized tent circus of the smaller shows which I recall having reserved chairs on the long side was Beers Barnes which closed in 1966, after touring successfully for 37 years.

With all the trucks shows have on the lot these days, they certainly could pull along at least one seat wagon, for a center viewing position on the long side. I know there is a labor problem, but they have those unfolding seat wagons.

I love tent shows, but lately when I see the public and what they have to put up with I don't blame them for not coming to the tent shows, and for preferring the indoor shows.

I believe good seating would help business and bring in people who used to go to tent shows, once they know about the good seats that are available.

I think "Comments" would be a good feature of CR, it gives a chance for a reporter and/or reviewer to tell it like it is, and to inform the circus owner/producer about a situation.



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Elephant Drop

by PAT BISSONETTE

The problem: Two elephants were needed in Camp Tra Bong, an isolated outpost in central Vietnam mountains to work the saw mill, the Village's only industry. The ground was too hilly for machinery and elephants were used to haul wood before the war drove them off into the jungle. The job was given to Special Forces and the U. S. Agency for International Development.

The first plan was to buy the pachyderms in Ban Me Thuot where they were plentiful,

transport them by overland convoy to a Seaport, load them on an LST then overland again to their destination. Plan killed by Army vet due to their dietary habits . . . 50 lbs of hay and 50 gallons of water per day for each and sea sickness.

Plan 2 - Move them by aircraft, only plane that could carry them were C-130's but landing strip was too small and they would have to be unconscious and strapped down, But . . . if they woke up in flight?

Plan 3 - An Air Force Rigger claimed 5 each 100 ft. cargo parachutes would do the job if each beast was strapped down on a cargo pallet mounted on a stack of honey combed shock absorbers used to drop heavy machinery. To knock out the bulls would require 240 cc's of tranquilizers administered by firing hyperdermic darts by air rifle, each dart held 10 cc's and 24 needed. What elephant would stand still for 24 shots in the posterior? No zoo in the States had a tranquilizer powerful enough to work in one shot. A firm in England had experimented with M-99, a high intensity morphine derivative that knocked out elephants in Africa for a minimum of four hours.

Enter the Marines I Corps which once the beasts were knocked out would use sling load cargo pallets under helicopters because British ASPCA picketed Air Force headquarters in London, Army feared adverse publicity. The Marines named the operation, "Bah-Room" and their charges Bonnie and Clyde, in 1977.

For details on the final result read "Soldier of Fortune" magazine for March 1980, by author Major Jim Morris. A copy was sent to me by my son, then in a Black Beret outfit.

PEOPLE

TIM GRAHAM, juggler, has recently completed a series of summer dates, ending with an engagement at the N. E. Washington Fair.

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HOTLINE

Sept. 28 - The Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit train was derailed at Gibson City, Ill., while enroute from Indianapolis to Des Moines, Iowa. Ten cars were reported off the track, two of which were pretty well damaged - the derailed cars were No. 77 to 87), but no injuries were reported among the show personnel or animals. Those cars which could be moved were sent on into Des Moines and some personnel and equipment was trucked and bused into Des Moines.