

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 15

April 13, 1981



DONNA "Twirlee" McBRIDE

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More Setbacks

PETS MUST GO . . .

by Sean McCann, staff writer for the Toronto Sun, as reported on March 10, 1981.

Amid roars of disapproval, owners of exotic pets in Scarboro (Canada) were told to get rid of them.

The Scarboro Council approved a by-law outlawing the keeping of certain kinds of animals as pets, including kangeroos, gorillas, monkeys, skunks, weasels, otters, badgers, ostriches, hyenas, most snakes, elephants, seals, walruses, eagles, hawks, owls, all bats, all crocodiles and alligators.

Violators will face a maximum \$2,000 fine.

One victim of the ban is the 110 lb. lion, Henry, Jr., whose owner, Henry Skritek, made a last ditch effort to thwart the council's decision.

Skritek told the council that there is "no public call for harsh exotic pet laws" and it "is designed to kill exotic pets which now share the love and affection of Scarboro families."

But Bill Valliere, general manager of the endangered animal sanctuary in Scarboro, said people who keep exotic pets "with ripped-out claws and teeth express the most bizarre kind of animal love I've ever seen.

"I hope this law goes through, because these animals are suffering a slow death."

Controller Brian Harrison said the ban would interfere with people's rights.

"Personally, I don't believe Scarboro is the place to have a lion or a leopard or whatever,"

ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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said Harrison. "But if someone wants to keep that kind of pet and contain it on their own property and it doesn't bother me, I don't have any problem."

"People should retain the right to own an exotic pet so long as it's not bothering anyone else."

But Controller Carol Ruddell said, "I scare easily and I don't want to be walking along a street and be confronted by a lion, clawed or declawed."

Although the council approved the by-law, it has no idea how to enforce it and action will be taken only if a complaint is filed.

Those who own exotic pets were told they can destroy them or call the Metro Zoo or the Ontario Humane Society, who would help provide new homes for the animals.

PEOPLE

BOB and LOU FLOWERS STODDARD each have two paintings in the annual invitational art exhibit of the Oak Cliff Society of Fine Arts, March 22-April 18th, Texas.

Lou's portrait of clowns Ernie "Blinko" Burch and Diamond Jim Parker are on exhibit, while Bob's entries includes his first circus painting to be exhibited "Prancing Beauties" five white horses, while the other entry is an Indian Chief.

Shrine Circuses 1981

Greenville, S.C.

Detroit, Mich.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Produced by: THE ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS, INC.

Executive Producer: TOMMY HANNEFORD

Executive Director: GLENN PARKINS

The following attractions booked through Amandis Entertainment, Inc.

The 4 Nerveless Nocks - Swaypoles

Les Zerbini's European Bareback Riders

The Arturo Gaona Family - Flying Trapeze

Gerard Soules and his Poodles from Paris

The Vashek Duo - Skycycle

The Francisco's - Teeterboard

Buckey Steele's Elephants

The Vidbel Elephants and Ponies

The Flying Torralbas - Flying Trapeze

The Hernandez Troupe - Teeterboard

The Hans Winn Troupe - Skycycle and Space Walk

Killer Willard - Comedy Boxing Kangaroo

My-Im-Ba's Baboons

Randy and Sylvia - Perch

Jack Althoff - Bears and Chimps

Les Lemoines - Skycycle

Kristina's Chimps

Show Dates

Afifi Temple Shrine Circus
Apr 16-19 Tacoma, Wash.

Bektash Temple Shrine Cir.
Apr. 9-12 Manchester, N.H.

Big John Strong Circus
Apr 17 Tracy, Calif.

Hubert Castle Circus
Apr 13 Mitchell, S.D.
16-18 Minot

Circus of the Americas
to Apr 19 Los Ang, Calif.

Circus Tivoli
Apr 11-14 Toronto, Ont.
(Preview performances)
Apr 15 - ? Toronto, Ont.
(1981 debut)

Circus Vargas
Apr 13-16 Burbank, Calif.
17-23 San Fernando

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Apr 13 Kissimmee, Fla.
14 De Land
15 N. Smyrna Beach
16 Palatka
17 Lake City
18 Valdosta, Ga.

Kelly Bros. Circus
Apr 15 Paris, Texas

Maine Shrine Circus
Apr 17-18 Lewiston, Me.

Olympic Int'l Circus
Apr 13-14 W.Palm Bch, Fla
17-20 Nashville, Tenn.

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

Reid Bros. Circus
Apr 16 Toledo, Oregon
18 Coos Bay

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Apr 13 Oberlin, Ohio
14 Wooster
15 Buffalo, NY
16 Rochester
17 Geneseo

Showtime Follies
Apr 14 Troy, Ohio
15 Muncie, Ind.
16 Marion
18 Vincennes

Shrine Circus
Apr 10-19 Atlanta, Ga.

---- MAGIC ----

Doug Henning
to Apr 19 Lake Tahoe, Nev

Prf. Miller Magic Time USA
Apr 13 Lafayette, Ga.
14 Gainesville
16 Waynesville, NC
17 Sylvania, Ga.
18 St. Simons Island

Felix Snipes
Apr 17-18 Springlake, Mich

--- OTHER DATES ---

James H. Drew Exposition
Apr 13-19 Winston-Salem, NC

Ice Capades
Apr 14-19 Long Beach, Cal.

Rivers Diving Mules
to Apr 19 Los Ang, Calif.

Round Up
Apr 18-19 Redding, Calif.

Starfire
Apr 14-17 Albuquerque, NM

Alberto Zoppe Family
Apr 15-18 Sault Ste. Marie,
Ont.



BILLY BARTON

BUSY LOU ANN JACOBS has signed Summerfest and the Kentucky State Fair for the summer months along with dates for **GEO. HUBLER**. She reports that business for **IAN GARDEN's** independently produced circus in Toronto, at the Maple Leaf Garden, in which she appeared, was again a bonanza for the producer. **PANCHO** is adding some new fire effects to his whip and rope act.

SNAPSHOTS: JIMMY HAMID called in with an account of packed houses in Topeka. From there the show went to Kansas City, with one day open. H-M winds up its season in late June with the Norfolk annual. . . **PHIL** and **LINDA CHANDLER**, scheduled to be with the Great American Circus, were cancelled out when the show underwent new management, that's according to Phil's letter which I received quite late.

A phone call from **TOMMY BENTLEY** informs me that Circus Vargas is doing good business in Calif., and that the new spec, done in red, gold and silver, is spectacular. Tommy and Chuck will kick off their Eastern route in August which extends into Sept. . . The **WINN TROUPE** will play their third season with the Bentley show.

AL and **SUE DAWLEY** moved Al's grandmother from Florida to Savannah. . . On Friday March 13th the Hagerstown Record Herald carried a story on **WALLY NAGHTIN** with two pix of the bear act heralding the red unit opening in Baltimore. Also mentioned in the story was **MARGUERITE MICHELE**.

SAM POLACK has his house in Iowa up for sale and when it's sold he will move to an apartment in St. Pete. . . **Royal Hanneford** did some criss-crossing jumping when they trekked from So. Carolina to Lansing and then back to So. Carolina. **BUCKEY STEELE**, **VIDBELS** among the elephant acts with Hanneford in Detroit. . . **BARBARA**, Bucky tells me, has opened an occult book store, but I forgot where! Maybe a call from the "spirit" will enlighten me.

For **AGATHA CHRISTIE** buffs (and there are a lot of us) on Apr. 16 a two hour version

(with very few commercials) of her "Seven Dials Mystery" will be televised, the first time for a Christie on TV. It was opulently filmed in England and is faithful both to the book and the period - don't miss it.

Those "Wassau" commercials are still featuring the **FLYING LANTONYS**, also (which is rare) calling the act by name - saw it recently on a 60 Minutes segment. . . Neighbor **JEAN STAPLETON** opens her Totem Pole Playhouse next month and will appear in two different plays this summer. She is currently at home.

The Great American Circus is again booked to play in my area this summer. . . **TED HILL** is in Waynesboro heading up promo now. . . **CLARK's Lions**, **DON PHILLIPS & Co.**, are among the acts slated to tour with Gracie's new string of one-dayers in Nebr.

For you superstitious souls didyaknow there are **THREE** Friday the 13ths this year? We've already had two, so there is only one more for you to shiver and shake over. . . Thanks to **TONY STEELE** for his complimentary letter concerning my first column in weeks regarding my misadventures in Mexico - he and **LILY** have undergone similar misadventures in various sectors South of the Border. No, Tony, I'll forgo those four months in Bogota, Colombia. Unless YOU decide to tag along as chaperone!

RUDI and **SUE LENZ**, after years on the Ringling show, will be at Great Adventure this season for **JOE BAUER**. . . **WALLY NAGHTIN** sez business for the Ringling Red unit continues socko so far this year. . . **LOU ANN** finally got to see sister **DOLLY** do that fabulous flying somersault from the rings to the web (contrary to earlier rumors Dolly is doing the trick without a net, has only a pad on the floor). I was told by Wally Naghtin (who helped Dolly Practice) that she made the first somersault on the very first try. . . The two rings of bears presented by Wally and Doris and Wally, Jr. are flanking **MICKEY ANTALEK's** Chimps in center ring.

(Continued on Page 18)

in the West

BIG JOHN'S SHOW PLANS

The Big John Strong Circus opened its 1981 season on March 12th at Banning, Calif. The show enjoyed "fantastically good business" for the first week, but for the rest of the month business fell off, due to heavy rains, driving winds and the fact the show was following Circus Vargas into several areas.

This year's performance features some new acts, all of which adds up to an interesting and entertaining program. (A full line-up of the acts will be reported later).

Gudrun Strong is traveling with the tent circus as owner/manager, while Bill Schrieber is the show's general manager. Bill Burger and Chris Kennington are in charge of the office and Bill also handles the front door. Ralph Greco and Bob Owens are out ahead of the circus as marketing directors.

Some changes in the show's usual routing have been made this year. The show will be at the CFA Convention in June, but that will be the only engagement in Arizona and New Mexico, under an agreement worked out between Dorey Miller and John Strong. Under the agreement the shows will not compete for areas, and so while Carson & Barnes Circus plays the Southwest, Big John will route his show into other areas.

On May 24th, Big John will open a Circus Variety Show at San Bernardino, Calif. This show will tour until late June, closing at Salt Lake City on June 22nd. John will fly to the CFA Convention, where he along with author David Hammarstrom will be guest speakers.

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in the NEWS

CHARGES FILED

A Sarasota (Fla) County Grand Jury has indicted Paul Allen Fisher, a circus concession man, on charges of first degree murder in the shooting death of a Ringling-Barnum Circus elephant handler in January.

Raul Palomares was killed by a single shot in the stomach while on the Ringling-Barnum Circus Blue Unit train on Jan. 19th, just south of Venice. Witnesses said the two men had argued just before the shooting.

Officials said the shooting took place about 11:30 p.m. in the aisle of the circus train car No. 138, which at that time was standing at the end of the Seaboard Coast Line railroad tracks, on Center Road.

Some of those who will be with the Circus Variety Show are: Inge Williams, dogs; Mike Wudtke, juggler; Jim Bovay, bar act; Arthur Schiller, puppets; Clowns Bob Owens, and Tom (Popcorn) Sink and wife; Marsha Montabancs, trapeze; Swami, fire/swords, and Neil Armstrong, musical director.

On July 12, John Strong will open his show *Clown Capades* at Tuscon, Ariz. This show will feature Ron and Pam Perry, and Chris Alberti, plus clowns Rosa Douglass, Phil Kavanaugh, Bob Owens, Tom Carva, and Tom (Popcorn) Sink and his wife.

Review

KELMAR'S SHOW TIME USA

BY THEO MANDRAKE

Show Time USA made it's second stop of the season in it's hometown of Fostoria, Oh., which was the show's third year of being sponsored by the Jaycees.

The writer had not seen the show for two years, and at that time it was on the weak side, but just getting started. Wow, what a metamorphosis has taken place. The show is not only bigger but is on a level with any of the full timers.

The performance runs a fast 1½ hours and features Kelmar Master Magician and a company of three girls.

Opening production is called Space Wars, after introduction of Kelmar he is "beamed in" with a puff of smoke between a gold and red glittered archway. Kelmar quickly sets the pace of the show by rapidly doing gloves to flowers, dov bag, flip over dove vanish, large bowl of water production under cloth, tambo rings with a poodle production at the end, rings of rope trick and a rabbit being produced from a bowl of fire.

After a few opening remarks, Kelmar had a young boy come up on stage to assist him with a trick with a borrowed ladies watch after accidentally misplacing (?) the watch a funny routine followed with a cut and restored rope, throughout the bit everything the kid put his hands on fell apart, the laughs were many. After getting the rope back together the kid reminded Kelmar about the watch, and after some by-play it was found in a nest of boxes that had been on stage since the show started.

Voo Doo Jamboree was next and featured a floating skull and cremation of a lady's head. Kelmar also did a bit of fire eating in this number.

The Fantasyland Puppets were next, presented by Miss Sharon (Kelmar's wife).

A story told about circus elephants led into the Linking Ring routine.

Next on the bill was Herkermer, the six foot rabbit that did a clown bit called the artist. He also did meet and greet before the show to the delight of the kids and adults, as well.

Kelmar spoke of the next illusion in the show and how it's secret had been passed down from magician to magician, thus setting the mood

for the Floating Girl.

A coloring book pitch was given and intermission was then taken.

Second half opening production was an Oriental Fantasy and featured, silk from mat, 20th century silks, rice cans, cords of phantasia, and a silk production from a Squared Circle, climaxing with a dove and rabbit being pulled from the tubes.

Introducing his wife, Kelmar let her present her own trick with the help of Herkermer the Rabbit. This turned out to be a comedy bit with the comedy bra, a girl screamed back stage, ran out, slapped the rabbit, grabbed the bra and went backstage. The bit got a good laugh and applause. This gave Kelmar time to do a wardrobe change for the next production. Different wardrobe is worn for each new production number in the show.

The Disco Divide was presented as a girl was sliced into six parts and restored all to a disco beat. It was a fast and not drawn out number, like some such acts I've seen.

Featured next on the bill was Kelmar's escape from a regulation strait-jacket. He began many years ago with an escape act, so he knows his stuff and presented a thrill a minute demonstrating that and the people loved it.

After thanking the sponsor and business people in the area for supporting the show, the finale was presented. Calling it a "Small Magical World" the curtains parted on a small doll house, showing it empty, a dog (a big one too) was produced, shown empty again, a girl burst from the house. The entire company then joined onstage as a vanishing water feat was done, as the cone of water was tossed into the air it burst into flames and a shower of silver confetti fell across the stage. It was indeed a magical night for the near 1,000 who attended the show.

I saw the show once again in McComb, Ohio, where attendance was low, but I did see the complete portable stage unit the show carries, as they appeared in a gym setting. They claim they can work anywhere and I believe them.

Credits on the show are as follows: Produced by Rick (Kelmar) Legg and Sharon Legg. Miss Sharon, head assistant and show treasurer; Miss Sonya, head box jumper, stage manager and Herkermer the Rabbit played by Kate Stewart. Advance is handled by Shartel Assoc.

MAILBAG

FROM WALTER W. SEARFOSS

Reference is made to the item in the Mailbag in the March 9th issue of Circus Report.

At the time the property housing "The Circus Hall of Fame" items was sold, efforts were made to auction the contents.

John Zweifel, of Orlando, CHS, CFA and MBA member, became aware of the efforts and to keep the collection intact, purchased all the items, including the copyright name "Circus Hall of Fame."

All of the wagons, library and memorabilia are stored in Florida. The "Two Hemisphere Wagon" plus seven are on loan to the Ringling Museums. Other wagons are stored at the Royal American Shows winterquarters in Tampa.

Currently I have been assisting John in cataloging and filing the library materials.

Future plans are to keep everything intact and to enlarge the collection. Efforts are being made to secure a new home for the materials, where the displays may be shown in a more and adequate facilities.

The board of directors which selects arena stars to be inducted to "The Circus Hall of Fame" will continue to do so as in the past. Charles P. (Chappie) Fox recently accepted the offer to become a new member of the

to the Editor

COMPLAINT LODGED

The Toronto Humane Society, of Canada, has complained about the fact that public funds have been invested in the new Circus Tivoli. In their Feb. 27th, letter to the editor of the Toronto Sun, the organization's executive-director said:

"A Toronto-based commercial circus has received a grant of \$25,000 from the Canada Council according to information received by the Toronto Humane Society.

"The Tivoli Circus will feature dancing bears, a baby elephant and performing horses. It opens April 10 in Toronto.

"The Toronto Humane Society is opposed to all forms of exploitation (for profit) of animals, in particular in those circumstances where their training and inadequate housing may (and usually do) result in pain and stress. It is especially irritating to learn that public funds are used to promote this."

Maurice A. Cowper-Smith,
Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer
Toronto Humane Society

board. The annual selection and induction will be made at the annual convention of the CFA, in Scottsdale, Ariz., June 21-24.

In California

ONE DAY MINI-CONVENTION

A one day mini-convention has been planned by clowns and magicians of Sacramento, Calif. who are inviting all those interested to attend the day-long affair at Sacramento's Dante Club. There will be two separate rooms, one for the dealers, and there is ample lighting, safe parking, easy freeway access and several fast food facilities close by.

A special feature will be the auction of some 15 trunks of magic by Marvin Berger, of San Francisco. Other dealers who will be attending are: Lloyd E. Jones, Byron Walker, the Magic Hat, the Magic Touch, Frank Herman and Busby-Corin.

For the evening show the group has booked Ron Wilson, of the Magic Castle, Tony Dunn, a creativity award winner at several eastern conventions, Bob Brown and Brenda, who just returned from shows in Germany. There will also be close-up magic and lectures.

Clowns will be interested in Jim Jaye's clown magic lecture, as well as his display of puppets. Local talent and performers have been obtained by Sam Bocklich.

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PEOPLE

STAN and SUZY MULFORD are the parents of a baby girl "Catherine Izola Mulford" born Feb. 17th, at 7:28 a.m. in Mechanicsville, Va. The new arrival weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz. Her parents operate the Mulford Family Productions.

DR. JOHN K. ATWELL has been named deputy administrator for veterinary services in the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. He has held the position on an acting basis since January when Dr. Pierre Chaloux retired.

A variety of special prizes will be given away as door prizes, or via auctions and raffles. All for just \$7.50 for magicians and clowns, with a \$3.00 fee for family members.



An early Ringling-Barnum performance.

REPORT**TAMPA BAY SHRINE CIRCUS**

BY 'CIRCUS JOE' VALENCIANO

The Egypt Temple 16th annual Shrine Circus appeared at Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Mar. 19-20 and then in Tampa's Curtis Hixon Hall, Mar. 21-22.

The show was produced by the Carden-Johnson Circus Corp., executive producer Don Johnson. Prop boss was Robert Voight, the announcer was Dave Upton and producing clown was Brad Ward.

This writer attended a performance in Tampa on Mar. 21st and among the visitors were the Valencianos and the Arturos. The show was good, a three ring affair with good lighting. Musical was provided by a drum and organ. There were four clowns and an animal head walk-around with children from the audience.

Some of the acts that performed were: The Houcs, juggling/plate spinning; Carmen del Molino, wire act, plus one other wire act; the animal acts featured Allen Gold, cage act, Bill Brickle's Poodles, the Arias, bears/dogs,

Willy Lenz, chimps, Upton's Cougar, Mike Rice, ponies/chimps/elephant, Bill Morris' elephants.

Aerial acts were Bob & Edna Top, roller skaters; a three ring trapeze display with Carmen del Molino, a two ring cloud swing display and the Flying Valentines.

There were two near accidents. During the cage act, a tiger knocked over the burning hoop as he jumped through. Later in the performance, one of the light poles surrounding the ring, was tipped over, as rigging was being set. It gave a big crash as the blubs hit the floor, luckily no one was injured.

The circus layout is neat and clean, looks circus all the way. The ring curb in the center is white, with the two outside rings blue, all three have stars and designs, with red ring carpets, also red carpeting on the track. All of the prop men wore blue coveralls.

PEOPLE

BONE CRAIG has his elephants on tour with the Garden Bros. Circus.

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SPECIAL**ACADEMY OF MAGICAL ARTS AWARDS**

BY LLOYD E. JONES

Awards at the Annual Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences fall into two classes: one, those resulting from a vote of members, and two, special awards made by the Board of Directors.

The 13th annual presentation has such notables as Keenan Wynn, Bob Barker (M.C.), Jack Albertson, Sid Ceasar, Buddy Ebsen, and Cary Grant partaking in the awards. The

Awards went to: Harry and Leslie Anderson, Stage Magicians of the year; Daryl, close-up; Karrell Fox, lecturer of the year, and Terry Seabrooke, visiting magician of the year.

Awards from the Board of Directors went to: Marco of the Le Grande David Show, magician of the year, also receiving awards were Ken Brooke and Gene Gordon, with Mark Van Buren, receiving the Junior achievement award.

Special awards and merits were presented to Gerrie Larsen Jaffe (mother of the Larsen peres), Susie Wandas Bennett, Jane Thurston Sheppard (Thurston's daughter), Diana Zimmerman (director of the Junior Magicians of the Academy), Brother Hamman, Harry Lorraine, Sammy McKay (Castle Librarian), John Davidson and others.

The program included some 21 events, mainly awards and magic acts. The evening included dancing with the Bill Hitchcock Orchestra. The program was arranged by Peter Pit and Dick Zimmerman with a host of assistants. (Read Genii for a full list of winners).

**MAILBAG**

FROM JACK KING

I made an error, purely unintentional, nevertheless an error.

In my article about Circus Holiday, I made it sound as though RON BACON was coming with our company Midwestern Productions. THIS IS NOT TRUE. Ron has been very helpful in his suggestions and we're very glad he took enough interest to help us in any way he could, but Mr. Bacon is one of the best producers in the business and I'm sure he doesn't need to go with any company since he has done very well on his own for quite some time.

If I have offended anyone, Ron, please extend my apologies to them. Like I said, "It was unintentional."

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HOTLINE

March 27 - Twin Falls, Idaho - Eric Littlefield a student was fatally injured during a College sponsored rodeo when he was thrown from a bucking horse and kicked in the chest. He died after being rushed to a nearby hospital.

March 28 - Merriott Island, Fla. - Aerialist Tina Storey suffered a fractured pelvis when she fell from a trapeze while hanging from her heels during a performance with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. She was hospitalized at Wuesthof Hospital, Rockledge, Fla., where she was reported to be in satisfactory condition.

REPORT

EGYPT TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

BY LLENRAY J. YARNELL

The 16th annual Egypt Temple Shrine Circus was held in St. Petersburg (Fla) on Mar. 19-20 and in Tampa on Mar. 21-22.

Among the acts were: Allen Gold with 3 tigers and 4 lions; Bob Top and Edna, roller skating in the sky; Bill Brickle's Poodle Parade of Pomp and Pageantry; Arias Bears; The Flying Valentines; The Houcs, juggling and plate spinning; Barbara Leigh's dog and pony act; Mike Rice, horses and dog act, chimp act and elephant act; Bill Morris' elephant act, Sue and Rudi Lenz, chimps and other acts.

PEOPLE

AUSTIN MILES, circus ringmaster, is spotlighted in the April issue of Guideposts magazine. The story details a dramatic experience with Joe Bauer at the Grotto Circus in Cleveland in 1970. Several circus names are mentioned in the story.

STEVE BAKER and GARY RAY's first endeavor as television producers was recently aired on the NBC affiliate for Dallas/Fort Worth, TV-KXAS. Called "The Grapevine Opry" the show was aired Mar. 28th and it featured BUCK TRENT, of Hee Haw.

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Show Report

GARDEN BROS. CIRCUS

BY BILL SLENKER

Ian Garden brought his Garden Bros. Circus to Allentown, Pa., for the Rajah Shrine Temple. It was a fast-paced entertaining show.

The performance opened with the singing of the National Anthem by Mrs. Mickey Garden, who sang three other numbers during the performance.

This was followed by the circus overture, as Charles Schlarbaum directed the band, a very fine group of musicians, who sounded like a big band and played real circus music. They played all circus standards, had a fine drummer who caught all the turns and comedy with drum rolls and rim shots. It's been a long time since I heard so much circus music in one performance.

The opening number was "Let's Hear it for Me" with all performers, lots of dazzling lights and flags including a black light display that was very colorful. Next was Chari-vari a fast Arabian-style tumbling act, followed by Senor Ramos' cat act. He was in a mesh arena instead of a steel arena. It strikes very quickly. He as 2 lions, 2 tigers and 2 jaguars in the act.

Rumpy the clown was next with the beauty contest winner gag. The clowns appear three times in the show. Their routines are short and not boring.

The Chapman Sisters appeared next in a fine aerial ladder number. Their wardrobe is stunning, styling and grace are all first class. Next was Ian Garden, Jr. working a pony drill with six nicely matched palomino ponies.

Cook's Comedy Car is always great stuff for both kids and adults. The web act closed the first half of the show. It was a very fine production number with special lighting effects and wardrobe. There were four girls up with Heidi Herriott in the center ring doing a single trap routine. All girls styled in unison, very effective.

The first act in the second half was the Volvos a comedy ladder act. The clowns were next with an egg juggling routine for lots of laughs. Next in Ring 1, the Wazzans and in Ring 2 The Oscarrians. The Wazzans do a trampoline act and the Oscarrians do a risley act. Both acts are fast moving and each act ends with

SPECIAL

MISS DEBORAH KOFF, Management Consultant in charge of Marketing Directors for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, has announced her wedding date, May 10th, in the city of Philadelphia, Pa.

Miss Koff is marrying, Bruce Pratt, a circus marketing director.

The couple plan to be married in the show's center ring, with Dave Hoover's cats in the background.

PEOPLE

BOB and ESTHER WEIGEL report a group of some 100 circus fans attended the Ringling Barnum show at Baltimore, Md. on Mar. 21st. The group included members of the Robert Dover Tent, headed by J. ALLEN DUFFIELD and members of the Rudy & Erna Rudynoff Tent, headed by CLARK BEURLIN and PETE ADAMS.

in the NEWS

LOTS OF EXCITEMENT

(From Suzy's Column in the New York Daily News for Sunday, March 22, 1981).

Such excitement in Paris over the March 25 opening there of "Barnum!"

Their Serene Highnesses, Prince Rainier and Princess Grace, will preside over the eagerly awaited event at the Cirque d'Hiver where P. T. Barnum himself presented Jenny Lind and Tom Thumb in the 1860's.

"Barnum's" co-producer, Judy Gordon, is flying over and has been going quite crazy trying to decide what to wear on opening night. She finally hit on a spectacular, mad Yves St. Laurent fantasy, green silk harem pants, a green silk top and a gold belt.

a specially announced finish trick to good applause.

The Vidbel Chimps were next and the youngsters really liked this one. They were followed by the clowns and the Bake Shop, a good one for laughs, then came the elephant number, and the performance closed with the Flying Aztecs.

SPEAKING OF

by JIM PARKER

Donnie Johnson was the producer for the annual Egypt Shrine Circus in St. Petersburg, (Mar. 19-20) and Tampa (Mar. 21-22). Veteran attendees thought it was a stronger show than in the past.

This year's line-up included: Bob & Edna Top, roller skaters; Alan Gold's lions and tigers; Carmen Johnson, tight wire; Sir Andrew tight wire; Clowns, Toothache; Bill Brickle's Poodle Revue; Miss Julie, single traps, Mark Pilgar, single traps and Miss Carmen, single traps; Mike Rice's horse and pony and Barbara Lee's dogs and pony; The Aria Bears; The Houks, juggling; Lenz's Chimps; Intermission.

The Flying Valentines; Clown walkaround with big heads; Upton's Cougar, Rice's chimp act and Arias dogs; Miss LaVonne and Sir Marco, cloud swings; Clowns, sharp shooter; The Houc's comedy plate spinning; Mike Rice, single elephant and Bill Morris' elephants, Cora and Jewel.

The announcing chores were handled by Dave Upton and circus music was provided by organist Wanda Kaye Darlington and Steve Lockwood, drummer. The circus music was exceptional and set the lively pace for the entire show.

Frank Cain was the producing clown, assisted by Jimmy Knapp, Brad Ward and his daughter.

Note worthy was the premiere of cat trainer Alan Gold, who had never before appeared in a circus. Lady Luck was with him as the opening night went off without a hitch and his act, consisting of three tigers and four lions, appeared polished and pro all the way. This dashing young man has outstanding wardrobe and appearance, working all young, well fed and clean looking cats. His props are well painted and his self-contained fire hoop is not

only safe but very flashy and effective. He is assisted by his lovely wife, Holly, and without a doubt would be an asset to any show. He claims he was really nervous but you'd never have known it from the seats.

Also another sensation of the ring was single trapeze artist and cloud swing performer Mark Pilgar. This young man really enjoys his work and puts his heart and soul into it. Both his aerial acts are superb and his cloud swing is one of the fastest-paced I have ever seen. It is a straight simple sell with neat, clean wardrobe and his showmanship really wins the audience.

I am not well versed enough to correctly name the tricks he performs but fortunately I was sitting with Billy Rodgers and Gee Gee and all of us were impressed with this star. Mark will be appearing this year with Jim Grogan's new helicopter aerial act "Straship 3".

At the same time Mark is working over ring 1, lovely LaVonne (Johnson) is working over Ring 3 and she presents a very beautiful cloud swing, complete with fireworks with a unique use of red as she bows.

For the first time, I was able to catch Arias Bears and dogs, and their two acts are well presented. The wardrobe for the bear act is very colorful and the act is very nice with the bear in the swing stealing the show. Golden Retrievers certainly seem odd for the ring but they are very unique and refreshing and are so well matched with flashy harness and are worked by Janice "liberty" style. Mike, Janice and her brother, all radiate happiness from the ring and I know they'll be a big hit in Japan this year.

Animals were certainly in evidence and the biggest animal troupe in number were the famed Sue and Rudi Lenz Chimpanzees. Ever flashy and bringing down the house with their antics, they closed the first half of the show and left everyone in an up-mood. What can you say, they are tops in their field, right along with Cemon's Chimps, and are super people, and, of course, the surprise of the evening was holding their newborn three week old chimp, Wally. Yep, you've guessed it, he is named after beat trainer Wally Naghtin.

Both Sue and Rudi look well and rested despite the fact that little Wally requires constant care and feeding every two hours. There is no doubt that Sue and Rudi are about the happiest "parents" on earth and already are talking about the possibility of more chimp

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Notice

Effective May 1, 1981, the subscription rate for Circus Report will be priced at \$20.00 a year.

Anyone who would like to renew or extend their subscription can still do so at the old price of \$15.00 a year, prior to the above date.

People

BEROSINI's Orangutans were featured on the Merv Griffin TV Show which was aired on the west coast on March 31st.

VATES, ROXY and LOLA ENGESESSER visited the Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA Show in Orlando, Fla., and then visited the Beatty-Cole Circus at Altamonte Springs, Fla.

PAUL FIDLER & Co., magic act, was featured on the Merv Griffin TV Show the afternoon of April 1st.

DICK ZIMMERMAN, magician, was a guest on the John Davidson TV Show on April 1st.

BYRON BURFORD has joined Franzen Bros. Circus, as the show's drummer.

SLIM and GINGER, clowns from Bryan's Clowns, Inc., worked the Jaycees Home and Recreation Show, March 18-21, at New Castle, Pa. They also appeared in a special show for the Marlin Furniture Co.

JIM PARKER (Continued)

births. They are looking forward to their summer at the park.

And, believe it or not, there were just as many pretty girls in the audience as there were in the show as three of Circusdom's favorites were there, all looking like they had just stepped out of a beauty pageant - beautiful Barbara Woodcock, blonde bombshell Gee Gee Engesser, and the stunning Tiny Gallagher (Galla Shawn). Some of the other first night visitors included: Buckles, Jim and Heidi Grogan, John Hurdle and Mike LaTorres.

It was a very nice show and Donnie Johnson was really working hard opening night to be sure everything went off smoothly.

Hate to end this on a sad note, but friends will be interested to know that recently Helen Haag Hayes, wife of Buster Hayes, fell and broke her hip and is in Room 629, University Community Hospital, Tampa. Buster had just gotten out of the hospital after a heart attack and had gone home when Helen fell. We wish her a speedy recovery. Helen's father had the Mighty Haag Show and in later years Buster and Helen worked chimps.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

listed in all the Trade Journals along with Doubleday and the rest.

So, my friends, I did NOT simply publish my own book. It was published by my own company, BILBAR BOOKS, and I happen to be the house author. We will soon be publishing other mystery writers. There is a helluva difference.

CLOSING NOTE: Many people are inquiring about my mother, MARGUERITTE BARTON. She is doing as well as can be expected, is walking with a special cane or walker, has regained much of her speech, but her balance is off, and she will never be quite the same. Her health, however, has improved, and she is being nursed by my cousin in nearby Chambersburg where mother's room is fitted out with a hospital bed and all the necessary accoutrements. We push her about out-of-doors in her wheelchair and sometimes she even gets to visit the old homestead and this summer will at least be able to visit her garden and the trees she planted. This of itself is a miracle.

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

REPORT

TV STARS NAMED TO HALL OF FAME

The National Cowboy Hall of Fame has elected three stars from the TV series "Gunsmoke" to the Hall of Fame of Great Western Performers.

James Arness, Ken Curtis and the late Milburn Stone will be inducted into the Hall of Fame during Western Heritage Awards weekend, April 25-26.

Another "Gunsmoke" star, Amanda Blake was elected to the hall in 1968.