

CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year

Number 21

May 25, 1981



EARL TEGGE

Show Dates

Bentley Bros. Circus

May 25 Monterey, Ca.
26-27 Paso Robles
28-29 San Bernardino

Big John Strong Circus

May 25-26 Simi Valley, Ca.

Carden Int'l Circus

May 28 Lamar, Colo.

Carson & Barnes Circus

May 25 Ponca City, Okla
26 Bartlesville
27 Joplin, Mo.
28 Lamar
29 Butler
30 Belton

Hubert Castle Circus

May 25-26 Red Deer, Albt
27 Drumheller
28-30 Edmonton

Coronas Circus

May 29-31 Shreveport, La

Hamid-Morton Circus

May 26-30 Pittsburgh, Pa

Hoxie Bros. Circus

May 25 Wilmington, Dela
26 Elkton, Md.
28 Bridgeton, NJ
29-30 Paterson
31 Clifton

Hubler Int'l Circus

May 29-31 Cedar Rapids,
Iowa

M & M Circus

May 26-28 Hastings, Nebr.
30-31 Grand Island

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

May 26-31 Providence, R.I.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

to May 31 New York, NY

Royal Crown Circus

May 24-30 Ft. Worth, Tex.

Royal Imperial Circus

May 28-31 Phoenix, Ariz.

---- MAGIC ----

Florida Magic Association

May 29-31 Winter Park, Fla

Doug Henning

May 26-June 1 Las Vegas,
Nevada

Krystali's Kavalcade

May 25 Ft. Collins, Colo.
26 Loveland
27 Greeley
28 Longmont
29-30 Arvada
31-June 1 Lakewood

Magic Jeweler

May 26 Berlin, Germany

Pf. Miller Magic Time USA

May 25 Mansfield, Pa.
26 Williamsport
27 Loch Haven
28 Lewistown
29 Carlisle
30 Chambersburg
31 Spring Grove

Felix Snipes

May 29-30 Liberal, Kans.

Starfire

May 26 Beaumont, Tex.
29-30 Lake Charles, La

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

May 26-31 Auburn, Mass.

James H. Drew Exposition

to May 30 Marmet, W. Va.

Hall & Christ

to June 2 St. Louis, Mo.

Los Latinos

May 26-30 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Trudy's Dalmations

May 29-31 Edmonds, Albt

Samantha



Hil I had to take some time off and get a few things back to normal at home. Wouldn't you know it, my first day back and we get hit by a rain storm.

This lot's like quick sand and everything is a mess. It's going to be rough getting the show loaded tonight.

Darn! There goes my boot! How's a girl supposed to look glamorous around one of these things?

Beatty-Cole Circus

May 18-20 Willingboro, NJ
26-28 Paramus

REPORT

HUBERT CASTLE CIRCUS

BY ALTON JONES

The Hubert Castle Circus had a successful run of four days, producing and directing for the Murah Temple of Indianapolis, Apr. 23-26.

The writer visited the Sunday Matinee on Apr. 26th. The Murat Temple band entertained before the show, under the direction of Dave Thrasher. This was followed by a parade of the Murat uniformed units, including their Oriental Band, the Gun Club, miniature speedway cars, and the Potentate who rode a fancy horse and his Divan, all well dressed and supporting him.

Maestro Gregory Toca was the band leader and did a masterful job with the timing of events, possibly another Merle Evans.

Miss Roberta provided a dramatic opening with the Slide for Life. She was followed by the Paulsons and the Winns with their motor cycle escapades on the high wire. Then Miss Gilda and her Royal Palace Leopards stunned the audience as she showed the only leopard to walk on its hind legs.

After some Clown Hysteria, Miss Golda and Senor Vinicio performed on the trapeze with the Braun Duo, the Pinson Duo and the Paulson Duo, cradle acts. The juggling section was next with the Francarros, Dionne and Arman do giving a splendid performance from their respective countries - Spain, France, Italy. The Jorge Rossel comedy car had everyone on the edge of their seats with the performance of this unpredictable car.

Then came the 'tail wagging' display of the Wilson's Canine Revue, Trudy's Dalmatians and the Adams Dog Display. They were excellent.

Following the Bustling Buffoonery and the Clown Alley shenanigans, the Cristiani Bros. on the bounding trampoline did many difficult twists and flips to the brother's shoulders - if there was a word above excellent, it should be used with this performance.

The Smaha Royal Lipizzan Stallions and Miss Joanne's High School Horses displayed talent galore. Frank and Estrelita offered acrobatic artistry in the air and was followed by the Adams Chimpanzees, with the usual "Barrel of Monkeys" routine.

The Los Gauchos really had a big display of the rope twirling Argentine cowboys. The



MAGIC LIMITED - LLOYD E. JONES - 4064 39TH AVE., OAKLAND, CA. 94619

The "Magic Island" a private club on Lido Island in Newport Beach, Ca., will open this June, with David Copperfield presenting the stage show.

Memberships include a Private Gold Charter at \$750 each. It will soon be \$1,000 until 1,000 people are enrolled, then the price will jump to \$1,450! A Corporate membership of 3 cards will cost \$2,000, while a Mini Corporate with 2 cards runs \$1,100. Both are set to double when the quotas are filled. Enrollments are already said to be about 800. One can bring 3 guests with no cover charge and the menu will feature some eight entrees under \$20.00.

Advisors are listed as: David Copperfield, Doug Henning and Harry Blackstone, Jr. Members reportedly already signed up include Johnny Carson, Lucille Ball, Milton Berle, and Joan Rivers.

first time in Indianapolis and a great show of ability.

Following intermission, Mike and John Winn performed a sensational double cross-over on the inclined wire. Then came 'Lord of the Jungles' Tarzan Zerbini, prefaced with an illusion where a circus beauty is changed into a fully grown lion. Tarzan put on his usual display of handling lions and tigers - who can do better?

The Acadis one-finger stand and Les Michels the acrobatic aerialists prefaced the Diano elephants and the Hawthorn elephants. The Diano 'Big Tom' the largest performing male elephant intrigued the youngsters.

The Quassars had a unique act, playing to the Space Age excursions of the impossible. Current TV shows had the youngsters alerted to their message.

The Great Wiregand Swaypole act brought on the usual ah's and oh's as the pole broke. The final act was Captain Circus being shot from the Rocket Cannon. Had seen it in Ft. Wayne in February and it's still the most exciting of acts.

Especially enjoyed the ringmastering of Col. Lucky Larabee. Having known him for some 7 or 8 years. He handled the announcements in his usual masterful way.

SPECIAL**MAGIC COLLECTORS HONOR JONES**

BY JIM ALFREDSON

Magic collectors from all over the country gathered in Chicago, Apr. 24-25, for the 12th Annual Magic Collectors' Weekend, jointly sponsored by the Magic Collectors' Association and Magic Inc. The guest of honor this year was Circus Report's own 'Book Worm' Lloyd E. Jones. Lloyd was recognized for his many years of active contribution to magic as a dealer, performer, author, collector, reviewer and publisher.

Although the official activities began on Friday evening, many had gathered the day before and the usual active swapping - of materials, stories and greetings - took place. To give you an idea of how varied the programs are, a run-down of the activities follows; subject given first and author in parentheses.

Friday: Nicola (Tad Ware); Lady of Magic Dell O'Dell (Al Sharpe); Performances of Belachini and DeBiere (Walter Willmann); Collecting Crooked Gambling Devices (Terry Roses), and Leslie May (Craig Snader).

Saturday: Thurston, the Untold Story (Bob Olson); Billy Purvis, the Newcastle Conjuror (Al Berlinski); films of lesser-known performers (Mike O'Dowd); Haenchen magic (Bill Pitts); Sir Edwards, the Man Who Sees Tomorrow (Tom Ewing); slides of rare magic props (John Henry Grossman, M.D.).

Then the guest of honor, Lloyd E. Jones chatted about his fabled collection (now belonging to the Walkers), his noted 'chicken coop' (still his), and many other topics, in his witty and trenchant manner.

In appreciation of being honored by the Association, Lloyd presented those present with a complimentary copy of his best-selling book "The Dime & Penny Trick," in a Japanese translation.

A fascinating audio/visual presentation was next, a colorful melding of music and magicians (David Linsell); That Man Dante (Phil Temple); and the evening ended with a number of the members presenting magic using antique props.

A 'bare bones' description such as this cannot convey the grand time that we have each year at this gathering of magic collectors from around the country; much time being spent chatting with old friends. Among the Californians who came to see Lloyd honored were

PEOPLE

JOE and BETTY NAUD'S Lancelot Chimps toured with the Reid Bros. Circus in the Pacific Northwest, then joined the Sam T. Polack Circus at Wellington, Ohio.

EARL KRAUZER visited the Royal Lippizan Horse Show at Manchester, N.H., and reports an excellent show featuring ROSAIRE and His Wonder Horse, BENNY CRISTIANI and his Miniature Horses and DIPRIMA'S Prancing Ponies.

THE KIBBEY CLOWNS, of the Houston Clown School (Texas) were used in the post World War II film 'Liar's Moon' which included some carnival footage. They have also been doing some promotional work for and since the TV special "Leave Em Laughing" was aired nation-wide.

CLIFFORD E. VARGAS visited the Ringling Red Unit in New York City and then spent a few days with Circus Tivoli in Canada before returning to his own show in Southern California.

CHELA GAONA, injured during the Flying Gaona's act in Australia last year, has recovered and is back flying with her brothers, TITO, RITCHIE and catcher ARMONDO. They are presently with Circus Scott in Europe.

Report**GREAT Y CIRCUS**

The 43rd annual circus performance by the Great All American Youth Circus, of Redlands, Calif., was presented at the Redlands YMCA, May 8-9 and 15-16.

The program featured: Grand Spectacle; Uncycle; Single Trapeze; Acrobatics; Juggling; Clowns; Swinging Y's; High Bar; Double Cradle and 3 Lane Cradle; Roman Ladders; Rings; Clown Vault; High Wire; Low Casting; Hand Balancing; Multiple Cradle; Trampoline; Double Trapeze and Hanging Perch; German Gym Wheel; Balance Perch; Multiple Trapeze; Teeterboard; Webs; Flying Trapeze.

Dr. Albert Albo, Harry Blackstone, John Gauhan, Phil Temple, and, of course, Barbi and Byron Walker. We look forward to next year already!

In Memoriam

A WORD ABOUT A FRIEND

Not many people in the circus world will remember the name of Dittman Mitchell, for he was not connected with promoting that many circus dates. His main interest was rodeo and good rodeo with lots of acts and plenty of production.

Those who were fortunate enough to work in his rodeos were treated like royalty, but, you payed for it, a simple price that you were more than willing to give. The price was devotion, hard work and willingness to give towards the betterment of the success of the show itself.

When you arrived at one of his dates there was an air of success about it, and there was a sense of pride that you experienced no where else. If he hired you to work publicity prior to the date, you were prepared to work long hard hours.

Mitch, as he was called by all his friends, was to rodeo what Floyd King was to the circus world. In fact, they knew each other, and Mitch has told me stories over the years when the two would meet, from time to time, usually in a hotel lobby someplace, then they'd talk shop.

Mitch lived out of a suitcase most of his life, carrying with him trunks full, not of clothes, but press releases, names and countless files of newspaper people, TV and radio people, and, in general, the names of anyone who could help promote the rodeo he was working with whether they be his or someone elses. He loved publicity and would take advantage of any situation to fill the seats. He had very little use for phone promotions and said a good phoneman was worth his salt, if as long as sound public relations could be used also to further enhance the filling of the seats.

Mitch traveled many miles with me over the road, sitting in the backseat of my car, flashlight in his mouth, pounding away on his little portable typewriter. When we would stop, he was the first to get out and see the horses in the trailer and be sure they were taken care of. His love of animals was amazing.

His love of people was just as great. More than once, after making a good profit producing a rodeo, he would give a needy cowboy or performer all he had so they could, as he used to say "make it down the road to a better day." It was not unusual for Mitch to borrow money from someone to get another date

because he gave his last to a friend in need.

He produced some outdoor rodeos, but he shinned best in a coliseum where they had spotlights. And it was here that he liked to use as many people with circus backgrounds as possible. His performances were fast-paced and well balanced, and all professional, from start to finish.

He was innovative and worked best under pressure. And best of all, he firmly believed in giving a person a chance to prove themselves.

Mitch is gone now, having died of cancer, passing away in early April. He died nearly broke, not by chance, but by choice, as he gave most everything away to people who needed to . . . "make it on down the road to a better day."

Besides being a great producer, an outstanding publicity man, he was, above all, a close friend to everyone. For those of us who knew Mitch, we are all looking forward to working with him again in the future.

We love you, Mitch!

. . . Bradd and Sheila Frank

PEOPLE

MICHELLE (Bubbles) **MOERBE**, a member of the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85, presented clown **DIMITRI** with a bouquet of red roses when he appeared in their area this past month.

BIG WALLY WALLENTIN, formerly with the Big John Strong Circus, with his wife **MICHELE** and daughter **KELLY-RAE** have settled in a home near Colorado Springs, Colo. His brother, **KENNY**, is working with Circus Vargas.

JAMES (Jimbow) **DECKER** clowned at the Dallas (Texas) Inwood Village Fashion Carnival on April 24-25.

Miscellaneous

The Aramco World Magazine for March-April 1981 has a 7 page article with many color pictures on "The Big Top in Cairo." The magazine's address is: P. O. Box 2106, Houston, Texas 77001.

SPECIAL**A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH**

BY BOB STODDARD

The Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85 won top honors at the 12th annual Convention of Clowns of America, held in Delavan, Wisc., April 1-5.

Alley 85 itself won the highest award that the International Clown Club can bestow. It is called the "Charlie" award and is presented to the alley that did the most to promote clowns and clowning during National Clown Week, Aug. 1-7 annually. (There are a total of 140 alleys that comprise "The Greatest Club on Earth.")

Poppy "Poppy the Clown" Benner, of Richardson, Texas, (an alley 85 member) won three awards. This 20 year old clown won third place in the Whiteface clown contest for make-up and costume, and third place in the Individual Skit Competition. She and partner "Jimmy Waddell" (of Dallas) were awarded second place in the Group Skit Competition.

A total of nine clowns went to the convention from Texas and brought back seven of the twenty coveted awards.

Bob "Rags" Thomas, of Alley 55, in Amarillo, Texas, took third place in the Tramp Clown Contest.

Dorothy "Dotso" Braley, of Alley 23, in Corpus Christi, Texas, won a tablecloth that was autographed by the hundreds of clowns attending the convention.

Other Texas clowns that made the trip to Delavan were: Rosalie "Superstar" Perryman, and husband Dalton, of Irving; Annetta "Jingles" Moerbe and daughter Michelle, of Dallas; Jimmie "Sunshine" Griffith of Dallas and Patty "Cuddles" Horton, of Corpus Christi.

PEOPLE

DeLAGE & MARGARET worked the Orchid Show at LeHigh Valley Mall, in Allentown, Pa. for three days early this month.

GEORGE (Perky) PERKINS, clown and his wife, GAINELLE, will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this fall. They live in Yucaipa, Calif.

LYLE TUTTLE, operates the Tattoo Art Museum (30 - 7th St.) in San Francisco. He features a new special tattoo exhibit every 90 days.

DOUGLAS MAC-VALLEY STUNTS, Globe of Death act is featured at the Playboy Hotel Casino at Atlantic City, NJ.

CLARK'S LIONS, on tour with Reid Bros. Circus in the Pacific Northwest, will join the M & M Circus for mid-western dates.

RALPH GODFREY, operator of a Donkey-ball operation, plans to retire and will be selling his animals. Right now the animals are running on his 20 acre farm in Oklahoma.

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Attention!

CORRECTION

In the Amandis Entertainment, Inc., advertisement which appeared in the May 4th issue of Circus Report, the portion concerning the Manuel Ramos Family should have read Jointly booked.

In the portion concerning acts that have never played the Canada "Circus" TV show it should have read: Acts should contact Amandis Entertainment, Inc., and they will be submitted to Mr. Ian Garden for consideration.

In Memoriam

LILLIAN WILSON (84) died in Tampa, Fla., on May 4th, due to injuries sustained in an auto accident. She was an aerialist, animal trainer and clown. Although she retired in 1963, she returned to clowning at the age of 81, in 1979, working with her son Dime Wilson. Survivors include her son, Dime, and grandchildren, Penny, Trudy, Joanne, Linda, Donna and Dime, Jr., as well as 13 great grandchildren.

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PEOPLE

CHARLIE CAMPBELL was made "Honorary Ringmaster" of Hoxie Bros. Circus when the show played Carrollton, Ga. (April 27). Charlie has also been visiting several other shows in his home area.

Notice

The phone number in the recently printed advertisements for Stanley Book was in error. The number shown in the ad below is the correct number.

Report

RINGLING RED IN NEW YORK

BY ALBERT F. HOUSE

On Wednesday, April 1, Ringling-Barnum Circus opened in Madison Square Garden in New York City to an enthusiastic audience which included 40 members and friends of Felix Adler Tent and 46 members and friends of the Clowns of America.

The New York engagement has traditionally been the longest and most magnificent run of the show's tour. This event is comparable to opening night on Broadway and that is why the fans come en masse to special seats to view this particular performance. The fans in their seats were welcomed by show personnel Tim Holst, Ken Horsman, Dave Mulaney and Sal Conditto.

Because Madison Square Garden openings are always a gala occasion with much hoopla the staid New York Times reviewer Richard F. Shepard captioned his review with "The Circus is back, thrills chills and all" and commented that Gunther Gebel Williams is "The star of the Red Unit uncontestedly" and "a superb performer." Shepard described the show as the "usual dizzying panopoly of pyrotechnics designed to numb the brain and unfocus the eye." To us friends of the circus, all this is true and more.

However, most spectators and reviewers are not aware of the even more spectacular performance of circus logistics just to get the show up and running for the two performances on that day.

According to Personnel Director Tim Holst many problems had to be solved. There are the traditional ones that confront the show during hockey and basketball playoffs. Those problems are solved easily because they are done almost yearly. But this year a new set emerged that are a bit more difficult to solve.

The first problem was the location of the circus train. Normally the train was parked in the 34th St. yards in Manhattan. They were demolished to make room for a new convention center. Last year the train was located at 60th St., but the facilities proved unsatisfactory. This year the train ended up in the Sunnyside Yards in Queens, near Shea Stadium.

The logistic problems existing here are, the train is about 9 miles from Manhattan with

only an expressway as a means of commuting. Since traffic congestion on the expressway is so congested, the show bus is undependable. To get personnel to the Garden, arrangements were made with the Long Island Railroad to make a special stop at the yards. All personnel are given a special ticket that allows them to ride back and forth to Penn Station in the basement of the Garden.

Another problem was finding satisfactory places to house the new giraffe, Dickie. Because the animal is so tall, ceilings are within the reach of the animal's head and tongue. Therefore, all ceiling tile and framework had to be removed and temporarily eliminate the sprinkler heads within reach of the animal.

At 3 a.m. on Tuesday, Mar. 31st, the animal contingent paraded from the railroad yards, through the Queens Midtown Tunnel into Manhattan, across town into the Garden. Although shown on television on Tuesday's newscasts, the impact of the live parade was lost compared to former years.

At 1 a.m., Wednesday, April 1, following a basketball game, the circus working crews set up the Garden for a 2:30 performance. At the end of the second performance of the day at 10:30 p.m. the workers had to clear the floor for a hockey game the next day. While talking to some seasoned circus men, they commented about the difficulty of the beginning stands of this run. They hoped that things would settle to a normal routine shortly. All of the people who understood their problems hope for that, too!

The Red Unit, in its cross country tour, will reappear in the New York area again in the fall. Allen Bloom noted that the new Meadowlands Arena will be the site of a two week engagement beginning Nov. 17th, and then go to the Nassau Coliseum for its annual last stand of the season in December.

Fans in the New York-New Jersey area will be able to spend more time visiting the show than ever before. The Manhattan area tended to have drawbacks.

All the fans from the group had an extremely good time enjoying the show and its personnel. Truly, it is the "Greatest Show on Earth."

Memo

SOME THOUGHTS OF THE PAST

FROM E. E. GILCREASE

What was the first circus to be transported by railroad?

In 1872, P. T. Barnum, the famous showman, who had previously moved his circus and menagerie from town-to-town by teams of horses, purchased 65 railway cars, painted them in the most flamboyant manner and began touring the U. S. by rail.

This was the first circus to be transported by rail. *Whenever the "Greatest Show on Earth" went with its streaming Barnum banners the people flocked to see this circus train. Where much time had previously been lost in traveling from town-to-town, all travelling could now be done at night and for the first time long hops from one important city to another were possible. Barnum prospered beyond expectations, and in time additional equipment was necessary to transport this huge "Museum, Menagerie and Hippodrome."*

EVENTUALLY, WHY NOT NOW ?

I am a former versatile circus performer, teeterboard acrobat and a tumbler and an aerialist during the 1920's and the 1930's and I took several hundred kodak pictures of things that are and happen on a traveling circus that an outsider seldom has the chance to see.

I have published a 6x9 in. book with 100 glossy pages and 100 glossy photos enlarged from the kodak pictures, therefore, these are rare photos of circus life.

PICTURES TELL IT BETTER.

Send check or money order for \$4.95 (not cash) to: Johnnie Schmidt, Rte. 3, Box 170-A, Lindale, Texas 75771.

You will be glad you did. I thank you. Johnnie.

Is it true that railway trains in the west were sometimes impeded by wild buffalo?

Trains crossing the Western Plains in pioneer days were frequently delayed by "thundering herds of buffaloes."

In the 1870's, P. T. Barnum's circus train, traveling to Denver over the Kansas Pacific Railroad, encountered huge herds of wild buffaloes, and it was sometimes necessary to stop the train to let them pass.

How did William F. Cody come to be known as "Buffalo Bill"?

The famous western scout and Indian fighter earned the picturesque nickname of "Buffalo Bill" as a result of his contract with the Union Pacific Railroad, which required him to supply buffalo meat for the construction workers.

REPORT

CIRCUS THEME RESTAURANT

BY MARK K. HOPPE

Open since November 1980, the 'Circus Restaurant & Bar' in Houston, Texas, is a three ring winner. Located at 6015 Westheimer, the establishment offers continental cuisine amid a circus decor.

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus lithos and recent color photos of Ringling artists decorate the walls. On the menu is "Veal Wallenda" served with artichoke sauce and fettucine. Inside sources say many of the circus-styled decorations once belonged to Judge Roy Hofheinz.

PEOPLE

JACK FRANKLIN (3410-G Edison St., San Mateo, Calif. 94403) believes he has found the old Dailey Bros. Circus calliope and wants information and pictures of this old beauty so he can verify the calliope and perhaps even restore it to its original beauty.



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The Ringling Bros. Circus advertisement on
this page first appeared in the San Francisco
(Calif) newspapers on Sept. 5, 1909.

Hodgini, the Taximeter Horses, Pacheco Family,
Corelli Trio, Schuman's Horse Circus, Astounding
Patty Brothers, Lorch Family, Mardo Trio, Evely
lyn Francesco, Alvarez Troupe.

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Admission Tickets and Numbered Reserved
Seats will be on sale during the engagement in
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ST. (PHELAN BUILDING), at exactly the
same price charged in regular ticket wagons on
the show grounds.

CLOWNS

SHOW CLOWNS

The 1981 Hubert Castle Circus clowns are: Toby Circus Ballantine, producer/stilt act/publicity/promotion; Tracey Ballantine, stilt walker/show girl/dancer/web/comedy jargo; Tammy Ballantine, stilt walker/show girl/dancer/web/comedy jargo; Lee Marx, featured clown/comedy juggling; Gary Mexamina, explosives/clown feature; Terre Maxamina, clown and living statue feature clown; Mohammed Rahhali, clown acrobatics/come in warm-up/feature clown;

All clowns participate in the clown numbers and all clowns make costume changes for each number. The clown productions are costumed, spotlighted, with musical background. There are four such production in the show, and a 20 minute come-in. In the show finale, Toby Circus Ballantine and his daughter walk very tall stilts as astronauts.

Featured with

SHOW ACTS

The program for the Circus of the Americas presented in the Los Angeles (Calif.) Sports Arena last month included:

Spec; Rocket Car; Kay Rosaire, wild animals; Clowns with Boy and Girl Contest; The Zoltanas, high wire; The Ferges Troupe, trampoline; Emmett Kelly, Jr., sweeping the spot; The Jupiters, trapeze; Albarracines, trapeze; Heidi Wendany, ponies; Carol Buckley with Baby Tarra the elephant; The Stimax Chimps; Death Riders, motorcycles; Chinese Acrobats

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from Taiwan; The Nocks, sway poles; Intermission.

Clown Drum and juggling; The Albulet Duo on high wire motorcycle; The Flying Ramos, trapeze; Jonny Rivers, diving mules; The Wee Gets, balancing; Tommy Donoho, elephants (3); Frank Mateca, elephant and camel; A. D. Goetsch, elephant and camel; The Albulet Bros., high wire; Finale.

The show's ringmaster was Parley Baer.

Show Report

NASHVILLE SHRINE CIRCUS

BY ALMOND KNIGHT

The annual Nashville Shrine Circus (Al Menah Temple) was produced by the Olympic Int'l Circus Corp.

The program included: Al Menah Temple Units on Parade; Princess Gina's Royal Leopards; Clowns; The Valentino Duo and The Jupiter Duo, trapeze acts; Benny Williams with elephant Anna May; Juggling display with The Mauricos, The Juggling Jewels and The Droguetts; Sir Harry James, one finger stand; Clowns; The Kursawes, bicycles; The Loyal-Repensky Troupe, riding act; The Flying Ibarra; Clowns; Lipko's Chimps; Katinika's Poodles; The Venicios, thrill act; Vino Berosini, the 'King of Swords'; Woodcock's elephants; The Young Troupe, teeterboard; The Nock Brothers, swaypoles; Clowns and Hugo Zacchini, the Human Cannonball.

CIRCO UNION

BY TIM TEGGE

I visited Circo Union in Tijuana, Mexico, on April 6th and found it to be a beautiful, one ring show with ac action packed, fast moving

performance.

The show carries four bulls, a four horse liberty drill, four chimps, and a good assortment of high acts - head balance trapeze, a high wire, flying act, cradle, casting, etc. as well as a lot of ground acts, including balancing head-to-head.

They have some excellent clowns, and one of the best I've ever seen is Pepito. All of this was rounded off with a flashy parade-type spec in which all of the animals followed in a line without any handlers. Really Impressive!

The show has six show girls, and a live drummer who plays along with taped music, plus a ringmaster.

Circo Union moves on about five semis, in addition to the performer's rigs. The big top is about 300 ft. long by 110 ft. wide, three poles, bale ring top.

PEOPLE

"ART" MILLER, semi-retired circus general agent, recently received from his old friend and circus fan JUDGE ROBERT W. HANSEN, of Milwaukee, a cloth-bound book "This Way to The Big Show", which is the life of Dexter Fellows, who is a celebrated circus agent.

Show Report

TANGIER SHRINE CIRCUS

BY MARK ANTHONY

Grace McIntosh brought her M & M Circus Internationale to Omaha, Nebr., for the Tangier Shrine and presented Potentate Walter Powell with one of the finest productions of her career. Public reaction to the show was, "One of the best Shrine circuses we have ever seen."

It was a fast-paced show that kept the audience throughout the entire two hours. Comments were made on the fine costuming and cleanliness of the entire show as exemplified by the opening spec "Circus Days". Harry Thomas then took over with his excellent 12 tiger act which features a host of good tricks rather than a lot of time consumed with prop movement, and finished with his wrestling tiger. This is truly a top cat act.

Billy Barton wowed them with his cloud swing routine.

Killer Willard's first appearance in Omaha was one of the hits of the show. This kangaroo comes out fighting at every performance and leaves the Gassetts battered and bruised and the audience asking for more.

A good variety of juggling and balancing acts next: Don Phillips & Co., unicycle; Ladies, unsupported ladder; The Obandos, rola bola. Following was a real show-stopped, Walt & Wendy, teeterboard and aerobalancing - CLASS!

Clown hot dog machine with clowns, Roy Arringdale, Buck Nolan, Rick Legg, Bobby Davis, Jr. and boss clown, Vernon Woerner.

Two excellent animal acts: Susan Zoppe's Afghans and Christina's Chimpanzees. These acts are truly sensational in beautiful props and costumes, combined with fine training.

Clown walk-around.

The first half closed with the aerial balley featuring Lou Ann Jacobs, fabulous trapeze act that won the hearts of the Omaha audience.

The second half opened with the Flying Lantons who were hampered by injuries at an earlier date, but provided a good routine of tricks.

Clown pie gag followed.

Two good balancing acts: Mr. Bell, chair bal-

In Memoriam

MILO SMITH (79), well known and talented 1 in. scale circus model builder and wood carver, died at Herkimer, NY, on April 30th. He was the first secretary of the CMB and also had served as one of its directors. Many horse and elephant acts traveling the New York State Thruway layed-over at his farm as they were always welcome. He had built a full and complete circus train, as well as a 1 inch scale merry-go-round.

PEOPLE

JOHN L. SULLIVAN, of Concordia, Kans., recently visited BILL GREEN, of Beatrice, Nebr. and reports that Green and FRANK SMITH attended a performance of the M&M Circus at Lincoln, Nebr.

PETER WALKER, artist, has created a series of huge circus murals in his New York City Studio. He and his wife, CINDI, traveled on the Carson & Barnes Circus to get ideas and background drawings.

ERNEST M. TERRY, formerly with the big Ringling-Barnum tented circus, is now in charge of the Usher Dept., at Madison Square Garden.

JON FRIDAY, announcer/ringmaster, was omitted from a report on the Hubert Castle Circus when the show played Seattle, Wash.

ancing and The Kents, hand balancing; Irene, Tonga & Co., gorilla parody left the crowd laughing with their crazy antics.

Two very fine whip and rope acts received plenty of applause. The Claytons and Pancho Magana. Johnny Zoppe and his Rhesus Monkeys is a real show stopper and provides plenty of comedy for any show.

Jean and Roman Schmitt presented their three elephants and two zebras. Roman's bulls are well trained and present a host of good tricks with a different twist by entering the arena via the zebras pulling a chariot.

The show ended with Johnny Luxem leaving them gasping with his Wheel of Death. Two hours of pure circus at its best.

The staff included: Grace McIntosh, producer; Bill 'Boom Boom' Browning, musical director; Jim Douglass, equestrian director and Don Phillips, prop boss.

REVIEW

"MUMBO JUMBO, It's Magic" - Pay TV A Special for national release on H.B.O.

BY FRANK HERMAN

Mark, Nani and Greg Wilson, Diane and Dick Zimmerman, Shimada and Copperfield, hosted by actor Tom Bosley.

It is now apparent that the producer of HBO magic specials graduated with honors from the funeral director school.

First, there is the compulsion to rent a celebrity host. This is puzzling since pay TV has no need for ratings, publicity or to attract sponsors. Celebrity hosts need writers. Having spent the money, they use up valuable time. As a result the opening of this show took a dull eight minutes. The low spot of this into was Bosley singing a long, inane song 'Mumbo Jumbo, It's Magic For Me and For You'. (I'm not making this up). Bosley is a competent actor and an interesting person - but his singing voice can best be described as a chain-saw tenor.

HBO did the same thing with a previous magic special. Superb magic flawed with lugu-

brious sermons by Raymond Burr.

When Mark Wilson finally got on, he presented a wonderful updated sword cabinet illusion. The mounted clusters of swords add speed to the presentation and the open on all sides cabinet make it a real baffler.

Young Greg Wilson next worked in one with a creditable billiard ball routine. It was well done, using large spheres, not just a cute kid session.

Mark and Nani closed their first appearance with a fine Asrah levitation that included some convincing hand bits.

Dick Zimmerman followed with a fast paced parade of his unique inventions. Instant linking rings on a long ribbon, Dancing ring on rope, Vanish of a huge bucket of milk from a breakaway pail, Hula Hoop linking and the production of Diane from a nest of hula hoops. Dick, our modern day Karl Germain, dots his brisk routine with a flow of explosive surprises.

Special guest star, David Copperfield, repeated his slick dining room haunted handkerchief routine.

Diane Zimmerman working with two dancing males opened her turn as the invisible girl who becomes visible, produced a large golden phono record and closed with a surprising double exchange illusion. She vanished from the horn of a jumbo antique victrola and reappeared as one of her assistants. The speed of the illusion and elaborate costume change was impressive.

Copperfield returned with the "Fresh Fish" torn and restored cue card and the attic scene featuring the vanishing dog and the De Kolta Chair. I am a Copperfield fan, but this is the fourth time I have seen the same dancing hank and attic scene on national TV. I would enjoy seeing the magic repeated but feel that the presentation should be changed for repeat outings. The torn and restored cue card loses it's lustre on repeats.

It was refreshing to have homage paid to Cantu and Channing Pollack in the intro to Shimada's dove act. Shimada's charisma and flawless timing bring a new patina to this overdone theme. His spectacular finish, the visible vanish of two doves, is terrific.

Mark Wilson brought the show to a strong close with his most sensational illusion to date. He did the sub trunk, using a transparent box filled with water. The illusion has

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(Continued on Next Page)

STAFF

SHOW STAFF

The staff on tour for the 1981 Hubert Castle Circus, as listed in the Silver Anniversary edition of the show's official program is as follows:

Unit Manager, Reggie Armor; Master of Ceremonies, Jon Friday; Performance Director, Sampson Zurani; Lighting Director, Bruce Bull; Musical Director, Clement E. Toca; Sound Director, Gregory Toca; Aerial Director, Jacqueline Savary; Property Supt., Verner Schmucker; Animal Supt., Gary Thomas; Asst. Animal Supt., Greg Bonde; Transportation Supt., Braun Reinhold; Rigging Supt., Pablo Rodriguez; Wardrobe Supt., Ceres Mello, and Producing Clown, Toby Circus Balantine.

MUMBO JUMBO (Continued)

everything; attractive girl in bikini, obvious danger and complete bafflement - Wonderful!

For magic buffs the show was a thorough treat. For the general public I felt it was short on balance. It was all serious, good magic with no comedy or light touch. Magic can be fun too. Why don't we all write HBO and tell them about Jay Marshall, Karrell Fox, Mike Caldwell and a host of others that could add a bit of frolic to the hour?

REPORT

ALEPPO TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

The annual Aleppo Temple Shrine Circus at Wilmington, Mass. (Apr. 28-May 3) had a 274 page program book, which sold for 50c each. Show prices were scaled at \$5.00 for adults and \$2.50 for children.

The show was produced by Ed Migley and Circus Odyssey and featured the following acts:

Spec 'That's Entertainment'; Lilli-Ana, leopards; Pirates of the Sky, aerialists; Rex Young, comedy cannon; Albert's Poodles; Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds; Aria's Liberty Golden Retrievers; Joselito, wire walk; The Morgan Ashton Family, risley; Rudolph Delmonte, contortionist; Clowns with the Duck Hunt; Charles Gutis Family, Jungle comedy; Jorge Barreda, lions; Miss Lorelei, featured in the aerial ballet; Surprise Comedy number; Les Duvan; Delmonte, rola bola/juggling; Alberti's rolling globes; Princess My-lmba Baboons; Gee Gee Engesser's elephants; Salute to the People finale.

PEOPLE

KURT RUSSELL, BILL BIXBY and TOM PETTY were among the stars seen visiting the 'Circus of the Americas' in Los Angeles over Easter Week.

SPECIAL

DIMITRI by Bob Stoddard

If you should have an autograph that says "Dimitri" it means a lot of things.

It says first, that you attended a performance of a delightful combination of circus clown, mime and virtuoso musician, presented in a most extraordinary fashion by one of the world's truly great clowns.

In a rare sort of evening, a genius presented a one man show that rivaled many shows with a large cast for a new dimension in laughter and entertainment.

The performance moved so quickly and smoothly from one act to another that it is hard to realize the two hour show was act-



ually comprised of twelve or more acts cleverly tied together, and yet so obviously separated when he would remove a small ocarina from his pocket and play a high pitched lilting refrain. The repetition of this simple act became wildly funny as the evening progressed and attests to the degree of fineness to which the show had been honed.

Actually the show was comprised of two people, but Dimitri was both of them.

When an act ended and Dimitri stepped back through the curtain on the right side, a stage hand would enter from center curtain in what seemed almost simultaneous action. By the addition of a hat, a drastic change in facial expression and the smiling clown became a griping, grumbling stage hand.

Dimitri has invented his own world in which he is a very simple person who tries to cope

In Memoriam

WALTER BEFORD HEROD (77), a former high wire performer and retired printer, died May 4th at Colorado Springs, Colo., after a long illness.

From the 1920's to 1935 he worked in circus or vaudeville, appearing as a tumbler, trapeze artist or high wire walker. He was injured only once in a fall, suffering a broken neck and a brain concussion. He began his printing career in 1928, working in the off season, then after 40 years as a printer retired in 1968.

Survivors include his wife, Irene (Zolla), two daughters and two sons.



PEOPLE

PHIL HAGERTY, special effects designer/builder, has just completed a giant guillotine for the American Museum of Magic in Marshall, Mich. Standing 9 ft. tall, it can be viewed from all sides and operated right under the spectators' noses. "It's a wicked looking monster," says museum proprietor **ROBERT LUND**. It's first victim was touring "Miss Teen age Michigan" contestant, who walked away bewildered but unscathed.

JAMES MARCEL, juggler, was a guest star on the Merv Griffin TV Show the afternoon of May 7th.

with life but seems to be fighting a losing battle without realizing it, as he eagerly attacks each project.

His unique style has made this Swiss clown as celebrated in Europe as Marcel Marceau and Charlie Chaplin for the past twenty years and in 1973 won for him the "Grock Prize" the international "Oscar" for clowns.

His American tour brought him to North Texas State University in Denton, Texas, on April 29th, when fifteen members of the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85 stood with the rest of the sold out house in a roaring ovation which brought Dimitri back for nine curtain calls.

SPECIAL

ANIMALS AND YOUR PERSONALITY

(from a recent issue of the Enquirer magazine, by Arline Brecher).

A psychologist reports your favorite animal reveals a great deal about your character and his analysis concerning some of these people and their favorite animal are:

Monkeys - They have a special appeal for people who feel forced by circumstances to assume a serious, sober or sedate role in order to be respected on the job, or as parents. These people actually have a secret, fun-loving, irresponsible and whimsical side, which they normally struggle to suppress.

Lions - Lion lovers want to have more of a say in decisions. They crave being leaders and would like to have their opinions valued.

Snakes - Those who like snakes have a big need for privacy. They are uncomfortable in the spotlight, like to think their own thoughts and keep their own counsel. Many secretly think of themselves as being too trusting.

Elephants - People who like elephants make

it a point to seek out the sure and steady road to their goals. Elephant people place great value on security and permanence and value long-term friendships.

Tigers, Cougars, Leopards - People who prefer these animals are independent and comfort loving, are not easily swayed by convention. They also have a commitment to excellence.

Birds - Bird lovers can be depended upon to be themselves, day in and day out. They are creatures of habit and are home-centered and lavish time, attention and love on places they live. Even when out on a pleasure trip they can't wait to get home.

Seals - People who prefer seals are compassionate to a fault. They are nature lovers and are people who tend to follow their hunches.

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HOTLINE

May 3 - Winnipeg, Canada - Assistant elephant trainer Wayne Pilz was injured when an elephant stepped on him during a performance of the Shrine Circus. Witnesses said the accident occurred when the elephant's blanket fell down between the animal's legs. Pilz tried to pull the blanket away, slipped and fell under the elephant and was stepped on several times before he could be pulled free.

May 6 - Omaha, Nebr. - Zoo employee Garry Cox was attacked and pushed up against a wall by the zoo's male elephant, and suffered 'compressed fractures' of the lower back. It was reported that the elephant had been breeding and was 'touchy'. Officials report that no one is supposed to enter the elephant area alone.

Miscellaneous

The Cultural Information Service, an independent non-profit resource agency sent out a Viewer Guide pamphlet on the TV movie "Leave 'em Laughing!" which starred Mickey Rooney, portraying the late party clown Jack Thum. Writers Frederic and Mary Ann Brusat list the address of 'Clowns of America' as well as several good books on Clowns, naming John Townsen's 'Clowns' as the best resource book for the researcher.



from
Don Marcks

There are two subjects for discussion today:

1 - The problems with my left eye have now been pretty thoroughly investigated and checked. The only abnormal thing the doctors can find is a considerable amount of scar tissue in the eye itself, which is apparently hampering the vision. They believe this scar tissue is the result of chemicals having been splashed into the eye and/or chemical fumes. Their recommendation at this time is that glasses will be of some help, especially to the right eye.

2 - Just last week the Postal Authorities laid down the ruling that all future mailings for Circus Report will have to be in envelopes. This means some new and added expense each week - envelopes and additional postage costs, plus a lot more preparation work.

For your general information the current weekly cost of producing Circus Report runs as follows:

\$ 700- postage	
30 - Envelopes	
100 - Printer	5 - Ink
100 - Paper	32 - Bindery
20 - Plates	\$ 987 - weekly cost



COL. TIM McCOY'S REAL WILD WEST SHOW

Washington, DC - May 4, 1938



BILLY BARTON

DATELINE: St. Louis (and Highland, Ill): Here I go, missing deadlines again, but it just can't be helped. Having just wound up a tour for Polack, Hamid-Morton and M&M, I am stopping over for a day to get a column out at Fred and Loni Van Voorden's. At the same time, winding up a book promotion in St. Louis, where I appeared on the Jack Carney Show (KMOX-TV) followed by the Clif St. James Show (NBC), followed by book store appearances, made by dashing hither and thither in the pouring rain. It's nice to sit still for a day!

In my last column, I said I would detail the problems experienced by Davide and Susan Zoppe upon leaving Canada and the Shrine date in Montreal for Ian Garden. This is a complicated tale, so bear with me while I try to get the facts straight.

On the American side (where most of the animal acts' difficulties occur) the vet gave Davide clearance to leave. He was pulling out to make a left hand turn on to the interstate when an official, having just returned from his lunch break, ran out of a building and waved Davide down. As Davide says now, "Had I left seconds sooner, all my troubles could have been avoided."

The official demanded to see Davide's wildlife permits. As it turns out Davide had, only a year and a half earlier, sent for these permits but never got them. When he called the Fish and Wildlife people, Davide was told that Rhesus monkeys were not endangered and so no such permit was required. The only permits Davide needed were state permits.

This was explained by Davide to the official who replied: "True - then - but those permits are required now." Davide argued: "We were never informed of the change in the law." The official: "That's your problem, not mine."

Then the brouhaha really began. Pictures were taken of the animals, of Davide, of the equipment, all current papers were photostated, and a threat was made to confiscate the animals. "We have a building," the official said, "where we can put the monkeys. You

can take the dogs and leave." Davide protested - vehemently, "You are not taking my animals!" Whereupon the official retorted, "We will take your animals and then arrest you as well."

To make a really long, complicated story short, Davide and the entire family wound up in a court house in Utica, NY and before a Notary Public had to swear to the following: That Davide was indeed Davide Zoppe, son of Sarah and John Zoppe, Sr. that he in fact did own the animals and that each monkey was 'captive-bred' (I think that is the proper terminology), then, markings had to be recorded on every monkey, distinguishing marks and a history of each monkey as well, its origin, seller and so on. One monkey is 28 years old and was bought from a carnival and there exists no bill of sale, further complicating an already over complicated situation.

At this writing the dilemma remains unsolved. A fine of between \$1000 and \$2000 will be levied against Davide and the necessary papers are still in a snarl. After their closing in Lincoln (Nebr) for Gracie, the Zoppes returned to Indiana where they hope to have the matter cleared up and will contact me so I can finish the report for my readers, especially those animal people continually being harrassed by burdensome rules and regulations.

Now - for News Story No. 2: Those people headed for the Circus Vegas date in Montreal produced by Michel Gatien, went there some what warily - chief among them, Gracie Mc Intosh, who provided the ring curbs and the equipment and supervised the date. Halfway thru the run the balance of the monies due her was paid - but - one of the flying acts refused to continue unless salary for the date was forthcoming. Gracie was asked to give back \$5000 in cash and was reimbursed by check.

In addition to the \$5000 was money covering the services of Leo Coffey and Stash who were handling props. When Gracie returned

(Continued on Next Page)

to Troy, Mich., she discovered that payment had been stopped on the check. The worst of it is, this \$5000 was part of a payment to Dorey Miller for his elephants. Meanwhile Gracie had mailed Dorey her check in the amount of \$5000. Well, this is another cliff hanger story for which you must wait to hear the rest.

News Story No. 3 - While playing the Kentucky dates for George Hubler, Barbara Van Voorden demolished her new Airstream when she was run off the road by a passing pick up truck. The wheels of the trailer slid off the lip of the road, a deep drop, and the trailer broke loose from the Cadillac and flipped to its side. Fortunately, neither Barbara nor her new baby were hurt and in that she was about 30 miles from Kentucky's main Airstream dealer a new trailer was obtained the same day.

Loni, meanwhile, was in Canada doing the Circus TV show for Ian Garden. Mother and daughter met in Highland and then went on to some dates for Carden-Johnson where the new trailer was backed into by a patron leaving the circus in Duluth and not discovered by either Loni or Barbara until they pulled into a KOA later that night. The entire back end is severely damaged.

Now that the depressing news is dispensed with I will get on with the column.

CLOSEUP: Omaha's Joe Sharp had his share of visitors and did his share of visiting during the Shrine date when virtually everyone on the show brought equipment in for repair. Also on tap were Karen and Happy Davis, in for minor repairs and then staying over at the campground where most of the acts were laying off between the Sioux City and Omaha dates. Also on tap for Omaha was John Goodall from Chicago.

I was surprised by a visit from Richard Grayson, a dear friend of June Dewsbury's, and now company manager for the Doug Henning Show which day and dated us. . . That mean jump of 1200 miles with only one day off was made by all the H-M people from St. Paul to Harrisburg. Last to arrive, at 3 ayem, was Frank Galumbo. The show was fully set by 5 ayem and the matinee went on as scheduled

A virus swept the M&M Show, which blame is on Kent Clayton who brought it with him from the Rapid City date and quickly gave it to everyone else. Pancho Magana was ill for a week - fortunately it was the week off although it was no fun for him. . . Walter Patterson's mother died during the month of

April. Right after the Lincoln closing Walt and Wendy and Ruth drove home where Walt will oversee family details and then return to Gracie's mid-america tour thru Nebraska.

The Show Party, reinstated by Gracie in Omaha, was a big hit. Outstanding show stoppers were Irene Fossett and Vicky as Pancho and Lou Ann in their whip act. Vicky looked uncannily like Lou Ann - unbelievable in fact, so much so that Sarah Zoppe was overheard to say "it would be funnier if Lou Ann wasn't doing it." Susan remonstrated, "but she isn't and Sarah replied "Don't tell me she isn't". Well, said Susan "if that's Lou Ann out there . . . who is that sitting in the seats?"

Bobby Davis got into drag to portray Christine Fossett in the Kangaroo act (with Wendy Patterson as the kangaroo) and somehow managed to look more like Stevie Coronas than he looked like Christine. We had a helluva a time blocking out his eyebrows and mustache!

Kent Clayton did a take-off on Walter Patterson with an "invisible" Wendy, and Carol Phillips must take several bows for providing virtually all the costumes and wigs we used - I don't know where she found that blond wig I used to portray Gracie but it was perfect.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL: I overheard Gracie McIntosh tell an interviewer that she might get married again - when she gets older. Gracie suffered a lot of good natured ribbing over being a house guest during the lay-off at Shriner Bruce Williams' residence - the kidding was because Bruce is single.

BOUQUETS: To Omaha Shriner Mark Anthony who gives freely of his time to assist performers and who is responsible for all the publicity the circus gets. He is an unsung hero and never receives from his own temple the gratitude he deserves. Perhaps, in some slight way, this will make up for it.

My personal thanks to Joe Sharp for allowing me to park my van on his lot for two weeks and to Chris and Ernie at the Conant Hotel who bent over backwards to make the stay at their inn comfortable and convenient. Of the brothers, only Ernie is part of the Omaha Shrine membership. Ditto to Shrine Clown and Dental surgeon Dr. Richardsen who extracted a tooth for me and refused payment.

SAD NOTE: A girl, who I don't know, but whose name is Cindy, fell during a practice session of the flying act on Donnie Johnson's unit and has since died. Loni, who was on the show, filled me in on the latter during a recent

telephone call.

SNAPSHOTS: Harry Thomas is now doing the wrestling tiger routine, last performed by the late Mabel Stark - first time the routine has been accomplished since. It is so realistic it scared us to death the first time we saw it and, since I followed Harry, and opened on my rigging, I had a clear view of the routine every show - Sensational!

In Lincoln when Susan Sheryll started the act she heard a commotion behind her, looked back and saw that the carriage was still on the track but the Afghan was forging ahead pulling only the harness. "After that," said Susan, "the whole act was a shambles." Midway thru the act she hollered for Don Phillips to retrieve the Yorkie from the carriage. He started to do her bidding, stopped, came back and asked if the dog bit. "Just go get the dog" ordered a now thoroughly exasperated Susan, Don ended up by pulling the carriage up the track and into the ring so Susan could get the dog herself. "All that," she sighs, "over a little dog whose mouth isn't big enough to bite."

Boom Boom unearthed and played for Harry Thomas' tiger act the original Clyde Beaty March, written in 1936, and used for the first time since 1965. . . Louie Bellson, husband of famed Pearl Bailey, and the Tonight Show drummer, is taking Boom Boom on a 3 week tour of England this fall.

Lou Ann and I watched a video taping of the Hanneford Circus in Detroit in the Fossett's trailer and I whipped out a notebook and began taking notes. Lou Ann looked at me and said: "Ohmygawd, here I sit . . . with The Pen!" (Thanks Ed Migley - I used to be known only as The Voice). . . Tony is a video tape enthusiast of the first rank, except, wails Irene, when he erases something she particularly wants to save to tape something else.

Circus Fan, wheel-chair-bound Bill Green, of Beatrice, Nebr., was escorted to the Lincoln date by a friend and was given box seats. . . The Gaonas have reportedly signed a 3 year contract with Tommy Hanneford for their flying and teeterboard acts. . . I said there were two teeterboard acts in Detroit when actually there were three - Gaonas, Hernandez and Zerbini.

Now that Tarzan has Detroit for 1982, Tommy Hanneford took Saginaw - playing date-checkers, these two. . . Omaha went to the Coronas for 1982 which might upset Gracie if their change of dates hadn't made it im-

possible for her to play it anyway - the date will conflict with Sioux City, signed by Gracie for two more years. She has retained Lincoln, plus a new date to make up for Omaha as well as an extended Nebraska route and the Denver Police date.

DuQuoin is added to the Belleville-Granite City Shrine dates produced by George Hubler giving that route the bonus of a new town . . . It's too bad that Belleville must be played in the dirty hole. It is always blistering hot, too. I have been added to the line-up of the Kentucky State Fair for Ron Kelroy and by the time this sees print will be enroute back to the mid-west to play Hastings and Denver for Gracie and then return to Omaha for a 3 day major book promotion.

Roy Arringdale, a Shriner from Omaha, was a veteran circus clown long before he became a Shrine Clown and worked dates for Jimmy Douglass. In addition, Roy is a brilliant portrait artist, portraits in oil so real they look alive. . . Gary, a rider with Royal Hanneford (and hand balancer) has left that show, or so I am told, to join Jay Cochran in a double sway pole act.

The Burketts and Harry Thomas return to Fantasy Island for the summer. . . Also going into a park are Roman and Jean Schmitt. . . Al and Joyce Vidbel will be with Gracie's mid-American tour. . . Gus and Betty Bell visited in Lincoln - they were next door with the Trade Show. On the stage was Rick Nelson.

The Million Dollar Carlos Twins are with Tihany and report that living expenses down there are exorbitant. . . Fred Van Voorden is studying French, going to night school, is now in his second semester. . . Buck Nolan, a flea market aficionado, always manages to pick up old books with odd and campy titles which he gives to individuals - apropos the title.

FISH STORY: Only Walter Patterson could go "land fishing" and end up with a fish hook and lure embedded in his finger and have to be rushed to the emergency room of the Lincoln hospital to have the hook extricated!

THIS YEAR'S BYWORD for the 1981 season - created by and courtesy of Christine Fossett: That word is . . . Borr-inngg!

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

