



AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 46

November 16, 1981



THE BACK STREET FLYERS

Speaking of . . .

by JIM PARKER

The *Oscarian Bros. Circus, Inc.*, played at West Palm Beach, Fla., on Oct. 24th, with show times of 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. to full houses under the sponsorship of law enforcement agencies. The Manuel Ramos family brought down the house

ily brought in a strong, clean show and it was very pleasing not only to the audience but also the sponsors. At this particular engagement it was played open air in front of the grandstand at the County Fairgrounds, however, they do have canvas, seats, poles, etc., and it is anticipated in future winter dates in Florida, that the show will go under the big top.

The program ran as: Fanfare; Welcome; National Anthem with Florida Highway Patrol as color guard; Senor Ramos, with Royal Bengal Tigers, Black Maned African Lions, Spotted Jaguars and Black Panther; Mr. Esquire, hand balancing/one finger stand; Mr. Esquire, Jr., hand balancing/one finger stand; Clown "Tommy" from the Ramos family with Musical Chairs; Miss Alicia, hair hang; Yvonne (Stephens) and Her Canine Pets with Frosty (pony); The *Oscarian Troupe*, risley; *Concession*, elephant ride, balloon and balloon bounce pitch; The Horton Wonder Bears, trained and presented by Rex Horton; Intermission.

Miss Lee Ann (Stephens), single trapeze; Miss Juanna (Ramos), loop-the-loop; the clown "Diamond Jim" with Clown Camera, assisted by "Tommy"; El Gran Mar, (Mark Horton) high wire; Elephant "Stoney" presented by Mike and Sally LaTorres; Clown Barbershop with Diamond Jim and Tommy and one town boy; The Flying Aztecas (Ramos family).

PEOPLE

DAN MASON is recuperating from an auto accident and would enjoy cards and letters which can be sent to him at: 319 Olema Road, Fairfax, Calif. 94930. Last year he was with the Gatti show.

RICHARD and MISTY BATES are putting their Bates Bros. Circus back on the road in 1982 and plan to play indoors as well as under canvas, operating in selective cities across Canada.

The circus band was lead by none other than Charles Schlarbaum, with John Kasche on the organ, and C. F. "Woody" Wood on drums. With Charlie as its leader it is obvious that the music was at its best and he is one of the few contemporary bandmasters that blend both the old circus tunes and the current sounds together into one work of art. You would never know from the sound of the band that it was just three pieces. (More on Charlie in a future column regarding his current project).

Big show announcer was Jim Parker decked out in tux when announcing and then putting on the quickest whiteface ever, to return to work as a joey.

Circus model builders and fans visiting the lot were Art and Judy Spellman and Sam Lear.

In closing, even though it was a one day, two show engagement and many of the kinkers and the band had not worked with each other, you would never know it from their professionalism. Wardrobe in all acts was flashy, colorful and exceptional and the physical layout of the show gave it an appearance of a large three ring circus. A variety of animals and kinkers made it well rounded. It was a fun show . . .

SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus
Nov 16-17 Tallahassee, Fla

Carson & Barnes Circus
Nov 14 Commerce, Texas
15 Hugo, Okla.
— End of Season —

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Nov 18-29 E. Rutherford,
N.J.

Royal Lichtenstein Cir.
Nov 16 Baton Rouge, La
17 Lafayette
18 San Marcos, Tex.
19 Austin
20 Ft. Worth
21 Dallas
22 Okla. City, Okla

Texas Shrine Circus
Nov 20-25 Dallas, Texas

--- MAGIC ---

Blackstone
Nov 15 Chester, Pa.
18 Uniontown
19 Mansfield, Ohio
20 Dayton
21 West Point, NY
22 Toledo, Ohio

Andre Kole
Nov 19 San Rafael, Calif.
21 Oakland
22 Castro Valley

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
Nov 22 Centralia, Ill.

Nordlaw
Nov 18 Gulliver, Mich
19 Ishpeming
20 Conn Corners

Tom Ogden
Nov 16 Des Moines, Ia.
17 St. Paul, Minn.
20-22 Cumberland Falls
Ky

Felix Snipes
Nov 20-21 Olathe, Kans.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Royal Scots Dragoons
Nov 16 Des Moines, Ia.
17 Rosemont, Ill.
19 Champaign
20 Indianapolis, Ind
21 Richfield, Ohio
22 Jackson, Mich.

Halloween Special

by BOB STODDARD

The annual get-together for the Ed Millette Tent No. 5, CFA, and the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus ushered October out with a flurry of excitement as they ended the week at Town East Mall in Mesquite, Texas, and ended the season for the circus in a wild and wooly bash on Halloween night.

The night before Halloween was the annual circus party at Bill Hooper's house in Mesquite, where good food and good fellowship was enjoyed by the circus people, the circus fans and some of the young performers of the Millette Amateur Circus.

The circus people present included: Earl, Louise and Tim Tegge and their guest clown Sylvan "Silvo" Walker; Terry and Camille O'Brien and sons Owen and Liam; Ingrid and Walter Houck; Myna Moon and Ed Carlson; James "Jim Bow" Decker; Vickie Hendricks and Gary Baker; and Kumar Pallana, who was particularly interesting to me because, just the day before that, he was the featured spot on "You Asked For It". Rich

Little turned the show over to Jack Smith with the promise that he would show one of the greatest acts ever performed on "You Asked For It" and Jack showed the 1956 death defying performance of "Kumar of India" as he performed balancing feats at the end of a diving board sticking ten feet out of a window of the 11th floor of a building. A camera above that level showed the action with a background of traffic and pedestrians below.

It was a thrilling performance and I was happy to meet the man, and shake his hand. He is a juggler and plate spinner now who teaches Yoga in daily classes in Dallas.

Other visitors included Herbie Weber and Maricela, Lucio Cristiani, Frank Gambino, Joe Lemke, clown Johnny Peers and wife, Jacqueline, and Bill Gowan. I know that there were more visitors and I am sorry that I missed them.

I like to think of myself as a promotion man and, as such, I viewed with amazement the success of the Halloween promotion of Town East Mall. It looked more like a production by Cecil B. DeMille and one of his typical "cast of thousands", than it did something by mall promotion director Kathy Sahle. I have never seen a multi-leveled shopping center with more than a hundred shops where almost all of the employees were fully and beautifully costumed.

At each performance of the circus, Earl Tegge announced that the stores would have treats for Trick or Treaters on Halloween night, but nobody anticipated the crowd that descended upon them between 6 and 7 p.m., as young and old alike, in every imaginable type of costume literally filled the place with wall-to-wall people. (Maybe I'm giving Kathy too much credit - she was helped by the downpour of rain throughout the afternoon, that ruled out house-to-house treat collections and stopped long enough for everyone to get to the mall, then started up again and later stopped again, so all could get to their cars to go home (it was a most accomidating rain).

It wasn't long before all of the stores ran out of candy and there was a run on the Revco Drug Store (the only store on the mall selling candy) until they too, ran out of it.

At 7 p.m. that night, the TNT & Royal

(Continued on Page 27)

CONGRATULATIONS

JAMES M. and GURTHA COLE
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THE LANGE FAMILY

Hetzer Circus

by CARL ALBRIGHT

Jimmy Hetzer's International Circus played West Liberty, Ky., on Oct. 26th. Two performances - 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. - were presented in the school gymnasium.

Performance ran 2 hours and was of superior quality and quantity. This is especially true when compared to what some shows are selling sponsors.

The clown numbers were funny and the acts both excited and held the attention of the audience.

Walker Dick is traveling with the show as Honorary Circus Marshall.

Maurice Davis is Marketing Director.

Hazel Polakov is in charge of Advertising and Promotion.

Allen Patten is prop boss.

Buck Nolan is Promotional and Public Relations Director.

Cathy Rodgers is a real turn on as the singing ringmistress.

5 Clowns on the show including J. T. Rod-

gers and Harry Vohen working under the direction of Mike Coco.

Feature performer with the show is the dynamic Galla Shawn, winner of a recent award as Europe's Finest Aerialist.

Other acts include: Hoxie's Great American elephants and camels, The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters, Doris Schappacher, comedy mule, Col. Jerry Lipko, chimps, Reggie Robertson, high balancing, The Bovays, horizontal bars, Bagley's comedy goats, Princess Doris, Arabian horse act and Reggie Robertson & Co., juggling.

Buzzy Cutting, concession manager, reported that business has been good.

PEOPLE

THE FLYING GAONAS (Tito, Chela, Armando, etc.) are set to perform with the Big Apple Circus in New York City, starting next month.

Miss. State Fair

by RICHARD C. JOHNSON

The Mississippi State Fair free circus produced by Jorge Barreda was one of the highlights of the Oct. 9-18 State Fair.

The circus was located on the midway next to Kiddie land. The seating was bleacher type with a new yellow and red striped side-wall across the back of the arena. The lighting was two spot lights plus ring lights and a very nice and new sound system for the taped music. This is the third year Jorge Barreda has produced the circus at the Mississippi State Fair and each year it gets bigger and better.

There were 7 acts in the show and each act was top quality. The show started with Miss Elizabeth in a very well executed classic display of hair suspension. Next was Alonzo (Pancho Magana) from the pampas of Argentina with a whip and rope act, finishing with a fire and flash act. Attention then turned to the high wire where Joselito held everybody spellbound. I have seen this act many times and he still keeps my heart in my throat. The intricate dance steps and tricks can only be

performed by Joselito.

Back to the ground in the ring with beauty, grace and balance supreme, the Dielka's on the rolling globes. Three lovely ladies that perform a most exciting rolling globe act from juggling to a breath-taking ascent on an incline ramp.

Thrills, chills, laughs and surprises, Jorge Rosell and his comedy car. Jorge does a Charlie Chaplin impersonation and the car does everything but what it is supposed to and together they give the audience a million laughs.

The beautiful, the lovely goddess of the air on the single trapeze - Miss Lou Ann Jacobs presenting a fine contortion number leading into a beautiful single trapeze routine. No one leaves the show while Miss Jacobs is performing.

Turning your attention to the other side of the arena, The Royal Family of the air - The Flying Rodriguez, a double wide flying act with 5 flyers and 2 catchers. Truly poetry in motion, They are a young enthusiastic group of performers doing all the standard feats plus a few extra that have never been seen before. An act that is mind boggling but beautiful to watch - The Flying Rodriguez.

In the steel arena 7 African male lions were put through their paces by Jorge Barreda - a prime example of training and showmanship at its best. Jorge has also added a new lighting effect to the act. This concluded the show.

The show was about 50 minutes long. The Fair Commission was very pleased with the show and has asked Jorge to produce another one for next year. One other note, the Barredas had asked me to handle the announcing for the circus and it was a pleasure to do so.

It was great to see my old friends again - Lou Ann, Pancho, Jorge and Joselito Barreda, and to make new ones, the Rodriguez family and Jorge Rosell. After the last show, Elizabeth and Dianna Rodriguez had us at their trailer and Mr. Rodriguez showed us pictures and some of the medals they received when they worked the bar act in Europe.

The people on the show were a group of fine dedicated professional people. They are what makes the circus a great world to be in.

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Texas Fair

by BOB STODDARD

The 1981 State Fair of Texas has come and gone, and it wasn't exactly a good one. It rained twelve of the seventeen fair days . . . the worst since 1892, and the 2.7 million was far below the three million predicted . . . the worst since the 2.8 million attendance in 1965.

(Fair officials claim that anything over 2 million puts them in the black).

◊Closing day may be becoming "nemesis day" for the once greatest of State Fairs. Last year a Swiss Skyride accident on closing day resulted in an out of court settlement for \$3.8 million to one accident victim. The fair is one of three defendants in this case. The line of people waiting to sue the fair is growing.

Already plagued by bad publicity, the final hours of this year's fair were marred by gunfire on the midway with two hospitalized victims, a police chase through the crowd to rival a television scenario.

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and the mud, there were some good things about the fair, too.

Vic Hyde, the One Man Band, was good and has already been invited back for next year.

As usual, the Gil Gray produced 3 ring circus sponsored jointly by the State Fair and Dr. Pepper was a very good show, and it will be back, as well as most of the cast. For the people working for Gil and Dr. Pepper Circus, it is considered "a piece of cake". Gil has no trouble getting personnel to return.

Barbara Fairchild's show was good. I watched two performances of Ron Urban's "Pepsi on Ice" which was an outdoor show on a 20 ft. x 30 ft. iced stage over the Esplanade. I shivered through performances on both Friday and Sunday nights and my teeth chattered like mad, both times, when their comedy skater dumped a ten quart bucket of water over his head and then did the rest of his act sitting and bathing in the puddle of ice.

It would have been hilarious in a warm building, but not when the biting wind was trying passionately to blow away all of the blue feathers that make up the costumes on

(Continued on Page 21)

John Strong Show

by BOB SWANEY

Headlined by master illusionists Max and Sally Hapner, Big John Strong's Annual Fall Magic and Variety Show rolled into Omaha on Monday, Oct. 26th, for an afternoon and evening performance at the Music Hall.

Following a spirited overture by Maestro Neil Armstrong on organ and percussionist Stan Laurello and a Clown come-in, Max and Sally set to work with a Giant Bubble production, Zig Zag Lady and the Sub Trunk routine.

They were followed by the Widgets, human puppets; Juggler Lenny Mazel (who always seems to have something new and more difficult); Angela Wilnow's Collies and The Wainwrights, trampoline.

Interspersed among the acts, producing clown Bob "Spiff" Owen, Ralph "Uncle Ralphy" Grego and Chris "Huckleberry" Roberts cavorted through their antics much to the delight of the youngsters (and proving again that Big John has some of the best in the business).

Max and Sally closed the show with their levitation and Hindu sword basket. Their levitation continues to be an exhibit of true grace and beauty as well as consummate showmanship, all perfectly timed to the melody "The Impossible Dream". In short, they have class - both on and off stage.

Thanks, Big John.

Ice Show

by BILL WOTSCH

In 1948, Icetime of 1948 appeared at the Center Theatre in Rockefeller Center. The star of this show was Sonja Heinie and the other features were:

The Bruises who did "The Scrubwomen" number; Joe Jackson, Jr., bicycle act; The Zauones, also Curlylocks and The Three Bears (the little bear was Paul Castle, today Paul works as Mickey Mouse at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif.

Show Date

Roberts Bros. Circus, presented under the big top, will offer 12 free performances at the Stuart Soroptimist Club Fall Festival, to be held at the Martin County Fairgrounds in Stuart, Fla., Nov. 25 thru 29.

This will be the first show to play Stuart under canvas in three years.

Paul Robinson of Creative Outlet, Largo, Fla., promoted the circus in conjunction with Deggeller Attractions.

Miscellaneous

The DeBathe-Allen-Browning CFA Tent in Connecticut will hold its annual Tent Christmas Party on Dec. 6th. They'll also take part in a Hanneford Circus Fan Appreciation Day at White Plains, NY, on Feb. 14th.

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Last month in Japan, authorities acting on a complaint by animal rights people, stopped a Yamagata department store's scheduled exhibit of a fight between a lion and a tiger. The two animals were forced to fight in a small cage and both reportedly were suffering from cuts and bruises.

SPECIAL

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

by Bob Stoddard

A small ad in the Oct. 19th issue of Circus Report said simply "Herbie Weber or Maricela - Please call me immediately . . . Bruno in Dallas."

A few days later I went to the Dr. Pepper Circus and the first one I saw in the backyard was Maricela. I asked her if I was the first to tell her about Bruno's ad and she laughed and said that a dozen or more had already told them.

At the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus at Town East Mall, Herbie was telling me about the tent Bruno is making for the Las Vegas Fiesta Days, Nov. 23rd thru 29th. It seems like a radical departure in circus tents.

The European style, one ring, four poles will be solid black, with a white marquee. The effect should be great as they depend almost solidly on spotlights to pinpoint events. Another feature which will be ap-

preciated by the Las Vegas audiences when the late evening temperatures might drop to 45 degrees is the tent will be heated to 72 degrees by ducts thru the canvas.

Before they go to Las Vegas, Herbie and Maricela will be in Bakersfield for the Old Time Vaudeville Show from the 14th thru the 22nd, then overnight to Las Vegas.

Herbie says that Roger Zoppe and Cook's Comedy Car are two acts that he is sure will be at the Fiesta Days.

PEOPLE

LARRY ROBIE who has been trouping for over 20 years, has spent the past 11 yrs. with Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit wardrobe dept. He is in charge of the show's band wardrobe and their bandstand equipment. He started out touring with big name orchestras before joining RBBB 21 yrs. ago.

Advance Team

by SANDRA BAKER

I just saw the advance promotion team for Franzen Bros. Circus work at a school I teach in, in Camden, Tenn. Normally these types of promotion shows are presented in grade schools where children are receptive to circus entertainment.

Mr. Jeff Chalmers and David Niklasson presented 45 minutes of first class entertainment to Junior high school students, and kept them captivated the entire time.

Not only did they present first class circus acts with their juggling, comedy and balancing, they opened up a section of their program for questions from the students. The program was both entertaining and educational.

Never have I seen our student body as interested and excited in any program as they were with these two young men. My students spoke of nothing but the promotional show and the upcoming Franzen Circus, for days.

Mr. Franzen could find no team better to

The Circus

by MARIA VONDERHEID

As I sit in the circus tent;
 From the seat that I did rent.
 I look out to the people and animals performing for me;
 And think just to let them be.
 I see the clowns doing funny tricks;
 With all their little kicks.
 The beautiful girls on the flying trapeze;
 The men on the high wire, a tease.
 The horses and elephants going round;
 Oh, what a lovely entertainment I have found.

represent his show or the circus industry better. Every circus can be grateful to know that there are still young people who can go out and bring the magic of pre-show day excitement to life in children who are, today, a tough group to excite about anything.

Thank you Mr. Franzen and your promo team for making circus live again in Camden.

PEOPLE

THE VASQUEZ rolling globe act appeared with the Beni Kedem Circus, along with other acts listed in last week's CR.

JIMMY & MILLIE Perry, iron jaw comedy balancing and juggling act performed with HAL HAVILAND, comedy dog and pony act, on the 4th of July at New Boston, N. H., booked by Dwight Damon.

CAPT. DON LESLIE, tattooed man and sword swallower, was featured at a recent four day "Homecoming" at Akron University. Features included Royal Hanneford Circus, LA JOYE, the clown, Capt. Leslie and a parade.

RUSS BALSTEAD is the oldest and longest time circus trouper with Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit. Russ is in charge of ponies in the Ring Stock Dept. He first started his show business career with Gentry Bros. in the 1920's. In later years he trouped with Hagenbeck-Wallace, Cole Bros., and several other shows before returning to Ringling-Barnum. He is a 50 year veteran trouper.

TEXAS FAIR (Continued)

the dolls in the chorus who ardently strove to keep themselves from blowing into the Esplanade. (I'll bet this was an excellent show on warmer days).

I missed the Fiddlin' Frenchie Burke shows, but he always has an interesting show.

Bob Ford and Chris performed their magic well as they shared the Craft's Village stage with Frenchie the Clown and Jeff.

Because of the weather and the fact that we spent the middle weekend of the Fair in Traders Village presenting our Clown and Circus Days, there were a lot more free shows which I missed. I also missed the shows that had admission charges, including the State Fair Musical starring David Cassidy in "Little Johnny Jones" at the Music Hall. The show finished with financial losses.

To finish on a good note, the group that graced the stage in the Automobile building for the third year in a row, "Rainbow" has an excellent show sparked by a great drummer.

Circus Rancy

by BOB KEENE

Topping RBBB in age if not in size, Cirque Rancy-Carrington is in its 126th year. This writer caught the show at Barentin, France, in a one-nighter on the way to an extended engagement in Rouen. The show makes a flashy appearance with a fold-out front of two trailers flanking an office-ticket wagon, all brilliantly lighted.

The red, yellow and blue striped bale ring top is 140 x 120 ft., and seats 1,400 around the single ring.

Prices were surprising if not staggering, as lounges go for about \$14.00, the cheapest seats for \$6.00, children a dollar less. The show was classy throughout, however, with the ushers garbed in tuxes. Costuming, lighting and staging were first rate and the well-paced program was top quality.

Highlights of the performance were equilibrist Mauro Monti, an appealing young man, whose father carried him head-to-head up and down a tall ladder, and Julot, the trained hippo. Other talent included a li-

berty pony act, Zdravko with 10 lions, Boris Borsuks (the pickpocket), magician and Brigitte Carrington.

James Carrington, owner, is lead clown, Roger Lanzac the highly featured and personable ringmaster (billed as Le Grand Sympathique), and Claudy Renotte, director. Music was furnished by organ, drums and tape.

The show is on the road all but six days a year, according to Renotte. It moves on 16 large semis and 4 smaller trucks, all show owned, plus a number of living trailers. Five well-painted small cars work the advance and lots of paper and paste are used.

PEOPLE

EDDIE HOWE, former circus publicity man visited with an old friend EUGENE JELESNIK at Salt Lake City while there with the Ringling Red Unit.

ALMOND KNIGHT writes that Franzen Bros. played Camden, Tenn. Oct. 27th and Waverly, Oct. 28th, then Ft. Campbell, Ky. Oct. 29-31.

CIRCUS COLLECTORS SPECIAL

Subscription to BANNER LINE, World's Only Once-A-Month Circus publication.

Subscription includes: -

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Hobo Joe

BY CIRCUS JOE Valenciano

"Hobo Joe" meets The Circus! Actor Joe Gilbert portrays a character named Hobo Joe in a pilot TV children's show. He travels around the country visiting various places. If the pilot film is a success it will become a series.

Created by Roger Abbott and Carl Goldman, the format is that Hobo Joe makes friends with a boy and his dog. Joe tells the boy that he, the boy, can go anywhere in the world if he uses his imagination.

Another very big character in the film is "Road Island Red" who is a six foot rooster. Much as the idea of 'Big Bird' on Sesame Street.

The director of the film, Carl Goldman, is a brother-in-law of E. P. Lyle, owner of Glenwood Mobilehome Park in Tampa, has a large motorhome, which was used as part of the mobile filming unit. The vehicle was used as a dressing room, for equipment, etc.

A segment was filmed on location at Sarasota's Sailor Circus. The opening of the circus was Oct. 6th. The performance was presented in a three ring format under the big top, in front of an SRO crowd.

The circus is produced and presented by a Sarasota School. All performers are students. Displays performed in the show are as follows: two producing clowns with several others in the alley; Spanish webs; Bicycles; Unicycles; Tumblers; Dogs; Hanging perch; Double traps; High wire.

Thanks to Miss Tonya Lyle for a run down of acts. A cute feature was a little boy about 6 or 7 on the high stilts as one of the joeys.

PEOPLE

MR. LOLLIPOPS the Clown (Norman Abrahams) and four other Mecca Temple Shrine Klowns from New York City traveled to Philadelphia, Pa., for a "Christmas in October" party at the Children's Orthopedic Hospital. Others making the trip were TWINKLE TOES (Benson Simon), JAY JAY the Clown (Don Katz), SHOE LACE (Anson Goshturian) and COWBOY BEN (Bernard Trager).

C & B News

by CHARLES BELLATTI

Tragedy struck the show hard as the season neared the end. Jerry Kruse, 18 year old bandsman, was struck by a semi truck and killed.

Other deaths were: Marie, 35 year old elephant, formerly with the Bobby Gibbs three act, a heart attack; also a tiger and Freddy, the elephant riding lion from Pat White's cat act.

Harry Nelson, who had his circus side show at early fairs, joined in September for the remainder of the season. He had his 75 foot semi-mounted front completely repainted and provides real flash on the midway.

Fall business has been very spotty. Pittsburgh was big for all three days and for the third time this season, an unscheduled third performance was required to handle the crowd (Sunday, Sept. 13).

When Carson & Barnes goes to the barn following the last stand at Commerce, Tex. on Saturday, Nov. 14th, it will end one of its longest seasons ever. Show visited 227 communities while playing 245 days out of 246 on the road. Only one day off, that was

Easter Sunday at Hobbs, N. M.

For fall dates, D. R. Miller was presenting a fast-paced 100-minute performance. While the Arturo Gaona family (flying and teeterboard) left in late August to fulfill previous commitments, other acts were added, including the Rahalis, high hand balancing. Eight displays included four, five or six acts working simultaneously. Only Single-O displays were cat act, gorilla parody, teeterboard, high wire and two clown stops.

Caballero and Luna flying acts provide the finale. Ballet has 14 girls on webs, ladders and arrows, with Rosario Bautista's hair hang over the center ring.

Spec personnel was depleted slightly when children left for school, but still included more than 50 people and 20 animals.

PEOPLE

REDD and JANIE RUSSELL, wild west and rodeo performers, are moving back to their old ranch in Northridge, Calif., after spending two years in Southern Oregon.

In Memoriam

VERA L. CARSON (81), mother of Dorothy Smidt and John Carson, died last month in Phoenix, Ariz. At one time the family was known as the Rockets, a roller skating act. Before the act was started Mrs. Mom Carson and her husband operated roller skating rinks in the southern states. In addition to her son and daughter she is survived by several grand children and great grand children.

BILL PRINGLE (80), a designer and builder of animated window displays, died on Aug. 3rd at his home in Takoma Park, Md. He was a friend of many circus greats and was well known for his many circus parties for show folks playing the Washington, DC area.

Book Review

by MARJORIE HACKETT

"The Real Ringmaster" by Austin Miles, published by New Leaf Press and available at any Zondervan Bookstore or other Christian Book Store. Cost: \$8.95.

If Austin Miles had decided to have this slim little volume published by one of the popular publishers, I am sure it would have made the best seller list in short time!

It is without equivocation one of the most intriguing and mysterious stories about anyone connected with the world of the circus that I have read!

I have never met Austin Miles nor heard him announce a show but perhaps some day our paths will cross. He certainly comes across in his self-portrait as a very naive young man who was used for a "front" by some very unscrupulous persons.

Buy the book! You will not put it down until you have read it all, both the story and the message.

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Some Show History

by "Rick" Mc CONNELL

I would like to make a reply to the showmen who were irked because the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus and Circus Vargas were in the same area, in what they chose to call their territory.

To those complaining, I would like to say that you don't know your circus history very well.

It has always been the practice of the Tented circus to arrange their routes to follow the most favorable weather, crops and other economic conditions, suitable to their type of operation, just as any other business seeks a favorable location in which to operate. This they have a perfect right to do, under the law.

Now as for the history, I would like to mention a few documented facts.

More than 100 years ago, P. T. Barnum, new and Greatest Show on Earth, in the year 1880, toured the eastern section of Texas for the entire month of October. Oct. 1 in Marshall and Oct. 30 at McKinney, on the 31st the train was enroute to Parsons, Kansas.

This was done several times until 1919, when the combined circuses - Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey - toured the entire state every other year under canvas until 1956.

The Clyde Beatty Circus had winter quar-

ters in eastern Texas and toured the eastern part of that state in the spring and fall and most of it at least every year.

The Cole Bros. Circus made many tours of Texas in the fall of the year. In 1948 I was with them at the time they spent 28 days in the state, mostly in the eastern portion.

Since the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus became a truck show they have made only four trips into Texas that I can account for and all have been in September or October. In 1961 they played 4 stands (Sept. 18-21), in 1970 they played 14 stands (Sept. 24 to Oct. 12), in 1973 they played 17 stands (sept. 20 to Oct. 10) and in 1981 they played 18 stands (Sept. 12 to Oct. 22).

I know that Circus Vargas has also made tours into Texas.

Carson & Barnes also makes tented tours in Texas, almost annually.

Animal Telethon

A special Animal Welfare Telethon is set for early January in an effort to raise funds for Animal Welfare programs. The show is to be carried nationwide by cable stations and will run for 36 consecutive hours.

Live entertainment will be picked up in Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York and in Denver.

PEOPLE

PETER STURGIS, SLOAN DAMON and SUZANNE WALSTROM recently joined the Magic Time USA Show.

EDDIE and KAREN HOWE returned to the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit for another visit when the show played Chicago. They have been visiting the show off and on all season and Karen continues to work on her trapeze education. Karen's mother, MEGAN is a Fraud Investigator for the Riverside (Calif) County Welfare Dept.

Miscellaneous

The "Alzana" exhibit at the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Conn., has been extended through the month of January. The exhibit features many photos, costumes and other items used by the Alzana family.

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HOTLINE

Nov. 2, 1981 - Enroute from Jackson to Ft. Gibson, Miss. - The Carson & Barnes semi hauling the bear cages was struck by another vehicle in a head-on collision. The show's tractor unit was damaged, but none of the animals were injured and the driver escaped without injury.

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL (Continued)

Olympic Circus, all in Halloween costumes played to the biggest crowd that they ever played to, or probably ever will play to.

I believe this is an idea whose time has come. It is safer, healthier and lots more fun for everyone. Of course everybody will not like it. I asked one of the cashiers in the drug store how she felt about the crowd.

"I didn't like it at all," she said, and then added, "but I'll bet my boss does!"

HOTLINE

A 250 lb. tiger described as 'tame' by its owner was being held for observation for rabies after jumping on a 2 yr. old youngster during a photo session in Oklahoma City on Oct. 29th. The child was reported to be in stable condition after suffering deep cuts to her face.

"It's awful, but it's just carelessness," said John Aynes, of Choctaw, Okla., who owns the tiger. "It's no one's fault."

Aynes described Shamar the tiger as being a "tame friendly cat" and probably considered the child "something to play with."

Aynes told reporters the child probably would not have been hurt if she had been kept inside a vehicle. "The baby was just too close when the tiger came out of the trailer" to be photographed, he said.

.....

An elephant with the Hoxie Bros. Circus, appearing at Daytona Beach, Fla., attacked a man who petted her. She reportedly

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wrapped her trunk around Timothy P. McDonald, lifted him up and slammed him to the ground several times before releasing him. McDonald was treated for broken ribs and a sprained ankle at a local hospital and then released.

The incident started when McDonald and his wife picked up a hitch hiker who said he worked for the circus and asked to be taken to the show grounds. Once at the circus lot McDonald was invited by the hitch hiker to inspect the elephants.

Show officials told police they have a policy that forbids anyone but elephant handlers from crossing a rope staked out around the area where the elephants are kept. Mrs. McDonald said that no one warned them the elephants might be dangerous.

PEOPLE

DOUG HENNING, magician, was featured at a special benefit show for the Transcendental Meditation in California Prisons.

EAT YOUR HEART OUT

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Acts

Cleveland County Fair, N. C. - Oct. 5-7 - Acts included: Jan Danacheck, unicycle, The Dionnes, juggling, Chiron, magic and illusions, Michelle, balancing, The Yolandas, perch, Alex the Great, comic, Marina, poodles and afghans, the Great Goldfinger, one finger stand and balancing.

Elks Lodge, Rochester, N. H. - Oct. 11 - Acts included: Dick Burgess, comic, Dick Coffin, impressionist, Jimmie & Millie Perry, iron jaw, comedy balancing and juggling act . . Dick Coffin Agency

Gulf Coast State Fair and Exposition at

Biloxi, Miss. - Oct. 28-Nov. 1 - Acts included the Liebel Family Circus, plus Remo Cristiani, elephants, Frank Cain and Jim Knapp, strolling clowns. The event was produced and managed by Carlotta Robinson of Creative Outlet, Largo, Fla.

Center Stage Amherst Music Camp, Raymond, Maine - July 4 - Acts included The Dubsky's, *dog act, chimp act, single trapeze*, Frank Hannon (Ho-Po the clown), Dwight Damon, magic, Jimmie & Millie Perry, iron-jaw comedy balancing and juggling. Show operated as Dwight Damon's One Ring Circus.

Comment

by L. A. SADLER

Regarding the article on Niagara Falls wire walking in your recent issue of CR. You just might be interested in the following correct information.

First off, none have walked the wire any place near the falls as the gorge is too wide and it would be hard to anchor the wire. I suppose it could be done today, but none the less it was not done in the years such stunts were the rage. The cables were stretched across the gorge downstream from the falls for most of the feats.

Francois Gravelet "Blondin" was of course the first by hanging his cable across the gorge about midway between the present Rainbow Bridge (½ mile downstream from the falls) and the two lower bridges (Michigan Central R.R. Bridge and the present Lower Arch Bridge) which are about 2 miles from the falls. His first feats were in 1859 and he returned later in 1860 to perform again.

Many followed Blondin but were not up to his excellence. Among the first was Harry Leslie in 1865, followed by Signor Balini from Italy. Fellow country person Maria Spelterini was the first of the females and walked four different dates between July 8 and 22, 1876. Outside of Blondin, these walks were all conducted in the vicinity of then Suspension Bridge and the Railroad Bridge, later constructed by the Michigan Central R.R.

Stephen Peere stretched his wire between these two lower river bridges and walked on June 22, 1887, and again on June 25. He lost his life here being the only such incident of all these walkers.

A Mr. Jenkins later walked the same Peere cable as did Samuel Dixon on Sept. 6, 1890 being his first attempt ever on a wire. In the early part of the 20th Century a lad from Iowa slid across the gorge hanging by his teeth from the cable.



James Hackworth and Irene Garza, clowns at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World ride off to their honeymoon after being married in special ceremonies at Circus World on Sept. 25th.

In modern days one has to go back to 1975 when on June 4th, in the early morning hours the French daredevil Henri Rechatin, wife Janyck and Frank Lucas teamed up to cross the gorge a bit more downstream on the cable of the Spanish Aerial Car that crosses the whirlpool some 175 ft. beneath. Lucas who first was on such a cable rode a motorbike while Henri stood with balancing pole on a small platform on the rear of the bike while his wife hung by one foot from a trapeze beneath the bike. Twice while crossing the 1,800 ft. cable, the team had to stop while Henri lifted the bike over a splice in the cable and again when the bike couldn't be negotiated up the slant of the cable where the cable car was at rest on the far side. Here Henri had to get a rope and pull the bike up the incline.

At all these gorge crossings, except Blondin's, the river beneath is a mad churning rapids and I suppose adds to the thrill.

Living some 20 miles away I never tire of visiting the falls and the rapids of the lower gorge.