

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year

Number 37

September 14, 1981



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Franzen Bros.

by CLARENCE HASTINGS

Franzen Bros. Circus played the Genesee County Fair in Mt. Morris, Mich., Aug. 16-22. On Aug. 22nd, the Joel Warner Tent of the CFA held its annual picnic in the backyard of the circus, with over a hundred members and friends attending. During the same session the Dorothy Herbert Tent held their annual election of officers.

Franzen Bros. Circus was brought to Grass Lake, Mich., Aug. 25, by the Lions Club. It was the first first circus to play there in fifteen years, the last show being Clark and Walters.

The 6 p.m. show drew a full house with about 15 people sitting on the ground. The acts were met with thunderous applause from Lynn Michael's opening whistle to the very end. The 8 p.m. show was near capacity.

Comments from the spectators were - what a great circus they had seen.

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Mini Circus

BY PAULA BRADLEY

As a recent visitor to the Lewiston, Maine, Fair, Aug. 9-15th, I was delighted by two performances of the New England Mini Circus. This amazing show was a part of Billy Burr's Fun-O-Rama and was complete with scenery, a ring curb and delightful costuming. It was the creation of entertainer Roger DuBois, who himself performed.

The show opened with a dynamite single trapeze act, Jo-Anne Jennier, followed by Rolandey's Juggling act that featured Roland Marcelli and Janet, then Jim Davis' Little Hobos, dog act, Roger DuBois doing a plate spinning act, Marcelli & Janet, wire act, followed by Lipko's Comedy Chimps, of "World Wide Attractions" and as a grand finale - the Great DuBois in a single trapeze act that culminated in a spectacular fireworks display.

Attendance on the night I was there was especially high for a Monday night, and continued all week to capacity crowds. It was as enjoyable a night as ever was spent at a fair, thanks to this well-produced Mini Circus.

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Show Dates

- Bauer-Hall All Star Circus
to Nov. 1 Jackson, NJ
- Beatty-Cole Circus
Sep 14-15 Denison, Texas
16-18 Waco
- Carson & Barnes Circus
Sep 14-20 Cleveland, Ohio
- Castle Int'l Circus
Sep 16 Gallup, NM
17 Farmington
19 Silver City
20 Las Cruces
- Circus Arts Troupe
Sep 16-19 Lubbock, Tex.
- Hoxie Bros. Circus
Sep 14 Beardstown, Ill.
15 Lincoln
16 Springfield
17 Harrisburg
18 Owensboro, Ky
19 Elizabethtown
20 Bowling Green
- Pickle Family Circus
Sep 15-20 Watsonville, Ca.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red
Sep 17-20 Portland, Ore.
- Royal Crown Circus
Sep 16-18 Council Bluffs, Ia
- Royal Hanneford Circus
Sep 15 Columbia, SC
- Royal Imperial Circus
Sep 15 Cedar Point, Utah
17 St. George
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Sep 17 Forest Grove, Ore.
18 Salem
19-20 Mt. Angel
- Swan Bros. Circus
Sep 17-20 Lodi, Calif.
- TNT & Royal Olympic
Sep 16-20 Chicago, Ill.

---- MAGIC ----

- Corky's Magic Circus
Sep 13 Savannah, Ga.
16 Atlanta
18-20 Charlotte, NC
- Krystali
Sep 16-20 Ft. Worth, Tex.
- Manzini
Sep 14 Fishkill, NY
- Starfire
Sep 16-17 Provo, Utah
18-19 Orem
- Tannen's Magic Jubilee
Sep 18-20 Loch Sheldrake,
NY

--- OTHER DATES ---

- Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Sep 13-19 Norway, Me.
- James H. Drew Exposition
Sep 14-19 Cartersville, Ga.
- Bobby and Rosa Gibbs
Sep 15 Columbia, SC
- Poco Plus . .
to Sep 20 Des Moines, Ia.
- Royal Horse Fair
Sep 4-19 San Mateo, Calif.
- Joe Schmitt, Jr. - Clown
Sep 19 Muenster, Texas
- Scott's Medicine Show
Sep 15 Ottawa, Ont.
- Tip Top Shows - Blue
Sep 16-20 Viroqua, Wisc.
- Tip Top Shows - Green
Sep 18-20 Blair, Wisc.
- Walnut Festival
Sep 17-20 Walnut Creek, Ca.

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Lots Send Cards

Elephant trainer Steve Fanning is recuperating from both a heart attack and cancer at his sister's home at 135 W. Madison Ave., Milton, Wisc. 53563.

Sabu Moreau, elephant historian, is recovering from a blood clot in his leg. His wife, Betty, is improving from her serious thyroid problem. They are at home at: 1807 - 18th St., Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

They would appreciate cards and letters.

Clown Troupe

Toby Twist & Co., has been working mall dates in the Dakotas, with 8 clowns in a full self-contained show. They are presently on a five week tour.

Included with the group are: Toby Twist, Toby C. Ballantine, Jan Ballantine, Tracy and Tammy Ballantine, Billy Ballantine, Twinkles the Clown and Steve Layton (Dr. Tonio).

The show travels on 3 sleeping units and a prop truck.

Circus Visit

by Rich Deptula

Circus Fan Rich Deptula and his family traveled some five hours from Lorain, Ohio, to catch the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus in Morgantown, W. Va.

The trip was not in vain, as the show was a most welcome sight with its setting high atop a hill at a local shopping center with a beautiful view of the rolling hills of West Virginia.

We had a nice visit with clowns Sandy Kozik and Mike Snider, ringmaster Jimmy James, Side Show manager Jim Windland, elephant trainer Fred Logan, wild animal trainer Dave Hoover and Lois and Cherie Cunningham, the mail agent.

The show looked great so far into the season and all the performers have outstanding wardrobe, and it is a strong performance, with a band that is really tops.

We were sorry that we were only able to spend one performance with the show because of a 4:30 performance and the long ride back home.

A special thanks to all of the above for the hospitality shown us on a most truly beautiful and real circus.

Western States Based Acts Wanted

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ATTENTION - Will the following acts call immediately and leave number where you can be called back.

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ALSO want good producing clown with an alley of five clowns, prefer European style clowns if possible.

- SEND PHOTOS AND PRICES AT ONCE -

WANT ACTS FOR DATE IN DECEMBER
Also dates to follow after the first of the year.

CFA Notes

by DON SANDMAN

The Harold Barnes Tent CFA had their meeting on Aug. 15th at Warren and Donna Downing's home. It was a picnic and swimming party along with the regular meeting.

Thirty-one CFA's answered the roll call and enjoyed the hospitality of the Downings.

Our annual election of officers was held at this meeting and Warren Downing was elected President. Larry Lyons was elected vice president; Smiley Brewer, treasurer and Don Sandman, secretary. Our out-going president Agnes King, turned the Bull Hook over to the new president.

National CFA President Jim Saunders, a member of the Harold Barnes Tent ran the election and then acted as auctioneer as the tent held it's annual Circusiana Auction to aid the tent treasury.

In Memoriam

VEDA KRAMIEN NOBEL (74) died recently at her home in West Linn, Oregon. She was the mother of magician Stan Kramien, and in her early days she travelled with her son's show. She was well known by show people all over the U. S., and is survived by her son, a grandson and a great grand daughter.

Marketing Promo

by GEORGE BIRD

Jeff Chalmers and Dave Niklasson, marketing directors for the Franzen Bros. Circus, arrived in the Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor (Mich) area on Monday, Aug. 17th, for a three day stay to promote the upcoming visit of the circus. They did three free circus previews each day in a local shopping mall which attracted good crowds.

The preview show itself, which runs about 35 minutes and features the balancing skills of Mr. Chalmers, is a strong one, professionally presented. As an added feature both Chalmers and Niklasson applied clown make up to kids who then became clowns for a day (and walking advertisements for the circus!).

Both men proved to be extremely skilled in working with the smaller children and made lots of friends for the circus. This is an excellent addition to the Franzen promotion, entertaining and high class in every way, and makes the sponsors' job much easier.

The Franzen show is also using quantities of brightly colored old-fashioned lithos which attract much favorable attention and really help sell the advance.

A 6' x 9' edition of Charles Livingston Bull spectacular tiger, originally done in 1915 for R.B.B.B., perhaps the most famous of all circus posters, is truly sensational. The Franzens are doing a first class job of promoting their show.

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The Human Target

by 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

SEBASTIAN! THE HUMAN TARGET!
The man who catches a bullet in his teeth, has just signed a contract to appear at Kansas City, Mo., in the "Bartle Expo Hall". The date was handled by the D. William Shilling Agency, and Sebastian will be presenting the act as a feature of the sports show there on Feb. 2-7.

The bullet catch has been exhibited at a number of sports shows around the country and in circuses, civic centers, stadiums, night clubs, casinos and on TV. His credits include: The Philadelphia Civic Center in conjunction with the "Famous Hunt Circus" during May 1978, and before that he was featured in the Albuquerque, N. M., Sport Show in Feb. 1978.

In 1979, Sebastian went to the west, appearing in Vegas at Circus Circus. In the fall season of 1980, he toured with the King Bros. Circus. Following this south-eastern tour, he and his longtime marksman broke up, to go their own ways.

Now Sebastian has revamped his bullet catch thriller. At each date a police officer marksman is selected at random. The officer is told to use his own bullets. The Great Sebastian is the only man to do it this way, today - His own unique way!

Incidentally, Sebastian, the real showman that he is, believes in the old saying "The Show Must Go On". In January he had a date at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich., where he did the act with a broken leg in a cast from ankle to above the knee, walking with crutches. This was also a sports show booked by D. William Shilling.

PEOPLE

W. E. (Shotgun) PAGE, former show owner, celebrated his 72nd birthday on Aug. 25th.

TOM INABINETTE, former advance man with the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, is recuperating at home after having had a leg amputated. His address is: 1706 Division St., Greenville, Texas 75401.

McMILLAN TO PARK

Internationally acclaimed wild animal trainer David McMillan, will debut on Sept. 23 at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World with his deadly and dangerous fabulous Flying Tiger Act, the largest feline show in the world.

This stupendous show, featuring 16 Siberian and Royal Bengal tigers, two African lions, two black panthers and one Indian spotted leopard, will hold audiences spellbound, according to James G. Murphy, President and Chief Operating Officer at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World.

McMillan, who ran away to join the circus at 14, in his native Liverpool, England, will headline the Circus Spectacular, a large scale production with a cast of more than 40 internationally famous entertainers depicting the colorful pageantry of the American circus.

When he walks into the Big Cage the incredible animal master will carry no guns or whips. He controls his snarling collection of carnivores with love and affection.

"They do not work by fear," says the handsome trainer. "You catch more with honey (he commented than by using fear tactics). I work through the stomach by using food as a reward . . . then love, attention and consistency. It's just like you would treat a child."

Circus Photos

CIRCUS PHOTOS - 8 x 10"

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- 1 - Aerial view of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey winter quarters in Sarasota 1926 - 1960.
- 2 - Winter quarters scene 1926 - 1960
- 3 - Winter quarters scene inside practice building 1926 - 1960
- 4 - Aerial view Ringling Fire (1944) at Hartford, Conn.
- 5 - Ground view of Ringling Fire at Hartford, Conn. (1944).

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CIRCUS PHOTOS

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VISIT TO HOME TOWN

When Carson & Barnes Circus played Holdredge, Nebr., Bruce "Charlie" Johnson had his own cheering section. It was the first time he had been to his home town in nearly 20 years, and he had many relatives in the audience.

Among those in the audience was the wedding party of his cousin Cindy Swanson, who had been married the night before at Holdredge. She donated a layer of her wedding cake to the circus cookhouse.

After the two matinees Bruce went to a family get-together of his father's relatives. The day before he attended a family get-together of his mother's relatives in Kearney.

Throughout Colorado, Nebraska and Iowa, Charlies visited with relatives he had not seen in 20 years, and met relatives he had never seen before.

JEFFERSON, OHIO FAIR

A Mini-Circus produced by Variety Attractions for the Ashtabula County Fair, in Jefferson, Ohio, gave two shows daily for large crowds, despite some heavy rains and other bad weather.

Show ran as follows: Don Bridwell (Whizzer the clown), intro and "bigger balloon"; Annie and Her Soldier, hand balancing; Whizzer with clown magic act; The Bakers (Gary Baker and Vicky Hendricks) perch act; Whizzer, balloon sculpture act; Grinn & Barrett, comedy casting act, and Whizzer with comedy chalk talk act. Show ran 50 minutes.



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Chimp Stolen

A \$1500 reward has been offered for the return of a baby chimp stolen from Monkey Jungle and/or information leading to the arrest of the thief.

The chimp's name is Leone. She is a female with a right incisor tooth missing. She is 1½ years old, weighs 15 lbs, and was born at Monkey Jungle and raised there by the facility's director.

Leone was taken from her cage at about 2 p.m. on Aug. 30th. It is believed she may have been drugged since she is a temperamental animal and dislikes strangers.

Visitors at Monkey Jungle report seeing a man carrying a tennis bag from the park to a car, where the bag's contents were transferred to another bag. He then drove off in a late model GM sedan. The tennis bag was discarded in the parking lot.

Anyone having information about Leone is asked to call: 303 - 235 - 1611, Monkey Jungle, 14805 S. W. 216th St., Miami, Fla.

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Hoxie Bros.

by ALTON L. JONES

Hoxie Bros. Circus moved into Hartford City, Ind., for two shows on Aug. 19th, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. The show was held at the Blackford County 4-H Fairgrounds, with performances at 6 and 8 p. m.

It started with a rousing old fashioned Circus Music, which prepared for the Circus on Parade. Then came the equilibrists on bikes, unicycles and they astonished the crowd with their antics. The bertloffs gave a very interesting array of acrobatic athletics and then Randow's Chimps took over with monkey shine madness and it was really that. The children did not seem to want them to be moved out. Holveck & Co., monarchs of magic and his mystic maiden were next, and were followed by clowns with their zany antics.

The lovely Spanish web exponents took over with a great display of ability. This was followed by Pochina, whose trapeze acts were most interesting. Mike Rice then presented the elephants in some new acts, at least to us.

Following intermission was Miss Andromeda and her act of balancing and exquisite equilibrium. Then Mike Rice, showed a

mammoth horse and a petite horse which obeyed every command of their trainer, and was followed by a canine jockey to everyone's pleasure.

Miss Que Yen Chang, with her hair suspension had everyone marvelling how she could do it. She was really the Pearl of the Orient.

Next came Random's Canines, a display of Russian Wolfhounds, Doberman Pinchers and Greyhounds who all performed in top notch splendor.

After this Holveck & Co., again mystified the audience with their cersion of the metamorphosis. The next to last act was the elephants with James Crawford putting them thru an amazing routine. The final act was of Col. James Crawford was the exhibition of the only single male elephant that performs on any circus, so they tell us.

The hospitality shown by John Lewis was appreciated very much by this writer.

Lets Send Cards

PERCY TURNER, of Turner Bros. Circus suffered a stroke last month and is now recuperating at: Sharp Rehabilitation Center, 7901 Frost St., San Diego, Calif. 92123.

PETE MUSTARD (Circus Clown Doodler) is recuperating from a cancer operation and mail can be sent to him at: 1914 So. Broadway, Santa Ana, Calif. 92707.

Miscellaneous

The Humane Society of the United States, magazine Spring 1981, Vol. 26, No. 2, has a four page article, with photos, called "Animals Under the Big Top" which was written by Jeanne Roush.

During the recent engagement of the Ringling Blue unit at Ft. Worth, Texas, TV station WFAA, Channel 8, featured a "circus movie week" with such classic circus films as "Circus World" with John Wayne, "Three Ring Circus" with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis and "The Greatest Show on Earth."

IRON EYES CODY visited with clown LOU JACOBS when the Ringling Red Unit was playing the Los Angeles area dates.



BOB EMERICO - Hi Fi the Clown



Don
Marcks

Have you noticed lately how quickly time is slipping by? It seems impossible to slow it down, for we're on a treadmill that goes faster and faster with each passing day.

Time brings about so many changes and much to our sorrow, makes us older and older, and not always wiser. There's gray in your hair, your step is slower and your vision isn't what it once was. At the same time it seems the words don't flow as easily as in the past.

They say it's not too good to dwell on the past, that you must face today and look to the future with hope and trust. But it's hard to do that and there are so many fond memories, thus one can't help but wish they were young again.

Certainly, there are some great and beautiful shows today and more are planned for the future. None of them can really compare with the grand and glorious shows we saw and enjoyed as a youth.

Oh, if we could only have one last chance to see some of those shows again. How wonderful that would be.

The sound of an early morning train whistle as the show train pulled into town. The rattle of wagons being unloaded and moved to the lot, the noise of animals and workers setting up the show, followed by the great parade and performance - all are memories



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C & B Report

by ALLAN BABCOCK

On Aug. 18th, I drove to Belvidere, Ill., to visit the Carson & Barnes Circus and on the way I stopped at Rockford to see the Royal American Carnival where I took pictures on the lot and of their train.

Weather at Belvidere was perfect, crowds were small at both shows though, perhaps because nearby Rockford had already had Circus Vargas, the Shrine Circus and the Ringling Blue Unit. John Brocker, who was visiting from Elgin, told me the circus had big crowds in his city.

Several circus fans and people were visiting at Belvidere, including the Hohenadels, Carl Sedlmayr, Jr., Pete Cristiani, Clara and Eugene Hoffman, Roman Fleskoski, Marina Nielsen, Malikova, Danacheck, Esterna Galasso Loyal.

Bobby and Rosa Gibbs had left a few days before to play other dates. I was told that the elephant had to pull the trucks on and off many lots in Indiana and Ohio, so guess the elephant men were happy to see some good weather.

At the night show in Belvidere (Aug. 18), Luiz Bautista (Caballero) who is 8 years old worked in the family flying act and caught a double somersault on his first try. Needless to say everyone was really excited.

that can never be replaced.

The saddest part of circus day was the tear down, and the loading of the train. Then to stand there and watch the train disappear into the distance would leave a void that took days to recover from.

It was enough to break your heart and in fact did constantly. No one, nor anything, could replace that love and compassion for the circus.

Those were good days and are well worth remembering. Perhaps some day, someone will remember today's shows with the same longing and feeling. But, they will never be able to have that same feeling that one has for those shows of long ago with their big red wagons, horses and elephants.

If we could but relive those days of yore, what a happy and wonderful thing that would be.

Show Acts

The following acts were on shows arranged by various producers:

Bloomington, Ill. - Fair - July 29 - Produced by George Moffett - Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans; The Kursawes, bikes; Ladies Unsupported Ladder; The Freddie's, rola bola; Davide Zoppe and His Rhesus Monkey Revue; Vidbel's elephants; Ma-Ho-Pin, aerial act.

La Porte, Ind. - Aug. 7 - Produced by George Hubler - Hanneford's Ponies; Miss Barbara, foot juggling; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; George Hanneford's riding act; Clowns; Laddie's Unsupported Ladder; Miss Diane, traps; Clowns; Davide Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Hanneford's elephants.

Sturgeon Bay, Wisc. - Dohr Fair - Aug. 8 - Produced by Ron Kelroy - Amanda, web; Pancho, whips and rope spinning; Milton, head balance trapeze; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Lou Ann Jacobs, iAgle trapeze; Zamudio, high wire; Clown number; Davide Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Cortez flying act.

Lucasville, Ohio - Aug. 13 - Produced by Klein's Attractions - Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Annie & Her Soldier; Olmedas, horses; Clowns; Laddie's Unsupported ladder; Miss Ann, aerial perch; Olmeda's juggling; Clowns; Davide Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Olmeda's bikes and Diano's elephants.

Lincoln, Ill. - Logan County Fair - Aug. 30 - Produced by Klein's Attractions. - Kent Clayton, ringmaster; Warren Kime, musical

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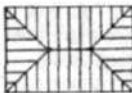
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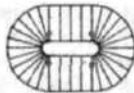
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MAILBAG

FROM BILL WOTSCH

Not long ago "Under the Rainbow" the movie which has about 150 midgets in it, had its world premiere at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Hollywood. My friend Paul Castle (Mickey Mouse) is in this movie.

On the sidewalk in front of the theatre to the left is a Mickey Mouse Star. This sidewalk is called "Walk of the Stars." As you know in the lobby of this theatre there are the footprints of the famous stars, along with their handprints, all in the concrete floor.

I was there in 1942 at a World Premiere for a Humphry Bogart movie.

Paul Castle writes there may be another movie made with little people in it. It may be a space movie and the little people will play creatures from outer space.

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The above advertisement appeared in the
Los Angeles, Calif., newspapers on April
15, 1915.

Miscellaneous

Some 200 professional cowboys and cow-
girls are expected to participate in the big
rodeo at Capital Center, Sept. 10-13.

KELROY'S FAIR CIRCUS

It's too late now to catch the show because old recalcitrant one was too busy having fun running from one end of the fair to the other, trying to catch a taste of everything.

Gone is the image of "cows, pigs and chickens"; this is the new Illinois State Fair and one of its features, of course, is a piece of Americana; the good old style Family Circus that caters to children of every age.

From top name entertainment, Heinold's Racing Pigs, prize livestock, horse races, etc., to a true top of the line circus, this fair is hard to beat.

I think I may have overdone the eating part, but boy did I have fun! I almost entered myself in the pig judging contest; at the rate I was eating I know I'd have at least gotten honorable mention or something darn close. My husband was not amused. I'm still hopelessly infantile when it comes to hot dogs, cotton candy and the like - I go for it!

Anyway, let me tell you about the first Circus that the Illinois State Fair has had since 1978; it was worth the wait. Overture by Al Vernon, ringmastering by Earl Michaels, Miss

Kathy's slide for life, Tina and Kahial; Trick Pony, The Gypsy Bears, presented by Steeple, The Rolls Duo, aerial cradle; Zamperla's bikes and unicycles; Albullet's high wire; Miss Markie's trained doves; Napoleone's Roman Riders; Wirengard's breakaway swaypole and the final touch of class, the Grand Finale

It all ran slightly under an hour adhering to the Kelroy tenet of not boring the patrons.

Three shows a day played to captive audiences and nobody walked out - but lots walked in during the performances. It was packed! It was all meat and no potatoes. Clowns are almost a thing of the past as far as this show is concerned. The viewers - who are what matters - sometimes sat for two shows.

The layout of the show was like a pie wedge, Mr. Kelroy set in the bleachers on a triangular pattern due to space given him, and set it all off with white and yellow side wall canvas topping off the bleachers with green and white pennants that complimented the green and white stages with red ring curbs. (It did not look Christmas-ey).

The area was framed by the ever present hand rails around the work area - very simply it looked circus-ey but not gauche. The circus area looked good enough to eat and clean enough to eat off of.

I still can't believe that there's this much equipment here on the date (Aug. 6-16) and more is set to roll into Louisville for the Kentucky State Fair, plus more is up at "Festival Circus" winterquarters in Wisconsin.

It all belongs to Ron Kelroy, including the bleachers here-with seating for 1800 patrons I watched with amazement when one of the boys opened up the backs of the 40 and 45 ft. semi-trailers, they were jam-packed with neatly arranged boxes and crates filled with appallingly large amounts of all kinds of equipment. I couldn't repeat all of the wonderful things I saw there, there was so much.

At any rate the circus was really a winner in every sense of the word. Even my husband (a rabid anti-circus person . . . not grounds for divorce, however, ha, ha) found himself enjoying the magical aura that only a circus can produce.

If anybody can get him hooked it's Kelroy. And by the way, Ron, if you ever decide to sell off your wonderful equipment, I want the cage wagon

..... Christina Latimer English



MICHELLE CLARK, of Clark's Lions currently at Gaslight Village, Lake George, N.

C & B Notes

by CHARLES BELLATTI

How many times has Bobby Gibbs worked for a D. R. Miller-managed circus? You probably guessed wrong. When he brought over his ponies and mules, camels, llamas and the horse which Miller purchased from Larry Carden, it was the first time he had ever worked directly for the Hugo-based operator.

A top-rated national television show was on for the two-day Milwaukee stand to shoot for a winter segment. Production people were so delighted with the show and the cooperation they received that they now plan another trip before Carson & Barnes goes into the barn.

Add Jim Royal to the list of singing ringmasters. He belts the lyrics which he composed for the Carson & Barnes spec, "The Golden, Olden West". His announcing work has been winning praise throughout the tour, also.

Second three-show day of the season came at Mason City, Ia., when big crowds required

In Memoriam

LEONA CARVER (95) died Aug. 20th at Miami, Fla. She was the daughter of Wm. F. "Doc" Carver and had owned and trained the famous diving horses for Atlantic City's Steel Pier for more than 36 years. In 1979, Resorts International, Inc., purchased the pier, closed it to the public and sold the horses.

the extra performance.

Laura Herriott has returned and is working the six horse liberty horse act in the center ring.

Luis Caballero has joined the family's flying act. The 8 year old caught a perfect double somersault in his first try before the public.

Mackyard personnel were sorry to see the departure of the Arturo Gaona family to fulfill prior commitments. They were extremely popular with fellow performers as well as the public.

Oconomowoc, Wisc., saw the resumption of late matinees on school days.

A Dim Future

BY STEVE FISHMAN

The elephants of Senegal, the last remaining herd in northwest Africa, won't survive the decade if poachers continue to trade the animal's lives for hefty profits in a booming illegal ivory trade, said A. R. Dupuy, director of the National Park Service of Senegal.

"It's a war for the survival of nature," says the 46-year-old French biologist who has been director of the service for the past 15 years.

The Senegalese park service estimates it lost 50 elephants to illegal killings last year - leaving just 300. But early this year park rangers discovered five elephant carcasses in nine days - a death rate of 200 per year. Dupuy said the bodies, shorn of their precious tusks, were left by poachers to rot in the sun.

"At this rate they will be gone in two years," said Dupuy.

Dupuy said Senegal's elephant killers were

part of a much larger trend throughout Africa. In the Central African Republic, 12,000 elephants were killed in 1980, according to estimates. In Zaire, the ivory trafficking is said to be widespread, according to Dupuy.

In Uganda, experts say Idi Amin's former soldiers have turned their weapons on elephants, virtually destroying the population.

Eight years ago Uganda had 30,000 elephants. Today there are a mere 1,500 according to a report by Iain Douglas-Hamilton, a Scottish zoologist who completed a census of Uganda's elephants last year.

Already destroyed on the Asian continent the elephant appears to be heading toward the same fate in Africa. A census by the World Wildlife Fund in 1973 showed the African elephant population to be about 4 million. In 1980, a new survey revealed the population had dropped to close to 1.3 million.

"There is hardly an African country where the elephant is not threatened," Dupuy said. Since climatic changes pushed the elephant from the arid countries of northern Africa, elephant populations have been counted in 35 African countries.

Virtually the entire blame for the devastation of elephants can be laid to Poachers, Dupuy said. An escalation in the illegal slaughter can be traced back to 1973, when the price of ivory took a jump on the world market.

During the first part of this century a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of ivory sold for about \$10.00. By the mid-70's the price had jumped to \$100 per kilo. Today, illegal ivory can bring an even higher price.

PEOPLE

MARK J. LEDDY, former Broadway agent, who celebrated his 90th birthday this year, reports he received many cards and letters after his birthday was mentioned in CR, in all more than 350 remembrances were received.

TINO WALLEDA was featured in a question and answer column on the front page of the Detroit Free Press on Aug. 27th.

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N. Y. Fair

by PAUL HORSMAN

The first Cayuga County Fair (NY) closed on Aug. 16th and was of very good quality. Tents were used for many exhibits, but buildings will be built in the future. The grounds are at an operating stock car track, the Weedsport Speedway. Weather didn't cooperate too well, and one night was rained out.

Midway was furnished by Coleman Bros. presenting a very powerful line-up of attractions. Rides included a Super Loops, Flying Bobs, Scrambler, Scooter, Zipper, Sky Diver, Ferris Wheel, Chance Merry-go-round, Giant slide, Saturn Six, Round-Up, Scrambler, Tilt-a-Whirl and a large kiddee land with both Zamperla and Hampton Umbrella rides.

A Witch's Castle dark ride was booked on by Culver Bros. and back end units included Norman Brooks' big Side Show and a Cinema 180. Bob Commerford had a Petting Zoo on the midway with many animals in pens and four circus-type cage wagons. The elephant

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performed twice daily and also gave rides. There was also a camel giving rides and the Commerford pony sweep.

Personnel of Norman Brooks Side Show included: Brian LaPalme, front talker, straight jacket escape and electric chair presentation, Wayne LaCharite, fire eater and sword swallower, Joe DeFransca, blockhead and bed of nails, Cindi King, blade box and electric chair.

Bill Fitch presented the annex, LaPalme, LaCharite and Fitch have all had circus experience and novelty man Ed Burgess trouped with Downie Bros. Merry-go-round foreman George Getwood, better known as Foghorn Whitey, has been on many circuses and is well known to circus people.

The midway operation was a great credit to this brand new fair.

Miscellaneous

The following acts worked at the Booneville, N. Y., Fair, booked by Wayne McCary.

Christina's chimps, Diana, foot juggler, Killer Willard, Boxing Kangaroo (Fossett), The Rolling Diamonds, skating act.

Creditors sink the Wild West show

by RICH VARENCHIK, Daily News

He is under investigation for allegedly writing some \$40,000 worth of bad checks. He is in debt for tens of thousands of dollars more. People are lining up to sue him.

But when he thinks about it all - how his dream of a wild west show turned into a wild nightmare that almost trampled him into the ground - Montie Montana, Jr., is ready to get up, dust himself off, and start all over again.

"People liked the show. It still seems like a good idea. It is my intent to try and begin again next year in the same place," said the 46-year-old Montana during an interview.

He had just returned from Newhall (Calif) Municipal Court where an action had been filed claiming he owes \$565 back rent on his Valencia home. A result, he says, of the cash flow problems that have dogged him since June 6, when he opened Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Congress of Rough Riders of the World in a dusty little canyon south of Newhall and west of Intrastate 5. The show was modeled after the original wild west show put on from 1883 to 1913 by William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody.

Montana has been running the show off, and on, since 1971 when he recreated it in Nebraska and he has gone broke before; such as the time in 1972 when he filed bankruptcy with \$2 million in debts. This year the show collapsed on Aug. 13, leaving Montana and many of the people who worked for him, buried under a pile of bills.

Montana refused to estimate how much money he owes. He said his financial papers are all in the hands of his attorney, Robert Swanson, of Encino. Swanson did not return a reporter's telephone calls.

Montana said he has talked to the sheriff's detectives investigating the bad check charges. "I think they feel there was no intent to defraud," he said.

But Sgt. William R. Griffith, a detective at the Santa Clarita Valley Sheriff's Station was not ready to discuss what he was thinking about the Montana case. In fact, all he would say was the case is still under investigation.

Montana was more expansive in discussing the money he owes people who have worked for him. "I intend to face every problem and do the best I can. It is my intent to pay

anybody that's owed anything. It will take some time because of the difficulties I've had," he said as he sipped coffee and chain smoked cigarettes.

Many of his difficulties, Montana conceded, are of his own making. However, he added, the County of Los Angeles, and particularly building and safety inspectors went a long, long way to add to his grief.

"It is my opinion that some government agencies have forgotten why they were formed. Building and safety (a division of the Dept. of the County Engineer) was put there to insure public safety. I think public safety is a hoped-for by-product of their zealous enforcement of their codes, Mon-



Monte Montana Jr. posed for this photo in 1962 when he dreamed of his own show.

tana said.

One of Montana's favorite stories is how safety inspectors said the electrical wiring in his bleacher seats was not safe and closed the show down.

"On July 4, I went to Newhall Park and the County Department of Parks and Recreation was using it (the same type of wiring). I asked why the county could use it but we couldn't. They told me to file a complaint," Montana said.

He said his summer was a nightmare, with county inspectors citing one violation after another as reasons to close his show down day-after-day. When that happened, Mon-

(Continued on Page 31)

COMMENT

by GEORGE BIRD

Ladies and Gentlemen, let's face facts - some circuses are not very good; in fact, some circuses are pretty terrible!

That is a sad fact, but it is a fact. In reading reviews and features in this and similar publication, the general impression one gets is that all of the circuses on the road today are great entertainment. It seems as though many who write about these shows feel that giving a circus a "bad review" is bad for the institution we all love. Quite the opposite is true.

If we praise mediocrity, if we approve of bad pacing, shabby wardrobe, ratty props, sloppy performances, lack of showmanship, drab and dingy big tops, we are encouraging bad circus. None of us wants that.

I have seen all of these things this summer under the guise of professional circuses. When a parent comes up to me, as one did last week and says, "I took my child to her first circus last week and it was terrible - she was bored, she was frightened, the show was dreary and we were all overcharged", then it's time to take a more honest look at the circus as others see it. We certainly won't encourage inferior shows to clean up their acts if we lavish praise upon them.

It's time for us to write the truth about them. It is difficult to criticize a show on which we have friends and acquaintances, but we must if we want to raise the level of circus performances and if we want to be honest with the public. I'll go to any circus because it is a circus, but we can't expect others to do that.

So please, reviewers, let's continue to give credit to those shows which deserve it but let's also tell those shabby shows that they better get on the ball if they want our continued support as well as our dollars.

Special

Beauty Queen Lori Miles, who lurks behind clown make-up as Lorilini the Clown, was among the featured speakers for the recent Pennsylvania convention of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International. The event was held at Messiah College in Grant-ham, Pa., Aug. 19-22.

The opening night convention crowd of

WILD WEST SHOW (Continued)

tana said, he began losing customers and money.

"People, especially those who will be travelling long distances, have to be confident the show is going to be on when they get there. We had a quality show but we couldn't afford to advertise it and the people never knew for sure if it was going to be on when they got there," he added.

The show was to run for 94 days after its June 6 opening. Based on a 94 day run, a study by Economic Research Associates said the wild west show should have drawn between 127,000 and 167,000 people and bring in around \$1 million.

But the show was only open for a fraction of that time and some of the people who worked for Montana estimated he may have several hundred thousand dollars in debts. Still, in the face of all the problems, Montana plans to try again.

"I am talking to three overseas promoters who are interested in the show in Europe, Japan and Mexico (but) it takes time. I can't say we are ready right now to pack up and go," he said.

"This is at best a difficult business. The performers who have been in it know about the ups and downs - They know I didn't intend to cheat anyone," said Montana.

If the overseas tour can be put together and it is a success, Montana said he would like to try another summer run next year at New-hall.

But this time, Montana said, he plans to hire a consultant who knows how to deal with the county and "play the codebook game." Someone who talks the kind of English they understand. They are beyond me. I don't know how to deal with them."

2000 gave Miss Miles a standing ovation for her piano performance of Chopin's Waltz in E Minor and Moszkowski Etude No. 2 in G Minor.

She also received plaudits for her talks before the young adults which resulted in several speaking engagement offers.

Her father, Austin Miles, author of "The Real Ringmaster", also received a standing ovation for his dramatic portrayal of the Crucifixion.