

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY



2nd Section

March 15, 1983

## A Great Show

by AUSTIN MILES

The Alberto Zoppe produced "Circus Europa" may be the most important new entry into the Shrine Circus field of this decade. Making its debut for Damascus Temple in Rochester, NY, Feb. 17-20, the show broke attendance records and was re-signed for 1984. Several committees visited and signed the show on the spot.

The fast-paced, smartly dressed unit is class all the way. The prop hands wear white tuxedos and work in harmony. The lighting effects are superb with a cornucopia shaped carousel over each ring with dancing lights giving a festive holiday atmosphere. The brightly colored ring curbs also have dancing lights and are carpeted. There is a lighted curtained archway where the artists enter and exit. The finale is complete with long thick hanging ribbons and fireworks sparklers.

On Friday night Sandra Zoppe staged the most elaborate circus party ever seen, with Shriners, artists, and visiting committees in attendance. A long table, elegantly set with white table covering and dozens of long candles was in the center ring. Similar tables were nearby to accommodate the more than 300 guests. The lighting was provided by the candles and the dancing lights of the carousels and ring curbs, giving an ultra sophisticated romantic setting. Rev. Austin Miles, the Show Business Chaplain, opened the banquet with prayer, and Tino Wallenda Zoppe closed with prayer. It was a most impressive night that was true show business glamour.

The show line-up was as follows:

Ringmaster's entrance (Austin Miles), Overture, Lee Maloney and the Shrine Circus Band with lighting effects and Giavani (Zoppe) Loop-the-Loop; Circus Festival, the en-

tire arena alive with action; Olinka (Zoppe) and Delilah (Troffer), Slide-for-Life; Alberto Zoppe's Animal Fantasy; Frank Magyrosi, tigers; The Italos (Fornasaries), Musical Clowns; Napoleon's (Zamperlas) Roman Bareback Riders; Alberto Zoppe's Riding Academy; Douglas MacValley and Umberto Fonsica, Globe of Death; Intermission.

The Flying Fornasaries; Count Napoleon and Lady Christina (Zamperlas), Dressage; Sasa (Armour Fornasari) and Olinka (Zoppe), single traps; John and Laura Walker, elephants; Fornasaries Trampoline; Wallenda-Zoppe Combined High Wire Act; Shrine Clowns, gorilla parody; Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball; Finale.

Staff included: Alberto Zoppe, executive director; Charlie Van Buskirk, performance director, who also handled pre-show and intermission announcements; Lee Maloney, musical director; Austin Miles, ringmaster and J. P. Theron, property boss.

## Order cancelled

C & M Party Props, of Walnut Creek, Ca., had been engaged to provide the canopies and "Big Top" tent for the Queen's visit in San Francisco, with the tent to be set up at that city's Pier 50. However, the order was cancelled because of the bad weather.

Patrick Chose had hoped to be able to use the promo line "Party tents fit for a queen" but he won't now. Even so, he says that he is relieved.

"With all the storms and rain, if anything should happen to the tent it would be a very bad."

He says that the catering firm engaged to provide dinner for some 300 members of the press found a nearby warehouse that they could use instead of the tent.

## Two Penny Circus

by NELS JULEUS

While some young circus performers, like Dixon White of Circus Arts, explore the possibilities of a new kind of theatre, an increasing number of young actors are re-inventing the circus. One of these bands of traveling performers, the Two Penny Circus, played Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., on Feb. 18th.

The troupe consisted of Donny Osman, a ten year veteran and artistic director of the Vermont based group, Peter Abbott, who runs a mime school in Worcester, Mass., and Cyndy Cooper, a skilled clown. Dressed in motley, they prefer the mask to make up.

The show opens with Pipo and Looie looking for seats in the theatre. When they finally sit on the stage apron and look out at the audience, the one clown shouts, pointing at the audience, "That must be the show. Let's watch." The other responds, "And I thought it would be boring." The turn-about is greeted by a burst of laughter from the audience.

After the opening shenanigans, they perform "Masked Love", in which two performers, wearing giant grotesque masks, go through a series of love sick gyrations. The expected result is a giant grotesque baby wheeled across the stage in a shopping cart.

Osman, in the tradition of a 19th century talking clown, delivers a comic lecture in which he effectively portrays a number of comic characters from commedia dell'arte. His skill at involving the audience is exceptional.

For a menagerie, the Two Penny depends on masks again. The animal sketches are entitled "Strange Forms of Being" and they are from outer space. Most effective are two vulture-like "moon beings" who slowly grow from three feet to fifteen feet to the surprise and delight of the audience. In another sketch, Coco is swallowed whole by "the mouth" a strange green blob which had enticed her to play catch with him. After his meal, he spits out her clown hat. A neat trick and well staged.

Abbott's solo mime, in which he invites youngsters on stage to hold the sides of an invisible box and then nails them in, works well. Abbott also does a bit with a sponge rubber ball which shows him to be an in-

spired and talented pantomimist.

The next sketch features Coco Lossal, fearless as she mounts the tower of death. She is expected to leap into a small bucket of water from the top of a ladder. Coco: Has anyone ever done this trick before? Ring: Yes. Coco: What happened to them? Ring: They left the circus for something sounding like "financial ruin." Coco: What's that? Ring: They were flat broke. Double take.

At the crucial moment, Pipo enters from the rear of the theatre, causing such a disturbance, that no one, including the ringmaster, is aware that Coco comes down from the ladder and stuck her head in the bucket.

It's magic box time. The ringmaster announces that Madame Salami (Coco) will be transformed into Signior Pastrami (Pipo) After a member of the audience inspects the locks and chains, Coco is placed in the box and is magically transformed into Pipo.

The trio ends their show with a demonstration of juggling, featuring Pipo, who effectively tosses fire sticks.

A student reviewer wrote insightfully of the show, "When you see such fun, you wonder if entertainers shouldn't think of going back to basics."

Artistic simplicity and practiced performance are indeed the keys to the Two Penny Circus. With a few masks, a couple of banners, some Indian clubs, a suitcase and trunk, a carrot, a ladder, a diatronic accordion for music, plenty of imagination, and an audience ready to participate, the Two Penny players provide a fun-filled evening of entertainment.

## ATTENTION

I am looking for ex-side show and long time side show performers to tell about their experiences while in the side show business, for the Circus Fans Association Convention on July 15, 1983.

If you or someone you know would like to talk about their experiences, please contact;

GENE MASCIOLI

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Green Bay, Wisc. 54303  
(414) 497 - 7912

## Club is proposed

In addition to the Sarasota and Tampa-St. Petersburg (Fla) areas, the Daytona-DeLand area of Florida also has a heavy concentration of show people - both active and retired.

Several prominent people have been contacted about the possibility of forming a Showman's Club, possibly in the DeLand area, sometime in the future.

This area has a large population for the club's fund raising activities, has a well equipped indoor facility at Stetson University for sponsored live entertainment and get together, and property is relatively cheaper here, as opposed to the Orlando area for a possible club site. There are a number of fine restaurants in the area that would cater to a once a month get together in the form of a Circus Luncheon Club to meet while actual formation of a club takes place.

Anyone interested in the club proposal is urged to contact: Bradd Frank, P. O. Box 668, Crescent City, Fla. 32012.

## ACTS WANTED

DOING 2 OR MORE

— *Indoors This Fall* —

— *Short Jumps* —

- + Small Animal Acts
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- + Magician
- + Clowns with Props

State all in 1st letter with pictures, references and Lowest Salary

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BRADD FRANK

Da-Na Productions, Inc.

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Phone: 904 - 698 - 2257

# CLOWN CONVENTION

## LAS VEGAS ROUND-UP

August 4-7, 1983

## EVERYONE WELCOME

INFORMATION SEND

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## Ford Bros.

by HARRY L. KINGSTON

Ford Bros. Circus opened its 1983 season at Conroe, Texas, on Feb. 27th, to a complete straw house.

Gopher Davenport can be very proud of his new large show. He was sporting a new big top made by Leaf. It is royal blue with red inside, with yellow ropes. He has 14 trucks, 5 elephants and also a giraffe.

On hand for the opening were D. R. Miller, Ted Bowman and Charlie Bellati from Carson & Barnes Circus. Other visitors included Harry and Dianne Kingston, Tex and Dorothy Dreyfus, of the D. R. Miller Circus Fans tent. Manuel King and Tommy Randolph were also on the lot.

Many of the same acts from last year are back this year. New this season is the use of spot lights inside the tent.

All trucks and equipment were in good shape and well painted. This year's billing has been increased, with posters and advertising everywhere.

If you can catch this show be sure and do so, for it is a great show.

# ASNER SUPPORTS RINGLING PERFORMERS!!

—edward asner—

January, 1983

Dear Circus Performer,

As a union man, I would like to extend fraternal greetings to you, the performers in the Ringling Bros, Barnum & Bailey Circus.

I have been told that, as performers, you are in danger of losing your right to union representation. At this time of economic insecurity, it's more crucial than ever for artists to stand together to protect those rights guaranteed to us only through the strength of a union. These are the rights of collective bargaining which provide a true measure of dignity in the lives of all performers.

I trust that the new leadership of AGVA has made a strong commitment and that great strides have been taken toward a goal of democratization in the union. I applaud these steps that will give the artists active participation in the shaping of union policy and direct input in the process of contract negotiation.

Circus performers need to have the benefits of a union and the protections afforded by a union contract. Without a union in the workplace, there is hardly any limit to the abuse and exploitation that management can engage in.

As a fellow performer, I lend my support to you in efforts to achieve improved wages and working conditions and in the struggle to maintain your basic rights to participate in the workings of your union in the Greatest Show on Earth. I urge you to support AGVA.

Fraternally,



Edward Asner

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## Roller Bros. - A new one

by BOB STODDARD

Want to hear a name that you will be hearing a lot about in the future?

How about Jim Roller?

His new Roller Bros. Circus is bound to get a lot of attention because, so far, he seems to be doing everything right.

He had a tent made by Bruno of Dallas that could be the star attraction by itself. The 80 ft. round with one 30 ft. and two 20 ft. middles guys out to exactly 80 ft. x 150 ft. Orange and white striped on the outside, solid blue on the inside with an elaborate orange, yellow and blue design.

One of Jim's next moves insured that the tent would not be Roller Bros. main attraction. He hired Joanne and Pee Wee Pinson to head up the new venture into the circus world. The Pinsons will do all of their acts. She will be in charge of wardrobe and the spec. Pee Wee will also be in charge of the elephants. Other acts signed include: Helen Carpenter with a mixed cat act, Joe Carpenter with bears, Bob Emerico, producing clown, lots of aerial acts, including the Abadillo family from Mexico.

Music will be by Leon Pinter at the organ with a drummer.

Good luck, Jim Roller, on your season opener in Jordanton, Texas (30 miles south of San Antonio) on April 2nd - and beyond.

James Roller, born in 1940 at Richmond, Ind., lived with his parents across the street from the show grounds in Richmond. This instilled an interest in the circus at an early age for Jim.

"Circus Day is often as big a day of the year as Christmas to a kid, so I was always allowed to stay out of school on Circus Day. I learned the circus business at an early age, watching the wagons roll from the train, watching the set up, watching the animals and the performance. I always knew what I wanted to be when I grew up, a circus man."

During Jim's adolescent years two adult circus model builders befriended the young circus enthusiast and taught him many things about the construction of circus equipment and circus procedures. Jim began building a circus library of reference materials and studying circus history. "I was pre-

paring myself for my life's work, the circus."

In 1956 came a cruel blow, the Ringling-Barnum Circus closed the season in Pittsburgh and John Ringling North announced "The End" of the tented circus in America. Jim was about to graduate from high school and his chosen vocation had just been pulled out from under him.



Joanne Pinson

Carnivals, a kin to the circus, were coming into their own in the mid-50's and Jim decided since the circus had met "the end," the next best thing would be the carnival. Jim's 20 years in the carnival business saw him progress from the "absolute bottom" (sleeping under the ride trucks), to owning and managing a large carnival playing State Fairs. Jim has operated throughout the mid-west, Canada, Central and South America and the Caribbean Islands, moving up to 75 trucks over roads and oceans.

"I was a success, having realized my life's dream, but I couldn't forget my first love... the circus. A few showmen, great showmen, had not deserted the circus and have seen it through some rough times. They have brought it, safe and sound, into the future, the present! Where ever they pitch their tents the public loves it, just like in the 40's and for 100 years before that."

"I have liquidated the carnival holdings and am entering the circus business with a

(Continued on Page 8-A)

## Christmas Show

by WALDEN FRAZE

John Strong produced a real winner of a show for the local sponsors at Salt Lake City on Dec. 23rd. Talent was very professional and several new faces were seen. Of special interest was a young man doing an impressive array of juggling tricks - T. J. (T. J. Howell). Altho he said he was just 17 this writer feels he is in the 15 year old appearance range. I will say that this is a young man to watch, and he also works on the unicycle as Sir Tommy.

A three people acro team, the Waltens who also do a second act with rola bola, offer two class acts with fine classic European style.

Jack Davis did the magic and worked with an impressive style. I noticed that the children really liked him.

There was a nice trapeze act by a young lady from New Mexico and I was told that her husband was the announcer. He and two children did a cute number also.

Clowning was handled by Bob Owens.

It was certainly good to see so many first class acts on one show. Big John was there and could be seen using his experience and knowledge in advising and making this show a winner.

Music was provided by the very talented Lee Maloney and a young man on drums.

## PEOPLE

JOSIP and CAROL MARCAN will have their wild animal acts at Lake George, NY, for the summer season, June 12-Sept. 12th.

## WANTED

Sword and Dagger ladder balancing props, Plus One Finger balancing prop. If any act retired, given up the business, etc. Send in pictures of props and price. "I am looking for the Best."

Write to:

JIM PERRY

98 Julia Dr. So. Attleboro, Mass. 02703

## - NOTICE -

MANUEL RUFFIN or anyone knowing his address please contact me, so I can re-mail a package to him.

DON KOWELL

232 Fillmore Ave. Syracuse, NY 13205

### JAMES ROLLER (Continued)

dedication surpassing that of my youth, and certainly with more experience. I feel I have a steady hand at the management helm and all the varied experiences, trials and tribulations behind me to make me uniquely qualified as a circus owner/producer/manager."

All who know Jim agree, those groups and communities who host Roller Bros. Circus will not only be very satisfied, but also a part of circus history in the making.

## In Memoriam

CLEMENS SCHMITZ, Sr., of Scarsdale, N. Y., died on Feb. 21st. He was one of the first to insure outdoor shows, including the World of Mirth and Palisades Amusement Park, which was at Fort Lee, N.J., across from New York City. He also served as the auditor for the U. S. government, travelling with Ringling-Barnum to collect the amusement tax. He maintained an office in Radio City for many years. His late wife was Catherine Capper Schmitz and they had three children.

INEZ BAKER PAGE (75) died on Feb. 24 at Russellville, Ky. She was the wife of W. E. (Shotgun) Page, owner and operator of Henson Bros. Circus in the 50's and 60's. Burial was at Maple Grove Cemetery in Russellville, Ky.

## Cents Off Coupons

Cigarettes, Dog Food, Cola, Soap, Cereal, etc. Contest Blanks, Special Offers - 100 for \$5.00 bill. S.A.S.E. with 2 stamps - 1000 - \$50.00 Check OK, must Clear. Preference given to big orders.

JACK BENNETT

313 W. Joy Pauls Valley, Okla. 73075

## Circus in Chicago

by JON FRIDAY

The 41st annual Medinah Shrine Circus, at Chicago, Ill., was produced by the Olympic International Circus, Eddie Zacchini, and presented at the Medinah Temple, Feb. 28 to March 20th.

The program:

Clown come-in - Phil Granger and Dinky (Jeff Konicek).

National Anthem with Medinah Color Guard; Welcome by Potentate, Norman H. Johnson and Circus Overture with Keith Killinger conducting the (excellent) 15 piece Shrine Circus Band.

Spec - "Children's Fantasies" with entire company (mostly) garbed in Jimmy Douglass wardrobe. As with the Zerbini productions, lack of a large number of professional performers (in this case a total of 30 including the clowns) makes the spec too brief to be effective. Let's face the facts, Chicago has an annual lengthy visit by a Ringling unit and comparisons are inevitable. Walk-around is climaxed by two ascending banners saluting the Centennial of Medinah Shrine Temple which will have been a Chicago institution for 100 years in June 1983.

Ada Smieya, with her performing (8) Bengal tigers and (2) Nubian lions in the steel arena. Although her "big cats" are as large and dangerous as any others; Ada prefers not to exploit the dangers involved and presents an European-style wild animal act, ala Charley Baumann et al. Near the end of her turn Ada places her head within the giant jaws of a Bengal tiger with no an-

nouncement or fanfare.

Gun Light Pitch with Gary Strong and Dinky while cage is dismantled.

Jennifer Duo (Larry and Jennifer Gill) a standard cradle act climaxed by a helicopter spin.

Mike Vandruska, novelty juggler with some comedy. An effective fire eating (read manipulation) routine naturally leads into a fire torch finish. After the act, Gary Strong wisely cautions the many youngsters in the audience that such fire eating is highly dangerous and best left to pros.

Cimse's (4) Wolfhounds and (4) Pomeranians. Popular performing dogs with many novel props including some outstanding light effects.

Gary Strong and Dinky with a Gun Light Pitch rehash or contest of the three tiers.

Rudolph Del Monte, Classic contortions atop a high pedestal. The many young girls in the crowd took one look at this extremely handsome youth with long blond hair atop his trim body with that million dollar smile and made an instant choice of their favorite performer. Rudy works "smooth as glass" and deserves the praise/kudos.

Clowns - Phil 'Pappy' Granger, Jeff 'Dinky' Konicek, Gary 'Maxo' Maximena and Tom 'Tramp' Kripe with a Hot Dog machine that gets crossed up with a 'skunk' and delivers black 'n white "hot dogs."

Crazy Teddys (5) Comedy acrobatics/voltage and knockabout nonsense with five males from the Wozniak teeterboard troupe.

Rehash of the Gun Light Pitch with Gary

(Continued on Page 22-A)

# ROLLER ★ BROS. ★ CIRCUS

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WANT FOR 1983

★ ★ ★

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# Book Review

"BRING ON THE CLOWNS" by Beryl Hugill, Published in 1980 by Chartwell Books, Inc., Secaucus, NJ 07094.

Reviewed by George C. Bingaman

Another book on clowns? And who is the author? Beryl Hugill worked on a London newspaper until she gave up full-time journalism to give more time to her family. Like many "fan-atics" her interest in clowns came as a three-year old when she was exposed to English panto at the King's Theatre, Southsea. "Bring on the Clowns" is her first book. But let not this deter you from recognizing immediately that this is a first-rate book on clowns. Why?

First, the material assets. With large, bold type on 9 x 11½ in. pages, 224 of them, you are given 161 black-and-white and 47 color illustrations, 208 in all. A lovely full color jacket designed on the front by Robin Wiggins and a handsome rear cover colored photograph courtesy of Lolour Library International. A helpful index follows the closing bibliography. These will direct your continuing study of this marvelous subject matter.

Second, the grasp of the subject matter. The first chapter "Introduces the Clowns" devotes 18 pages to a bird's eye view of Hugill's comprehensive grasp of the title. The succeeding 11 chapters indicate the range from distant past through court jesting, medieval merriment, Renaissance emergence of clowning in comic theatre, Shakespeare's fools, until the clowns mount the stage with four final chapters dealing with our modern buffoons, mimes in all corners of the globe from film to rodeo, under tents and in the arenas.

When you consider the mammoth range of her subject coverage coupled with those great illustrations you are amazed at her "job well done." She states her case with a minimum of well chosen words covering an immense territory of subject.

I enjoyed the book because she knows the American clowns which I have learned to love. She has a grasp on our Clown College program and our best clowns as well as those that entrance England, Europe and Russia. She identifies the surge of American and other women in clowning.



JOHN PUGH and an assistant are pictured here as they made some repairs to the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus big top last year.

## PEOPLE

VINCE CARMEN, magician and illusionist, just received a 3 month old African lion cub, which was hand-raised for him by Roxy Engesser. At the moment the lion cub will be used in publicity campaigns and later on the lion will be added to Carmen's illusion act which features a variety of animals.

As far as I can determine she is the only author to consider recently the part of the clown in American rodeos. She helps us provincial Americans to obtain a magical glimpse of the clowns "over there" who have and still mesmerize a laugh-starved generation. She closes with a verse from a song by Randy Newman, the American songwriter:

"Find a clown  
And grind him down  
He may just be laughing at you  
And on principle  
An uncommitted man  
Can hardly be permitted  
To sit around and laugh  
At what the decent  
People try to do."  
(from 'Davy, the Fat Boy').

## Miles/Yanes Married

Flamboyant circus ringmaster Austin Miles of Forest Hills, NY, married Ingrid Yanes, of Vienna, Austria, in a candlelight ceremony at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, in New York City, March 8th. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Kenneth Jones.

Best man was mystery novelist Marvin Kaye and the Bridesmaid was Patti Gilbert. The small intimate group of invited guests would have been a girl-watcher's delight. In attendance were seven beautiful airline hostesses who double as actresses in soap operas, films and commercials. Austin's daughter Lori, a runner-up to Miss New Jersey in the Miss America Pageant and state talent winner for classical piano, and Doris Forbes, the original Ford Body Girl and Coca Cola girl.

The most beautiful girl was the bride dressed in an old fashioned, off-white wedding dress. Ingrid was an Olympic silver medal winner for figure skating, toured with the Austrian skating team for 7 years and was the star of the European unit of Ice Capades for 3½ years.

A dinner reception was held at the swank Mont D'or restaurant on New York's east side. The bride and groom were chauffeured in a Fugazy limousine. The couple will be honeymooning in New York, Europe and the Virgin Islands. They will reside in Forest Hills, NY.

## He's coming back

It is official. Austin Miles, who left show business six years ago to enter the ministry has returned to show business.

He recently opened as Ringmaster of the smart Alberto Zoppe produced "Circus Europa" in Rochester, NY.

Miles has several film and commercial commitments ahead as well as other major arena dates.

Miles is still Bishop of First Charismatic Church International, the Show Business Chaplain, and will continue his ministry but on a limited basis.

"I feel I can be more effective for God as a personality rather than be confined to the four walls of a church," Miles said.

## At the circus

by TOMMY MURPHY

After traveling to Philly and places in New Jersey called East Brunswick, Paramus, Paterson and Cherry Hill for 5 years, Johnny Pugh brought his Beatty-Cole Circus back to Long Island for a week of dates this past August. Nobody was more happy than the members of the Dave Hoover Ring, named after Beatty-Cole's famous cat trainer.

Monday morning, Aug. 9th, under rainy skies the show set up on the parking lot of the Long Island arena in Commack for a two day stand. This is the same arena that the show opened the season with in the 60's with a two week indoor stand. The old building is now a big flea market. Dave Hoover wrote ahead that he was desperately in need of new chairs for his act. His cats were breaking one a week and he was having a tough time finding them. When Dave stepped out of his trailer, 11 chairs were waiting for him. Ring members stalked flea markets, swap shops and garage sales looking for them.

On the lot early for the set up were ring members Joey Giordano and his son Joey, Jr., Tommy Murphy, Paul Van Thomme, Charlie and Tony Chayka and Bob Jirsa. Paul, assisted by Tommy video taped the entire set up and later the night show. Old friendships were renewed with Cherie and Jim Cunningham, John Pugh, Fred Logan and of course Dave. The Hoover Ring members were all over Dave's equipment from the cat semi to the cage and the props. Tape measures and note books were the rule of the day as the Ring's next project will be to build Dave's act in 1/2 inch scale from whip and chair, to arena, cages and trucks.

The rain stopped in time for two performances and both were sell outs. Ring members and their families took up two entire rows of the reserved section. A new friendship was struck up between Dom Yodice and wire walker Vashek and his lovely wife, Kathy. Both Dom and Val are movie musical buffs and they exchanged video cassettes of their movies. All four shows in Commack and the next stand in Levittown were sell outs. Beatty-Cole has a good reputation and following on Long Island.

Wednesday, Aug. 11th, the show moved 10 miles to the parking lot behind Mays

Dept. Store and again the two day stand was a sell out in spite of continuing rain. Ring founder Tony Chayka and Lois, Dave and George Hoover over to his house for dinner. While ring members Dom Yodice and Tommy Murphy and son Timmy were visiting Vashek and his family in their trailer, other members Pat and Dave Markley and Bruce and Barbara Zingman were in the big top watching the night show.

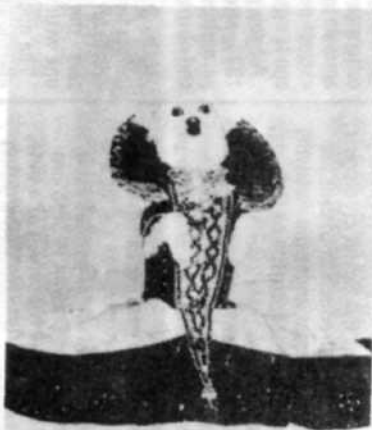
On Thursday night disaster struck when Hoover was clawed by one of his tigers. Dave saw that the cat was heated up when she came at him but instead of stepping aside and letting her pass, he elected to face the cat straight on with the chair. As the cat swung at the chair, her paw unfortunately caught Dave in the hand.

The stand was originally booked for Hicksville, two miles away but at the last minute town officials revoked the license. Both show officials and ring members suspect some hanky-panky went on between town officials and the circus playing not too far away. The show was hastily rescheduled to South Hampton, 75 miles away, with very little billing.

Friday morning found the show on a beautiful grassy lot in the town of South Hampton, adjoining the Elks Club picnic grounds. When ring members Tommy Murphy and Dom Yodice showed up on the lot and saw the condition Hoover was in, they wondered how he got the cat trailer he was driving to the lot. Despite efforts from his wife, Tom and Dom, he refused to go to the hospital. Lois was able to obtain anti-biotics and pain killers and Dave went on with the shows as scheduled. Attendance was light,

Originally a party was planned for Friday night at the old lot in Hicksville by the ring members. Friday night only three members of the ring - Tom Murphy, Dom Yodice and Joey Giordano were able to give the party. Over 60 show personnel, from owner John Pugh to the working men and guests Harry Thomas and his wife, who were working their tiger act at a nearby animal park, attended the showing of the Clyde Beatty movie "Ring of Fear" and refreshments were served. The big top was a busy scene that night as the women on the show were giving a bridal shower for one of the girls in Ring 1 and the movie was being shown in Ring 3.

# THIS ACT FOR SALE



## **Victor Julian's Little Stars**



Unfortunately, the Good Lord called Victor Julian home four years ago. Now, the second terrible thing has happened to this act in that Leo Coffey (otherwise known as Coke) who has been performing the act for the last four years, is confined to the Providence Hospital in Holyoke, Mass., and will no longer be able to continue the act.

It is now my responsibility to sell the act: Dogs, Costumes, Truck, Van and Equipment.

Contact: HAROLD SCHAFFER, Phone: 701-223-4800, or write me at Box 1698, Bismarck, ND 58502

## More Show Dates

- "Doc" Scott's  
Last Real Medicine Show
- Mar 12 Morgan City, La.
  - 13 Chauvin
  - 14 Jeanerette
  - 15 Abbeville
  - 16 Anacoco
  - 17 DeQuincy
  - 18 Ringgold
  - 19 Camden, Ark.
  - 20 Minden, La.
  - 21 Bastrop
  - 22 Crossett, Ark.
  - 23 Hope
  - 24 Magnolia
  - 25 Texarkana, Ark.
  - 26 Longview, Texas
  - 27 Marshall
  - 28 Nacogdoches
  - 29 Mt. Pleasant
  - 30 Sulphur Springs
  - 31 Greenville

## Show Program

The program for the Shrine Circus at Milwaukee, Wisc., Feb. 23-27, was produced by the Carden International Circus.

The following acts and people were listed in the show's program:

Opening spec; Delilah Wallenda, high wire; Harry Thomas, tigers; The Golden Sisters, aerial; Miss Victoria, foot juggling; Sir Harry James; The Francarros, foot juggling; Jorge Rosell, comedy car; Bill Brickle's Dogs; Pam Perry, trapeze; Frank & Estrelita, aerialists; Clarita, could swing; Killer Willard, Boxing Kangaroo; The Guttys, flying act; The Swaying Stars (Fossetts), sway poles; Ronald McDonald, clown; Intermission.

Edwardo's bears; Markis, doves; Cristine's chimps; Clowns; Rianos Duo, wire act; Clowns; George Carden's elephants; Gina's Royal Palace Leopards; Miss Evelyn, Girl in the Moon; Irene, Tongo & Co., gorilla parody; Announcement; Capt. Circus, Dave Smith, cannon act.

The ringmaster was Bobby Golden and music was provided by Richard Rosio.

# Ice Show

by BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON

I had the pleasure of seeing the enjoyable Disney's World on Ice at the Los Angeles Forum.

The show is tied together by a narrative. Gideon and Foulfellow lure Pinocchio off in search of adventure. An around the world chase ensues when Pinocchio escapes and tries to find his way home. Gideon and Foulfellow try to recapture him while Geppetto, Mickey and Goofy attempt to find and rescue him.

The established personalities of the Disney characters are put to good use. For example Goofy has trouble remaining upon his skates

The acts are introduced by pre-recorded sequels. For example, Geppetto and Mickey go to the Goofy detective agency for help. Goofy introduces his bloodhound who turns out to be a poodle from Gerard Soule's Poodles de Paree.

Gerard has an act that is very well received. His poodles are better costumed than most human performers.

Other novelty acts include the Christianis, Kent Orwell, Little Lito, Nich Maricicich, and Herbie, the Love Bug.

The Christianis, who were not listed in the program, presented an excellent trampoline act featuring a quadruple twisting back somersault to a two-man high. They add greatly to the spectacle of Dumbo's circus.

Kent Orwell presented an amazing and amusing bend over doll act as the King and Queen of Hearts, waltzing together.

Little Lito, clowning as the character of Lampwick, assisted by Stromboli. His was the only act that contained dialogue that was not pre-recorded and he was not able to project well enough to be heard. His act contained some good bits, but was poorly paced. The only time I noticed kids becoming restless was during his act. Although Little Lito milked the applause at the end of his act, it came nowhere near the spontaneous applause received by Jim and Judy Sladky or Nick Maricicich.

Appearing as Zorro, Nick Maricicich presented his jump act. With the exception of a fake fall, his act was fast paced and exciting. He jumps barrels and showgirls, thru fire hoops and thru a revolving ring of fire

and knives. His was the best received act of the show.

Linda Fratianne is featured in the show advertising. She is a small dark haired girl who handles the female lead very well with a smile. Her solo numbers were filled with spin combinations with many interesting position changes,

The other solo skaters were: Linda Jarries, Velyn Taylor and Bruno Jerry. They each had distinctive styles, included variety within their routines and were well received.

Michael Botticelli and Sheryl Franks, pair skaters, had some very nice position changes in their number.

Judy and Jim Sladky are the most exciting ice dance team I have seen and were the best received of the featured skaters.

The ensemble numbers were strong, although the precision number wasn't always precise. It revived the audience pleasing big wheel with the last two girls running to catch up. The show's finale was an effective variation of the Disney Electric Light Parade.

The exquisite backdrops were designed by Reid Carlson and also made effective use of small lights.

The show's wardrobe was designed by Don Foote. The music director was Jerry Silk and Phil Harris recorded some special lyrics to "Bare Necessities." The show was directed and choreographed by Bob Paul, assisted by Jill Shipstad Thomas.

Since this is a Feld production with their resources to draw upon, I thought the clown walk-a-rounds used in the Dumbo circus were disappointing. They were unoriginal, poorly executed and played to just the first few rows.

This is the second year for Disney's World on Ice. The new Disney-Feld production is titled Walt Disney's Great Ice Odyssey. The profile of the Feld's in this year's World on Ice program was obviously written for the Great Ice Odyssey.

Despite its few faults, Disney's World on Ice is a very enjoyable spectacular show with an interesting concept. I am eagerly looking forward to Disney's Great Ice Odyssey.

Keep Circus Report on an even keel, order your subscription today.

# Jubilee on Ice

by JOHN GAIZICK

Numerous technical problems beyond the show's control plagued two performances of "Jubilee on Ice" at the Fitchburg, Mass. Wallace Civic Center on Oct. 8, 1982. Problems that were so irritating to performers and audience alike, that it was about as frustrating as rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. The saving grace of the evening was the superior talent that this show beholds. They somehow managed to shine brightly above the problems and entertained with style for an already touchy audience.

"Jubilee on Ice" is an Events International Production. James Nordmark, of Sarasota (Fla) is executive producer. The show is tailored to play limited engagements in cities normally by-passed by similar touring shows. It includes some of the finest skaters who are selected for their quality, youth and capability.

The show's performances are fast-paced and hold a big variety of solid family entertainment, ranging from comedy routines to serious, choreographed Olympic-style skating. The show includes a couple of acts not usually associated with ice shows. Those in the form of a country & western duo named "Bonnie & Clyde". The Nashville recording stars do not skate but make beautiful music together with their wide range of musical talents. Billy (Clyde) Earl is from San Francisco and writes most of the material for his solo ventriloquist act which is part of the second half of the show. His yodelling chicken "Henrietta" is very funny and is a fine comedy segment for this production.

Bonnie (Brent) Earl hails from Pittsburg and made her show business debut at the age of six. She has toured extensively world wide and is a first rate entertainer. This short, black haired beauty has a dynamite voice as well as extraordinary talent with solos on the guitar and banjo. She's a June Carter - Brenda Lee - Loretta Lynn - all rolled into one pretty package.

On the skating level the show lacks no luster. Each performer who dons a pair of skates proves entertaining even if they are only a part of a production number or get the chance to solo. Veteran skater Bobby Denard, considered one of the country's

finest ice show choreographers, brings professionalism to the show as well as to his own skating segment. He is the show's performance director and choreographer and is continually guiding the careers of many newcomers to the business in which he transforms the talents of amateurs into first-rate professionals.

Bobby is from New York and started skating at the age of three. Ten years later he performed with the late, great skating legend Sonja Henie. Since then he has achieved a long impressive list of show credits in stage productions, nightclubs, television and radio shows. His "style on ice" has earned him much praise and critical acclaim in Mexico, Canada and the United States.

U. S. Gold Medalist, David Batlin, showed the audience the talent that got him the medal as well as the range a skater can reach after 25 years of professional skating. If it be serious skating or comedy on ice, David pulls it off with ease. He prefers performing in front of a "live" audience as he feels the "contact" brings out the best performance in him.

"Start spreading the news" is the beginning lyric of the Frank Sinatra hit "New York, New York" which also can serve a double purpose in the performance of young Bruce Hearon. With the Sinatra hit playing as background music, Bruce mesmerizes the audience with his Olympic style and grace which prompts this writer to "start spreading the news" that Bruce is as fine a performer on ice as Randy Gardner, John Carlow or Scott Hamilton. Costumed in a simple black outfit touched with silver, along with a proper black top hat, it's no problem for the audience to realize he's "A number one, top of the heap." Making every move look so incredibly easy this polished skater is a perfect example of a show business performer at his best.

By all means see this entertainment if it should play your area as so few shows pack as much super talent as this one does.

When the houselights plunge the arena into darkness, or when the band strikes up beneath a canvas top, the effect is the same. The circus has begun and all else dims from the circus fan's mind.

... Herb Clement

**CIRCUS IN CHICAGO (Continued)**

and Dinky with the Decisive Contest.

Navarro Troupe (4) Unicycle riding climaxed by a 'Roman Ride' atop high one wheelers.

Dondi & Co., Single elephant trained and presented by Phil and Francine Schacht. Heavy on comedy bits.

Intermission - Followed by Coloring Book Pitch.

My-Immba's African Baboons, presented by Carmen (Hall) Pelton. Five well-trained (rare) baboons. My only problem with this act is that I feel the baboons are over-dressed/decorated. They are unusual enough with out extra adornment (beyond briefs for modesty). It's one thing to dress poodles as you see them naked all the time everywhere you look.

Clowns with the Dentist/Wrong Tooth gag  
Los Gauchos (3) Argentina's percussion musicians, dancers and bola twirlers. Effective finish with (3) strobe lights.

Derrick Rosaire and Tony the Wonder Horse - This is a different 'Tony' than the familiar Palomino; A beautiful Reddish/Roan horse that seems to exude both intelligence and human-like personality. Derrick has done a great job of training here to duplicate the original act.

Clowns (2) with the 'Contest' pitting the Boys against the Girls.

The Wozniak Troupe (7) Teeterboard acrobatics from Poland climaxed by the four man high pyramid, sans safety belt/line.

Clowns (4) Wedding Day with strip/break-away finish.

Dolly Sisters (3) (Navarro Family) trapeze-Lyre trio. A beautiful act.

Flying Lar-Rays (4) Flying return act quartet headed by Larry Gill. Finished with a passing leap.

Grand Finale - Final introductions of the 1983 Medinah Shrine Circus cast and Exit March by Keith Killinger and the Circus Band.

Credits: Executive producer, Eddie Zacchini; Musical Director, Keith Killinger; Ringmaster and Announcer, Gary Strong; Prop Supt., Bela Ezsias and Transportation, Donald Sorbara.

Clowns: Phil Granger, Jeff Konicek, Gary Maximena and Tom Kripe.

**PEOPLE**

BOB and JEANNE MOORE - Moore's Mongrel Revue - are the parents of a recent addition to their family. The new arrival - Rose Marie - was born on Feb. 27th and weighed in at 6 lbs. 9 ozs. and measured 21 in. long. The new parents want to say "Thank you Albert and best of luck to you all."

# The Circus

by BOB STODDARD

The Richardson (Texas) Firefighters Association held what has since become their first annual benefit circus for their benevolent fund, which helps needy firemen and provides money for worthy causes like muscular dystrophy, etc.

Their search for a tent almost bogged down until they got to Bruno, the tent maker.

"No, he didn't have a tent - but yes, he had an order for one from Jim Roller that he planned to start soon."

"Could he start it now, and finish it in time for their show?"

Bruno Loyale is one nice guy!

The big show presented seven performances on Feb. 18th thru 21st, in Bruno's most beautiful tent to date.

The stand was beset with problems, but problems and overcoming them are a big part of the circus business. The tent wasn't large enough for the show and some of the acts were not presented. The flying act, featuring the *Flying Caballinas*, was set up outside as a free act.

During the opening performance on Friday night a section of seats collapsed and eleven people (eight children and three adults) were taken to the Richardson Medical Center for treatment of cuts, strains and bruises, and one broken ankle. There was some screaming and a bit of panic, in the collapsed section, but the show went on.

The 2,500 seats were filled with fans who liked what they saw and told their friends.

Saturday was a beautiful, warm and sunny day, except for the breeze which sometimes came in gusts of up to 50 miles an hour. The happy circus fans were oblivious to it all but the circus people really worried about a blow down.

Kay Rosairé said, "I expected the tent to blow down today." Her brother, Duke agreed. Later I was talking with Derrick Rosaire and Jimmy Hall in the backyard. They both thought that there was a real chance for a blow down, but Jimmy pointed out that Bruno had the tent triple staked and was on top of the situation throughout. Both shows were full houses.

It rained all day Sunday and Monday, It

would seem that the rain and mud would dampen the spirits of the circus fans, but not so.

The Richardson Firefighters are the kind of sponsors that circus owners dream about. They're a take-charge group, who works at it and sells tickets. Planks and hay and indomitable spirit filled the seats for the four shows on both days.

Jim Van Fleet, a fire fighter said, "It was very successful and we will be making it an annual thing. We're looking for a permanent site, a building for next year."

They'll do it again, because the fans liked it - for a lot of good reasons. Tommy Baker, as ringmaster, introduced the reasons as:

Kay Rosaire, mixed cat act; Mr. Fred & Co., (Freddy Espana); Aerial Ballet with the Wilson Duo, Miss Gabrielle and the Desio Duo; Georgia's mixed menagerie; Clowns with Johnny Peers producing; Goldfinger; the Rosaire Brothers with two Arabian stallions; The Dancing Gauchos from Argentina; Sharon Vidbel's Alaskan Huskies; Clowns (Washing Machine gag) with Peers, Kelly, Tansy and Weary Willie); *Remo and Jenny*, trap and double trap head balancing; three rings of rola bola with Rafael Suarez, Ramon Espana and Tamarra; Dino and Yvonne; three elephants presented by Tommy and Pom Pom Donoho.

Visitors on the lot included Dave Hoover's brother Hank and his son Mike; Jimmy and Tapa Hall, Tom O. Inabinette, Bucky Steele, Joe Zoppe, Max and Gertie Craig, Marvin and Joann Varner, Tommy Randolph and Bruno, the tent maker.

## In Memoriam

HUGO MARQUARDT, of Palatka, Fla., died early in the morning of March 5th, after suffering with lung cancer for a long time. He was a circus enthusiast and collector as well as a prominent juggler before turning professional, after which he toured with numerous circuses, working both as a clown and a juggler.

# Richardson Fire Fighters Circus



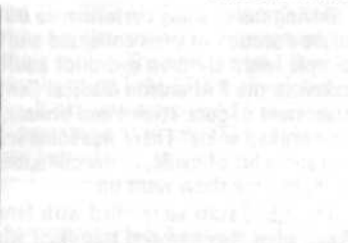
Goldfinger



Miss Gabrielle



Sharon Vidbel's Alaskan Huskies



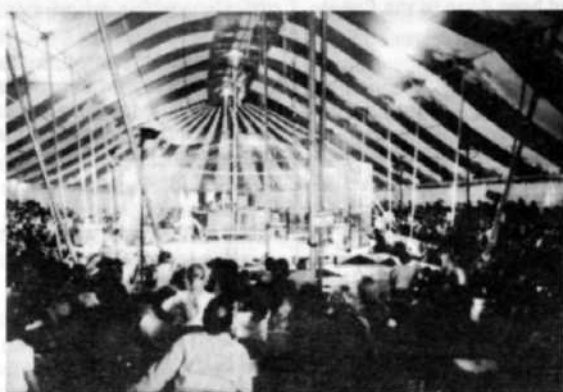
John Peers, Producing Clown



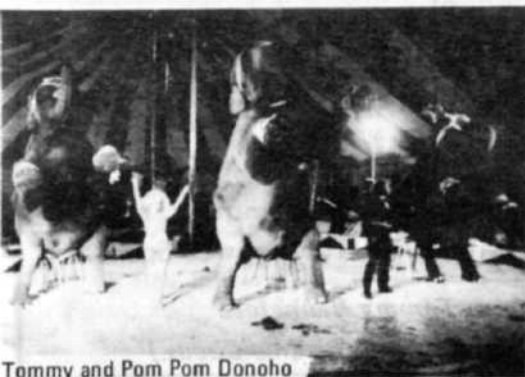
Kay Rosaire's Mixed Wild Animals



Duke and Derrick Rosaire



Interior of the Big Top at show time



Tommy and Pom Pom Donoho



Pom Pom Donoho

# HOTLINE

Feb. ? - Europe - Several local area people have reported that an early morning radio broadcast stated a circus aerialist slipped off her trapeze during a circus performance, fell 42 ft. to the floor and was uninjured. No additional news reports were heard about the incident.

March 1 - Los Angeles, Calif. - A tornado swept through a three mile area of Los Angeles causing heavy damage to homes and a number of business buildings. The Los Angeles Convention Center lost much of its facade and a third of its roof during the heavy storm. Officials said that several million dollars in damage had been done to the Convention Center.

## Miscellaneous

The Children's Circus of Peru, Ind., was featured in a segment of the TV show "Real People" on March 8th.

## Storm Damage

At least six of California's landmark ocean piers suffered major damages as a result of the most recent storms to hit the west coast state.

A 100 ft. section of the Imperial Beach Pier in San Diego County was torn away. Half of the pier at San Clemente was destroyed. An 80 ft. section of the pier at Seal Beach collapsed. The Avila Beach Municipal Pier in San Luis Obispo County lost 100 ft. of its facility to the raging seas.

Less than half of the famed Santa Monica Pier was still standing at press time. Two cranes being used to repair damage caused by a January storm were tossed into the surf, along with a refrigerator truck and two cars.

The restaurant nearest the seaward end of the pier was sagging as waves surged against its pilings. The famous Carousel was still standing, but timbers from the collapsed portion were being tossed like battering rams in the surf.

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*(Special thanks to Tommy Hanneford  
for a very pleasant 13 years with his fine Circus.)*

## In the mail

from IAN W. CRAIK

I am writing in response to the A.G.V.A. update, which appeared in the March 1st issue of Circus Report.

To unionize the R.B.B.B. Circus would almost certainly mean its death. I am not associated with the Ringling show, and confess to know little about its internal policies. However, I do know that the Ringling show has always been the goal of most professional performers and has always been the standard for circuses throughout the world. Performers with Ringling experience are sought after in every other country. Thanks to the Felds, the circus has remained in the public eye. There is no circus, of any size, which does not benefit from its national exposure.

Therefore, I cannot believe that any performer with the future of the circus at heart, would seek to destroy it's most traditional element.

I have always believed that any person seeking employment with a circus should study the salary and conditions with that show, and if they are not acceptable to that individual, he should seek employment elsewhere.

There are countless cases on record of clowns and showgirls (with no previous show experience) who have made careers in the circus following their Ringling experience.

Where do these newly unionized individuals expect to work at the completion of their Ringling contract? Certainly there are

no other U. S. circuses who could afford to hire performers on union terms. Circus performers have always enjoyed more freedom and choice of employment than most professions. Why then would any performer want to limit his opportunity by unionizing?

Performers are involved in dangerous acts and accept the hazards of their profession, and should accept the responsibility to check the safety of their equipment. If an accident occurs as a result of negligence of another show employee, by all means, the party involved should seek legal compensation. But, why allow an outside party (eg. A.G.V.A.) to make across the board rules for a business which they know nothing about?

Unions have adversely affected almost every industry. Why can't the pro-union people learn from the mistakes of the other industries? Strikes and pressure tactics might work for necessary industry, but any thinking person should realize that the circus needs the public more than the public needs the circus. Like Vaudeville, the circus could die without the public so much as batting an eye. Union performers should not expect any public sympathy for their 'cause.'

So, Mister activist, by all means, go on strike, there are plenty of serious individuals who would love the opportunity to take your place on the 'Greatest Show on Earth.'

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The John Deere Co. is using a variety of circus features in their current advertising program.

# The Blue Unit

by GORDON TAYLOR

Charley Baumann still looks like the consummate Las Vegas pit boss, watching, always watching. Even on the 112th Ringling Blue show, some things never change; Elvin Bale still challenges the flaming cherry picker of death. Yet, as seen in Atlanta in mid-February, the show does have some changes since it trouped the South a year ago.

New this year is Mark Pilger whose cloud swing turn brings to mind the Florida State University High Flying Circus. He has an unmistakably all-American "look" and a remarkably impressive routine. Also new and looking scarcely post-adolescent, is Jim Ragona, ringmaster. What Ragona's accent brings to mind is no place south of Chicago.

The Michu hospital gag has been replaced by a much more effective and whimsical turn. Four clowns on safari encounter an "almost human" gorilla. On a bilious green flower studded web enters The Smallest Man in the World, dressed as The Lord of the Jungle. Crossed symbolism? Yes: Michu, doing business as Tarzan, sends the ape packing, shows interest in one of the females, and is chased from the ring by Elizabeth Raski dressed as Jane. The gag has an elaborate "score" of animal "yack" sounds.

Michu is proceeded by the Slavovi bareback turn. They are still using that fakey looking fall. Same guy, same point, every performance.

Daniel Suskow, who also presents Baumann's tigers, has replaced Bela Tabak in presenting the liberty camel act. Someone

has mixed horses into the drill.

Last year, on Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros., Ringmaster Jimmy James introduced them "From beautiful Sarasota, Florida, The Flying Alvarez Family." The family moved; they're on Ringling Blue now, and "From Cuba." On the ground and standing on the rigging there is an almost military character to their posture. On the trapeze or in the air the motions are all flowing liquid. Saturday morning (2-19) no one tried a quad. Marteen Alvarez was the only flyer to complete a triple.

Still another change - no one can miss it - is the addition of special radio receivers at each concession stand. During intermission and after the show, the rousing, circusy tracks from the cast album of "Barnum" are broadcast from the basement and heard at each booth. "It's easy to tell," a concession attendant smiled, "when one of us is really bored. We start reading 'Tiger, Tiger' again for the hundredth time."

The costumes sure don't look "used" or anything. For the western spec Don Foote has taken a worked-to-death theme and turned it into a celebration of whitty overstatement.

At one point - this was 11 a.m. Saturday morning - six women dancers came down the track and turned to cross outside ring one. Far from Feld and all the way across the arena from Baumann or Peggy Williams, five of the six women were smiling, dancing with spirit, behaving, in short, like pros. Troupers deliver and that, too, never seems to change.