

# THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY  
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 29-30

August 23, 1982



BOBBY MOORE'S MONGREL REVUE

## Flyer Injured

by BOB STODDARD

Eighteen year old Gino Farfan, the youngest performer in the world to consistently execute the daring  $3\frac{1}{2}$  somersault was hospitalized in Dallas, Texas, after a mid-air collision with his father/catcher Armando during the first of twelve performances of the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit at Reunion Arena in Dallas, on Tuesday, Aug. 3rd. (He suffered a broken neck).

It appeared that Gino's right hand lost its grip on the bar followed almost immediately by his left hand and he slammed into Armando and fell into the net.

After ringmaster Kit Haskett made the announcement about this remarkable feat, the crowd hushed and Gino began his swings to build up the momentum necessary to perform this most dangerous trick.

He swung toward Armando. Then a back swing high over the platform where his mother Anna stood watching. Then forward again toward Armando . . . higher this time on the back swing. Then forward again, this time with great speed.

Armando was swinging toward him and just at the point when the two were the closest together (possibly ten or twelve feet apart) Gino's hands slipped from the bar and he covered the distance between them in almost nothing flat and slammed into his father and fell into the net below.

Armando did well to stay with his own trapeze. He appeared to be having some trouble catching his breath and looked for a moment like he was thinking about dropping to the net, but thought better of it. (He received a bruised hip).

He and Anna both stared down at the still form in the net as if they were frantically praying for their son to get up . . . to move . . . to do anything.

It seemed as though a couple of minutes passed without anyone doing anything. Then Anna and Armando climbed down their respective ladders.

Someone signalled to drop the net and the circus people sprang into action, letting the net drop slowly to the ground.

When it was still about three feet above the ground the paramedics and the boy's parents scrambled onto the net, and with springy

footing tried to help the young man while the net was lowered the rest of the way to the ground.

Accidents are not uncommon to the circus because it is an extremely dangerous business. Fortunately most accidents are not as serious as this one.

Circus people live with the knowledge that they will fall and thus practice techniques in landing that will at least minimize injuries.

The old cliché "the show must go on" snapped into action. The band played and backstage they scrambled for acts to divert the attention of the 17,000 plus capacity crowd, away from ring three where they dimmed the lights and the spotlights concentrated on ring one where a clown worked to get a few laughs and some sparse applause. Eric Braun and Lou Jacobs with his dog, Pee Wee, did not work their solo spots, instead all of the clowns were hurriedly sent in and they barely broke the quiet as most people were watching the activity between the second and third rings.

Display number 11 moved into ring one as the beautiful Miss Dolly Jacobs took to the air with her Roman rings. It is difficult not to watch an act like this one and she did get some applause, but the real applause came when Armando limped toward the back door. Then a standing ovation as they carried Gino out on a stretcher, some 15 to 20 minutes after the accident.

After that the applause lacked enthusiasm for a spectacular with a circus street parade called "Circus on Parade," which took the show to intermission.

Armando Farfan is a Chilean circus performer with five generations before him. Anna who has a similar circus heritage in Czechoslovakia is a star in her own right. They met and were married in the United States in 1964, which was the beginning of what has become the magnificent Flying Farfans.

Besides Gino, the family includes 13 year old Tato, who was not performing on the night of the accident because of a dislocated elbow from a recent fall.

Miss Anna is also featured in a number called "Miss Anna's Russian Wolfhounds" during the circus performance.



## Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Aug 23-24 Wilmington, De  
25-26 Salisbury, Md.  
27-29 Hampton, Va.

Bentley Bros. Circus

Aug 24 Johnstown, Pa  
27-29 Cincinnati, Oh

Carson & Barnes Circus

Aug 23 Kenosha, Wisc.  
24 Zion, Ill.  
25 Lake Villa  
26-28 Maywood

Circus Knie

Aug 11-26 Bern, Switz.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Aug 23 Monroe, NY  
24 Oak Ridge, NJ  
25 New City, NY  
26 Lakewood, NJ  
27 Groveland  
28 Seaside Park  
29 Long Branch

Liebel Family Circus

Aug 25 Meyersdale, Pa.

Make-A-Circus

Aug 24 Palo Alto, Cal.

No Elephant Circus

Aug 22 Bronx, NY  
26 Bohemia  
28 Commack

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Aug 24-31 Oakland, Ca.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Roberts Bros. Circus  
Aug 24 Lake Ariel, Pa.  
25 Quakertown  
26 New Holland  
27 Hilltown  
28 Parkersburg

Super Circus

Aug 20-Sept. 5  
Jackson, NJ

TNT & Royal Olympic  
Aug 25-29 Normal, Ill.

Wenatchee Youth Circus  
Aug 27-29 Portland, Ore.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

Aug 22-28 Union Fair, Me

Cold Nose Five

Aug 20-29 Pueblo, Colo.

James H. Drew Exposition

Aug 23-28 Gray, Tenn.

Elliott Amusements

Aug 23-28 Hudsonville,  
Mich.

Foley & Burk Shows

Aug 26-29 Grass Valley,  
Calif.

Great Ice Odyssey

Aug 10-29 New York, NY

Douglas MacValley Stunts

to Sep. 12 Storytown Park

Tip Top Shows

Aug 25-29  
Weyauwega, Wisc.

Whizzer the Clown

Aug 22 Lancaster, Ohio

--- MAGIC ---

Harry Albacker

Aug 20-29 Marshfield,  
Mass.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Aug 25 Vermillion, S.D.  
27 McCook, Nebr.  
28 North Platte  
29 Scotts Bluff

## Samantha



WOW! It's a lot of hard work playing in the band. You can't hardly catch your breath and you don't dare miss a note!

When they asked me to help out I didn't realize that it was this job. The guy who usually blows into this thing had a bad night and couldn't make it today. Hope he feels better tomorrow.

I'm all puffed out!

## Clown Hospitalized

The triumphant 48-state tour of Eleanor Rominski-White, reigning Queen of female clowns in the United States, was cut short when she was admitted to the University of California Hospital in San Francisco for removal of a life-threatening aneurism that has already caused her to lose her sight.

A team of eminent neuro-surgeons from the University's Medical Center performed the surgery in a valiant 10-hour battle that saved her life and the prognosis is good for a gradual return of her sight.

Ms. Rominski-White, who rose to stardom as "Me Too" with her brilliant silk and satin costuming and flamboyant multi-color plumed hats, is recognized for the creation of "Clowns Elegantes" for women, a concept so universally accepted and copied that it dealt the death blow to the antiquated view that clowns had to be sexless.

Many people will remember that prior to becoming one of America's top female clowns, she was the trainer and exhibitor of "Pepsi" the educated chimpanzee, whose

pictures and articles appeared in newspapers and magazines across the nation.

She resides in St. Petersburg, Fla., where she will return after being released from the hospital.

"Me Too" will be recuperating for a few weeks and would enjoy receiving cards and letters from friends, circus people, well wishers and all those who love the circus.

The address is:

Eleanor White  
5727 Burlington Avenue  
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33710

## Miscellaneous

The Royal Palace Circus played at La Vale, Md., Aug. 17-21, with the booking handled by Shilling Theatrical Productions of Shoreham, LI, NY.

# That New Show

by FRED SCHMIDT

I recently caught a new show on the road, and what a show it was! It's owned by Pat Guthrie, a carnival owner, who recently purchased the show from Victor and Linda Flores.

Called Jules & Beck Combined Circus, the show is playing all over Kentucky, with the business being good and bad. It's a beautiful one ring show with a new blue and white top and marquee.

The front end had a elephant ride and a pony ride. The side show was not being used at this time. The concessions were owned and operated by Linda (Loter) Flores and her sister Beckie, with the help of Natasha, Brandy and Tela. Three of the most beautiful blonde, blue eyed, candy butchers I've ever seen. These girls also helped out in the show.

The announcing was done by the show's manager, Al Kornhauser, although announcing is new to him, he has been in all phases of the business and is doing an excellent job. A real natural.

His wife, Ivory Silver Majuesta (yes, folks, that's her real name) has more showmanship in the ring, than I have seen in many years.

The show opened with a spec, followed by Tito's Trampoline; Linda on swinging ladder; Victor's husky dog and pony; Victoria's aerial star; Ivory's trained goats; Margo Bradford, hand balancing; Francis and her Fantastic llama; Margo's hair hang; Linda and her terrific terriers and dress poodles, an act any show would be proud to feature; Miss Jackie Bradford, juggling; The Amazing Vic-

tor, on the silver strand, a high wire act that should be seen on all the major dates. He had people screaming and jumping out of their seats. It's a breath-taking act that really pleases the public.

The show is fast paced and well put together, closing with 'Myrtle' the elephant and Ivory Silver and an unknown handler, I failed to catch his name, although he has been with Myrtle for several years.

Also with the show is Enoch Brafford, lot supt. and canvas boss, and Jr. Ravel, formerly of Hoxie and Beatty, assistant, adviser and morale booster.

Try to catch this show, it's a Jule!

## Franzen Bros.

by HAROLD FLINT

Franzen Bros. Circus played Barrington, Ill., on Saturday, June 5th, with good houses at both matinee and evening performances.

Driving out of Chicago, my wife and I did not get on the lot until 6:30 p.m. and the evening show was already under way.

Wayne keeps improving his operations every year.

First person we saw on the lot was CFA'r Rosalie Hoffman, from Chicago. CFA'r Harold Stekly, Cary, Ill., was helping out on the front door. Other fans on the grounds were Ray Home, from Elgin and Edward Sheehan, Oak Park.

Had a short but pleasant visit with Wayne, and also with Byron Burford, who is busy painting beautiful pictorials on the trucks when he is not playing in the band.

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## Rare Find

*(From the Pauls Valley, Okla., Daily Democrat, dated Aug. 11, 1982).*

Eighty-two years ago workers connected with the Pawnee Bill Wild West Show pasted a poster on the side of a wooden frame building in Lamont, Okla.

It advertised the fact that Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show was opening in Blackwell, Okla., on Saturday, Oct. 27, 1900. Its existence came to light when firemen and volunteers discovered the 70-foot long by 10-foot high advertisement while tearing down an old drugstore building.

It is in remarkable condition because the owner of the building decided to extend it and built a new wall, next to the poster wall thus preserving the colors, lettering and quality of the poster-paper for 82 years.

It is a unique discovery which reflects a bit of Americana related to that era. The town of Lamont has donated the entire wall to the Pawnee Bill Museum, operated by the

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, in Pawnee.

Rep. Don Johnson, of Pawnee, has requested the department to examine the feasibility of preserving the poster and put it on display at the Pawnee Bill Museum.

Abe L. Hesser, executive director of the department, said, "Conversations with curators at the Smithsonian Institute and other curators around the country have convinced us that this poster is unique and possibly the only one of its age, size and quality in existence.

"Pawnee Bill with his Wild West Show was an international figure and certainly an important part of Oklahoma's colorful pioneer heritage."

## PEOPLE

HARRY ALBACKER, magician, plays the part of a politician in the film "That Championship Season."

## Ice Show

"Icetravaganza" unique ice-less ice revue (night club unit) can be seen in Oscar's Restaurant-night club, Queens, NY. This is new for this type of Spanish oriented night club and especially so in July.

"Icetravaganza" is performing on the best synthetic ice surface, called "Skate-on" an exciting new concept in ice skating.

Icetravaganza presents shows four days a week, Thursday thru Sunday, with 2 shows each night.

The soloists are: Jay Green (3 time national champion juggler, this time on skates), singing star Dorothy Stratton (on skates) and Denise Beaumont (featured soloist back from an ice show tour in Japan, and of course on skates).

The production numbers are skated by: Nina Shuster, Mimi Drury, Liz Eldridge, and Denise Beaumont. The choreography for this production is by Darlene Gilbert, and the show is produced and directed by Jarda Kubik.

## Holiday Show

Austin Miles was ringmaster for the fourth annual engagement of Circus Maranatha at Heritage U.S.A. in Charlotte, NC, over the July 4th weekend. The show this year played under a 7000 seat big top which saw capacity crowds for every performance. The circus was again taped for an international TV special over The PTL Television Network.

Program included: J. P. Theron, sway pole, Trudy Luvas, poodles, Tino Wallenda as Don Giavoni, comedy lamp post, Lorilie (Dinky Patterson), single trapeze, Bertinis, unicycle, J. P. The Clown, comedy bike, Terry and Delilah (Troffer), high wire, J. P. (Theron) the clown with Capt. Explodo, Zerbinis, riding act, Dondi the elephant (Phil and Francine Schaact).

During the engagement Austin Miles was featured on two additional national telecasts. Tino Wallenda Zoppe is the producer of the Circus Maranatha and Leo Maccito was the musical director.

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MARIO MANZINI, escape artist, recently completed an engagement at the Rocky Point Amusement Park in Providence, R. I. and he has been signed to appear there during 1983.

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist, is currently featured at Harrah's in Reno, Nev. where he appears in the show "Heat's On". This booking was handled by the Gilbert Miller Agency, who also booked him at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas and Circus Vargas.

DON YOUNG and JO McMILLAN, now booking as 'McMillan-Young Circus Arts', are appearing for their second season at the Adventureland Park in Des Moines, Iowa. They close there Sept. 26th and then will be playing the Texas Shrine Circus Circuit.

ALBERT J. and BERENICE SWEENEY celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 27th at a large party in Florida, followed by an extensive trip through the mid-west and southwest.

MICHAEL DEAN, juggler, is currently appearing in Roy Badin's Tribute to Vaude-

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ville, starring Joey Bishop at Bally's Park Place Hotel Casino, Atlantic City, NJ.

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## Polack Show

by RICHARD W. LISY

Sam Polack brought a strong circus to Parma, Ohio, June 25-27, under the sponsorship of the local shriners.

On Thursday night there was a Shrine parade with about six convertibles with circus people. (Al Dawley, with his red coat, Ruth and Frank Clark, The Droguettes),

'Boom Boom' Browning had the band, Al Dawley took care of the introductions and clowning was by Boddy Bond and John Mc Kay.

The show started off with Wiregard's break-away sway pole; Wayne Ragen and his wife, Ingrid, with lions and tigers (This was a super act with Ragen even greeting all eleven of his animals with hand-paw shakes, hugs, squeezes and several very wet kisses).

Frank and Estreleta, hanging perch and the David's Cradle (David Smith and daughter, it brought back memories of the Saturnaires.

Ethel's Leaping Greyhounds; Clowns; The Rodriguez girls on the Rolling Globes; The Clowns; Kents, arobatics; The Rodriguez Troupe double wide flying return act, which was very well received by the crowd; Inter-

mission.

Ethel's Ladder; Francarro's foot juggling; The Droguette ladder; King Arthur on the high wire (he really kept the audience busy laughing); The Claytons, rope spinning and whip cracking; Miss Rebecca (Smith) and Jo-Ann Jennier, both on single trapeze; the Horvath's Chimpanzees; Clowns; the Diano Elephants; The Droguettes, juggling and hat tossing; Clowns; Capt. Circus, cannon act, with Dave Smith (an interesting looking 'hot rod' car with the cannon on top).

This was held at the local football field and was a little tight.

The same weekend, just some ten miles away at the Convention Center, in Cleveland (Ohio), the Olympic Int'l Circus was held for the Police Assoc. Eddie Zacchini put it together with Dime and Connie Wilson, Alan Gold's lions and tigers, the Hanneford elephants were presented by Mark Karoly, the Wallendas and Reitta's 'Playmate of the Planets' turn, the Flying Lantonys and the Zerbini Family acts.



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# PEOPLE

A. W. (Art) MILLER, circus general agent was a guest at the CFA National Convention at Little Rock, Ark., July 4-7.

BILL KARLEN (catcher for the Flying Lar rays) and wife CHRISTINE are the parents of a baby boy born on July 24th at Erie, Pa. The new arrival is named Eric Lee and was weighed in at 8 lbs. 11 ozs.

STAN KRAMIEN, illusionist, was featured at the Variety Arts Center in Los Angeles, Calif. during July.

BOB OWENS, BETH BROWN and RICK PARROTT have been working the advance for Big John Strong's tent circus. All three are stilt walkers.

ELFIE KLEMENTI spent three days visiting FRANCARRO and ESTRELETA at the Roseland Amusement Park. The Klementis spent a 10 day whirlwind American vacation break from their engagement at 'Scala-Melia' in Madrid, Spain,

CORKY and MARIA DAVIS are present-

ly in Mexico, working for a Mexican circus.

AUSTIN MILES presented his highly acclaimed portrayal of The Crucifixion at the World Convention of The Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International, in Anaheim, Calif. at the Convention Center July 8-10.

RON and PAM PERRY who are with Circus Vargas this season, recently took delivery of a new 40 ft. Kountry Aire 5th wheel trailer.

BIG JOHN STRONG has bought out Franzen Bros. Circus for a date at Bettendorf, Iowa, on Sept. 15th. Details for the engagement are being handled by ED FREEMAN, while AL BUCHANAN is promoting the date.

PEGGY FLEMING, skating star, celebrated her 34th birthday on July 27th.

MURILLO & ULYSIS recently worked in Canada and Europe and will return to the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas this month.

DIANNE WILSON visited the Bentley Br. Circus during that show's Boston engagement. Dianne currently has her seal act at York's Wild Animal Kingdom in Maine,



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## Miscellaneous

Ford Bros. Circus took delivery on a new baby elephant which was flown in direct to the show's set-up at Anchorage, Alaska, on Aug. 12th.

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## Where Credit is Due

by **BOB STODDARD**

When I enlisted in the U. S. Air Force in 1941, many of my friends were aghast. "I didn't know you were a pilot!" was a typical surprised reaction. It took quite a bit of explaining to convince them that it took a lot of people on the ground to keep one man in the air.

Now I read about these people who perform in circus rings, and I meet many people who have done their jobs - and done them well for five, ten, twenty and even thirty years, and never saw their name in any paper. They weren't performers in the ring, but their performance kept the show on the road - without the recognition they deserve.

Right now, you and I can do a small bit toward stamping out this inequity. I'll make a list of some of these deserving people - and you can read it.

Since Carson & Barnes was the last show I saw, I'll write about that one.

Jamie Garcia is the big top supt., there and Centavo Rodriguez is the prop boss; Bill Parker is the head mechanic and keeps the show rolling.

L. C. "Smitty" Smith (a 15 yr. veteran) is the head electrician; on opposite ends - Jane Linderman handles the cook house, while Donald Yoxall covers the donikers (let me hasten to add that he also works with the animals); Don Carr is the elephant supt., with Whitey Gross (a 20 yr. veteran) as an assistant.

Charley Stevens (a 10 yr. veteran) leads the band, while Gary Byrd, as general supt. is over everybody - except Rosa Gibbs, she said that!

Ted Bowman is on the front door and settles up with the committees, and nearby is ticket taker Donna Burris; David Rawls has the concessions and Barbara Fulton has the novelties.

Billy Sheets is the 24 hr. man; Charlie Belleti has the advertising chores and Jess Jensen is the general agent.

Jim Howe and family handle the paper-hanging; Harry Nelson has the last and only side show on the road today. I forgot the water supt.'s name - sorry, water man!

Bobby Gibbs has the animals; James Jud-

kins is the office supt. and computer operator. The computer takes up 1/3 of the office space and every facet of the circus is on printout. It enables them to keep up with day-to-day expenses.

The front end has Manuel King with a Moon Walk, a rat and a snake show. Alfonso Loyal has the pony ride.

Another guest of the circus the day I was there was Elizabeth "Chick" Chickally, whose love for them is so great that she spent the day working with the horses as a vacation day from the Hilton Hotel in Ft. Worth, where she is the banquet director.

We ate together in the cookhouse as Dorey Miller's guests, and met a lot of interesting people. One of them was Walt Chapman. He has been the head welder for (I believe) 30 years and is also in charge of the routes. Because he is an early riser, he also has the job of "wake-up man" at 5 a.m. (you know this could be a dangerous job.)

Now - who else have I forgotten?

The last person I talked to, late that night was Jack Jackson (producing clown) who made a statement that I keep remembering.

Among other things, he said, "Don Marks is holding us all together."

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## Circus Band

by *GEORGE LEHMANN*

On June 19th, the Old Mapleton Circus Band participated in the Centennial Parade in Wales, Wisc., a small thriving community in the southeast part of the state. Old and young alike applauded the efforts of the musicians.

Being a small community (the main street was approximately two blocks long) it appeared that we were well out in the country but this did not alter the quality of the music we offered.

After the morning parade the band quickly loaded out for Delavan, Wisc., the circus capitol of the world, for an afternoon concert.

On June 20th, the Old Mapleton Circus Band headed for South Beloit, Ill. to participate in the annual Sand Festival Parade. This was a first for the band in this area.

Thousands of people lined the parade route of approximately three miles, and as usual the oldtimers seemed to enjoy the

music as well as the young folks. It is most gratifying to sit at the wheel of this band wagon and hear the acclaim of the crowd.

As an oldtimer, it takes me back to the days when the circus did parade through the downtown section of our home town.

The entertainment that this band provides is second to none and it appears the proof is in the repeat calls that are received each year.

For those who are interested in some real music, there is a recording available for \$8.00. To order send check or money order to: Robert Ludwig, manager, Old Mapleton Circus Band, 38050 N. Street Monterey, Oconomowoc, Wisc. 53006.

## Miscellaneous

The Tony Diano Tent, CFA, of Columbus, Ohio, will host Ohio's Sells Bros. Top Convention at Newark (Ohio) on Sept. 25th. Jim Heaton, Tent President and Chairman of the Convention, invites, all the out of Ohio fans to come and join in this event.

# King Royale

by *BILL BURGER*

Billing on posts and store windows through out Salem, Mass., heralded the coming of the King Circus Royale in that city on June 23 and 24th, at the high school soccer field. The town was well billed and on show day was well arrowed to the lot.

This show used a bale ring 85 ft. round end top with a 20 ft. middle. Extra sections, as well as poles and seats were carried to enlarge the seating if needed.

The all white big top was made by Nashville Tent and Awning Co., of Nashville, Tn. It had been used with four 20 ft. sections for the Nashville Cotillion. It was said that it was perhaps the only circus tent they ever made. A white and pink stripped sidewall was used.

This one ring circus was in the Witch City for eight days before the Cole Bros. Circus.

The show moved on two straight bed truck units and two semis, plus about five vehicles belonging to acts. One of the semis on the midway contained sleeping quarters, the concessions and ticket office. A bubble bounce was set up opposite the semi.

Salem City officials were present much of the day with a policeman and fireman both on duty during show times. Building, electrical fire and health officials were satisfied and the show went on.

The inexperienced help were rather slow in getting the top and seats in place and the six p.m. show was late in starting. The circus had a long jump from New Jersey where they, like most shows in the northeast had experienced days of rain. King also had a tornado scare at Perth Amboy where the top was emptied and down before any damage was done.

*The show is owned and managed by Bill*

*Bliesner with his wife, Isabell, in the office. Les Gibson, Prof. Big Nos (Gibson backwards) did the clown bits and Tom Cathro did magic and was ringmaster. Pete Luvass gave rides with his seven year old African bull and also had the elephant act.*

Tapes were used for music and the program at Salem was as follows:

Clown bit opened the show; Trampoline; Clown gag; Web; Magic; Juggling; Dogs with a trained duck; Cradle act with 9 yr. old Tojana Luvass and Dad, Pete; Gorilla Parody; Balloon pitch, followed by intermission with elephant rides.

Dogs and Monkeys (a stump tail and a 35 yr. old Rhesus); Single trapeze; Plate Spinning; Hand balancing and stacked chairs; Elephant.

This show is all circus and presented a stronger performance than I had expected.

This King Circus Royale plays New Jersey, New York and New England, much like the old Hunt circus, out of New Jersey many years ago.

## PEOPLE

ATHENA FRANK, who is also with the Martin & Downs Circus with her father and sister, graduated to 6th grade this year, and received honors of 'High Point Grade Average' for the 2nd year in a row.

DAVID and LYNN ROSAIRE, PIERRE-JEAN, ALAIN, ROY and ELAINE WELLS, GEE GEE ENGRESSER, PAUL and BARBARA McCCLAUSON, BERNARD and KEN, ROGER LAMOTHE, DAVID CHABRIA and EDDIE SCHMITT visited the Cirque Ronald McDonald in June when the show was touring the Province of Quebec.

## Circus Special

by *BILL SMITH*

Now at Knott's Berry Farm the Col. Howes Circus Extravaganza is entertaining visitors on a daily basis.

While finding their seats the audience is immediately entertained by Scott Lane, the Almost Human Gorilla who escaped from his cage and chases Vickie Youngerman (an employee at Knott's). This ends with the gorilla stealing her purse, wig and skirt, leaving her to run away in her fancy bloomers, to the delight of everyone there.

The show opens with singing ringmaster Dan Sohrt and a group of talented dancers who are not only performers, doing well choreographed dance routines, but also help with props, along with everyone to keep the show moving like a well oiled machine.

Darrel Autor, Lope Bernabe, Cindy Picker, Julie Tussey, Kim Baumgardner, Lynne Jackman, John Tomaszewski and Matt Shaklee are the members of this dance troupe.

The first featured performer was Dougie Ashton, who is billed as Australia's funniest clown, and he is truly that. From his flirting with ladies in the audience to his musical finale with the band, he had the entire crowd in the palm of his hand. This man is a true professional.

Next was Tarra, the world's only roller skating elephant. After reading about Tarra in CR, I was anxious to see her work and I was not disappointed. Under the expert direction of the very lovely Carol Buckley, Tarra went thru her paces to the applause of a well pleased audience.

Mademoiselle Sally added grace and beauty to the show as she thrilled all in atten-

dance from the single trapeze high above the center ring.

The Vickinas-Aguilar Troupe, using teeterboard and acrobatics was one of the most talented acts I've seen in a long time. Their youngest being only 8 yrs. old.

Chuck Burnes is to be commended for bringing these fine acts to Knott's. No circus is complete without circus music and Howe's Circus Concert Band is great.

The band works together with the fine singing voice of ringmaster Dan Sohrt. The leader is Prof. Wayne Bergeron on lead trumpet, with Steve Cannon on 2nd trumpet, Bob Grove on trombone, Doug Tournquist on tuba and Mark Warner on drums, adds the finishing touches to a super circus show.

A special Hello to Don Marcks from Dougie and Sally.

## PEOPLE

PIERE-JEAN, ALAIN, BERNARD and KEN hosted a going away dinner at Parc Safari, in Canada, on July 1st for REG and WYNE POWNALL, parents of LYNN RO-SAIRE, who were planning to return to England. David and Lynn are performing at the park with their dog act.

DAUN FRANK, daughter of Bradd and Sheila Frank, was honored with a surprise birthday party on Martin & Downs Circus on June 4th, to celebrate her 7th birthday.

## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

When the thermometer hovers at 90 and above here in Florida, you would think that everyone seeks the air conditioned homes and offices instead of the outdoors, but that really does not happen as outdoor activities continue, such as parades, tennis; golf; boating; swimming, etc. But there is a lack of circus activities as most of the outdoor shows have departed for the northern states.

If you live near Lafayette or Lake Charles, La. or Houston, Tex., watch for little Circus Alleuia. This is a non-profit show sponsored by the Outreach of Calvary Temple, Temple Terrace (Tampa) Fla. You can watch the show and give them a donation if you wish, to keep them going. All of the performers also have other jobs as they accept no salaries for themselves.

- + -

Bill Kourmpates, former high act performer, is a very active member of Egypt Temple's (Tampa) Legion of Honor and he called with the following news items of interest to all Circus Fans, producers and performers. Egypt Temple's Shrine Circus honors the following Nobles for their sales (consisting not only of tickets but also advertising, novelties, etc.). No. 1 was Noble Oscar Chaitou with a total of over \$3,400 worth; No. 2 was Noble Walt Westerman and No. 3 was Noble Bill Kourmpates. All of the Legion of Honor members who make sales in excess of \$1,000 a year wear a special new yellow jacket. Bill will be elevated as the South Eastern head of all Legions of Honor covered by that regional designation when the S. E. meets in Nashville, Tenn.

Since Florida has the first Imperial Potentate from the state (Jacksonville native) the Imperial session will be held in Orlando on June 13th. This is a very important time for all producers of Shrine Circuses when contracts are given out, etc. Anyone in the circus business knows how much credit should be given to these hard working men who are in many lines of work, but spend their leisure time making money to support their children's hospitals and burn centers, cancer hospitals, etc. and much of it is made by their backing of circus companies' thereby making work for many performers, musicians and often concession people.

This year in Tampa they also participated in the "Special Olympics" at the University of South Florida's Sun Dome to raise money for the retarded people. A first time very special 4th of July picnic was held on the grounds of the Temple with Don White's A & E Amusements furnishing the carnival for all the members' families and guests.

- + -

Some of you old timers may have known the 'Balzer Sisters' act that toured with Hunt Bros. Circus for years, Bill K. wanted us to know that Audrey and Blance Taylor who did adagio and head balancing and are still active in their late 80's, reside in St. Petersburg and have recently joined Showfolks of Sarasota.

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JOHN and ROSALIE DRAPER spent the summer with the Carson & Barnes Circus.

GARRAY & TOMIO, and their life-sized puppets play England for a series of dates, Sept. 7-20. They will also make a TV appearance there.

## In Memoriam

**DONALD CROFTS** (23) an apprentice clown with the Boswell-Wilkie Circus of So. Africa, was killed when the truck and trailer in which he was riding overturned and crashed. Toni Garcia, who was also in the truck, was seriously injured and has been unconscious ever since the accident, and is hospitalized at Durban. He is a member of the Irish Garcia family and a performer with the circus.

**FRANCES M. HANDY** (74) died July 2nd at home in Norwich, NY. She was the wife of George M. Handy, owner/operator of the Handy Sound Service (now Handy Sound Rentals) since 1938 servicing fairs in the northeast. Survivors include her husband George, two sons, a daughter and a brother, plus several grandchildren.

**RICHARD J. McGARRITY**, retired showman, died at Jacksonville, Fla. on July 31st. He had been an executive with Ringling-Barnum Circus and Beatty-Cole. His son, James

is assistant manager on the Ringling Red Unit.

**JERRY D. MARTIN** (87) a retired trapeze artist, died at Thonotosassa, Fla. on July 31. He is survived by a daughter and several grandchildren.

**ROBIN MEREZ** and her son were killed in Mexico on July 6th when their show vehicle was struck by a truck. Robin's husband, Miguelito was hospitalized with serious injuries and another child suffered some broken bones.

**FRANK T. SALUTO** (75), a clown with the Ringling Circus for 43 years, who retired in 1973, died at a nursing home in Sarasota, Fla. on July 30th. Survivors include two sisters and four brothers.

**MARIE E. WINTER** (72), of Bellingham, Wash. died on Aug. 1st. She had been a member of the CFA for 41 years. Survivors include her husband Wallace, a son Douglas and a brother.

## A July 4th Date

Warren C. Wood & Associates presented The Great All American Youth Circus from the Redlands, Calif., YMCA at the City of Lakewood, Calif., for that city's Independence Day Celebration on July 4th for two, one-hour shows in Mayfair Park.

Two 32 ft. riggings and a flying trapeze rig both draped with colorful flags, plus two bright dressing tents formed the background for a clown warm-up and eleven displays including a teeterboard, multiple men's cradle, clowns, unicycle, sponge plunge, clowns duo aerial cradles, clown vaulting, single trapeze, juggling and flying trapeze. Showtimes were 6 and 7:45 p.m. with a 30 minute fireworks display following the second circus.

The young troupe of 32 performers in new wardrobe were well received by two large crowds that filled the local baseball stadium plus portable bleachers.

The first performance was received with a standing ovation and Lakewood officials plan to have the show return on an annual basis.

## PEOPLE

CLARK McDERMOTT and his Cold Nose Five act recently completed an engagement at the Calgary Stampede in Canada.

KENNETH TAYLOR is looking for a used Cotton Candy Machine that he can buy. He can be reached at: 347 Athol Ave., Oakland, Ca. 94606 - Phone: 415-835-8123.

CINDERELLA's Fantasy Animals worked at Chattanooga, Tenn. (Aug. 18-21), while VICTOR, the Rasslin' Bear was at the Genessee County Fair (Aug. 16-22), booked by Shilling Theatrical Productions.

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CHARLIE MYRICK, escape artist and illusionist, was featured at the Town and Country Fair in Napa (Calif.) early this month.

JACK KLUGMAN, TV and film star, was the Honorary Ringmaster for Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit when the show opened at Inglewood, Calif., on July 21st.

YURY BELOV, former head clown at the Moscow State School of Variety Arts has been teaching clowning at May's Landing, NJ, this summer.

ROY ROGERS, who has joined the fight against California's referendum to restrict handguns was recently quoted as saying: "They'll have to shoot me first to take my gun."

# Royal Hanneford

by KEN HOLEHOUSE

It wasn't fireworks that lit up Allegan, Mich., this past Fourth of July. It was the one day stand of the Royal Hanneford Circus, playing two shows to the grandstand crowds at the County Fairgrounds.

This show shone brightly without benefit of tent, under the blue sky of the hot sticky summer day - not because of the sultry weather, but because of the firecracker acts that make this show such an SRO success. Six generations of Hanneford tradition and professionalism make this tight show a delight to any circus fan.

Senor Rai, a veteran of eight years with the Hanneford troupe, announced this show in a dignified, professional, commanding manner. And the first act he announced, Clark's Lions, was the sleeper of the show.

Michael and Michele Clark have a most unique cat act. First of all, both of them are in the cage for the whole act - the only husband and wife team that I know of where both work in the cage together.

Second, Michael does an exceptional number and variety of tricks with his lions, and all of them are crowd-pleasers and are well-executed. In addition to the fairly usual routines of jumping thru a hoop, rollers and lying down with the pack, Michael has his lions leap frog, walk back and forth over his lovely wife as she is lying prone and helpless on a plank and, at the end of the act, he straddles the exit chute door as the lions run between his legs. This is an action-filled act that you must see. Michael is self-taught and surely has one of the most complete cat acts in the history of the circus. This is a superstar in the making; and he's only been doing this work since 1979.

Another thing that makes this circus so great is the Hanneford Riding Act. Most of us have seen this extraordinary assemblage of gifted equestrians, high-lighted by the commanding presence of the grand lady of

the center ring, 93 yr. old Katherine Hanneford - still an active participant in the age-old comedy routine of the Sanger Riding Academy, where she tries to keep her wayward son Tommy from making a fool of himself. Tommy, of course, does a great job with his horseplay and clowning.

Nellie Hanneford does an impressive dressage routine with Midnight, but the superstar of this show is Mark Karoly, whose backward somersault from the back of one galloping horse to another and various other equestrian acrobatics is ten hands beyond tremendous. Seeing this gifted young showman, whether he's working with horses or elephants, is worth the price of admission alone. He has learned his craft well and is an agile, charismatic performer.

Some of the other attractions that make this show so entertaining include the Dynasty Duo; Warren Adams' juggling; the Almost Human Gorilla; Anita Zoppe's miniature horse act, and Danuska.

If the show I saw had a weakness, it was the lack of solid clown routines. One washerwoman gag was the only appearance of the clowns in the show I saw.

Lively circus music was provided by Bob and Kay Parker.

Jerry D. Roe and Associates booked this show all over the state of Michigan during June and to mainly full tent crowds. Jerry, a circus fan, is a lively conversationalist and obviously did a fine job of getting the Hanneford show some great dates.

This not-to-be-missed circus usually sets up under a red and white 120 ft. round tent and can be seen through the month of July on Coney Island in New York.

## Miscellaneous

On June 29th, at Mt. Home, Idaho, the Big John Strong Circus attracted such big crowds they finally had to drop the sidewalk to accommodate them all.

# At Parc Safari

by *BERNARD*

Parc Safari, in Hemmingford, Quebec, has outdone last years success with its new circus production.

Each performance is preceded by a colorful circus parade around the entertainment area of the park. Wardrobe for the parade was created by Jimmy Doulgass' Circus Creations of Daytona Beach, Fla.

The patrons are reminded again just before each performance by a musical announcement which is broadcast throughout the park.

The show begins with a singing medley from the play 'Barnum' by the popular French ringmaster, Pierre-Jean.

The first act into the ring is Zellmar's Liberty act in miniature, presented by Roy Wells with style and humor.

Next up is Eddie Schmitt's eleven Bengal tigers with a unique opening using the circus clowns and an antique circus wagon.

Eddie makes his way from the wagon to the arena with Rajah, a special tiger star.

Following, is the action packed and very well received Courageous Cavanaugh's cradle act, presented above the stage which is between the two rings.

It is difficult to say just who is the star of David Rosaire's dogs. Twelve Pokes, a great dane, a wonderful mutt and a very clever baboon vie for the spotlight, and applause under the skillful direction of David who is assisted by the pretty Lynn in a performance that never fails to capture the audience.

Gee Gee Engesser's elephants presented by Roy and Elaine Wells is, as always, a well-paced, smooth performance ably accented by Elaine's attractive participation.

Closing the show are The Pirates of The Sky. David and Roger perform 75 feet in the air as their rigging sits on a hill at the top of the stadium. The surprising break-away fi-

nale puts the finishing touch on the Cirque Safari.

The circus band is under the direction of Marco Trigiano, Ed South is prop boss, the ringmaster is Pierre-Jean, Gee Gee Engesser is performance director, Jimmy Douglass, did the wardrobe, Dave Jackson is the producer and Presto and Comprime are the clowns.

## Park Expansion

Circus World, in Florida, opened its new "The Great Western Stampede" expansion project on June 19th. The project included the construction of bleacher seating for 2,000 people. The stands are covered with a bright yellow canopy for shade and guest comfort. In addition there is a special seating area for some 30 handicapped people.

Guests enter the area through a facade of store fronts reminiscent of western towns such as Dodge City during the late 1800's when cattle barons, cowboys and gunfights were in their heyday before fading into American folklore.

The arena serves as a theatre for a nostalgic yet contemporary show recreating all of the romance of an era when the west was never wilder.

All matters western will be presented for the patrons, including daring and dazzling trick riding, a display of bullwhip expertise as well as skills of gun twirling and lassoing by the master of ceremonies Gordie Peer. There will also be Roman riding and chariot racing by Don Anderson. Light hearted moments will be provided by a stubborn mule and a comedy pony.

## July 4th Show

Bobby Yerkes produced the Rose Bowl Circus extravaganza in Pasadena, Calif., on July 4th. Over 40,000 people attended the event which concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.

After a come-in by clowns Chris Bricker, Mark Yerkes, Lori Miles (Lorilini) and Danny Reese, the program ran as follows:

Display with Toni Bros., trampoline, The Willers, juggling, Pablos, perch, Chester Cable, foot juggling and Otto Berosini, balancing; Miss Astra (Allison Logsdon, movie stunt girl), high dive; Wham-O Frisbee Catching canine; Aerial display with the Claudia Sisters, iron jaw, Richard St. John, on cloud swing and web girls.

Animal display with Heidi's Hollywood Liberty Ponies, Yvette's Critters, Otto Berosini's horseback riding tiger, Hubert Wells, sea lions.

Gene and Eleanor Mendez, high wire; a Clown oriental number; Dressage horses with Fay Snyder, Miss Heidi and Miss Linda; Bob Top and Edna, sky skating; Ottaker's (Berosini) mixed animals, Balancing display with The Willetti Duo, rola bola; Toni Bros., rola bola, the Cheletis Sisters, rolling globes; The Flying Braytons.

Staff included: Bob Yerkes, executive director; Parley Baer, ringmaster; Don Heaston, musical director and Chester Cable, supt.

## Miscellaneous

The Great Y Circus, of Redlands, Calif., presented two performances at Mayfair Park in Lakewood, Calif., on July 4th.

## Circus Books For Sale

Clown Alley .....	\$ 18.95
Steamboat Calliopes .....	3.00
Pictorial History of the American Carnival .....	15.95
Above with paper covers .....	9.00
Volume No. 3 .....	12.95
Struggles & Triumphs W. Hall ..	5.25
Circus Lingo .....	5.25
Circus Logistics .....	4.95
Under The Big Top .....	25.00
Circus Days, Cooper .....	25.00
Lions, Tigers n Everything ...	18.00
Circus Menagerie .....	16.00
Other Side of the Circus .....	25.00
Big Apple Circus .....	6.00
Circus Life in Pictures .....	5.00
Guy Lines .....	2.50
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### CIRCUS MEMORIES

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## PEOPLE

MARVIN GABEL recently spent some time visiting on the Carson & Barnes Circus.

BOB GIBBONS the Magician, presented his comedy magic/illusion show at the Valley Mall's Summer Magic Auto Show in Hagerstown, Md., July 15-17.

## Int. All Star

by DON SANDMAN

On Friday, June 25th, the Int'l All Star Circus played at Miamisburg, Jr. High School Gym in Miamisburg, Ohio, for the Breakfast Kiwanis Club.

Int'l All Star Circus is a part of Jim Nordmark's Events International, Inc. and is managed by Hines Rucker.

Although there was some lighting problems and a slippery stage the performers and personnel of the show did an excellent job and all patrons assembled had an enjoyable evening.

The program as presented was: Opening concert by David Epperly and the circus band. Dave Epperly was at the organ, Mike Wenslow, trumpet, John Howell, trumpet and Jeff Hunter, drums.

Hines Rucker is the ringmaster, MC, announcer and what have you and does a very fine job.

The show opens with Joe Eddy & Co., illusionists, who ends his part of the performance by turning his assistant into Hine Rucker's leopard.

Hines then follows with his uncaged leopard and in spite of the slippery floor did a fine job.

The Great DeMille on the tightwire dazzled the audience with his leaps and twists in the air.

Gaylord Maynard and Chief Bear Paw, his 4 legged drinking buddy had the audience roaring. And Chief Bear Paw sure can walk that line.

Intermission brought on the usual balloon pitch and concession announcement.

Lee Stephens and His Champaigne Poodles get the second half of the show underway.

The Zachery's Juggling Duo have things flying in all directions.

A Vegas-type Fantasy with whips, knives

and the finishing illusion amazed all, as presented by Joe Eddy & Co.

Belinda Maynard on the trapeze closed the show with beauty and daredevil drops.

Circus Fans were all welcomed and treated like family by members of the Int'l All Star Circus. Fans present included: Sally Weitlauf, Albert Conover, Jake Conover, Mary and Art Dicken, Smiley Brewer, Ed Knobel and Grace and Don Sandman. All had a glorious time after the show, swapping various stories.

## Model Displayed Again

The White House replica exhibit, which was wrecked by vandals at The Hague, Netherlands, was recently reopened in that city. However, its creator says it will take years to completely repair the damage.

John Zweifel, of Orlando, Fla., describes the vandalism, committed in the early morning hours of April 9th as "total . . . from one end to the other."

"I'm not saying it's repaired, but it's open," he said in an interview.

The White House model is made of wood, metal, fabrics, glue, glass and paper. Reproduction was intended to be as close as possible, and even the miniature oil paintings on the walls are originals.

Zweifel said, "it's going to take years" to recreate the structure as it was before the vandals went at the 60 ft. long model with pipes, sledge hammers and red and black paint.

The exhibit was insured in The Netherlands for 1 million guilders - about \$400,000. Mr. Zweifel said the model contains \$500,000 in materials alone. He declined to estimate the cost of repairing the damage.