

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 11

March 15, 1982



CARLOS FARFAN and MARTY ALLEN

Kay Buys Show

Chuck Kay, owner of Kay Enterprises of Ashton, Ill., recently purchased all stock and equipment of the Kelly Bros. Circus from Gordon Walsh, of Tulsa, Okla. The circus had been sold twice before, but had been repossessed by Mr. Walsh.

Mr. Kay purchased the show for cash and is now busy replacing all of the trucks. A new big top is on order and a new Caterpillar light plant has been received.

The show will be completely rebuilt and enlarged, but will keep the one ring format. The show is scheduled to open in May with 42 spots already booked. The opening has been set for an Illinois town and the closing date will be in Texas in October.

Mr. Kay also operates the Dr. Kay Magic Spectacular stage show - Chuck Kay Shows, Chuck's Amusement and Magic Star Shows, and Carnival Enterprises in addition to Kay Enterprises builds amusement rides and devices in Ashton, Ill.

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SHOW DATES

Castle/Zerbini Circus

Mar 16-17 Eugene, Ore.
19-21 Seattle, Wash.

Castle/Zerbini Circus

Mar 19-Apr 4
Detroit, Mich.

Circus Vargas

Mar 16-18 San Pedro, Ca.
19-23 Santa Monica

Cole All Star TV Circus

Mar 15 Rome, NY
16 Herkimer
17 Utica
18 Vernon
19 Boonville
20 Adams

Hamid-Morton Circus

Mar 18-21 St. Paul, Minn

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Mar 16-28 Baltimore, Md

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Mar 16-21 Charlotte, NC

--- OTHER DATES ---

Mike Naughton

Mar 19-21 Syracuse, NY

The Plunketts

Mar 19-Apr 4 Detroit, Mich

The Side Show Band

Mar 13 New Orleans, La

--- MAGIC ---

Corky's Magic Circus

Mar 20-21 Zefner, Fla.

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Mar 15 Ormond Bch, Fla.
16 Lake City
18 Cordele, Ga.
19 Albany
20 Eastman
21 Hawkinsville

David Seebach

Mar 15 Ft. Myers, Fla.
16 Sarasota

NEED PROP MEN

FOR HOUSTON DATE

April 29th to May 9th

- TOP SALARY -

Just be there for set up at

8 a.m. - April 28th

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

DOWNTOWN

PEOPLE

DIRK ARTHUR, magician, is featured with the show "Hot Ice" which is currently appearing in Harrah's Headliner Room in Reno, Nevada.

MICHAEL MARLIN, fire eater and juggler, was featured on the John Davidson TV Show the afternoon of March 3rd.

Show Acts

Acts appearing on recent sport shows were:

Philadelphia, Pa - Feb. 23-31 - Barnabas Tommie, Seminole Indian: with three large alligators; The Albullet Bros., high wire; Victor, the wrestling bear presented by Tuffy Truesdale and George Allen; Rudy Saxon, MC and Jessie Griffiths, organist.

YA-YEW AWADA

- PLEASE CONTACT -

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Harrisburg, Pa. - Bruce Berlinger and Phil Scott, champion log rollers; Ann Clark, National Champion Archer; Tom Dokken, Labrador Retrievers from Northfield, Minn; Bob Mundens, of Butte, Montana, holder of 18 records for world's fastest gun; Victor the wrestling bear with George Allen; Dean Sherman, MC and Jessie Griffiths, organist, booked by Shilling Agency. Also Ted Williams, guest star and fly casting.

Boston, Mass - Feb. 17-21 - Joe Bowman, trick gun artist; Anne Stroble, world's champion lady caster; Ann Clark, champion archer; Ted Williams, fly casting; Victor the wrestling bear with George Allen; Gino Cappelette, MC and Jessie Griffith, booked by Schilling Agency.

Int'l All Star

Jim Nordmark's Int'l All Star Circus opened its 1982 season on Feb. 6th at Thomaston, Ga.

The show started with an overture by David Epperly and a 6 piece band, followed by:

Hines & Co., magic; Bobby and Sonya Fairchild, sword balance; Rucker's Uncaged Leopard; Janus Brothers (midgets); DeMille, tightwire; Gaylord Maynard with Chief Bear Paw; Intermission.

Lee Stevens Champaigne Poodles; The Zacharys, juggling; Miss Patti, foot juggling; Belinda Maynard, trapeze.

Show personnel includes: Hines Rucker, manager and announcer; Chris Bryant, light coordinator; Bobby Fairchild, props with assistants Jay Doyle and Mike Penn; David Epperly, novelties and Emil and Debbie Goetchi, concessions.

In Memoriam

STEVE FANNING (71) elephant trainer, died Feb. 15th at Milton, Wisc., after a long illness. He had been with a number of circuses, including King-Cristiani and Cristiani-Wallace. In 1954, he made news when he took the Bailey-Cristiani elephants to Alaska by way of the Alcan Highway. In recent years he had been with the James E. Strates Shows.

SYLVAN A. "Sam" GENTHNER, a member of the Northeast Shrine Clown Association and the Melha Temple Clown Unit, of Springfield, Mass., died on Feb. 23rd. 'Sam' was known to thousands of youngsters in the area as 'Buttercup', thus gaining his reputation as "the Children's Clown." On Feb. 19th, the Clown Unit established a "Buttercup Award" to honor Sam. The plaque will be awarded yearly to the clown most exemplifying the Buttercup image.

Circo Suarez

by *BOBBY GIBBS*

When this writer visited Circo Suarez in Mexico, the show was playing at the Sports Palace which seats 2,000 people. The program was presented in one ring, music was via tapes, and the sound was generally bad.

Featured in the show were the Chona Family doing 7 acts (juggling, head trapeze, flying act, gorilla, double airplane, hanging perch, wire), lots of clowns, Spiderman doing a swing at top of building (more than 100 ft. I am sure his rope drop is over 50 ft), Line of show girl dancers from Canada, with show owned animals - 3 ponies, not matched, 3 baby African elephants, did not work, 4 chimps in act and a group of 10 lions and tigers worked by a girl named Sharon Williams (she was bit in the stomach the day I was there).

The coming thing in Mexico is the line of dancers as it is easier to get them instead of acts. They pay the girls \$200 plus room and transportation, and \$250 to American girls. Most are acquired through ads in newspapers, etc.

Elephants: the African elephants came from Howard Johnson, Dallas animal park really. They are nice looking bulls.

WANTED

ACTS OF ALL KINDS

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Special

The Lou Jacobs Family Tent 139, of Stone Mountain, Ga., is serving as a collection point for get well wishes and greetings for Marguerite (Michelle) Ayala. We are asking circus fans and people to send letters and cards from every corner of the United States.

As we all know, Marguerite suffered a tragic fall during the afternoon performance on Feb. 20th at the Omni in Atlanta, Ga.

Her recovery will be slow, so please send the words of encouragement that will help the time go by.

Cards, letters, etc., should be addressed to:

Marguerite (Michelle) Ayala
c/o Lou Jacobs CFA Tent 139
P. O. Box 1386
Stone Mountain, Ga. - 30086

I Remember

by BILL WOTSCH

The first time I was in the backyard of the Ringling-Barnum Circus was about 1926, at Cleveland's Lake Front. This is how it all came about.

A lodge member in my father's lodge played in the circus band. One time in the winter the lodge had a big family affair and my father brought this fellow over to my brothers and myself, to tell us some stories of his circus life.

We were fascinated by them, like all kids would be. He ended up saying "When Ringling comes to Cleveland this summer look me up."

That summer we saw the window sheets in the stores near our home, saying that the circus would appear at the East 9th Street Lake Front.

The morning of the date some of us walked all the way to the Lake Front to see if we could find my father's friend. It was a long walk.

The big top was right where the Cleveland Stadium stands today. We roamed the circus lot until we met the fellow, who we found dressed in his band uniform. We called his name and he came over to us.

We mentioned the night he had talked to us at my father's lodge and he remembered. Telling us to follow him he went over to the monkey wagon, called them by name and let us pet one.

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Then he pointed out different people in the backyard, telling us who they were and what act they did. I never really knew who these performers were until years later, but for a youngster it was really fascinating and exciting. I don't remember much of the actual performance, but I do know we sat in seats close to the band.

PEOPLE

BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON has joined "The Komiks" clown troupe under the direction of BILL "Pinky" GREENE. The Komiks will be playing west coast dates.

THE TOMMY DONOHOS have been visiting with MAC and PEGGY MacDONALD where they viewed films of various elephant acts.

SHARON WARD will be with LEE MERRITT in the ROLLS DUO on Hoxie Bros.

Circus while his wife, KATHY, is expecting a child.

SIEGRIED & ROY, "Superstars of Magic" starring in the show "Beyond Belief" at the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas, recently received "The Best of Vegas" award given by readers polled by the Las Vegas Review Journal.

JOE EDDIE and his wife BETTY were expected to join the Int'l All Star Circus with his illusion act.

Clown Book

"CLOWN FOR CIRCUS AND STAGE" by Mark Stolzenberg and published by Sterling at \$12.95.

This is a how to book for aspiring clowns. "We each have a little clown inside us," says the author. "Using this book as your guide, you'll learn some of the basics of the art of clown, as well as a process for discovering your own personal clown. This doesn't mean you simply put on make-up and a costume and jump around in an inspired 'clown frenzy.' Clown is a serious art form and you need to approach it in a disciplined and systematic manner."

Stolzenberg then proceeds to explain, in disciplined and systematic manner, what is involved in being a clown, with numerous illustrations of himself and assistants demonstrating what he writes.

As is usually the case when someone tries to analyze what's funny, the result is quite unfunny; but the author obviously knows what he is talking about. He has performed with circuses, put on mime shows and ob-



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viously studied the subject.

There are definitions of the three types of clowns - Whiteface, Auguste and Character - with explanations of the role each plays, illustrations of traditional examples and contemporary prototypes (Abbott and Costello were whiteface and Auguste respectively).

There are chapters on the importance of a hat to a clown, how he should get on and off, diagrams of a circus ring and stage

AT LIBERTY

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Florida Fair

by *Circus Joe VALENCIANO*

Here is a report about the Circus-Fair from the 78th Florida State Fair, held in Tampa, as part of the Gasparilla Pirate Invasion Festival.

It was a nice warm day, but a little windy for the opening on Feb. 3rd. This year's fair is said to have the largest midway ever, with 83 rides, the carnival was presented by Deg-geller Amusements, Inc.

And it is the third annual year for Eddie Zacchini's Big Top Circus. The top is from Florida Tent Rentals, managed and set up by Harold Barnes and Walt Davis, former performers with the well-known Beers & Barnes Circus. The big top is a 150 round end with one middle section. The canvas was a pretty blue and white striped, with a solid blue sidewall. Seating consisted of bleachers all around.

The program was presented in a three ring format, with a high colorful backdrop. At the left was a very good sounding band of 4 pieces.

FOR SALE

FROM MEXICO - A Circo Suarez Program and Coloring Book, plus a photo circus story book (in Spanish).

Both for \$2.50 postpaid

YVETTE BATES, Circus Report
525 Oak St. El Cerrito, Ca. 94530

Acts included: a Spec, Teeterboard act from Poland, Comedy car of Jack Cook, the Woodcock elephants presented by Benny Williams and Debra Chapman, Cradle act by the Venturas, the Flying Larrays and the Great Wallendas, (4 people on the high wire)

The program was not exactly in that order. We enjoyed Trudy Strong's Dalmation dog act, especially since we, the Valenciano's had dalmations years ago. Miss Strong has 9 beautiful dogs, 8 have black spots and 1 has brown spots. She also has an appaloosa horse that is beautifully matched with the Dalmations.

Ringmaster for the show was Bill Borne, Clown Alley consisted of Dime and Connie Wilson, plus Coco & Co.

AVAILABLE

COMPLETE CIRCUS - WITH OR WITHOUT ACTS

Circus available for Dates, Fairs, Season - Acts include: High wire, Trampoline, Comedy Motorcycle Act, Dog Act, Riding Dog and Pony and Aerial Acts.

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