

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year

Number 34

August 24, 1981



SALLY ASHTON

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus
Aug 24-25 Knoxville, Tenn

Carson & Barnes Circus
Aug 24 Oconomowoc,
25 Burlington Wsc
26 Fox Lake, Ill.
27-29 Maywood

Circus Arts Troupe
Aug 26-29 Hattiesburg, Miss

Great American Circus
Aug 23 Somerville, NJ

Hoxie Bros. Circus
?

Make-A-Circus
Aug 27 Sacramento, Calif
28 San Francisco

Martin & Downs Circus
Aug 24 Souris, P.E.I.
25 Parkdale Sherwood
26 No. Rustico
27 Alberton
28 Summerville
29 Cap Pele, N.B.
30 Rexton

Pickle Family Circus
Aug 25-26 Truckee, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
?

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Aug 25-Sep 1 Oakland, Calif

Royal Crown Circus
Aug 27-28 St. Joseph, Mo.

Royal Imperial Circus
Aug 24 Laramie, Colo
28-31 Ogden, Utah

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Aug 28-31 Fresno, Calif

Royal Palace Circus
Aug 25-30 Smithtown, NY

Swan Bros. Circus
Aug 26-30 Gridley, Calif

---- MAGIC ----

Krystali
Aug 24-26 Jackson, Miss.
27-30 New Orleans, La

Manzini
Aug 24-30 Warwick, R.I.

Pf. Miller- Magic Time USA
Aug 25 Huron, S.D.
26 Watertown
27 Millbank
28 Redfield
29 Fort Pierce

Felix Snipes
Aug 24-25 Chesapeake, Va.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Aug 24-29 Union Fair, Me

Bryans Clowns, Inc.
Aug 23 New Castle, Pa

James H. Drew Exposition
Aug 24-29 Gray, Tenn.

Poco Plus . .
to Sep 20 Des Moines, Ia.

Scott's Medicine Show
Aug 24 Stratford, Ont.

25 St. Marys
26 Pt. Edwards
27 Ridgetown
28 Chatham
29 Essex
30 Tilbury

Tip Top Shows - Blue
Aug 26-30 Weyauwega, Wisc

Tip Top Shows - Green
Aug 27-30 Lancaster, Wisc.

PEOPLE

WARREN BACON is asked to contact Dr. Kenneth Veselak, Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY 11530. His office phone is: 516-222-7528 and his home phone is: 516-628-1919.

KEVIN MENARD is presently working at Fantasy Farms, booked by Dwight Damon.

KEN KAWATA, curator of the Tulsa, Okla., Zoo, will assume the duties of General Curator of the Milwaukee, Wisc., Zoo as of Aug. 31st.

GLEN and ETHEL HENRY are visiting with their son Gary who is with the Great American Circus, now playing along the New Jersey beach.

LLOYD FENGAL, of Quincy, Ill., visited Carson & Barnes Circus at Chatham and even sat in with the band.

PEOPLE

JON FRIDAY, circus announcer, will be appearing at the Ohio State Fair (Aug. 12-30) with Ward Hall & Co.

GREG WILKIE, magician, presented a benefit magic show for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, at Walnut Creek, Calif., the evening of Aug. 15th.

MILONGA CLINE has returned to her home in Florida after touring the U. S. and spending time with relatives in Southern California last month.

JAMES K. COTTER wrote an interesting and well-done article about the Hoxie Bros. Circus for the July 31st edition of the Post Star in Glens Falls, N.Y.

BILL BACKSTEIN and his wife have been traveling with the Carson & Barnes Circus, as is the **ALBERT VONDERHEID** Family. Also traveling with the same show are Mr. and Mrs. **JOHN DRAPER**.

In Memoriam

JOHN JOHN (14) Boss Lot Dog on the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, died on Aug. 6th. He is sadly missed by his owner and master, John Schweitzer and the Beatty-Cole family.

HOWARD ARTHUR FURLONG (65) carpenter for the Beatty-Cole Circus for many years, died recently. He was affectionately known as "Pop" and had worked on such American Circus Corp. shows as Sells Floto and Hagenbeck Wallace. He was with the Cole Bros.-Clyde Beatty Circus before coming to the present Clyde Beatty Circus. In addition to taking tickets at the side show, Pop is remembered as a math master and show carpenter. His home was Benton Harbor, Mich., where he is survived by his father, a son and a daughter.

DON SAUNDERS, British musical clown died on May 6th in Paris. He appeared with the Bertram Mills Circus, Smarts Circus and at the Yarmouth Hippodrome. In recent years he spent most of his time in France, performing with a piano and the bagpipes. His wife, Rina, survives.



BY LLOYD E. JONES

The color changing knife has long been a favorite of many magicians. Impromptu and capable of many variations it is only now that a delayed book covers the subject. It is "Merrill's Knife Book" by R. (Dale) Merrill who has made and sold thousands of them. Now, they are supplied by Al Cohen of Washington, DC and the book was published by Lee Jacobs Enterprises. It has 64 p. and is 6x9 in. on glossy paper with over 50 mirror photos that are exceptional in detailing moves. This book should be a standard and the \$10.00 price is quite reasonable. Postage would be 63c and if you do, or have seen the trick done, this is a must book.

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Another must book is Bill Severn's 'Guide to Magic As a Hobby' which came out in 1979 and is now closed out. We have been able to get apparently all that remains and have dropped the price from \$14.95 to \$9.95, a low price for a 280 p., 7x10 in book full of information, photos, magical information.

Every club should have a copy of this book in their library and every student should be sure to have one, to read and enjoy. This tells you about modern magicians, dealers, clubs, collecting, magic societies and so much more that you can browse through it for hours. Postage is 86c. I love the book and not just because I am written up in it, but because it has so much to offer and now you can have it at a low price.

Did you know the "Le Grande David Show" which has been drawing sensational reviews in Beverly, Mass., is going to close? Relax, they are now performing their 550 show and a change is planned when the show reaches its 1,000 mark.

This full evening show with a cast of over 60 and scores of illusions and varied acts is reported to be well worth traveling many miles to see.

If you don't know the story about the show you should. Do some checking, many magic publications and even national ones like Time magazine have praised it.

Harry Blackstone is presently on tour in Jamaica and Trinidad.

PEOPLE

JOHN HANSEN, of the Rolling Diamonds, ran the 26 mile Marathon in Wilmington recently. He made the run in 4 hours, 50 minutes and lost about 7 lbs. However, after the race he quickly put the weight back on.

DIANA HANSEN, foot juggler, recently obtained a beautiful Doberman Pincher named 'Toma'. She got it to replace her pet Sparky who was run over by a car.

PETE CRISTIANI is with the press department for the Royal American Shows, opening in Davenport, Iowa., on Aug. 30th. BEL-MONTE CRISTIANI has two rides on that same show.

ED FREEMAN will take his magic show on the road starting on Labor Day for the fall and winter season.

Report

BIG JOHN STRONG'S CIRCUS

BY ED FREEMAN

Big John's return to Bettendorf, Iowa, (5th year) was a real winner. A two hour performance under a new red and white 60 by 90 top. The show played to two full and one $\frac{3}{4}$ house.

Show opened with two stilt walking clowns followed by Al Leonard who introduced Big John. Then came Bobby Gibbs with three camels; The Weller Family, acrobatic novelty featuring five year old Kelly and seven year old Shannon, who were in turn followed by a Clown Bargain Basement number.

Dorian Blake presented a fast-paced illusion act with live stock, then the clowns came back with a safe cracking bit and Bobby Gibbs presented three llamas and a pony, just prior to intermission time.

Alberti's Poodle Revue; The Great Stradovari (Sink), Flippo and Chryssi juggling, the clowns with a busy bee routine; and Bobby Gibbs with an elephant.

Miscellaneous

The Sells Floto Ring No. 34, of Rhode Island presented a display of circus memorabilia and scale models at the Rhode Island State Fair, Aug. 4-10.

The Contra Costa Fair (Calif) reports its recent 1981 fair drew a total of 83,720 patrons to set an all new record for attendance at the fair. Officials had been hoping for a turnout of 100,000 people.

Clowns on the program were Bob Owens, Phil Kavanaugh, Rosa Douglass, and Tom and Madelena Sink.

Neil Armstrong was the organist, Jim Miller the drummer and Al Leonard did the announcing.

Some of the Vargas advance people attended the performance and were introduced by Big John. John also put in a plug for the Vargas show for their date at Moline, Ill., on Aug. 20-23.

REPORT

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

BY DON SANDMAN

Dorey Miller and his big Carson & Barnes Five Ring Circus played Sunday, Aug. 2nd in North Vernon, Ind., for the Jaycees. The show was set up on the fairgrounds and a wonderous sight it was. The beautiful blue and orange 8 pole top and the sidewalls with the stars around the top and the show name all around the tent.

Entering the front yard you see the circus ticket wagon centered with pit shows on the sides and the Pony-Go-Round and Concession truck and Bounce taking up the rest of the midway. Then you enter thru the Entrance truck, well painted, into the largest menagerie on any circus today.

If the writer's count was correct there were 27 elephants lined-up in a line. Two were being used for elephant rides. A full inventory wasn't taken, but the other animals included a giraffe, rhino, camels, goats, llamas, tigers, lions, buffalo, bears. This reporter had his grandchildren with him and

they loved the whole menagerie.

When you entered the tent a novelty stand is on the right with the programs being sold from the center of the entrance. Reserved seats are sold from one booth as you move around the track.

Blues being on the ends and the backside. *The Carson & Barnes Circus band is on their own trailer which has the fact that it is the band's trailer printed on it.* The band is led by William Reynolds, playing cornet. The names given to me for the rest of the band were: Bill Doyle, cornet, Bill Bingman, cornet, Bob Gardner, drums, Dan Reynolds, tuba, Wayne Reynolds, trombone, Tim Davis, trombone, Charlie Stevenson, baritone and Faye Reynolds, organist. This by far the best band under a tent or in a building in the United States.

As anyone who has seen the Carson & Barnes show can tell you, it would be almost impossible to name all the acts on the show. But they all entertain and the act you watch is going all out for you. Some of the featured acts were Patricia White with a mixed cat act (4 lions, 2 tigers) and she also presented the lion riding an elephant; Princess Moonbeam, hair hang; Bobby and Rosa Gibbs, animals; The Amazing Victor, high wire; the Flying Gaonas, Caballeros and Lunas; Harry Lockers' black bears; Johnny Walker, Jr. and the circus elephants (19), working in five rings. Clowning was handled by Charlie the Clown.

D. R. Miller is the president and producer; James Judkins, general manager, vice president and secretary; Ted Bowman, treasurer, PR and front door, equestrian director and announcer is James Royal; musical director, William Reynolds; midway manager, Manuel King; cookhouse, Pete Linderman, Novelities Barb Fulton, General supt., Geary Byrd; Concessions, Dave Rawls; Canvas supt., Jaime Garcia; supt. of elephants, Johnny Walker, Jr.; supt. of felines, Patricia White; supt of ringstock, Alfonso Loyal; production wardrobe designed and created by Isla Miller and Barbara Byrd.

The show has a nice program with a cover designed by George DaDeppo. The program was designed by James Judkins, Ted Bowman and Charles Bellati and is sold at the door.

Circus fans seen on the lot came from Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio.

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Report

FRANZEN CIRCUS NOTES

BY DENNIS MICHAEL

Cindy, the Franzen Bros. Circus female tiger recently gave birth to a male cub.

Dean Jensen, author of the book "The Longest, The Shortest, The Largest, The Smallest", a history of Wisconsin circuses is responsible (along with his staff) for organizing an Art Exhibit that is now traveling across country featuring art work with circus themes. The show broke all attendance records when it appeared at the Milwaukee Art Institute.

The show includes paintings, sculpture and graphics by well known artists. Included in the show are works by the famous artist Byron Burford who spends much of his summer playing drums on Franzen Bros. Circus. Byron is a full professor in the Art Department at the University of Iowa and many of his paintings hang in the finest art museums and galleries in the world.

Byron painted Franzen Bros. Circus trucks

SPECIAL

VISIT BY TV STAR

BY CIRCUS JOE VALENCIANO

Actress Linda Evans, formerly of "The Big Valley" and currently starring in the hit TV series "Dynasty" flew into Birmingham, Ala. to spend some time with the Harry Dubsy family when they were appearing there with the Coronas Circus (July 28-Aug. 2).

Miss Evans will be presenting Harry's and Gina's "Royal Palace Leopards" at the annual "Circus of the Stars" TV special. The taping is scheduled for October in Las Vegas.

this year and the show looks like a traveling masterpiece.

Wayne Franzen was recently awarded a citation by the Wisconsin State Legislature for his contribution to the colorful Wisconsin Circus history. The document was signed by representatives of both houses and was presented by Senator Tiny Krueger in the circus big top before an appreciative straw house.



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REPORT**AMERICAN CONTINENTAL CIRCUS**

BY HERBERT B. UECKERT

Las Vegas audiences were treated to six outstanding and well-balanced performances by the American Continental Circus (a Gatti Production) July 31, Aug. 1-2, in the Las Vegas Convention Center arena, for the Zelzah Shrine Temple's 32nd annual circus.

The show this year seemed brighter and more dazzling, and the program was stronger perhaps than in recent years. Weather was extremely hot throughout the engagement, but attendance was good, about a ¾ house at the 2 p.m. matinee on Saturday.

Musical chores were capably handled by band leader Herb Miller, plus ten other musicians. John Miller as the handsome singing ringmaster kept the show of almost three hours (including intermission) moving right along. Performer's costumes on the entire show were especially noteworthy, and the prop department workers were attired in neat blue or red coveralls.

A brief run-down of the program is as follows: Kay Rosaire, mixed cats (3 tigers, 4 leopards doing a nice routine of standard tricks); Clowns with dog gag; three cradle acts by The Alexanders, The Rosamonds and The Paulas with Les Rogeres on the revolving ladder; Animal display with Faye's Critters, Cleopatra's Trio (llama, camel, and pony), and the Vasquez Chimps (2 chimps, 1 dog); Doug Ashton, musical revue; The Maridon Duo, high wire act (unusual in that it is worked by two girls who did a two person high - a net was used); Myoshi Amoto's hair hang; Clown Johnnie; colorful spec "Carnaval de Argentina" with ten girls on web and Miss Evita (Sally Ashton) on single trapeze, featured a long and fast routine by the Dancing Gauchos (four men doing Argentine dancing).

After intermission: The Flying Lunas (3 men and a girl with Enrique accomplishing the triple); Mr. Fred & Co., contortion act with a girl in a trunk; two rings of dogs with Rafeal's Poodles and Yvette's Pals and in the center ring the elephant Tika worked by Pom Pom; the Porredon Perch act (billed as Los Pueyrredon at the Festival International du Cirque de Monte Carlo where they won a Silver Clown award); The Riques Duo, top spinning; Duo Ramon, rola bola; and the Four Farkas,

SPECIAL**BEAUMONT WRITER'S CLUB**

BY REV. M. H.

The former Miss Zavatta, a star performer with the original Zoppe-Zavatta bareback riders and acts, took over as producer and manager of the large troupe upon the loss of their father. She brought the troupe to America in 1938 and toured for many successful seasons with most of the major shows in the country.

She now produces and manages her personal family, The Hall Productions. They are currently contracted with the Atayde Circus of Mexico and have been appearing in cities near the Hondurian border. Their Mexican obligations will expire in November.

PEOPLE

JOHN PAUL RICHARDS, Maryland State Chairman CFA and an active model builder has been hospitalized and would enjoy letters and cards. Write him at: V. A. Medical Center, Ft. Howard, Md - 21052.

MIKE PIKE has been named co-Musical Director for the 1981 Variety Club International Telethon on KMBZ-TV in Kansas City in October.

jugling; Clown Gag - Great Zambini with dog and sleight of hand; The Suarez Troupe of bareback riders; The Tanger Troupe, Moroccan acrobats and tumblers; Elephants (3) presented by Tommy Donoho and Pom Pom.

As can be seen the caliber and variety of acts were exceptional, and it would be difficult - and possibly even unfair - to single any out for special mention. However, I was elated to have the opportunity again to enjoy the superb artistry of the Porredon Perch act since I was fortunate to see them work in Monte Carlo last December.

And despite the fact the act consisted of only 3 bulls, any time Tommy Donoho and Pom Pom work an elephant act it is always a super sharp routine right down to the white toenails!

American Continental is to be thanked and congratulated for helping to keep the circus alive and well.

MAILBAG

FROM TERRY PERRINO

I'm writing to call attention to an error in the July 27th issue of Circus Report. In that report by Paul Savage, writing about the Bertolino Brothers Circus July 4th date, a very good juggling act was mis-identified.

The act was listed as "Bertolino youngest brother and wife" but is really called "To Gyre and Gimble" and consists of myself and Joe Caputo.

We're having a busy summer, having just completed five weeks as Artists-in-Residence at the University of Rhode Island teaching and performing juggling, and business is brisk through the season.

Also in reference to the July 4th date in Providence, R.I., due to political maneuverings, some of the organizers of the event had lost their jobs a few days before but came and coordinated the evening on their own time. Thanks to them for a job well done. The security was good as Paul Savage wrote, but the police were being paid.

REPORT

INDIAN RANCH ENGAGEMENT

BY PAUL SAVAGE

Caroline Savage and her 7 dressed up poodle act played the Indian Ranch (Webster, Mass) on July 26th, with Al DeLage, magician and Punch & Judy act. Also appearing there was Jerry Coyle the man who plays many instruments.

The event was for an outing for a large food chain and their employees.

Caroline's husband, Paul, has a big magic and illusion show which he will take on the road in the fall, but he works in his wife's dog act whenever it is booked.

Al DeLage, magician, hadn't seen us in over 30 years and he had a lot of jackpots to cut up.

The Indian Ranch is a real good place to play as there is always a breeze on stage coming from the lake.

Johnny Cash and his brother Tommy are coming there soon.

Caroline has a string of shopping malls left to play that will take her thru Labor Day, then she will help Paul in his illusion show which is booked through the fall and winter.

Jerry Coyle has an act that is not seen too much today. He plays two trumpets at the same time, two saxes at the same time, two trombones, etc. He is also a good MC.

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MAILBAG

FROM DENNIS MICHAEL

Rarely do I feel inspired to write anyone, however, the recent conduct in Indiana by the ownership of Circus Holiday compels me to make a statement. I sincerely hope that you will allow space in CR for the following:

'Circus Owner Sought by Police'. This is but one of several headlines over articles clipped from Indiana newspapers and sent to me by friends. Several are from the front page. All the articles contain the same message. The name of the show is usually mentioned, the owner named and the charges expressed. That big, black "catch your attention" headline always contains the word circus.

So all of us who make a living in this unique industry have been indicted by implication. Especially those of us who have to follow this now defunct show into Indiana will suffer.

Many years ago when an unsavory show "burnt" a town, the results were localized to a small area. Today we live in an era of instant communication and mass media watchfulness. The committees we do business with often attend state and national conventions, members may belong to several organizations. Burn a town today and the heat will be felt in a statewide and even a regional area.

A person or organization bilked by a super market, mechanic, or housebuilder does not condemn all others in that industry. We, however, are part of a very small, highly visible, media-attractive industry; when "circus" is

mentioned, we are all implicated. It may not be fair, but it happens and it affects us all.

The circus in question had all the ingredients for failure from the start: no capital, a fragile line of credit, management inexperience. The show is alleged to have run promotions in several towns, collected the money and never showed up to make the date, leaving the sponsors holding a very empty bag and many unhappy ticket holders. In towns the circus did show, the performance was extremely weak and promises to the sponsors were not kept.

I mention these alleged facts because they fit a pattern that occurs so often. Every year it seems, someone without and practical circus experience, or a perennial loser who knows where to rent an elephant and get a rag bag tent on credit, decides to take out a show. The results are always the same - they lose, we lose.

The point of this editorial comment is one of condemnation. Those who wish to succeed as a circus owner better remember that the second word in the phrase "show business" is business.

Those who cheat the public with dishonest business practices and poor quality shows should be "sent to coventry" and those of us who love the business should do every thing in our power to get these heat merchants off the road and out of sight with the greatest haste.

INFORMATION

REWARD - If needed information is SUPPLIED

Aerialist (Ringling Bros. and other circuses 1946 to 1960)

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Betty Trout

Betty Knoll (1st Marriage)

After 1960 known as "MARY" or

Tina Gonzalez Martinelli

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REPORT

FAIR ACTS

The State Fair and Exposition, at Rocky Hill, R. I., featured the following acts Aug. 4 thru 11th.

Vidbel's Elephants; Golden's tigers; Vidbel's Liberty ponies, The Sunshine Express, Jack D'John's, The Karinas, Burke's Dogs and Chimps, The Nee Ningy Band.

Also appearing at the fair were: Sir Chadwick Chase, comedy car, The Bill Carson Show, Happy Louie's Polka Band and for music there was Florine Oler, organist.

Miscellaneous

The Tommy Bartlett Water Circus at Pigeon Forge, Tenn., has the following circus acts thjs season.

Huntzicker & Botsford, trampoline; Dieter Tasso, juggling comedian; Dave Merrifield, helicopter trapeze; Rudolph Delmonte, contortionist and Terry Murrell, announcer.

SPECIAL

A CIRCUS CONCERT

The Sioux Falls, S. D., Municipal Band presented its 16th annual 'Circus Concert' at the city's Terrace Park on Aug. 2nd. The program format was arranged by Paul Hoy, CFA and a member of the band.

Musical selections played as part of the concert included: The Star Spangled Banner, Barnum & Bailey's Favorite, Fame and Fortune March, Highlights from Gypsy, Wonderland by Night, Pan American March, Circus Days, El Capeo, Purple Pageant, Trouping Days, Enchanted Night, Sells Floto Triumphal March, Pageantry March, Trombone Blues, The Big Cage and Auld Lang Syne.

The program also listed two optional numbers: Red Wagons and Strike Up the Band.

LARRY WILSON, magician, was featured on the John Davidson TV Show on the afternoon of Aug. 13th.

Report

KLOWN KAVALCADE

BY ED FREEMAN

The Big John Strong Clown Kavalcade was in Davenport, Iowa., recently and was a real winner. The show ran over two hours and is a well balanced program. Every act tries to outdo the other and they have some of the best clown gags and enthusiasm that is hard to beat.

The program opened with the Weller Family doing an acro turn, the two small girls show great skill and stage style. Then came the clowns with a Bargain Basement number; Curtis Cainan with a novel dog act, in which it appears the dogs work without any cues, and the clowns in a Busy Bee number.

Dorian Blake & Co., do an exceptional job with magic and illusions. Dorian looks like Elvis and he moves smoothly through a well routined act.

The Weller family was next with a three person rola bola, followed by the clowns in a safe cracking bit. Kid Cainan returned on a wire, a high spot of his act is a unicycle

ride across the wire. The Great Stradavari was next (Sink), followed by Flippo and Chyrssi in a juggling number. Then Blake closed the show with his fast substitution trunk act.

Phil Kavanaugh and Bob Owens walked on stilts as a pre-show warm-up. Other clowns were Tom and Madeleana Sink and Rosa-Marie Douglass.

Neil Armstrong was the organist, Jim Miller played drums and the announcing was handled by Al Leonard.

C. Thomas Magrum (school magician) visited the show and enjoyed Dorian's act. He is 74 and still works regularly.

PEOPLE

CHATITA WEBER visited Mexico, Catalina Island and toured the U.S. during July. Herbert Weber where were you?

AUSTIN MILES, author of the book "The Real Ringmaster" (featured in the Zondervan Family Bookstore chain) will be the guest speaker for the Felix Adler Tent CFA in Passaic, N.J. on Oct. 18th.

Report

CFA TENT MEETING

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World hosted the summer meeting of the Hoxie Tucker Tent No. 137, CFA.

The occasion afforded most of the members and guests an opportunity to see the many changes and improvements that have been made at the circus theme park during the last year.

Members Jimmie (the younger) Cole and Wayne Scott participated in the "Be-A-Star Circus" attraction. Both returned to the group without having suffered any ill effect from working the high wire and trapeze.

An unusual five course "Deluxe Picnic Lunch" was served at the circus cookhouse.

The Circus World management furnished meeting room accommodations which were in an old Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey coach.

Tent member Glenn Graves, who is a member of the Circus World staff, served as the

PEOPLE

ROSCOE the Clown (Joel Risberg) is recuperating after having had the lower portion of his left lung removed. He was clowning with the Big John Strong Circus. Letters and cards should be sent to him at: 15376 Wilbur Crt, Redford, Mich.

DARRELL WALLEN with his horse "Mr. Rythm" worked with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus in Las Vegas and prior to that worked dates in Texas and Indiana. They will be with the Sam Polack Circus fall dates.

CARLOS FARFAN keeps busy building new equipment for show folks and traveling about the country to delivery the items he builds.

host for the day's activities.

Arrangements for the affair were coordinated by members Glenn Graves, Charles P. (Chappie) Fox, and the Tent President.

The fall meeting will be held in Orlando, sometime in October.

REPORT

CIRCUS ODYSSEY

BY GERALDO CORTEZ DIAZ

Ed Migley's Circus Odyssey premeired its second engagement in Mexico City if 1981 on July 10th. Presented to the people of Mexico by net-work giant Televisa, this lavish production takes place under a mammoth European big top custom made by Milano Tent Co. of Italy. The show is slated to run six weeks but if opening week attendance is any sign of business to come, the show most likely will be extended for an additiona two weeks.

Circus Odyssey is billed as America's Circus Beautiful, and certainly deserves the title. The show, lavish in futuristic equipment, lighting, and senic design is far superior to any circus production in North America.

Upon entering the tent patrons are confronted with an immaculate lay-out that is picture perfect of how a circus should look. Due to space a two ring format is substituted for Circus Odyssey's normal three rings. Las Vegas quality lighting and scenic design are evident. Ring curbs are lighted, an elaborate back door is framed by a giant 80 x 25' red and yellow back drop. Chaser lights, bubbles, mirror balls and special effects are too numerous to detail, however, unlike shows which attempt to camouflage a poor performance in a dizzying array of effects, what makes Circus Odyssey stand alone is producer Ed Migley's

unique quality for combining superior talent - all acts are American but what is special, is the fact, that each act is capable of working in a number of medias (TV, clubs, stage, revues) and most have worked internationally.

Multi-talented Lee Stevens, showing us another side, debuts as English announcer and narrator for the two hour and 15 minute extravaganza. His voice quality and Hollywood appearance make him a stunning asset to the production. He is ably assisted by Mexican TV personalities who do the announcing in Spanish.

The show opens with a production with an array of costumed animals. George Barrera begins the talent line-up with 8 male lions in a fast-paced act full of tricks and showmanship. The Thomas Duo present a cradle number, and then is followed by clowns who take over the ring with some humorous numbers.

Elkies Chimps are next, followed by Carol Wainwright on the single trapeze, Bill Brickle and his dress-up poodles, The Wainwrights on trampoline, Joselito, high wire, intermission.

The second half starts off with the Jackie and Elkie Althoff bears, The Pirates of The Sky, George Rosel's comedy car, Mike and Sally LaTorres, with the elephant 'Stoney', The Aerial Paulsons, motorcycle in the air,

Sweet News

FANS MAKE THE CENTER RING

BY GEORGE BINGAMAN

Circus buff Edward S. Phillips, Jr., and his fiancée Penny Jordan wanted one ring, but made it three in the center of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus at 11 p.m. after the evening performance in Reading, Pa. on Aug. 3.

The Wilmington, Del., couple were married in Reading by a Protestant Minister in a solemn ceremony attended by many out-of-town friends and the entire circus family who doffed sequined attire for the formal occasion.

"The largest collection of our friends is with the circus," said Phillips, 49, who occasionally travels and performs with the show. "The cir-

cus isn't playing Wilmington this year. We decided we'd take our wedding to them."

Pete and Sue, lead bulls of the Beatty-Cole herd entered the big top led by Elephant Superintendent Fred Logan, bringing bride and groom to the sacred portal of ring one where they dismounted via the bull ride access stand. Respectfully waiting Pete and Sue promptly received their tips while raising trunks and forelegs as Ed and Penny served them fresh roasted nuptial-prepared peanuts.

The writer was impressed by the solemnity and formality of the wedding. "We don't want it to be too much of a circus atmosphere", said Miss Jordan, 36.

A sumptuous feast of reception food and beverages was enjoyed by the large family of friends and showfolks following the rite.



EYEWITNESS - A circus elephants watches rescue crews as they aid an employee of the Hoxie Bros. Circus, hurt when a storm toppled the show's big top during a performance at Saratoga Springs, N. Y., on July 19, 1981. The photo has been copied from the front page of the Times-Union of Albany, N. Y.