

CIRCUUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

The logo for 'Circus Report' is a stylized, hand-drawn illustration. At the top, the words 'CIRCUUS REPORT' are written in a large, bubbly, outlined font. Below the text, a central figure of a clown with a wide, open-mouthed smile is depicted. To the left of the clown is a circular frame containing an elephant's head and trunk. To the right is another circular frame containing a tiger's head with its mouth open, showing its teeth. A banner at the bottom of the logo contains the text 'AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY' in a smaller, outlined font. The signature 'G. H. Stepp' is visible in the bottom right corner of the logo.

9th Year

September 22, 1980

Number 38



Joseph C. Reisinger

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In Memoriam

DUNCAN RENALDO (76) popular star of the TV series "The Cisco Kid" died of lung cancer and other ailments at a hospital near Santa Barbara, Calif. on Sept. 3rd. He was stranded in the U.S. when his merchant ship burned at the Baltimore docks. After arriving in Hollywood he worked in 164 movies and became a national hero as a result of his role as the Cisco Kid. That series ended in 1955 and the following year he was featured with the old Clyde Beatty Circus.

in the NEWS

SNAKES ABANDONED IN TRAILER

For three days a tractor-trailer rig sat in back of a Truckers' Inn at Jessup, near Baltimore. They curious restaurant employees looked in the trailer and got a real surprise.

The trailer, painted with gaudy jungle scenes and believed to be part of a carnival or circus, was crawling with some 30 live snakes, half of them poisonous and all of them hungry.

"They were in terrible condition," said Baltimore Zoo Director Steve Graham, who was called in to take the reptiles.

With the help of his father-in-law, Roger Caras a venomologist and wildlife expert who happened to be visiting at the time from Long Island, N.Y., Graham removed the snakes and took them to his zoo.

Among the snakes were several species of rattlers - some four feet long - a cottonmouth, copperheads and many non-poisonous varieties, said Graham.

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ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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On The Cover

This week's cover photo is one of several in our collection, showing the train wreck suffered by the Al G. Barnes Circus at Canaan, N.B., Canada on July 20, 1930.

Five people were killed as a result of the wreck and 12 were seriously hurt. None of the performers were injured.

It was said that the accident was caused when a truck arch bar dropped from one of the cars and slipped under a wheel. Later it was stated that the wreck had been caused by a broken rail.

The show train and wagons were badly damaged and the circus layed over to rebuild its equipment and to bury its dead.

As it dis-railed the train jack-knifed around a small station house and surprisingly enough the structure was not damaged.

REPORT

SPECIAL CIRCUS PROGRAM

The circus program at Wellington, Ohio (Aug. 18) was produced by Peggy Kaltenback of the Klein's Agency and presented at the fair grounds. Two shows were given - 4 and 8 p.m.

The program ran as: Overture; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Clowns; Erma's Chimps (Bertini); The Cyclonians; Davide Laddie & Co., unsupported ladders; Lilli-Ana, leopards; The Bertini Duo, aerial cradle; Clowns; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Johnny Luxem, wheel act and the Diano elephants.

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Sep. 22-24 Albany, Ga.
25-26 Tallahassee, Fla
27-28 Lake City
- End of Outdoor Tour -

Carson & Barnes Circus

Sep. 22 Mt. Sterling, Ky.
23 Danville
24 Campbellsville
25 Scottsville
26 Madisonville
27 Russellville

Hubert Castle Circus

Sep. 27-28 Salina, Kans.

Great American Circus

Sep. 22 Luray, Va.
23 Waynesboro
24 Buena Vista
25 Christiansburg
26 Marions
27 Richlands
28 Wise

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep. 22 Dayton, Tenn.
23 Lafayette
24 Phenix City, Ala
25 Panama City, Fla
26 Niceville
27-28 Pensacola

King Bros. Circus

Sep. 22 Jasper, Ala.
23 Russellville
24 Decatur
25 Corinth, Miss.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Sep. 24-29 Salt Lake City,
Utah

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Sep. 23-24 Kalamazoo, Mich
26-28 Champaign, Ill.

Royal Hanneford Circus

Sep. 20-21 Johnson City,
Tenn.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Sep. 22-23 Denver, Colo
24 Boulder
25 Ft. Collins
26 Greeley

Swan Bros. Circus

Sep. 25-Oct. 5 Bakersfield
Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic

Sep. 24-28 Westminster, Colo

---- MAGIC ----

Pf. Miller Magic Time USA

Sep. 23 Sidney, Nebr.
24 Kimball
25 Ogallala
27 Alliance

Tom Ogden

Sep. 22 Charlesburg, Pa
23 Waynesboro
24 Shippensburg
25 Greensburg
26 Indiana
27 Lewistown
28 Wilkes-Barre

Temple the Magician

Sep. 26-Oct. 5 Tulsa, Okla

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

Sep. 21-27 Cumberl'd, Me

Century 21 Shows

Sep. 22-27 Tuscaloosa, Ala

James H. Drew Exposition

Sep. 22-27 Byron, Ga.

Golden Gate Clowns Meet

Sep. 27 San Mateo, Calif

Gutis Family

Sep. 22-27 Bloomsburg, Pa

Hall & Christ Attractions

to Sep 28 Okla City, Okla
Lubbock, Texas

Japanese Fall Festival

Sep. 27-28 San Fran, Cal.

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Kaye Hollywood Elephants

Sep. 22-27 Tuscaloosa, Ala

Los Latinos

Sep. 24 Chicago, Ill.

Mighty Thomas Shows

Sep. 19-28 Ft. Smith, Ark

Peking Opera

to Sep. 28 Los Ang. Cal.

Royal American Shows

to Sep. 28 Kansas City, Ks.

Sikorsky's

Sep. 26 Baltimore, Md.

Tip Top Shows

Sep. 27-Oct. 2 La Crosse,
Wisc.

Festival of Magic

Sep. 22 Chambersburg, Pa

23 Waynesboro

24 Shippensburg

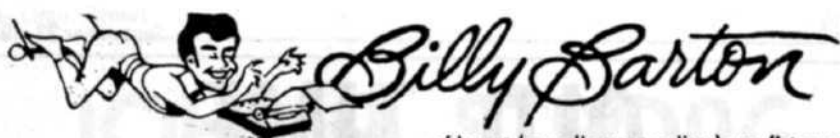
25 Greensburg

26 Indiana

27 Lewistown

28 Sunbury

28 Hanover Twp.



OWING TO CIRCUMSTANCES beyond my control (one of which was NOT being at home when important publishing processes were in effect) my book came out with 20 errors in it. **THEREFORE . . .** only 1000 copies have been released. A second and larger and amended printing comes off-press Sept. 30. This new edition, however, will not contain either the Epilogue or the Postscript, will be ten pages fewer in number, and will NOT go out inscribed. Those of you who have the flawed first edition have a true collector's item which may one day become quite valuable. **NO MORE OF THOSE COPIES WILL BE RELEASED TO ANYONE!**

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT: Stories to the contrary I will indeed be appearing with the M&M Circus in 1981 and will perform until the end of May at which time I will settle down with my new editor (and, believe it or not, my new girl friend), **SUZANNE HARTMAN**, and prepare my second novel for publication. Beginning in Sept., I will play a fall run of dates to promote my second book (the title of which I am keeping secret until I have my copyright.).

JORGE BARREDA narrowly escaped death when he fell asleep and plowed into the rear of a semi with his brand new diesel pick-up which he had just taken ownership of and which he had driven only 20 miles. Fortunately he suffered only a concussion and an injury to his leg. I was told that he had to be cut out of the wreckage and that only God's good grace saved the young man. . . **LILLIANA**, whom I saw in Washington, DC with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, gave me the details. She had filled-in for Jorge on some dates. Fortunately he will be fine and should be back in action long before this column sees print.

ALSO escaping serious injury this season was **JUAN VASQUEZ** and **FELIPE** and another when the crane bar on the catch end of the flying act split in two and dropped all three into the apron. **JULIANNA** called me from Sarasota and filled me in on the long season with Castel, but, unfortunately, I was in the midst of mailing books and had no time to take notes.

ALL ABOUT BARBARA: Barbara Woodcock has been hospitalized for the second time this summer, once in Boston, and more recently in Tampa where doctors found that a chip

of bones (as well as some discs) was "strangling" her spinal cord. **BUCKLES** flew in to be with his wife for this serious, emergency operation. Barbara asked me to publicly thank all her friends who helped her so much while she was hospitalized in Boston. Barbara's address is: Box 818, Ruskin, Fla. 33570.

The Woodcock's daughters, **SHANNON** and **DELILAH** were on tour with Buckles for the summer where the two girls made their trapeze debut for which they won a trophy. Meanwhile Barbara gifted Buckles with a belated Father Day's surprise when she gave him a Video Tape Deck.

Apparently Barbara's Workmen's Compensation has not taken up the slack on the hospital bills, claiming that her injury was a separate accident which Barbara says is not true. But this is all too detailed and too complicated to go into in this column. Barbara worried mainly because the dates were built around her appearance which, owing to back problems, she could not make. Turned out that **BEN** did a super-sensational job on his own and between him and Buckles both acts went fine. Hopefully Barbara will be back in the ring next season.

NOW ABOUT ELEPHANTS: Barbara reports the two young bulls they acquired from **PEGGY** and **MACK McDONALD** are dreams. Buckles says that *Toto* is beginning to usurp the fabulous *Anna May's* thunder (I don't believe that). One thing is for sure we all agree there is no finer elephant trainer in the world than is Mack McDonald! Next year the two girls, Shannon and Delilah go into the elephant act - the baby elephant *Toto* is doing the leg carry with Delilah so it will be a Barbara-Anna May combo in miniature. Plus some of Peggy McDonald's style work involving handstands, walkovers and tumbling with Shannon in the act alas. So, the Woodcocks will have a refreshingly new and different combination of elephant acts for 1981 and knowing the Woodcocks it will be class all the way.

NOW TO OTHER NEWS: **DAVID CHABIRA** visited the Coronas Circus at the State Fair in Syracuse which was played under a tent. Also there were the **ZAMPERLAS** and **WALT** and **BARBARA KING**. Walt called and said it was 100 degrees under the tent and the elephants became temperamental in the heat and got to

(Continued on Page 34)

OLD TIME VAUDEVILLE

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REPORT

FRANZEN BROS. CIRCUS

BY KEN HOLEHOUSE

Franzen Bros. Circus came through the south suburbs of Chicago again and we stopped for another look. What we saw was the usual packed tent and another hour and a half display of talented performers who obviously love what they're doing.

We noted that Freddie the Clown was even funnier this time as he has expended and polished his hilarious routines. His goat act came off without a hitch, to the delight of an already enthusiastic audience.

Even the Alfonsos revolving ladder set was better than before since the Alfonsos added more business to their routine by pantomiming and acting a lot more. This act really has some personality now. The Alfonsos, by the way, are Brian Grieser and Curtis Kid Caanan.

In the Park Forest South performances Chris Greve and I saw, Curtis Kid Caanan also did a superb job on the tightwire. Some of the hesitation and balance problems we had seen earlier in the season were gone and we were treated to a polished, well-executed, confident performance.

MAILBAG

FROM DAVID L. HAMMARSTROM

I am very concerned that your recent review of my book, "Behind the Big Top", may leave a misleading impression in the reader's mind that my treatment of Cliff Vargas is predominately negative.

With all due respect to your fine reviewer, Mr. Harry L. Graham, I feel impelled (out of profound respect and admiration for the significance of Circus Vargas) to set the record straight: Cliff Vargas, in my opinion (and this I state clearly in BTBT), is the most promising showman under the big top. Mr. Vargas is given considerable attention (and much of it very positive) in my book. He is making a tremendous contribution to the American circus, and his performance (since BTBT was written, over two years ago) has improved dramatically.

While it is true, to use Mr. Graham's words, that I put "the magnifying glass" on Mr. Vargas, as I do on many managers, it should also be pointed out that BTBT has much praise to offer for the Circus Vargas operation. Therefore, I would appreciate very much your printing this letter for the information of your readers.

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The Free Circus presented at the Michigan State Fair was produced by M & M Productions.

The line-up of acts included: The Amazing Milton, head balancing traps; The Bertloffs, acrobatic adagio; Victor Julian's Little Stars presented by Leo Coffey; Don Philips & Co. unicycling/juggling; Miss Pachinka, single trapeze; Tony Diano's elephants presented by Lee Keener and The Zamudios, high wire.

Clown gags were presented by Vern Woerner and Bobby Davis. Announcing was handled by Jimmy Douglass and music was provided by Danny Daniels at the organ.

Three shows were presented each day for the eleven day stand.

In Memoriam

FRED M. RANDAL (48) half of the show team of "David & Goliath" appearing at a club at South Tahoe, Nev. died last month after a brief illness and heart valve operation.

MILTON BARTOK (71) former show owner, died at Sarasota, Fla., on Aug. 8th. He was an active showman and a member of several show organizations. He was the retired owner of the Bardex Minstrels and his Circus Bartok. Survivors include a daughter Mrs. Valerie Bartok Perz, a son David L. Bartok, II and a sister Mrs. Alice Blon, all of Sarasota.

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REPORT

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

BY ALTON L. JONES

The Carson & Barnes Circus arrived in this city (Gas City, Ind., Aug. 31) for two shows, at 2 and 4:30 p.m. The new tent, the only one like it in North America, made special of vinyl cloth in Italy, is a sight to behold in itself.

D. R. Miller (Dorey) can be proud of the circus he sponsors - to the tune of 25 elephants, plus the petting arena for the use of youngsters (as well as the oldsters). The circus is the only five ring circus showing in the States under canvas.

The band was excellent and masterfully conducted by William L. Reynolds and consisted of eight musicians, one an organ player of excellent ability. They specialized in circus music - devoid of disco and other non-circus music. It's a brass band, other than the organ (most of the musicians have a pet aversion to clarinet players).

The circus was well played under the masterful execution of ringmaster Chandler, who not only handled this assignment well, he was most

informative for the information provided herewith provided, but he also put on his own acts.

The cradle with Lucy Loyal, Chana and the Castro Sisters, opened the afternoon show. This was followed with the cat act with John Anthony Marrone and his superb handling of the feline family of lions and Bengal tigers.

The wire acts, with bikes and foot jugglers were capably handled by Rickey Mercias and Juan Garcea, and were followed by the elephant and lion show handled by John Marrone. The Spec followed with a ballet and a superb performance by 'La Chona' on the balancing trapeze. The next scene was with horses, camels and the Lucy Loyal Riding act - animals handled well by John Marrone, and a very good feature of liberty horses with Gloria Herriott, who brought much applause.

The magic portion was furnished by Chandler & Co (the MC) in an act that provided much merriment. The scene was about the Wizard of Oz and the magic performed was destroying the Bad Witch.

The Elephant Pow Pow followed with Johnny Walker, Jr. The clowns put on a tug-o-war and this was followed with the head balancing trapeze by Gloria Marquez. Then Gloria Herriott handled a special dog show assisted by Linda Chandler, Lee Stevens and Barb Marrone. The juggling scene with Wally Eastwood in the center ring was added by similar acts in the other four rings.

Brad Franks showed his prancing horses in splendid fashion and the clowns had a walk-around in animal costumes, much to the fun of the youngsters. Inclined globes and hand balancing were presented by Les Duvan - well done.

Then came the elephants, 19 of them, in five rings and finalized by the long walk - all 19 of them, well handled by Johnny Walker, Jr. The finishing act was made up of three flying teams - the Castros, the Lopez and the Marquez. Each one took turns doing the difficult routines.

This two hour show was well worth watching and testifies to Dorey Miller's showmanship to handle the best five ring circus under canvas of the year.

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PEOPLE

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REPORT

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS

BY BILL SLENKER

The Royal Hanneford Circus played the Great Allentown (Pa) Fair, Aug. 27-29 as a free attraction in front of the grandstand. This show is first class, everything about it is top notch - the rolling stock, the bulls, the ring stock, the props, the cats and the performers.

The wardrobe is clean and bright and prop men all wear light blue coveralls with "Hanneford Circus" on the back in white letters. The boss property man works every performance in a black tux.

The performers give 100% at each show and ringmaster Rai announced with clear and precise voice flections, which is easy to understand. He does not wear the usual costume of red coat and top hat.

Some notes of the show: Herbie Weber has been selling his act more years than he cares to remember; Struppi (the workaholic) does it all; Mark Karoly, a young man who works in three acts (good showmanship); The Great

Sladek (I didn't get his name), also works in three acts. Sam Carter does a nice turn with a leopard; the clown gag was funny and got good laughs; the plate spinning act was done with a different twist. The girls who style the feature acts do a good job; the music, while not Merle Evans, Henry Kyes or Karl King was good solid background music (organ and drums) with Kay and Bob Parker, who back up the show in great style.

This may sound like I'm blowing a lot of smoke, but it isn't so. I've seen a lot of so-so outfits lately and it warmed this old circus fan's heart to see a show where everybody cares and takes pride in their work. While I am passing out the roses, I might throw a few Tommy's way. Here is a circus producer who has invested many thousands of dollars to give the circus-going public some real good entertainment and doing this at a time when all other business men are pulling in their horns and not spending any money to improve.

Lately I have been hearing a lot of talk about the circus business being a dead issue. Well I don't buy that, and I offer as proof that it

(Continued on Page 28)

MANAGERS and PHONEMEN

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SPECIAL

CIRCUS FEATURE

The circus is featured in the Fall 1980 issue of "Chevron USA" magazine, which is published by H. M. Gousha Co., Box 6227, San Jose, Calif. 95150.

Called "Ladies and Gentlemen, Children of All Ages" the special article was prepared and written by Therese Beaver and includes a full color photo of three Beatty-Cole circus clowns. Other photos, also in full color, are from Hoxie Bros. Circus, Ringling-Barnum, plus an old poster, some circus acts and a clown making up.

PEOPLE

JOHN MacKAY, clown, conducts tours for summer vacationists and he plans to expand those activities, while continuing to clown for various shows.

SEBASTIAN, on tour with King Bros. Circus, is presenting his illusions: Walking thru A Wall of Glass, the Hammer of Death and a Motorcycle illusion.

RALPH McINTOSH, of Los Angeles, tours the west coast with his show "Magic With A Message" which is a church oriented program.

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PEOPLE

KENNY McCONNELL with his Rosie's Circus Diner, **GERRI PRESLEY**, **RAY MIRANDA**, **JIMMY ESTEP**, **DONNY** and **IONE McINTOSH** were seen at the Michigan State Fair.

DON PHILIPS celebrated his birthday with a party for the performers on the circus at the Michigan State Fair.

JAY EVANS, **RALPH GRECO** and **BILL BURGER** are all working out ahead of the Big John Strong Circus, creating promotion and advertising ideas for the show.

THE NAVARRO FAMILY will wind up their engagement at the Blackpool Tower Circus in England next month, then will head for two weeks in a French show.

HARRY THOMAS and his tigers have been signed for a return engagement at the Fantasy Island Park in New York for the summer of 1981.

DAVE (Skinhead) LEWIS worked the Cox Instrument Picnic at Northville, Mich. Aug. 16, and then appeared at the "Good Old Days" celebration at Walled Lake, Mich. Aug. 24.

BOB OWEN, clown, was pictured in a recent Washington newspaper which devoted a full page to the American Continental Circus.

GLEN and **ETHEL HENRY** visited Carden-Johnson Circus in Texas earlier in the season

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and now they plan to spend some time at the Texas Shrine dates.

REV. AUSTIN MILES was MC for the ten hour Gospel Song Fest at Westchester, N. Y. on Aug. 9th. For the past four years he has been MC for the annual Pittsburgh Gospel Opry at the Syria Mosque Theatre.

AL DAWLEY will work the Charleston, W. Va. circus date for **SAM T. POLACK** next month.

MAGGIE SLATER, **DOUG HAIRGROVE**, **TONY** and **SUSIE MEDLEY**, **PETE** and **MARY WRAY**, **CHUCK** and **LORI CRAW** and **WARREN C. WOOD**, all of the Great All American Youth Circus, visited Ringling Blue at Long Beach, Calif. Aug. 16th.

WALLY NAGHTIN and family, **GUNTHER GEBEL-WILLIAMS** and family, the **ANTALEKS**, **SUE** and **RUDI LENZ**, **LOU JACOBS** and Family and the **FLYING FARFANS** of the Ringling Red Unit visited Circus Vargas in Chicago.

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

FEROCIOUS TIGER TURNS ON YOUTHFUL TRAINER

Wash Tubbs Rushed to Hospital After Circus Crowd Gets Unexpected Thrill—Circus Shows Him

Spectators attending the afternoon performance of the Pioneer Circus were given an unexpected thrill by a tiger springing upon Washington Tubbs, the animal trainer, leading him to the local hospital.

Mr. Tubbs was hospitalized because of the force of the blow, and received numerous cuts and bruises. Fortunately, he was attended by the circus assistant of Miss Tangh, a former assistant teacher, who was in the audience at the time.

"This sort of thing is all part of the show," said Miss Tangh, after the performance had dawn. "You've got to expect it when you are dealing with wild animals."

The woman's young lady is an actress.



POT POURRI

BY MIKE NAUGHTON

Nora and I are the proud parents of a 10 lb 7 oz daughter, Kathleen Lorraine, who was born July 28th in Albany.

The Aleppo Shrine Circus at Cape Cod was produced by Ed Migley and was very enjoyable. I was impressed with the lavish props and floats that were manufactured just for Circus Odyssey, the lighting effects were indeed terrific. I never got a chance to take a dip in the water because showtimes were at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. The show lasted almost three hours. Many Shrine committees flew in to see the show including Syracuse, Detroit and Baltimore. A cast party was staged by Roger La Monte and David Chabira, of The Pirates of the Sky.

Lou Ann Jacobs to Circo Atayde for the first seven weeks, then to the M&M dates. . . Wayne McCary visited with the performers after the last show and it looks like I will be making the Maine dates next spring. I am looking forward to working with Frank Hanon, who has been producing clown on those dates for many years. Frank has all those gigantic comedy props.

Illusionist Dorian Blake returns to the Jimmy Cole tour next winter, has been busy with fairs and festivals. Recently Dorian and Janice worked a fair in Virginia for Variety Attractions, also on the bill were Herbie and Marcella,

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Terry O'Brien, the Arwood's Dogs, Prof. Hardy and Fred's Funny Ford, which is owned by the agency.

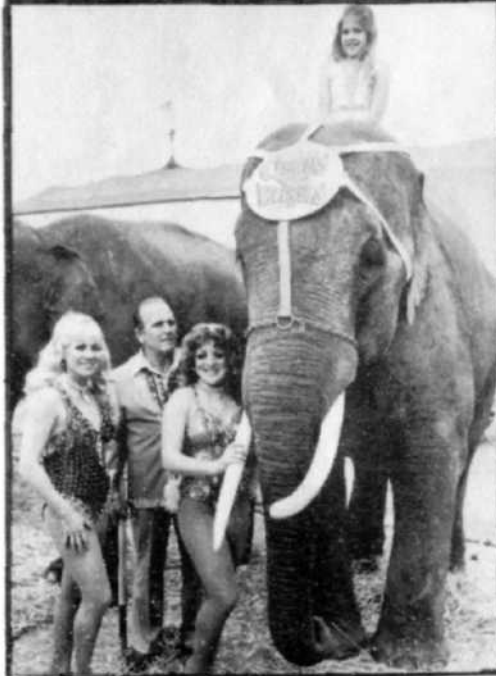
Bob Goode has been working in east coast malls with his hand balancing act. . . Gee Gee is scheduled to stop and visit with Al and Joyce Vidbel after she closes in Canada. . . Marcelli and Janice worked the Cape date then went to Canada for fair dates. . . The Vidbels close their summer season at the Catskill Game Farm on Sept. 1st, then head to a fair date in Penna. Joyce's dressing room at the park looks like a bird sanctuary with all the elaborate feather head pieces she's been whipping out all summer. On top of that she has all the new elephant head gear in the same room.

I met Joe and Georgi Smiley at the Washington County Fair in Greenwich, NY. Their Marvels of Mystery show was featured in the tent-covered outdoor theatre. I even had a chance to help Joe put a hem on new curtains. Then a few days later I met Walter and Margaret Smiley at the Dutchess County Fair in Rhinebeck, NY. I've been wanting to meet the rest of the Smiley brothers for years, their other brother is Bobby Kay, a good friend of mine. Georgi and Joe head to Beck's tour in

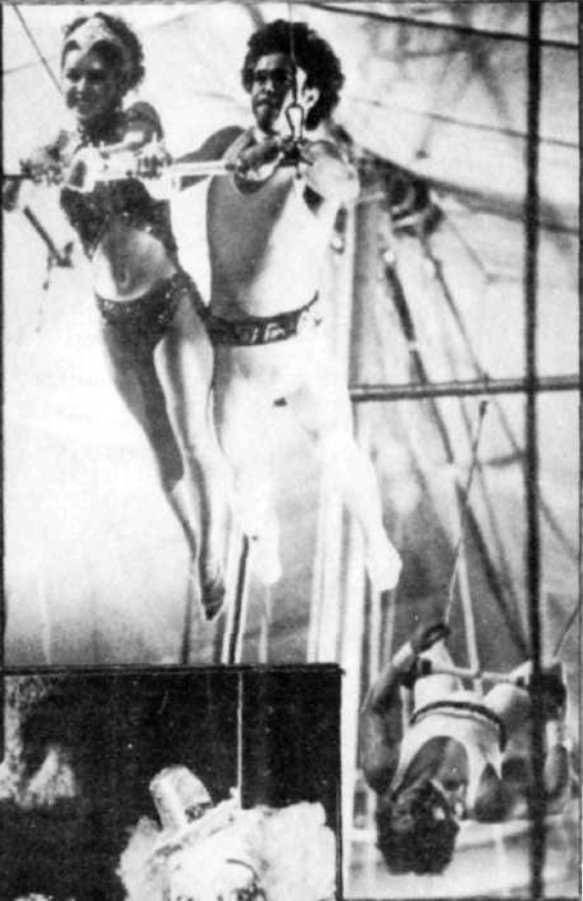
(Continued on Page 29)

By Crane





Clifford E. Vargas is pictured at the top left. He is the man who created Circus Vargas. The pretty aerial beauty on the right is Miss Nadine, who works on the single trapeze. Pictured on the lower left is the Williams family - Rex, Eva, Darlene and Renee.



(Thanks to David P. Orr, for the photo layouts in this issue).

Pretty young Darlene Williams is pictured at the top left on a spec elephant. Pictured to the right is the The Flying Espana Troupe, executing some of their daring aerial features. That's clown Billy McCabe pictured at the bottom, exchanging gossip with the camel.



In the top picture are the Circus Vargas "Vargettes" consisting of: Dion Paray, Darlene Dicker, Vanessa Thomas, Tracy Payo and Pamela Hellett. The clown is Dale Longmire.

In the lower left photo we see the Osmani Sisters, featured jugglers with the big tented circus, while the photo to the right has one of the lovely "Vargettes" posed on an elephant.



The above picture was taken on the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus at Madison Square Garden, New York City, in 1935. The spec was stopped for the photographer.

Buke's Making History

Buke, the only breeding male elephant in the country that works in the circus ring is helping to create a new era in the world of elephants. Buke is owned by elephant trainer Bucky Steele.

To date he has bred 13 females. Wimpey, the 10 year old Asian, owned by Barbara Tata, is showing signs of pregnancy.

A Video tape was made of the elephants at the Columbus Shrine Circus and it will be shown at the Veterinarians Convention in Arlington, Va. The film will also be shown for the Department of the Interior on October 2nd.

Both Bucky and Barbara have high hopes that a breeding program can be developed in conjunction with the U. S. Government.

For further information contact:

BARBARA TATA
P. O. Box 264
Seagoville, Texas - 75159

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The 11 year old male elephant "Buke" was tested by the Consolidated Biomedical Laboratories at Columbus, Ohio, in April of 1980.

The sperm count on this elephant was excellent — more than 95% live sperm, with less than 1% abnormal.

The count of M9x10.6 is a good count for horses and I think this would be the same for an elephant.

The longevity of the sperm seemed to be very good at room temperature.

In my opinion the breeding ability and semen is very adequate.

W. G. PALMER, D. V. M.
4632 Stonehaven Drive
Columbus, Ohio - 43220

WANT

Anyone knowing or who might have performed with Hoot Gibson, the circus and movie western star, would you please help me out? I am preparing a book on this great screen star and circus personality, and would like photos and information on his personal life as well as anything pertaining to his circus and movie years. All material will be returned, if requested.

What I would like is material and photos that were not used over and over again in screen journals and newspapers - something that happened to you in his acquaintance - any personal photos that you might have taken of him certainly would add more color to this book. (Please print your name and address on the back of each item you send, so they can be safely returned).

Write me: Mario DeMarco, 152 Maple Street, West Boylston, Mass. 01583.

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PEOPLE

CHARLES ROARK, ventriloquist, LOGAN PRICHETT, clown magician and horseman VANCE JERNIGAN worked a Sept. 13th date for the Alcoa Aluminum Co., at Bau-xite, Arkansas.

MICHAEL McCARTHY, advance clown for Circus Vargas appeared on the Bozo TV show and the Jerry Lewis telethon as a promotional activity for the circus.

JOSIP MARCAN will introduce a new cat act for the 1981 season. He will be presenting a mixed group of 8 tigers and 4 lions.

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PEOPLE

TINA LENERT's name was misspelled in the recent report on the Circus Magic Day at the annual Penngrove, Calif. affair. She did a pantomime act and is not a Palmist.

FOR SALE

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REPORT

SHOWTIME FOLLIES

BY ERIK ADAMS

I visited Bill Garden's Showtime Follies three times here in Florida, as they started their second run of the tour. It's an outstanding little show and may just be the best that Bill Garden has put together.

With acts like DeMille (2 acts), the Boothroyds (2 acts), Ruwills (2 acts), Erik Adams, Jr. (2 acts), a magician MC, plus Joe and Tex Daniels, organ and drums, it comes out as a great program.

But what I was mostly impressed with and why I am writing is the fact that everyone works in the best of harmony, helping each other as much as possible. This is something you don't often see in this crazy business.

When acts work together for 28 weeks under often tough conditions, with small stages, etc, along with large props and small stages and they still manage to be friends that is really something and is to be appreciated. Tex Daniels is loved by everyone as manager and is doing a good job.

I wish all of you good people the best of luck to the end of the season, Dec. 10th. Bill Garden can be proud of the show and his people.

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REPORT

BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS

BY DON SANDMAN

Bentley Bros. Circus played what has become it's annual Cincinnati performances, Sept. 1-2 for the Cincinnati Firemen's Protective Assoc. at the Carthage Fairgrounds (Hamilton County fairgrounds). Three performances were presented on Sept. 1 and two on Sept. 2nd.

The show was presented in the open on the track, in front of the grandstand, with all rigging in permanent position and using a three ring format. The weather, though showers had been promised, stayed beautiful for all performances.

In front of the grandstand entrance the concession dept., of Lorenzo Alkagar and Mike Mulvaney had hot dogs, cotton candy, pop corn and cold drinks, as well as novelties.

The show is owned and operated by Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy. Jim MacGregor was the electrician at this date. Diamond Jim Parker headed the clown alley with Deon and Beverly Hogan Aumaier and Bruce Woerner. Music was provided by Steve Stefanic at the organ and Drifty Cirilis on drums.

Producer Tommy Bentley was, as always, the excellent announcer and opened by the show

by introducing Capt. Ruhe of the Firemen's Protective Assn. who welcomed everyone to the circus and then proclaimed in his own distinctive style "on with the circus". Whereupon Tommy announced "featuring in the Silver Cage, Aurtura Ramos and his mixed jungle enemies" and the show was on. Aurtura presented 2 lions, a tiger and a leopard. Aerial performances followed by Miss Juana in ring three and the Columbo Trio, an aerial cradle-perch in ring one.

The Hanzinies, balancing ladders and Adolph the chair balancer were next, after which the clowns made their first appearance with the camera and audience participation.

In the center ring Rudy Del Monte presented his unbelievable contortion act, flanked by hand balancers Andres and Manuel in rings one and three. By the reactions of the young ladies in the audience Mr. Del Monte will be a star of the future and now.

Beautiful Aerialetta (Jo Ann Jennier) followed over the center ring, after which three sets of fantastic acts were presented - The Juggling Jewels and the Franke Trio, rola bola.

After the Clowns offered their version of the Safe Cracking bit, the Andersons presented a Spanish dressage number and then the Ramos family were on for their foot juggling risley

(Continued on Page 28)

PEOPLE

MANZINI has been held over at Gaslight Village in Lake George, N.Y. for an extra two weeks at Storytown USA. Both parks are owned and operated by Charles R. Wood. Manzini has appeared at Gaslight Village for the past 6 years (summer seasons).

Manzini has again appeared on the TV show "The Guinness Games" establishing his 6th Guinness World Record by escaping from a regulation strait-jacket while suspended upside down, high in the air from a burning rope set to burn through within 3 minutes.

Next month Manzini will start his college and university tour with his two hour thrill magic and illusion and escapology variety stage presentation. Last year he played 63 dates at colleges, in addition to sponsored shows for the Police, Fire and other organizations.

He is ready to go back to England this coming December to once again compete for the Circus World Championship Escapology world title.

Manzini will be seen in the new TV series called "Stuntmen" which is to be aired late this month.

HANNEFORD (Continued)

is still thriving, the applause I heard at all performances here in Allentown testifies to that. In fact on one occasion there was a standing ovation at the end of the riding act when every trick and turn went off very well. The public knows when they are seeing a fine performance.

Here is the run-down: Slide for life by the Great Huberto; Tajana and her tigers (Struppi); Washerwomen gag (Clowns); Ring 1, plate

BENTLEY BROS. (Continued)

act.

Walking on the high inclined wire was 13 year old Carl Winn, a number that closed the first half of this fine circus program.

During intermission coloring books were sold with Jim Parker at the mike.

Miss Roverta opened the second half of this circus with her slide for life, followed by the Anderson's liberty horses in two rings. Then the Flying Aztecas were featured on the flying trapeze.

Adele & Goyo, the almost human gorilla act brought howls of laughter with the stooge gal coming out of the audience (she has to be the best this writer has seen).

A clown levitation number was followed by the Young Troupe and their amazing teeterboard feats. This group of seven people perform without safety belts and climax their act with a four man high feat.

The clowns' last stand was called "The Beauty Shop" and was followed by the Kaye Hollywood Elephants presented by Ben DeWayne, and called here the Bentley Bros. elephants.

The Winn Family concluded the circus performance with their three person aerial motorcycle routine, high above the grandstand.

Seen by this writer on the lot were: Al Conover, Jake Conover, Gale Ahrens, George Hubler, Grace Sandman. Others were probably there but I missed them.

spinning; Ring 3, Trampoline; Gorilla parody; Las Latinos, wire; Sam Carter with a leopard; Hanneford Riding Act; Intermission; Chair balancing act (The Great Sladek); Bulls - then all out and over

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MIKE NAUGHTON (Continued)

the south and then to the Hill dates. Walter and Margaret have moved to Lewiston, Pa.

The Gutis caught a soccer game in NJ between the Cape Cod date and the Rhinebeck date. . . Rudolph Sils, of Cimse's Russian Wolf hounds and Pomeranians, jumped from Wisconsin to Cape Cod to Rhinebeck, then to Wisconsin again. A busy man. . . Caught the Hoxie show in the beginning of summer, Bill Brickle has lost 20 lbs since the beginning of the season, I hardly recognized him . . . Pop-corn and Etcetera will be working a string of dates this Christmas booked thru Gunnar Amandis. . . Margaret Smiley has some collection of photos that takes hours and hours to look through, she carries them on the summer tour. Their son, Rick Smiley, has a busy season working fairs in the east.

REPORT

HANNEFORD THRILL CIRCUS

BY ROMAN FLESHOSKI

Singing ringmaster Ernice McClean did a fine job announcing the super acts on the program of the Hanneford Aerial Thrill Circus. Sponsored by Hamms Beer and produced by Tommy Hanneford and Glenn Parkins.

Playing to "standing room only" at the Minnesota State Fair were the Elkardis Sisters presenting an iron jaw-hair hang and the Albanis with their platform aerial motorcycle act, the Moradin Duo on the high wire and the Los Rodriguez in an aerial bar act.

A special feature of the Hanneford Circus this year is the Hugo Zacchini human cannon-ball act. This act closes the show.

Keith Killinger has the band.

(Roman Fleskoski is the mailman on the Royal American Shows, that provides the midway for the fair).

REPORT**ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS**

Tommy Hanneford's Royal Hanneford Circus played a three day run at the Great Allentown (Pa.) Fair on Aug. 27-29. The circus presented a 1½ hour performance on each of the three days, on a hot, dry and dusty racetrack before a free grandstand.

The show moved smoothly and continuously from display to display and the performers gave no hint of the discomfort they were experiencing working in the open, under a hot August sun.

The riding act's problem of working on a sloped rough track was not apparent to the audience.

The only flaw to the performance was a fight between two of the Hanneford tigers which was quickly broken up by Struppi and Tommy Hanneford and other members of the crew.

A different presentation of the elephant display was presented with Mark Karloy working on horseback. Although he appeared hampered by the smallish ring it was still

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very impressive.

Senor Rai, as announcer, was at his usual best and the music by Kay and Bob Parker was well scored and selected and covered the large grandstand area very well.

A run-down of the show shows: National Anthem; Overture; Inclined wire walk and slide by The Great Huberto; Tigers; Washerwoman clown gag; Plate spinning by Tacky Tilly and trampoline by the Anthonys; Caged Leopard; Gorilla Parody; Los Latinos, tight wire; Royal Hanneford Riders; Intermission; Hand and chair balancing by Sladek and the Royal Hanneford Elephants.

Performing on the show were: Herbie Weber and Marcella; Struppi and Tommy Hanneford; Nellie Hanneford; Kate Hanneford; Mark Karloy; Garry and Terry Borsteimann; Samuel Carter; Mike Wright, and Wally and Cheryl Jones. Harold Katzu is elephant supt., and Dwight Hanson and six aids handle the props.

The show handled grandstand concessions during intermission and renewed for 1981. After completing its engagement the show moved out o Salisbury, Md.

Among the visitors seen were: John O'Connell, Carlton Young and many members of the CFA and CMB.

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CIRCUS QUIPS

BY KARL J. BISCHOFF

ALIMONY is the cash surrender value of a showman's mistakes.

A **BUDGET** to some performers is nothing but a method of worrying before you spend.

MONEY is so hard to keep it's a downright shame that showmen are so foolish as to work for that stuff.

IF YOU **ENVY** the showman who has ample hair while you have but a rim, remember 'one cannot grow hair and brains at the same time.'

ABOUT THE SHOW who had a sponsor that had a tough time selling advance tickets . . . their first prize was a **CHRYSLER** . . . with 97,000 miles on it.

HOTLINE

Early Sept. - Ohio - Tim and Gina Tegge had a trailer fire just after pulling off an Ohio expressway. After stopping at a service station for directions they smelled smoke and an investigation disclosed that the battery and converter unit under the trailer was afire. It was quickly extinguished and there was no interior damage. But the trailer had to be rewired.

Shrine Dates

COMPILED BY MIKE SPORRER

Klamath Falls, Oregon - Shrine Club

- 1935 - Aug. 26-31 - Polack Bros. Circus (Under a big top) Spring and Oak St.
- 1936 - 1937 - None
- 1938 - Mar. 2-7 - Polack Bros. - Armory
- 1939 - Mar. 15-20 - Polack Bros. - Armory
- 1940 - 1948 - None
- 1949 - Sept. 22-24 - Polack Bros. West - Arm'ry
- 1950 - Sept. 21-23 - Polack Bros. West - Arm'ry
- 1951 - Sept. 22-24 - Polack Bros. West - Arm'ry
- 1952 - Sept. 20-22 - Polack Bros. West - Arm'ry
- 1953 - Aug. 10-11 - Polack Bros. Western
- 1954 - Aug. 10-11 - Polack Bros. Western
- 1955 - Aug. 12-13 - Polack Bros. Western
- 1956 - Aug. 13-14 - Polack Bros. Western
- 1957 - Aug. 13-14 - Polack Bros. Western
- 1958 - Aug. 12-13 - Polack Bros.
- 1959 - Aug. 11-12 - Polack Bros.
- 1960 - Aug. 9-10 - Polack Bros.
- 1961 - Aug. 8-9 - Polack Bros.
- 1962 - Aug. 7-8 - Polack Bros.
- 1963 - Aug. 2-3 - Polack Bros.
- 1964 - July 31-Aug. 1 - Polack Bros.
- 1965 - July 30-31 - Polack Bros.
- 1966 - July 28-29 - Polack Bros.
- 1967 - July 28-29 - Polack Bros.
- 1968 - July 30-31 - Polack Bros.
- 1969 - July 29-30 - Polack Bros.
- 1970 - July 28-29 - Polack Bros.
- 1971 - July 28-29 - Polack Bros.
- 1972 - July 26-27 - Polack Bros.
- 1973 - July 25-26 - Polack Bros.
- 1974 - July 24-25 - Polack Bros.
- 1975 - July 23-24 - Polack Bros.
- 1976 - July 21-22 - Polack Bros.
- 1977 - None
- 1978 - Sept. 16-17 - Amer. Continental
- 1979 - July 4-6 - American Continental

(Note: All dates since 1953 have been played at the fair grounds).

PLAYING CARDS

PLAYING CARDS AND THE CIRCUS

By H. BRUCE SPENCER

These forms of recreation enjoyed for many centuries have much in common, especially as hobbies in the collection of all manner of circus material and various kinds of playing card designs, from numerous countries — "Circus" is the Roman name of the place where they held the games and horse and Chariot races. Nearly every Roman City had its Circus — some so large, over 300,000 people could be seated. Spain and other Countries where Bull Fights were popular, followed the Roman plan of the Circus. Our modern Circus, for the display of Animal acts, Acrobats, Clowns, etc. dates back about 200 years in England and America.

Also for the pleasure of the people, playing cards of various types have been in use so many centuries, it is impossible to place their actual beginning. Hand made for centuries, they were too expensive for most people, until the time of the invention of printing about 500 years ago. That of course, lowered the cost and billions of decks must have been used all over the world since then.

The modern Circus has made use of playing card design in times past, as the decorative motif, with banners and costumes showing kings, queens, jacks and the suit pips. The clowns were dressed to represent jokers.

The manufacturers of playing cards have not overlooked the interest people have in everything pertaining to the Circus. Any good size collection of playing cards will contain numerous back designs featuring all manner of Circus subjects. Beautiful lithographed pictures in color. This reference is strictly to the types of pictures on the backs of the cards in which the Artist had the Circus in mind. This includes pictures of animals usual to the Menagerie, where they are shown in cir-

cus cages and special acts.

To verify this, it is suggested that you lay out your Circus type playing cards on a large table. You will be surprised to find how complete a Circus on playing cards you own. Band and parade wagons and animal cage wagons. The big tent — quite a few acrobats and trapeze performers doing their acts — the rings with the equestrian acts — you call to mind all those fine horses in the rings with the bare back riders — the elephants with their fancy trappings, and above all in numbers are the clowns on the cards, all kinds of clowns. They evidently helped to sell the decks, they have been used so often.

In addition to all these cards featuring clowns on the card backs, the manufacturers have made use of clowns as the jokers in a great many decks, not otherwise classing as circus decks.

There is a rare type of playing cards, known as Transformation Decks by collectors. On these, the Artists have drawn pictures on the playing side, in which hearts — diamonds — clubs and spades form parts of the design. Most of these are comic — for instance, a heart or other pip may become a face of part of something else in the picture, — some of these transformation cards feature Circus scenes.

Rodeo acts often appear along with the modern Circus. You will find numerous playing cards with Rodeo pictures as the back designs. File them with your Circus cards.

A regular Circus deck was issued in 1896 by the United States Playing Card Company. This deck is now quite a rare item for collection. There were evidently, several different back designs and color combinations to this issue. The back design of one deck shows in color, a woman bare back rider in center of

(Continued on Page 33)

card and a clown's head in each corner of the card. Another deck has a back design with four horse chariot race in center of the card in a circle. Each corner of the card, in a small circle, has a different animal head, namely — Elephant — Bear — Lion and Tiger. On the playing side of the pip cards, there is a fine line border. On the spade Ace it states — Circus Playing Cards No. 47. Also, the usual U. S. P. C. Co. trade mark and the date 1896. The Joker features the four horse chariot race in color. The face cards are highly colored. The four kings are ring masters — each wearing a crown and wielding a whip. The four Queens are bare back riders — each with a whip and elaborate costume. The

four Jacks are clowns, of course. The club Jack is a policeman with club and bell. The heart Jack is going through the hoop. The spade Jack is playing on a garden spade for a Banjo. The diamond Jack has a sparkling diamond in each hand.

Playing Cards from India.

In looking over a collection of Hindoo cards from the 17th and 18th Centuries, it appears surprising to note the numerous illustrations to be found upon these small round laquered discs (about 1½ inches dia.) suggestive of the circus. Many of these cards feature elephants — horses — camels — lions — tigers and people — adorned in costumes and regalia often seen in our modern circus — especially the elephant and his HOWDAH.

(Reprinted from Hobbies, the Magazine for Collectors - Issue of Oct. 1948)

YEARS AGO

BY WILLIAM WOTSCH

When we had the Arena Thrill Circus at the Cleveland Arena in 1939, one of the big acts was Bee Kyle diving into a tank of water. The tank was on the east end of our floor. We filled it with water through a long hose and also kept it warm by steam from a couple of hoses.

Her laddered went way up into our roof beams and there she stood on a small platform and did a free fall and dives.

For one part of her act the water was ignited (that is the gasoline on the water was). Then once as the water splattered out onto the hockey fence it started a fire which was quickly

smothered.

We also had a motorcycle act in a round steel globe which was set in the center of the floor on a platform. Can't recall the names of this act.

PEOPLE

THE TORRES TROUPE (Alex and Nancy) are working on the cruise ship "Carla C." Also appearing on the ship are Prof. Dilter, magician, the Marck Roff Singers, Jimmie Tempel's Moppets

DAVE (Skinhead) LEWIS is clowning in the Michigan area while working at the Michigan State Fair.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE STEBBING CIRCUS, HOWEVER OUR FRIENDS SUGGESTED THAT IF WE COULDN'T SAY SOMETHING NICE, NOT TO SAY ANYTHING ...

.... JOANNE and DENNIE PINSON

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

the point during the three shows a day they refused to work properly. . . ED MIGLEY flew to Puerto Rico in late Aug. to sign the contracts for those twin dates in Feb. . . REX YOUNG played two weeks at Rocky Point Park before going to Texas. He will produce the major clown numbers on Odyssey next year including the old-favorite The Clown Fire house complete with miniature Fire Chief Car etc. . . Rumors are the Buffalo Shrine Circus will next year run the same week as Rochester - that's unusual. . . Records for book orders from showfolks buying them for Christmas goes to LONI, BARBARA WOODCOCK and HILL PRODUCTIONS - an awful lot of people are having a nice juicy Murder For Christmas whether they're so inclined or not. Thanks to all three. . The Second printing goes to press this month (should be off-press by now - some how I have lost track of column dates). Hey, all you Sarafra folks, I am coming to Sarasota in Feb. on my way to Puerto Rico and am making arrangements with GRACE and PETE IV-ANOV to go to Showfolks where, hopefully, I can say hello to everybody at one shot. I don't have much time between Rochester for GRACIE McINTOSH and the San Juan Opening and NO TIME at all on the way back. There are some of you out there I'm sure who would say PERISH the thought but there are moments when I wish there were TWO of me!

JIM NORDMARK flew to Trinidad recently to make up his mind whether he would play the date or not. Meanwhile, he says the Ice Show in Dinner Theatres is doing well and All Star is back on its old, even keel - which I am glad to hear. . . Playing that St. John (NB) date for Better Booking were the WILNOWS and BONNIE & CLYDE. . . JO ANN JENNIER has enrolled in College for the fall in Virginia

- and winter and spring. She now has so much "education" she could begin selling bits and pieces of it. With all those degrees she'll have the whole alphabet after her name. . . BOB AT-TERBURY told me recently that the heat has not abated in Texas (ouch!) and that air conditioners are running 24 hours a day. . . RICK SMILEY clowns in the summer but didyknow both he and his wife are school teachers and are back in the class rooms? . . ANDREW and MARIE KIRBY are off the road and living in Sarasota - had a note from them, but unfortunately, no details.

NOTICE: All my correspondents who keep this column alive don't write until Dec. as I will be in Texas for two months and your letters will just gather dust until I come home! All my next columns will be filed from Texas and will be a date-by-date report of what is happening in the Lone Star State and since I expect to see hordes of people I haven't seen in years I should have a lot to report! In addition to the Texas dates themselves there are other shows going on down there including GIL GRAY's annual at the Dallas Fair.

SNAPSHOTS: After some ifs, ands and buts, and other rigmarole, the CORONAS will after all repeat their West Orange date (which they have played for years). . . LOU ANN JACOBS will make some of those early winter SAM T. POLACK annuals. . . BUBBA HASTINGS, Jr. new wife Sarahlee got her head caught in a candy floss machine. Took George Hubler two hours to extricate the silly girl. Happened in Burton (O) at the fair. BUBBA just said to hell with it and did an extra clown number while all the hubub was taking place. Sure did stop the show for a while. . . The new King Br. Circus opened in Arkansas Sept. 10. . . On Sep. 28th Beatty-Cole shutters to prep its indoor

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

tour starting in Pittsburgh. . . Two new operations to keep a weather-eye on - The ELKINS SISTERS have put away forever the act we knew and are now touring with their fabulous new illusion-acro-dog combination THE FABULOUS DARNELLS. Kurt writes the act is a smash hit - well, that's no surprise - to me, at any rate; and I, for one, just can't wait to see it! . . . I predict with safe odds that our next sensational new young star will be RUDOLPH DEL MONTE and before the end of 1981 he'll find himself in Las Vegas in a big revue where he belongs. This kid is a KNOCKOUT. . . LOT-TIE BRUNN agrees with me and there's no tougher critic than that gal believe me! She even gives SANTA CLAUS low marks! Well, his act isn't always that good, is it? But what in the hell can you expect from an old man who makes his entrance down a silly chimney? (If I'm waxing whimsical in this column it's because I'm damned punchdrunk with work). . . TED CHIRRIK is back flipping pancakes, turning eggs, and broiling steaks or whatever at that college he chefs for (at least he eats all winter). . . Wonder what new wrinkle MAC McGUFFIN has up his sleeve for the Youngstons date this coming season? (whydonthat tell me, Mac). . . Bentley Bros. is not only selling those unusual circus posters but also marketing T-shirts with the poster design on them. Interested parties write the Hollywood office. . . Another interesting T-shirt design is one from Hill Productions. . . BILL HALL (of Bauer-Hall) says he's been so blankety-blank busy all year he never gets any further from his office than his home. FELDS invited him to see the Ice Show opening in Las Vegas and he couldn't make it. . . WALT PATTERSON and WENDY were the latest Circus Farm guests in Springfield. Bill and Trudy's register looks like the Who's Who of Circus. The Strongs are seriously considering putting in trailer spaces and creating a special practice barn for aerial acts. If they do I'm moving to Springfield, One word of advice, Bill and Trudy - for crying out loud have special maps printed will you? It's a hard place to find, or at least put up permanent arrows.

Another new act we're all anxious to see is the one RIETTA WALLEDA is doing. . . VASHEK and KATHY have added lighting effects to the A-frame supporting their motorcycle wire rigging. . . Rumors are BONNIE BALE will be with Ringling in 1981. . . RICCARDO CANESTRELLI is doing a very good tight wire act. . . MARCELLI and JANIS keep

extremely busy in the Boston area with club dates. But this year they've been doing a lot of far-flung circus dates. Janis is still a living doll in the ring. . . The cast of Circus Odyssey in Cape Cod threw their own circus party and kudos to DAVID CHABIRA for organizing the whole thing. Lasted til 4 ayem and LEE KEENER even brought one of the baby elephants to the shindig. Everybody came, too. By the way, the long mount with Tommy the Tusker leading the rushing bulls around the track almost stopped the show. It gave one goosebumps to watch. That's a good elephant act.

LILLI-ANA turned down, and in no uncertain terms, a chance to play on that Circus of Stars thing for CBS. The producers weren't too happy about it either - too bad. . . Heard a rumor that JEANETTE RIX was clawed accidentally by a bear but I never could confirm it. I hope not, but if so, I hope she was not clawed badly. . . BRUSKIS to play dates for Castle. . . EARL MICHAELS will be an assistant to BOB ATTERBURY in Texas. . . He announced the Syracuse date for Coronas. . . Rodriguez Troupe with Castle in 1981.

NOW THEN, your columnist is taking two weeks off. I have had a busy year, too busy, and I'm tired. The next columns, after a two week hiatus, will come to you from Texas. SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

REPORT**NEW MAGIC SHOW**

A new magic/variety show produced by Big John Strong will start a mid-west tour on Oct 20th, when it debuts at Salt Lake City.

Featured in the show will be: Hapner, the Magician; Lenny Mazel, juggler and Mario Alberti & Co. Music will be provided by Neil Armstrong at the organ and Rick Jones on drums. Kim Dixon will serve as MC and show manager.

Miscellaneous

The Ed Millette CFA Tent held its annual Amateur Circus in Mexquite, Texas, on Sept. 6th. The 1½ hour show featured some 60 performers.

Funs-A-Poppin played the Orange (Calif.) Co. Fair and is currently playing dates in Tucson Phoenix and Prescott (Ariz). after which they will jump into San Diego for an engagement.