

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 50

December 14, 1981



Corky The Clown

Plans for 1982

Arrangements have been completed with Hoxie Tucker for the 1982 season which will have Allen C. Hill booking and managing the Great American Circus for the coming year. Jim Raab will be serving as the show's general agent.

Mr. Hill reports that plans are moving right along for what should be a good 1982 season. Some limited engagements are now available for the circus in east coast and southern states and sponsors are expected to be signed for these dates soon.

The circus will feature a full program with a 1 hour and 45 minute performance. This will include a variety of performers and animal acts, as well as several elephants.

Show Acts

The program for the Hubert Castle Circus performance at Chattanooga, Tenn., for the Alhambra Temple Shrine Circus (Nov. 6-8) lists the following acts.

Jungle Fantasy, webs; Tarzan Zerbini,

Mailroom

Circus Reports addressed to the following people have recently been returned by the Post Office who says they can no longer be delivered as addressed.

Mike Miller	Richard Ljungquist
James H. Gables	Philip Gale
John Rusche	Joseph Curran

lions and tigers; Clown Chase on the track; The Venturas, cradle; Kolmedys, juggling; Sampion, juggling; Antonios, juggling; Scotts Unrideable Mule; Gary Thomas and Baby Marie, elephant; Sylvia Zerbini, camels and llamas; Patricia Zerbini, Baby Bunny, elephant; Clowns Toby Ballantine and Lee Marx with the Long Shirt; The Horwath Chimps; Olmeda's Horse Display; Clowns and a Bull Fight; Marie France, Yorkshire Terriers; Miss Jacqueline, aerialist; Flying Larrays, trapeze act; Clowns in 'The Painters'; Antonios, bicycles; Enriques, Bicycle act; Scott's Royal Boxers; Billy Barton, in Cloud Swing; Gary Thomas and Patricia Zerbini, elephants; Grand Finale.

SHOW DATES

Big John's Tent Show
 Dec 12-13 Sierra Vista,
 Ariz.
 14 Douglas
 17 Luke Air Force
 18 Guadaloupe
 19 Salt River Project
 20 Motorola Co.
 — End of Tour —

Funs-A-Poppin Circus
 Dec 14 Oakland, Calif

No Elephant Circus
 Nov 28 White Plains, NY
 Dec 7 New York,
 13 Stamford, Conn.
 20 New York, NY

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
 Dec 14 Los Angeles, Cal.
 15 Woodland Hills
 18 Los Angeles
 — End of Tour —

--- MAGIC ---

Bill Birchfield
 Dec 14 Tonopah, Nev.
 15 Bishop, Calif.
 16 So. Lake Tahoe
 17 Minden, Nev.
 19 Truckee
 20 Carson City
 — End of Tour —

Magic Clown - Jim Russell
 Dec 15-18 San Juan, P. R.

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
 Dec 14 Gettysburg, Pa.
 15 Granville
 16 DuBois
 17 Phillipsburg
 18 Johnstown
 19 Altoona
 — End of Tour —

Tom Ogden
 Dec 16 Pottstown, Pa.

Dick Oslund
 Dec 20 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Mike Phillips & Tricia
 Dec 7 Greenville, SC
 12-13 Atlantic City, NJ
 19 Asbury Park
 20 Trenton

--- OTHER DATES ---

Big John's Xmas Show
 Dec 9 Anaheim, Cal.
 10 San Bernardino
 13 Phoenix, Ariz.
 16 Albuquerque, NM
 19 San Antonio, Tex
 20 Houston
 21 Austin
 22 Ft. Worth
 — End of Tour —

Big John's Xmas Show
 Dec 12 Kansas City, Mo.
 13-14 St. Louis
 15 Indianapolis, Ind
 17 Des Moines, Iowa
 18 Omaha, Nebr.
 20-21 Denver, Colo
 23 Salt Lake City,
 Utah
 — End of Tour —

Bruce 'Charlie' Johnson
 Dec 4 Lynwood, Calif
 6 Downey
 12 Lakewood
 13 South Gate

Speaking of . . .

by JIM PARKER

Things are really humming at Gee Gee Engesser's winterquarters located just south of Gibsonton, Fla., a few blocks off U. S. 41. Gee Gee is working like crazy to get things ready for her elephants to make the Mexico City tour with Ed Migley's Circus Odyssey, which opens Dec. 11th for a nine week run.

Without a doubt, her three bulls - Gee Gee, Roxy and Schell - will be the best dressed elephants in the business as Gee Gee, Holly Gold, Al Jones and Elaine Sloanin have been stitching and bitching for weeks now, making head pieces and leg bands. So far they have finished over ten complete sets of head pieces and leg bands, three to each set. Beautiful, heavy jewelled and circusy can best describe her ornate trappings for the pachyderms.

Elaine matched each set with complete new wardrobe for her and trainer Roy Wells. Her new sewing room is filled with bolts of material, rhinestones and thread by the yard

and endless hours of hard work far into the wee hours of the morning are really paying off.

In addition to wardrobe and trappings, Gee Gee is also having Roy Wells build a new elephant/pony semi at Jim Windland's Circus Winterquarters a few miles up the road. In a hurry to meet the Thanksgiving Day departure from quarters to the border where they will cross into Mexico at Brownsville, Texas, Roy and his crew have been working almost around the clock.

Roy recently took delivery on a new 35 ft. "Covered Wagon" 5th wheeler living quarters for himself and Gee Gee is driving about in a new 1982 white and blue Chevy station wagon.

In addition to Mexico City, Gee Gee's bulls will be making the Puerto Rico, Wilkes-Barre and Boston dates for Ed Migley, as well as returning to Parc Safari in Canada for the 1982 season. The only time she has off is from May 3rd to June 15th.

Gee Gee's mother, Mrs. Vates Engesser, has been performing secretarial duties while Gee Gee has been out in the sewing room "directing"! Gee Gee will fly to Mexico City for a brief visit from Dec. 9th to 14th.

A recent arrival at the Engesser winterquarters is Alan and Holly Gold, who just came in from a five week engagement with Circus Vargas, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Al and Holly recently acquired two more young tigers, giving them a total of five tigers and four lions for their act. Last year they made their debut into the circus world and in addition to Circus Vargas, they have appeared with the 1981 edition of Bentley Bros. Circus, and also spot-dated. For 1982 they will be appearing with the Medina Temple Shrine Circus in Chicago. Al and Holly's love for their cats certainly can be seen by the immaculate condition of their equipment and stock. The animals are just beautiful and at peak condition. I certainly hope their 1982 calendar will be full as this new, young couple and their cats are an asset to this business.

Last week (Nov. 19-20) the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus played Sarasota and as was expected, a large number of kinkers turned out to visit and enjoy the big tent. The show played the Dog Track and open-

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(Continued on Page 19)



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B-C Gives up tent

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus whose billing proclaimed it as the "Largest Circus Under The Big Top" has announced it will no longer travel with its tent, but instead will move indoors. The show is scheduled to open its 1982 season in early March.

Circus officials said the huge tent was just too cumbersome to carry around. The operation was described as having been too expensive and too inefficient.

Starting next year, show officials said, the circus will move indoors, with performances presented in arenas and coliseums. It will continue to be a three ring performance with acrobats, clowns, animals and trapeze artists.

In Memoriam

GENEIVE LERCHE (79) died Nov. 17th at a Bilbane, Ohio, hospital, following a long illness. She was born in Corry, Pa., and she and her late husband toured with many old time circuses, and also appeared in vaudeville

In Memoriam

JEAN P. "Miss Jeannie" CARSON (89) died Nov. 24th at a care home in Sarasota, Fla. Born in Moncton, N.B., Canada, she came to Chester, Pa., and then moved to Florida in 1926. She was a showgirl and wardrobe mistress with Ringling-Barnum from 1916 to 1974, when she retired at the age of 82. In addition to her wardrobe duties she was a dancer and elephant rider with the circus.

GEORGE R. "Russ" MANNING (52) illustrator of the 'Tarzan' comic strip for many years, died Dec. 1st at the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach, Calif., after a long fight with cancer.

Manning drew the Tarzan comic books for many years before taking over the illustration of the comic strip for the Edgar Rice Burroughs Corp. He drew the daily strip for three years, then worked only on the Sunday edition for nine years. At one time he included some circus personalities in the popular comic strip.

Manning also drew the comic strip "Star Wars" but dropped his syndicated work in 1979 after becoming ill.

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PEOPLE

FRANK DEAN known for many years for his roping and whip cracking and other Western type acts has added another facet to his many talents. He recently competed in the nation-wide Wrangler Country Starsearch contest. He sang a rodeo song he had written titled "Mr. Cowboy Meets Miss Fortune" to good applause, but was not one of the two winners that were chosen. State winners will be competing in Nashville.

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Holiday Tour

Mike Martin's "Holiday Magic Show" opened it's holiday tour on Nov. 30th and closed Dec. 12th.

Featured in the show were: Col. Jerry Lipko's Comedy Chimps; Doris Schappacher's Unrideable Mule; Bagley's Comedy Goats; John Kane as "Eggroll" the show clown; Showgirls/Assistants Simone and Sabrina Perry and Mike Martin, show manager, announcer, Magic and Illusions.

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German Park

by 'Circus Joe' VALENCIANO

Phantasieland of Germany, a major attraction, is similar to our Disneyland parks. Located just south of Koln and north-west of Frankfurt, the park is smaller than Walt Disney World, but very nice. They have rides of all kinds and sections with themes, such as: The Wild West, Hawaii, China Town and a complete miniature city of Old Berlin complete with the Brandenburger Tor and the well-known Winter Garten Theatre.

When you enter the park it is the main street of Berlin with shops, restaurants and the theatre. You can walk or ride the horse drawn cable cars or the double decker buses. The Winter Garten has live entertainment and the interior is just like the real one.

The park has two lakes, one of which contains a big three masted pirate ship. A steam engine train and a Monorail travel throughout the area.

Other features include: A dolphin show, Silver City, which is a complete old-style western town, behind that is a huge roller coast with mountain-type scenery, and there is also a Spanish village and much more, and fancy restaurants in all places.

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In Memoriam

PAULINE B. LORETTA (83) one of the Loretta Twins, died Oct. 19th in Los Angeles, Calif. at the Martin Luther King Hospital.

She had been married to George Novikoff (aerialist) and to Charles Smith (vaudevilian), but left no heirs except her sister Ora N. Ernst of Schertz, Texas.

The Loretta Twins toured with most of the famous mud shows of the turn of the century, including Cole Dog & Pony Show, Gentry Bros., Yankee-Robinson, Dode Fisk, Mollie Bailey, as well as with Sells Floto, Wirth and Barnum & Bailey. They were world recognized Triple Horizontal Bar performers and were considered to be the best there was in this difficult and strenuous class of acrobatics.

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Art Exhibit

by JIM BROWN

A number of CFA members, with friends and admirers, attended the opening of an Exhibit at Robinson's Red Door Gallery, Morro Bay, Calif., which featured the work of Chang Reynolds. Those attending were surprised and pleased with the work hanging on the walls. Chang has completed a goodly collection of dry brush drawings, as well as water colors, acrylics and oils featuring the circus.

His animals, mostly elephants it seemed, were largely done in the dry brush technique and were outstanding. His elephants were detailed to the nth degree. One almost expected to have the pachyderms reach out and beg for peanuts! Or at least, go into their routine.

Other works included portraits of clowns whom he has sketched over the years. These were painted using both oils and acrylic media. The make-up and colors were well done. The portrait of Emmett Kelly literally took

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your breath away. I thought, for a moment, Emmett was there staring back in a mirror.

Some "backyard" drawings were extremely life-like, with wagons sparkling like the first day out of winter quarters. One beautiful water color featured the "wild west section" of a spec waiting in the backyard to go in. The horses were excellent, with every detail of equipment of the horses and riders exactly as they should be.

No stranger to the circus, of course, Chang Reynolds has caught the essence of the circus under canvas (as it should be) within the frames of his art work. His work well deserves to be hung in the most prestigious of the art museums.

PEOPLE

RON and JOY HOLIDAY were featured in the Nov. 13th issue of Viva Las Vegas, with a picture and story about their act which is currently appearing at the Flamingo Hilton in Las Vegas.



PHIL SHEAR appeared at Lou Adler's (producer of the Rocky Horror Picture Show and owner of the Roxy Theatre) 10th annual "Tiny Bopper Halloween Party Cartoons in Space Odyssey Ball at the Roxy."

He was the opening act in the show, and, he was also the resident make-up artist for the occasion, making up 41 people in outer space make-up in a 2½ hour period of time.

Phil, who is also known as "Philippe" is currently completing a course of study at the Kay Brown School of Beauty in Hollywood. He expects to be licensed by March 1982, with the State of California, to practice all aspects of hair and skin care as well as advanced make-up techniques.

Phil continues to perform in the greater Los Angeles area as "Philippe."

PEOPLE

MIKE CLARK, wild animal trainer, has added a tiger to his lion act. The new animal has been named "Pumpkin."

SPEAKING OF (Continued)

ing night was filled with circus greats in the audience and as a special treat, Mr. Circus - Merle Evans, lead the band.

The show made an impressive sight on the grassy lot and considering it was almost the end of the season, the physical equipment was in very good condition. It would be impossible to name all of those in the business who came out, but the management provided a very friendly atmosphere for those who visited, making them feel really welcome.

As usual, Jimmy James was at his peak as Ringmaster and kept the show moving at a rapid pace. Jim Windland's side show has the most professional looking group of people of any side show on the road. All have exceptional wardrobe as there is nothing more disgusting to me than to see side show folks work in street clothes, so it was a real treat to see such flash on the bally platform as well as inside the menagerie/side show tent.

A special thank you to Jimmy James, Tim Stinson, John Pugh, Jim Windland and all

of Clown Alley for making me feel so much at home.

Reviews of the actual program for the Beaty-Cole show have appeared throughout the season, so there is no need to repeat it as it remained intact.

'82 Plans

Several new performers will be joining the Big John Strong Circus operation for the upcoming 1982 season. The tent show will open Feb. 26th in Yucaipa, Calif., and just prior to that will make a special Feb. 6-7 date in Arizona.

New acts signed for the 1982 season will include: Curtis Kid Canan with his wife Sherry, dog act, tightwire, juggling and revolving ladder, plus Tina and Brian Grieser

Some changes will also be made in the general operating staff of the tented circus with Robert 'Red' Johnson serving as general manager; Phil Kavanaugh, assistant manager; Bill Grieser, boss canvasman; Chris Kennington, office and Ralph Greco, marketing director for press, radio and TV.

The Blackstone Show

by DAN WALDRON

The current tour of the Blackstone Magic Show appears geared to such locations as Powers Center here on the campus of the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) where it played two performances Nov. 25th. The shows were at 5:30 and 8 p.m.

The Thanksgiving eve date saw a turnout largely of kids with parents. The show itself is light, minus the heavy illusions of the big theatrical version, but still a good two hours long. Harry gets full mileage from every effect, beginning with the Vanishing Birdcage, going on to another Blackstone classic, Dancing Hankerchief ("A real live spirit with muscles"), the Borrowed Watch routine which finds timepiece on neck of bunny in bottle, making natural segue into Boy and Rabbit (in this case a spunky girl and rabbit), then the only cabinet illusion in the show, Zig Zag, done in leisurely style complete with that great rarity, acknowledgement to originator Robert Harbin; and

then the Asrah levitation to close the first half of the show.

Instead of intermission, however, comes "guest artist" Mike Marlin, the juggler. His easy banter, bright satin wardrobe, and effortless work with balls, cigar boxes, and, finally, chiffon squares brought a big hand.

Blackstone resumed with spectacular Floating Lightbulb which includes the breath-taking swoop of the lighted globe right into the audience; continued with "Fastest Trick in the World" which combines card, ropetie, and pickpocket work with a whole platform of audience "volunteers" onstage; and finished with the socko baffler, "The Old Man With The Whiskers" which leaves onlookers agog at impossible transposition of the magician.

Harry was onstage almost continuously, assisted from time to time by one girl - his wife, Gay. Two men also worked in the show. Sense of a bigger production, with more people, was heightened by extensive use of audience participation. Nearly every trick used it - even Zig Zag. Only Asrah and "The Old Man" did not.

Musical director traveling with troupe was Mark Wise who presided at electric keyboard and conducted the other 8 pit musicians in live (and lively) score. The show was done against black drapes; only special drop was dazzler curtain against which Asrah took place.

Blackstone's continuously amusing patter, complete audience control, pleasing baritone voice and ability to make it all sound fresh and spontaneous makes it possible for him to do this kind of show and leave the crowd feeling satisfied. In other hands it might not work. With him you feel you have been pleasantly entertained for the better part of an evening.

Wisely, this show has been steering clear of the big cities and big theatres where its more opulent incarnation would be expected. Until that welcome event occurs - a questionable possibility in this day of outlandish operating costs - it is good to see once again some of the gems that have long ornamented the Blackstone repertoire.

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Something Special

by CURTIS G. KNISELY

On Friday, Nov. 6th, 75 members and friends of CFA Tent No. 127 attended the Shrine Circus as conceived and produced by the Royal Hanneford Circus in Baltimore, Md., Civic Center. Outstanding circus acts were enjoyed by the Tent group along with a large and responsive audience. After the show, the tent members and friends were cordially received in the backyard by the Hanneford family and other circus folks. Adding sparkle to the occasion was the presence of two great ladies of the circus, Erna Rudynoff and Katherine Hanneford.

On Saturday, Nov. 7th, the Erna and Rudy Rudynoff Tent No. 127 CFA and Rudynoff Family Ring No. 60 CMB held their fourth annual banquet at the Mt. Herbon High School in Ellicott City, Md. Sixty-three members and guests enjoyed a bountiful buffet dinner in a dining room filled with circus decorations and interesting displays.

President E. Clark Beurlen introduced the program which featured John McConnell, assistant to the producer of the Royal Hanneford Circus and author of the new biography of the Hanneford family, titled "A Ring, A Horse, and A Clown". McConnell told of his experiences in joining the circus and of the research and work that were involved in writing his book about the Hanneford family.

At the end of his talk, John McConnell provided a real "first" experience for all present by showing the World Premiere of his motion picture "A Ring, A Horse, and A Clown." The picture depicts the Hanneford Family history and tradition with the circus and shows the training and work that goes into producing a new show each season. This excellent film was enthusiastically received and enjoyed by everyone.

President Beurlen then introduced another honored guest, Struppi Hanneford, who told of how she started performing with the circus. She graciously answered questions which revealed the varied rolls that she has played during her exciting and very successful career.

In appreciation of Struppi Hanneford and John McConnell taking time from their busy

PEOPLE

BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON has been doing some clowning on the Southern California community parade circuit, for Pageantry Productions. He also recently appeared at Lakewood City Mall in conjunction with an appearance by clown artist RON LEE. Ron is working on a figurine of Charlie which will be gold plated and sold through jewelry shops and gift shops.

HAROLD MISER, who is connected with the Peru City Circus Festival, Peru, Ind., recently visited with the ADEN LOWRY's in Sedan, Kansas.

DR. SUSAN FREIBAND, director of the Hertzberg Circus Project, had 2,500 souvenir wooden nickels made up for part of the advertising program for the collection of circus material housed in the San Antonio Public Library. (Collectors could write her at: Hertzberg Circus Collection, San Antonio Public Library, 203 South St. Mary's St., San Antonio, Tx. 78205.

schedule to share an evening with their fans and friends, the Tent and Ring presented gifts to the guest speakers.

Among those attending the banquet were Erna Rudynoff, for whom the Tent and Ring derive their name, her son Rudy, and his wife Beverly and their son Scott. Also present were two CFA past presidents, John Phillips and James Hartman, as well as District Four Director Shirley Ryon and District Fifteen Director Frank L. Ball, Jr. The tents represented were Felix Adler Tent No. 12, Robert Dover Tent No. 112, Emmett Kelly Tent No. 41 and Frank McClosky Tent No. 133.

In appreciation of his service as the second president of Tent No. 127, an award was presented to Vice President Howard W. Adams, Jr.

Tent No. 127 and Ring No. 60 wish to thank the many circuses and museums who contributed door prizes. Robert Weigel presided over the drawings for the numerous door prizes which completed a wonderful evening filled with circus atmosphere and joy.

Do You Remember?

by TED La Velda

When La Monte Bros. Circus wintered in Salem, Ill., in the early 1920's — Singer Br. Circus, owned by Tom McLaughlin and Pat Kelly showed through the mid-west about that same time.

Burling Bros. Circus, owned and managed by E. C. Burlingame, wintered and opened in New Martinsville, W. Va. in 1949.

Riggs & Riggs Circus, was owned and operated by Dudley and Lillian Riggs, playing through the mid-west in the 1930's.

Norris Bros. Circus, owned by Bud E. Anderson, showed through Kansas and Colorado in 1938.

Lion Bros. Circus, owned by Harry Bray in the 1920's, showed in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota.

McCalls Dog & Pony Show was operating in the 1930's, owned by Ernie McCall who also trained the animals.

Birnum Bros. Circus was owned by Bill Griffith. The show wintered in San Antonio, Texas, in the 1960's.

Barr Bros. Circus in 1946 was owned by 'Doc' L. B. Ford and 'Big Bill' Myers. They had a short season.

Fuller Bros. Circus, wintered in Hastings, Nebr., and was owned and operated by Charles and Luther Fuller.

Webster Bros. Circus was owned and managed by Bob and Mari Jo Couls.

PEOPLE

JERRY LIPKO and his Comedy Chimps will be in Puerto Rico for Dec. 14 thru Jan. 6th.

STU MILLER recently took delivery on a third lion for his big Magic Time USA show.

Super Sunday

by HARRY ALBACKER

The Showmen's Super-Sunday is now History and it turned out to be the biggest event ever staged for show folks and fund raisers, in Western Penna. The event was sponsored by the Independent Showmen of Western Pennsylvania.

The Committees looking for Carnivals and Circuses began arriving at ten in the morning although Super-Sunday wasn't scheduled to start until 1 p.m. The early birds received a free Continental breakfast compliments of the exhibitors.

In all 28 exhibitors were on hand for the one-day event and their motto was: "If you can't do it in one day; you can't do it in three either!" The buyers bought the idea and enjoyed shopping for Shows on Sunday. Everyone was in a happy mood and plenty of contracts were signed.

Super-Sunday will be repeated in 1982, in November, plus the organization will have a "Book-By-Mail" directory going out to



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buyers on Jan, 1, 1982.

The organization also voted to have, or sponsor, a Haunted House in Oct. 1982, with the proceeds going to the Showmen's charities.

The very, very successful Showmen's Super-Sunday was sponsored by the Independent Showmen's Club of Western Pennsylvania. (210 new members were signed up at this meeting of outdoor show people).

Billy Gunga held the record for "bookings" and left with a briefcase full of contracts for his Circus Kamala. Other attractions did great such as Paul Hoskinson's "Animals of Distinction."

PEOPLE

EDDIE MEKKA, star of the TV Show "Laverne & Shirley" was featured in the show "Circus of the Stars" where he became a human cannonball, catapulted 100 feet into a safety net.