

7th Year

August 14, 1978

Number 33

Gifts For Museum

Several new gifts have recently been presented to the Ringling Museum of the Circus, at Sarasota, Fla., by circus buffs. The gifts add to the Museum's collection of circus memorabilia, which will be displayed for visitors.

One of the most exciting gifts is the Wallenda high wire platform that was used in the seven-person pyramid act, a symbol of the indomitable will and determination that characterized Karl Wallenda's long career. The double deck platform was designed by the famed wire walker especially to assemble and dismantle the pyramid. This particular platform, which was used in the TV film "The Great Wallendas" was given to the museum by Andy Anderson, one of Wallenda's sons-in-law and a former member of the troupe. The gift also included a chair and a 20 foot balancing pole used in the act.

John Lentz, of Sarasota, a dedicated volunteer at the museum, has given the museum a large side show banner, titled "Chimpanzee, Alive!"; two "Buffalo Bill" and "Annie Oakley" elephant blankets, and a collection of such show records as payroll accounts, license papers, tickets, passes and stationery.

Bill Ballantine, clown, artist, writer and circus executive, has contributed a collection of clown shoes, a rare book by P. T. Barnum, "Barnum's Own Story: Natural History from

a New Standpoint", a portrait of a dwarf clown by artist Jim Howle, and life masks of Ballantine, Lou Jacobs and Bobby Kaye.

Other gifts to the museum were: Edna Myers, an etching "The Floating Palace"; a scale model baggage wagon for a model circus from George Barlow of Binghamton, N.Y.; two metal howdahs (one for an elephant, the other for a camel) from Gene Vercheski (G&G Metals); a circus big top bale ring and a performing animal stand (formerly

(Continued on Page 19)

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A Big Show

Without a doubt the new MGM Grand Hotel-Reno is the greatest showplace ever. It's stage measures 170 ft. x 280 ft. and is nine stories high. There's a water fountain that is 40 ft. high, 600 lbs. of dry ice are used each day and there are in excess of 116 ropes used to guide scenery changes.

This huge stage and its complex workings is overseen by Walt Weekly, the stage manager who says he took the job "because it was a challenge." Walt adds that "being stage manager of the largest stage and the largest production show in the world has got to be a challenge, right?"

The show's space number is one of the most difficult acts in the world to stage. That sequence has 6000 gallons of water pouring down a rain screen through 2000 water jets. The water then goes through a drainage system, through pipes under the stage and is returned to vats to be reused.

As soon as the curtain closes and an act is on, eight stage hands rush out, squeegee mops in hand, to clean any water that missed the drainage system. Meanwhile a crew of 18 men must push the two 5000 lbs. waterfalls off the stage and prepare the area for the circus, complete with tents and wagons.

All of this must be done in 18 minutes, which means, as Weekly so honestly puts it, "we're moving, really moving."

In all there are some 96 scenery changes and over 200 props, all stored in a "fly system" above the stage or a massive basement below the stage. The scenery is so heavy that a counterweight system is required to keep the scenery both up and down, depending on where it's needed.

"For example," cites Weekly, "the mirrored arbor in the night and day sequence in the first act weighs 6000 lbs. That requires a lot of lead weight to store it above the stage."

Another example of the magnitude of this Donn Arden show "Hello Hollywood Hello" can be cited by the four circus wagons. Each is so heavy that it requires six automobile batteries for power, and each battery must be recharged after every two hours.

Because of the amount of size and delicacy of the

PEOPLE

WALLY ROSS, animal trainer, has been quite ill and would enjoy hearing from friends. Cards should be sent to him at: 678 Erbes Road, Thousand Oaks, Cal. 91360.

HAROLD WARD and daughter ROBIN and her husband and new baby were recent visitors at Circus Vargas in Oregon.

BILL RODGERS is presenting his Tropical Bird act at several fairs this season. He recently visited the Kool Aid Circus, RBBB's Red Unit and the Beatty-Cole Circus, which was playing Youngstown. That same day HAROLD and SANDRA SPOHN were visiting the big Beatty show.

PEGGY and HARRY BAKER, jugglers, joined the Happytime Circus at the fair in Napa, Calif., for its Aug. 2-6 engagement.

props and scenery, there is a lot of maintenance and repair needed, also Weekly's responsibility. Maintenance also includes prevention work, like spotting potential problems before they occur.

The MGM has three stage elevators, each measuring 12 ft x 36 ft and with a total lifting capacity of some 144,000 lbs. These elevators and the two revolving elevators at the sides of the stage, work as stage hands, moving props from the basement storage area, to the stage and back again. The elevators are computer-operated.

Then there is the plane, with a wing span of a DC-9 (the wings fold up for storage), the specially built plane is driven by two of the stage hands. It never leaves the ground, in fact, it only taxis 80 ft. But, according to Weekly, "the guys don't care. Surrounded by 20 beautiful showgirl/stewardesses, they've got the best job in the place."

Other stage crew participants in the show include the clown band in the circus sequence. Five stage hands imitate playing music high above the big top, dressed in a variety of clown costumes.

With all the work, it is still a fantasyland to Weekly. "We all get along well. You have to when teamwork is essential for the success of the project."

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18-21 Kennewick
- Europorama
Aug. 14 Billings, Montana
15 Butte
16 Helena
18 Twin Falls, Idaho
19 Boise
- Hanneford's Circus Internationale
to Sept. 4 Middletown, Ohio
- Happytime Circus
Aug. 14-17 Stockton, Calif.
- Hoxie Bros. Circus
Aug. 14 Millville, N. J.
15 Bridgeton
16 Blackwood
17 Atlantic City
18 Ocean City
19 East Windsor
20 Long Branch
- Kaye Continental Circus
Aug. 10-20 Honolulu, Hawaii
- Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
Aug. 17-27 Louisville, Ky.
- Kool Aid Circus
to Aug. 20 Milwaukee, Wisc.
Aug. 18-26 Hamburg, N. Y.
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Aug. 16-20 Long Beach, Calif.

- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Aug. 15-20 Kansas City, Mo.
- TNT & Royal Olympic Circus
Aug. 16-20 Peoria, Ill.
- Wenatchee Youth Circus
Aug. 17 Elma, Wash.
- Wonderful World of Circus
Aug. 15-20 Flint, Mich.

----- OTHER DATES -----

- Baretta, the Cockatoo
Aug. 15-19 Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Vince Carmen's Magic Revue
Aug. 15 Winchester, W. Va.
16 Front Royals
17 Statesville, N. C.
- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Aug. 16-21 Des Moines, Iowa
- Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Aug. 16-21 Des Moines, Iowa
- James H. Drew Expo Shows
Aug. 14-19 Wise, Va.
- Fantasy On Ice
Aug. 16-19 Merritt Is., Fla.
- Gutis Family Jungle Parody
Aug. 18-26 Hamburg, N. Y.
- Ice Follies
Aug. 16-Sept. 3 San Francisco, Calif.

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ONE WONDERS WHERE IT WILL END! President Carter promised the Major Powers during the Bonn Talks to raise the price of oil and gasoline to the level of World Prices by 1980, and there are rumbles that regular gas will soar as high as \$1.00 per gallon by 1979. It seems the fact that the USA is a highly mobile country, dependent upon wheels, more so than any other country, has been overlooked - OR that we have states larger than many of those foreign countries involved in the talks! A movement must be spearheaded to protect our industry otherwise ALL OF US are in very serious trouble. THE Allen Park (Mich) Kiwanis Circus, July 11-16 did OK, and the Kiwanis Club personally guaranteed the acts' salaries. Gunnar Amandis booked most of the acts. The building was so low the GREAT BRUNO appeared outdoors. Some of the acts included: Norbu, the Manuel Navarro Family, the Zerbini, Rex Young and Johnson's bears. Al Dawley was ringmaster. GRACIE MacIntosh and CHUCK MARINE visited the Carson & Barnes Circus during its CFA showing in Dearborn, also caught the Kiwanis Circus at Allen Park and the Police Field Day at Olympia Stadium (July 22). Appearing there for Bauer-Hall were: Aerialetta, the Rodriguez bar act and trampoline and Prince Najvez. PROJECTION '79: Royal Hanneford will have its own cannon act. .Circus Vargas is rumored to come out with a European style one ringier. .AERIALETTA to debut an exotic new entrance staged by VICKIE HANNEFORD. .JIM DOUGLASS planning an elaborate "old fashioned" 1890 spec. .Ringling's new MONTE CARLO Circus to tour nationwide. .ditto the new NORDMARK Icer. .ARIAS BEARS, a cute new bear act, to hit the major spots. .MISTER SENSATION to make a "comeback" with an all-new aerial presentation inked to appear with M & M, Dobritch and Bentley Bros. .Bentley Bros. to double its Calif. spring route and to tour for eight weeks in the fall. .(Add Dubuque and Philly to this year's route). .Look for a possible change in the Corp. show lineups for next season. .The Detroit Moslem Temple annual has set its dates for March 16 thru April 1. SNAPSHOTS: The FENTONS, acrobats on ice, return to Ice Capades in August for their 5th year. .Musicians BOB and KAY PARKER will be with Royal Hanneford when it reopens in Sept. JIMMY DOUGLASS bought still another pipe organ to add to his "museum", also picked up a new truck recently in Omaha where he encoun-

tered the PIETRO CANESTRELLI Family, THE TORREANIS and the FLYING LUNAS also buying new equipment. .Clowns DAVID CHABIRA and BRUCE WARNER dueting on the EDDIE ZACCHINI Kool Aid Circus fair route. .DON BRIDWELL will clown with the Jimmy Douglas alley on fall dates with Bentley Bros. and Dobritch. .Famous Hunt plays the Smithhaven Mall over Labor Day. .Florida Tent Rental provided the seating for Garden Bros. at the World of Fun Amusement park date in Kansas City. .Youthful GRACE MacINTOSH keeps in trim by playing "racquetball", sez: "It's better than tennis". .GEORGE HANNEFORD, Jr. Family playing the LaPorte (Ind) fair date for HUBLER. .Set for George's Burton (Oh) fair Aug. 31 are: the Burketts, Castle's elephants, the Elkins Sisters and Miss Lydia. .WALTER JENNIER, Jr. is taking flying lessons, is now "soloing". .The KLEMENTIS dropped in to visit FRANK & ESTRELETA and ETHEL JENNIER when both acts were at Kennywood. .WES and FLORINE OLIVER have a new motor home. .Sir VICTOR JULIAN is at Medora (ND) for his 10th consecutive season. .Reports are he is feeling better. GRACE MacINTOSH has one of the largest collections of elephant figurines I've ever seen, most of them given to her over the years by friends. .ARIAS BEARS will be with Bentley Bros. on its fall run. .The FENTON Family practicing "teeterboard" on ice for their Ice Capades tour. CHRIS ROMIG, son of IRV (Ricky the Clown) is an absolute genius at reconstructing the intricate and delicate interiors of vintage player pianos, organs and "multiple instrument" players, including old time "juke boxes" and a recent tour of his Michigan workshop was fascinating. Chris is working on several player pianos for JIMMY DOUGLASS and also created the "mechanical calliope" used by M&M Productions. BILL HARTLEY, producer of the TV series CIRCUS! informed me they were filming a pilot at the end of August about Magic and Magicians which they hope will become a series and which the Canadian Production heads hope will do for Magic what their series features "Stars on Ice" and "Circus!" are doing for Ice Shows and Circuses. I will have detailed information on this new TV feature in a later column. A REPORT via Sir VICTOR JULIAN via GRACE MacINTOSH informs me that CRISTINE FOSSETT has been very ill and may require an operation. Unfortunately, that is all the information

(Continued on Page 18)

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Coming Up

A feature of an upcoming issue of Circus Report will
 be a listing of the famous Minstrel Troupes that tour-
 ed the nation during the heyday of the Minstrels from
 1855 to 1890.

YEARS AGO

The most famous and widely performed pro-South-
 ern version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," written by Hen-
 ry J. Conway, opened in New York in P. T. Barnum's
 American Museum in November 1853.

Barnum advertised his show as the only "just and
 sensible dramatic version of Harriet B. Stowe's book.
 Barnum claimed it showed the cruelties of slavery but
 did not "foolishly and unjustly elevate the negro
 above the white man in intellect or morals." It was a
 "true picture of negro life in the South," Barnum in-
 sisted, "and instead of turning away the audience in
 tears the author has wisely consulted dramatic taste
 by having Virtue triumph at last."

Scenes like the slave auction were treated lightly and
 the production ended happily with Uncle Tom being
 melodramatically rescued from Simon Legree just in
 the nick of time.

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When your coffee isn't hot,
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 Or your relatives all fight,
 Sure 'tis hard, but then you might
 Try smiling.

Doesn't change the things, of course,
 Just smiling.

But it cannot make them worse,
 Just smiling.

And it seems to help your case,
 Brightens up a gloomy place,
 Then, it sort o' rests your face -
 Just smiling

(Author Unknown)

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SPECIAL

"It was just like New Year's Eve!" "The world's biggest party!" "More fun and excitement than we've had in a long time!"

Those are just some of the things people said after the 12:01 a.m., July 1st opening of Circus Circus Casino/Hotel in downtown Reno.

A crowd estimated at several thousand started gathering around the 5th and Virginia St. entrance an hour before the scheduled ribbon "biting" ceremony, ably done by Tony, the Wonder Horse. The magnificent palomino stallion was cheered on by all the colorfully costumed members of the Circus Circus show cast, as well as by the large, happy crowd.

A brief "Circus Parade," of the performers led the eager people through the casino and up into the concrete big top, where a full two hour show was presented, to the delight of young and old.

In the weeks since there has been a steady stream of visitors, being greeted by the world's tallest permanent free standing clown, which is the subject of a contest being held to give him a name (or her!). The winner will be announced Nov. 1st, and will win a four day, three night vacation at Circus Circus-Reno. If the winner should be a Reno resident, a similar trip will

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PEOPLE

THE HIYABUSA BRÖS. comedy acrobats, are a part of the stage show at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nev. They are featured with the show "Naughty...but Nice."

be given to Circus Circus-Las Vegas.

Visitors are awed by the free circus acts, which are presented from 11 a.m. until midnight, seven days a week, and include world-renowned aerialists, jugglers, bike and unicycle riders, animal acts and monorail ballet performers.

While Nevada law prohibits anyone under 21 from loitering in a casino, Circus Circus welcomes minors to the mezzanine Midway to play all the colorful carnival games and watch the acts.



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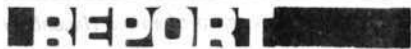
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by Don Nieman

Tony Diano and Lee and Jeanette Keener hosted the members of the Tony Diano CFA Tent No. 130 at a cookout on Saturday night, July 29th, at Parkersburg W. Va.

Tony treated the Tent members and guests to his famous Italian sausage cooked over a charcoal grill in the backyard of the Wallenda Circus. Many other obviously home-made food treats were also served. And Tony's elephants, of course, shared in the feast, as did some of the show personnel, including Helen Wallenda.

Making the trip from the Tent's home grounds in Central Ohio were: Dave, Pat and J. C. Isсенman, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robinson, Forrest and Nancy Traylor, Ed and Jean Jones, Norman Vodrey, Don and Ramona Nieman, and guests Mike and Ann July. Mike July is assistant director and general curator at the Columbus Ohio Zoo.

After the cookout the Tent Members and guests attended the evening performance of the circus. Scattered thunder showers threatened midway through the show, which played to a full house at the athletic field, and caused the second half to be cut to just three acts plus the fireworks display.

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PEOPLE

CARLOS OBANO is recovering from a hand injury, which occurred when the hand was caught in a block while the high wire apparatus was being lowered. The high wire act is continuing to work with four people, with JANIS ILIOPULOS doing the pyramid for Carlos.

GEORGE HOLMES, tap dancer, is a featured performer in the "Les Sizzle" show at Harrah's Reno Casino Cabaret.

FAWCETT'S CHIMPS are playing dates in Europe will appear in the Monte Carlo Circus in December

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

A Note to Collectors! Kraft Foods has some beautiful circus-type lithos, for their advertising again this year. This is the 3rd year in a row that Kraft has used Circus posters in advertising their products. Using this theme, Malone & Hyde Food distributor leased this reporter's "Dupont's Miniature Circus" for their food fair and Dodo the clown was also hired to work for the food concern.

Jack Painter, CFA and former President, just returned from Europe where he taught at Rome. Jack visited circuses in both France and Italy during the summer.

George Hubler, circus producer, has completed the first part of his indoor season. His programs were filled with stars of the circus world, including: The Flying Ramos, Norbu, the Gorilla, Ron & Judy Holiday, Los Argentines, The Klementis, Karen Nyce and Geo. Barreda and his lions. The press everywhere highly praised Hubler's shows.

The Circus Moves by Rail - a new circus book by Tom Parkinson and Charles Fox is due soon. Brochures announcing the volume were mailed to fans everywhere

and it features a multi-color repro of an old Hagenbeck Wallace litho.

It is reported that Gypsy Gruss does an outstanding tightwire act (Circus Gruss in Paris), a unicycle act with a front walk-over and closing with a juggling act.

My thanks to Bill Hooper for the tape "Be A Clown" Bill is CFA Southern VP and reports that fans were proud of the Carson & Barnes Circus - a flashy and well put-together show.

Also thanks to Jim Forrest for the photos. Jim spent time visiting friends on the Circus Vargas show and thoroughly enjoyed it.

Many shows have strong Clown Alleys this year, including Beatty-Cole, RBBB Red and Circus Vargas, its something good to know and this is one reporter who's for that sort of thing. Too many producers cut the very thing the public brings their children to see - the clowns!

The 1979 CFA Convention will be held at Gettysburg (Pa). Each year it is getting harder and harder to top the previous convention.

PEOPLE

PEDRO CARILLO and a partner that joined him last year after an accident in Los Angeles, make up the current CARILLO BROS. high wire act, appearing on the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

The PIETRO CANESTRELLI Family visited Carson & Barnes No. 2 Unit at Devon, Alberta (Canada) when they worked the Klondike Days Exposition.

JEFF DAVIS and his sister DONNA were recently the guests of RON and ROXANNE WHITFIELD at Africa USA in Redwood City, Calif. Jeff reports that ADA SMEIYJA and her tigers were at the park.

BOB and PAULINE MacDOUGALL were the subjects of a special photo story in the Los Angeles (Calif.) Times.

JACK S. SMITH, veteran circus executive, who in recent years has been affiliated with the Royal Hanneford Circus, has retired due to ill health. He is now associated with the Tarpon Printing Service in Tarpon Springs, Fla., where he is helping to establish a new show printing division.

JOHN MOLINARI, former circus band leader, is on the road with an ice show.

JAN JOYNER's parents have been visiting her and LARRY JOYNER on Circus Vargas. They surprised Jan with a birthday cake which included decorations of Jan on the trapeze.

ALEX and SUZY ALEXANDER recently hosted a Disco Party on Circus Vargas which had everyone on the dance floor.

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No Money ?

Several acts that toured with a circus in California in May report they still have not received their pay for those dates.

One performer tells CR, "we all worked on partial pay with a promise that everything would be settled at the end of the tour. On the last day we were paid with a check and one day in cash and you guessed it, the checks bounced."

Another performer says "the producers check and personal promise have been bouncing ever since he gave them to me."

A phone call from one performer states: "There are many bad promoters running around who produce shows, pocket the money and to Hell with the acts. Why can't we use Circus Report to expose these pro-

motors and at least prevent other acts from getting this type of treatment. The money for my ad is in the mail."

a matter of fact

When the competition increased drastically Minstrel's added special features which were widely advertised in their advance publicity.

In 1850, Campbell's Minstrels featured a 10 ft. 3 in. African giant; George Christy's Minstrels had a 12 ft. African "the largest man in the world."

In 1857, Charley White's Minstrels featured a Dancing Turkey and Singing Cats, from Paris.

In 1870, an advertisement for a Minstrel show proclaimed the appearance of an 8 ft. 2 in. Chinese giant. The California Minstrels featured an "African dwarf", while another minstrel show featured a strongman who

permitted a 309 lb. stone to be broken on his chest with sledgehammers. Later he would bend iron bars.

Years later, August Schmidt, a champion wrestler and weight lifter traveled with a Minstrel troupe. The Lester and Allen's Big Minstrels and Cornet Band even featured John L. Sullivan.



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- King Arthur the Lion
Aug. 14-18 Tyson's Corner, Pa.
- Lin-Rich Animal Circus
Aug. 16-20 Springfield, Ohio
- Lipko's Comedy Chimps
Aug. 17-27 Louisville, Ky.
- Rodgers Tropical Bird Fantasy
Aug. 17-27 Louisville, Ky.
- Royal American Shows
to Aug. 20 Milwaukee, Wisc.
- Royal Lipizzan Stallions
Aug. 19-20 Seattle, Wash.
- Tip Top Shows
Aug. 17-20 Ellsworth, Wisc.
- Wild's Animal Attractions
Aug. 16-19 San Bruno, Calif.
- Steve Williams (Vent act)
Aug. 16-20 Toledo, Ohio

Show Acts

A circus program produced by Paul V. Kaye for the Santa Ana (Calif.) Stadium on July 23rd featured: The Circus Overture, directed by Don Heaston; Miss Coler and Miss Brayton, trapeze display; Pat Anthony and his lions and tigers; The Bishop Duo, aerial cradle; Clown number; Fay's Critters; Clifford's ponies; Princess Elena Omar, one finger stand; The Clowns; Aerial Ballet featuring Miss Dizzy Heights; Dynamic DeMille, tightwire; Clowns; Mademoiselle Ruth Ann, sponge dive; Intermission.

The second half included: The Yerkes, trampoline; Geza Szabo, juggler; The Mosleys, trampoline; Snyder American Albino Stallions; The Four Flying Cortez; Sebestyen's Parisian Poodles; Clowns; Bimbo, the wonder elephant; the Edmundo Troupe, high wire, followed by the exit march.

The show's ringmaster was John E. Day and Clown Alley included: Chris Bricker, Greg Dean, Neil Kay and Ken Miller.



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PEOPLE

DICK OSLUND reports he recently visited Franzen Bros. Circus and Carson & Barnes and at one time the two shows played just 15 miles apart.

ETHEL JENNIER and her dogs worked a date on Prince Edward Island (Aug. 7-12), then jumped into Rhode Island's Rocky Point, after which they go back into Canada to play at St. Johns, N.B., followed by dates in the Carolinas.

MARIE LOTER, retired show organist, has recovered from a heart attack, spent 3 months recuperating at her son's home (DICK LOTER) and is now back home in Texas. She would enjoy hearing from friends: Write her at: 2908 Hatfield Road, Pearland, Texas 77581.

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REVIEW

STEBBING ROYAL EUROPEAN CIRCUS

by Clarence Hastings

The Stebbing Royal European Circus played Ypsilanti (Mich) on July 29th, sponsored by the American Legion. Shows were at 2 and 8 p.m. with the matinee drawing a straw house and a good full house in the evening. The show was fast, clean and heavy with animals.

Circus ringmaster Col. Trevor Bale welcomed all Circus Fans during his introduction.

The program featured: Jon Stebbing with 5 lions, 2 tigers and a leopard; Carol Stebbing and Donise, web number; Bobby Stebbing and Miss Holly with Baby Lou the elephant; Bonnie Bale, cloud swing; Col. Trevor Bale with his dressage horse "Stardust"; John Stebbing's chimps; Bonnie Bale, with the high school horse "Playboy"; the Zippy bareback act, followed by John Stebbings and the circus elephants.

The two baby chimps that were born on the show are doing well. The youngest was presented in a walk around.

IN MEMORIAM

TOTIE FIELDS (48) stage comic died of a heart attack at her home in Las Vegas on Aug. 2nd. She was a popular star who frequently appeared on TV Talk shows and was scheduled to open at the Sahara Hotel in Vegas on Aug. 3rd. Survivors include her husband George Johnston and two daughters, Jody Childress and Debbie Johnston.

Miscellaneous

Carson & Barnes Circus (No. 1 Unit) is sporting a new big top which replaces the one that was lost in a bad blowdown sometime in June.

CIRCUS MUSIC FOR SALE

I have about 200 Numbers of Circus Music ORCHESTRATIONS and SMALL PRINT BAND ARRANGEMENTS - MARCHES, FOX TROTS' ONE STEPS' GALOPS - Most of this music is out of print - \$1.25 each Number or make an offer for the entire library.

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BOOKINGS

The following bookings have been arranged by Amandis Entertainment Service, 2236 Shadow Oaks Road, Sarasota, Fla. - 33582.

Aug. 15-20 - AK-Sar-Ben - Omaha, Nebr.

The Klementis
Willy Lenz
Chase and Park
The Elkins Sisters
The Rolling Diamonds
The Great Jr. Hortobagyi Troupe

Aug. 18-27 - Cen. Canada Exhibition, Ottawa

Barrie Sloan
The 5 Vickinas
Joe Philips
The Aguilars
Les Castros
Frank & Estreleta
(Still looking for a good Comedy Act for this date)

Aug. 24-Sept. 4 - Minn. State Fair, St. Paul, Minn.
Hanneford Thrill Circus

Bill McGuire - High Diver
Reynoso Bros.
The Great Bruno
The Quassars

Aug. 26-Sept. 4 - New York State Fair Thrill Show
Syracuse, New York

The Vashek Duo
Johnny Luxem
John Carney - High Diver
The Swaying Bilros
Miss Futuristic - Crater Crash

Aug. 22-23 - Rhinebeck Fair, Rhinebeck, New York

The Original Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan
Stallions Exhibition

Sept. 9 - Thrill Show - Kingston, New York

Danny Fleenor's Hell Driver Show
The Pablo Rodriguez Troupe
Willy Lenz Chimps

Sept. 13-17 - Eastern States Exhibition
(Produced by Wayne McCary)

Les Zerbinis
Miss Mayal
The Flying Vazquez

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The Fisher Bros. Circus, operated by Mel Silverlake, and currently playing in the mid-western area has been enjoying good business and nice reviews by local papers at each stop.

The show features: Neal Franzen and Susan with trained llamas and goats; Melvin Ray Silverlake and Bill Smith, clowns; Mel Ray and Bill, Canine Capers; Neal Franzen, with Lucy the chimp; Mel Ray and Mel, whips and rope spinning; Intermission with elephant rides.

The second half includes: Mike McGlaris, juggling; the Clowns; Neal Franzen and Bozo the educated dog; Clowns; Neal Franzen with Butch the elephant;

Talent

Acts appearing at the Napa (Calif.) Town and Country Fair on Aug. 2-6 included: Charlie Myrick, magician; Jody Miller, western singer; Joann Castle, pianist; the New Ink Spots, vocals and Sammy Hagan, rock star.

Special features at the fair were: the Happytime Circus, Dave Varder, of the film Star Wars, the Palace Family of magic and dance and the Blue Angels rock show.

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Miscellaneous

New Yorker magazine for June 26, 1978, has a cover drawing of a ferris wheel.

The Happytime Circus worked under an 80 ft. x 360 ft. tent at the fair in Santa Maria, Calif. The huge top uses 8 center poles.

The Kool Aid Circus, produced by Eddie Zacchini, is a feature at the Wisconsin State Fair in Milwaukee, which runs Aug. 10-20.



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MINNIE

"We didn't know that elephants
Could be such wonderful things"

..... Edgar Guest

Minnie is dead and there is the same vacant feeling inside as when a close friend passes away - and she was a friend.

Her age was estimated at 70 to 80 years and she was supposedly the oldest elephant in the country. She did her last show with Circus Vargas on March 11th, and the show gave her a final salute with most of us who knew her shedding tears - happy she could finally "retire" and sad she would be leaving us.

Minnie had trouped with the performing team of Minnie and Dolly in 1925, worked on Ringling and joined Circus Vargas in 1972. Arthritis and poor hearing finally slowed her down, though she could be as head strong and self-willed as any youngster when she wanted to be. The thumping of her trunk usually announced the approaching long mount as she led the herd around the track.

She will be fondly remembered when jackpots are cut up around the elephant tubs.

Goodbye Minnie, you were a fine lady.

..... Jan Joyner

Billy Barton (Continued)

I have at this writing.

GEORGE DA DEPPO tells me Carson & Barnes appearances for 3 days, sponsored by the Dearborn (Mich) Chamber of Commerce (and part of the CFA convention) was very successful. George says the CFA membership plans a party for the show when it returns to the area to play Monroe this month.

CIRCUS GIRARD opened at a shopping center on the north side of Cincinnati, right after the Firemen's Circus closed, and it was the show's final stand. Play-dates were July 19-22. Apparently the tour was not as successful as Gerard Soules had hoped and so he closed the show earlier than had been planned.

IAN and MICKEY GARDEN awoke Sunday morning July 23 to discover their kitchen flooded. A hose in the ice-maker had ruptured during the night. The water did extensive damage to the basement playroom, at least \$3000 worth to the broadloom carpeting alone.

See you down the road, luvv.

CATHY RIGBY, acrobatic star, is currently featured in a series of advertisements for the Simmons Beautyrest mattresses.

ATTENTION

We are currently updating our talent files. All acts, performers and clowns are invited to submit recent photos and details to:



P. O. Box 1570
Winter Park, Florida - 32790

Miscellaneous

Oakland, Calif., is expecting its worst traffic jam ever on Sept. 2nd, when "A Day On The Green" is featured at the Stadium and Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit is at the next door coliseum (both facilities use the same parking lot).

The elephants which were with the now closed Sells & Gray Circus are now touring with the Beatty-Cole Circus, as are several S&G personnel.

The Mason-Dixon Historical Society will hold its 16th annual Steam Roundup at Westminster, Md., on Sept. 7-10. A steam calliope will be featured at the event on the final two days.



by Mel Shields

"Chirrick was first seen here last month as opening act for Debbie Reynolds at the Nugget. He juggles volleyballs, twirling them on his fingers, bouncing them off his head, catching them as they fly up from his feet.

"In the midst of it all he does a few back and front flips. He also juggles three flaming batons . . . his closer of juggling five big volleyballs at once is excellent" (Copied from the paper 'Showtime' of Aug. 4, 1978, and Shield's column 'From the Audience.')



CIRCUS HALL OF FAME

by Bruce Gutilla

The show at the Circus Hall of Fame is one of the best ever presented there. Fourteen of the sixteen numbers are presented by the Chapman family. Danny Chapman presents several of his entree numbers, an act with his dog "Hogan", and numbers with the ringmaster.

Ten year old Ivy displays her wonder pony "Barnum" who does a combination of dressage, liberty, high school and comedy.

Starting in the show is daughter Debbie Chapman on the single trapeze, featuring her original spinning heel hang. Two members of the Sarasota High School Sailor Circus, Debbie Kelly and Gordon Howle participate in the Chapman revolving ladder, swinging ladder and an original web number with the web coming out of a basket in the shape of a cobra.

The show is beautifully rounded out with the risley act of Liliana Herrgott and Kurt Schiman's chimps.

MUSEUM GIFTS (Continued)

used in the act of trainer Terrell Jacobs) from Lief Osmundsen of Sarasota and two reels of film of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus from Herbert Duval of New York.

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