

CIRCUS REPORT



Number 43

October 26, 1981

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year



HAL HAVILAND

Comment

from FAY ALEXANDER

In 1942, I was with the Russell Bros. Circus doing a teeterboard and risley act with Ted DeWayne and Bill Snyder. This was a year after Ernie Clarke's death.

On the show were Charles and Percy Clarke, doing their marvelous juggling act and Charles was catching in the double wide act of the Flying Escalantes.

Charles' daughter Percina was also with them, working in the juggling act. This was some time before I started my flying career.

One day while in the dressing room, Ted DeWayne, Bill Snyder, myself, Charlie and Percy were in a conversation about flying. Ted asked Charlie if anyone had done a quad.

Charlie said when they were in Mexico one winter that they did practice the quad and that his brother, Ernie, did a perfect quad, but that he did not catch it for fear of hurting his brother's shoulders.

Ted DeWayne is dead, as are Charlie and Percy, but Bill Snyder and I are still alive. If we were told a lie then I must apologize to Mr. Harry Graham.

But, since there were 27 years between the time they attempted the quad, 1915, and the time I heard this story, perhaps Charlie forgot that he caught it.

At any rate, I too would like to add my congratulations to the Flying Vazquez.

PEOPLE

SEBASTIAN ADRIANI recently visited with Joe Valenciano. While in Tampa, Sebastian is lining up several illusions for major Shrine dates.

Remembering

by TED La VELDA

The 1957 season of the Tex Carson Circus, which was the forerunner of the Carson & Barnes Circus, featured the following folks:

Jack and Angela Moore, owners and managers; Tom McLaughlin, agent; Luke Anderson, concessions and Hippo show; Jack Turner, legal adjuster and snake show; Ted La Velda, side show manager; Blonda Ward, equestrian director; Marie Loter, organist; Paul Pyle, lot supt.; Shorty Lynn, boss canvasman; Ruth Phillips, cook; Kelly Swim, purchasing agent; Dorothy Turner, office; Don McCracken and Mike Moore, side show canvas.

The performance consisted of: Dick Loter Family, aerial acts; Jimmy and Dolly Connors, wire/juggling; Wanda Moore, aerialist; Shelby and Babe Jackson, bars/trampoline; Jim Speagle, pick out pony; Mike Moore, 'Big Mable' the elephant; David de Lock, gun spinner; Col. Bill and Babe Woodcock, elephants; Clown numbers by La Velda Trio Dick Loter and Jim Speagle. The after show concert featured Jack Walsh, a strong man.

The show opened at Atoka, Okla., and closed at Gila Bend, Ariz., and wintered in Stanfield, Ariz. The show crossed the Continental Divide eight times during the season.

Oh, yes. John Hicks was the pitch man.

HOTLINE

Felipe Vazquez was struck in the face by his trapeze bar during his dismount in a performance of the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit at Salt Lake City. He was replaced in the act by Gino Farfan, and Felipe was expected to return to the act in Chicago.

SHOW DATES

Bauer-Hall All Star Circus
to Nov 1 Jackson, NJ
— End of Season —

Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct 23-25 Alexandria,
Texas

Big John Strong Circus
Oct 18 Yucaipa, Calif.
— End of Season —

Brickle's Wonderland Cir.
Oct 26 Dale, SC
27-28 Walterboro
29-30 Estill
31 Sumter

Carson & Barnes Circus
Oct 26 Vernon, Ala.
27 Eutaw
28 Quitman, Miss.
29 Lucedale
30 Monticello
31-Nov 1 Jackson

Circus Arts Troupe
Oct 29-Nov 1 Scottsdale,
Ariz

Circus Vargas
Oct 27-29 Corpus Christi
Texas

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Oct 26 De Funiak Sprgs
Fla

27 Blountstown
28 Daytona Beach
29 Cocoa
30 Sanford
31 Belleview
Nov 1 Altamonte Sprgs

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Oct 29-Nov 8 Cleveland
Ohio

Ringling-Barnum - Red
to Nov. 1 Rosemont, Ill

Royal Crown Circus
Oct 28-31 Des Moines, Ia

Royal Lichtenstein Cir.
Oct 26 Martin, Tenn.
27-28 Memphis
29 Warren, Ark.
30 Shreveport, La.
31 Jackson, Miss.

TNT & Royal Olympic
Oct 27-31 Mesquite, Tex

--- MAGIC ---

Fantastic Felix Snipes
Oct 30-31 Atlanta, Ga.

It's Magic Show
Oct 28-Nov 8 Los Ang, Cal

Krystali
Oct 26-31 San Diego, Ca.

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
Oct 26 Sedalia, Mo.

27 Marshall
28 Boonville
29 Higgensville
31 Belton
Nov 1 Warrensburg

Nordlaw
Oct 28 Marshall, Mich
29 Unadilla
30 Saugatuck

Starfire
Oct 28-31 Lincoln, Neb

VINO BEROSINI

Call: 813 - 677 - 5437

— COLLECT —
IMPORTANT

Attention

JAN NAUD

— Call Your Father —

PEOPLE

JAN BENTON recently joined Pat Guthrie of the Guthrie Shows and is now working his ride elephant, Myrtle.

FRANK DEAN has been attending a special school in Mexico and at the same time is working on two of his new western books.

TOM ROBIN, of the Flying Robins at Circus World, accomplished the twisting double somersault for the TV cameras of the show. "You Asked For It."

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney World on Ice
Oct 27-Nov 1 N. Haven
Conn.

James H. Drew Exposition
Oct 29-Nov 7 Augusta, Ga
— End of Season —

Grand Nationals
Oct 23-Nov 1 San Fran,
Calif.

Holiday on Ice/Ice Follies
Oct 27-Nov 1 Birmingham
Ala

Royal Scots Dragons
Oct 27 Tempe, Ariz.
28 Sun City
29 San Diego, Calif
30-Nov 1 Anaheim

THANK YOU

BOSWELL-WILKIE CIRCUS

IN

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

AND

A SPECIAL THANKS TO

MR. KEITH ANDERSON, GENERAL MANAGER



CARLOS DESIGNS

CUSTOM-MADE CIRCUS RIGGINGS AND SAFETY
EQUIPMENT WITH 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Circus Tarantari

by GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

Circus Tarantari arrived in Baltimore harbor after steaming out of Amsterdam early in June, bound for Howard County Fair grounds, West Friendship, Md., for the 45th Annual Gathering of the Circus Model Builders International.



International.

Playing three a day to enthusiastic audiences Bert and Louisa Kramer, of Abcoude, a suburb of Amsterdam, wowed the audiences at the model builders exhibits with a child-like toy model circus, fantasizing "the way children play circus."

The large-scale model circus performers and animals were manipulated skillfully employing a ring turntable, special lighting and spot lighting. The ingenious circus performance manipulation delighted the audiences so much that the crowd reactions were as appreciative as if it were a live circus.

Bert and Louisa Kramer have built a beautiful large-scale model circus along continental lines and combined animated figures and animals to complement the circus fantasy which allowed tricks and acts "never performed before in circus chronicles."

Shades of Barnum and Bailey's Atlantic voyages at the turn of the century, Circus Tarantari was crated for the return to winterquarters in Abcoude after playing the Howard County dates.

Thanks to the alertness of John Paul Roberts, general chairman of the 1981 CMB International, he was able to foresee the value of Tarantari at the 1981 conclave. European circus enthusiasts in touch with American circusiana made inquiries concerning a visit and participating in the CMB con-

vention in the Baltimore area. It did not take long to arrange for Tarantari's American odyssey. Circus Tarantari in Maryland represents the first European circus showing in the U.S.A, since the Moscow Circus visits in the 70's. Prior to this the importation of European and foreign acts was the primary source of circus outside America, which was enjoyed stateside.

The genuine goodwill of the Kramers, their artistry and craftsmanship is reflected in the speeches delivered to the Howard County conventioners. This reviewer hopes to make their texts available to CR readers.

Here follows the program of displays of the greatest circus model show on earth!

To the music of a great circus band the voice of a child bellows "Children of all ages . . ." And the show begins as a representative variety of the dramatic personae parade around the ring turntable style.

Enter the majestic male-maned lions who cavort in the steel cage circling, riding the motorcycle, walking the bar and riding on the handlebars above the cycle.

Enter those marvelous polar bears, shades of Bottcher, circling the ring, pulling the sleigh, sliding down the chutes, walking on the hind legs, more than ten foot tall.

Hear those honks? Six marvelous performing seals make their entrance finding their



station three abreast opposite each other. Look, their heads are wiggling side to side. One walks the wire balancing a ball. In come the six horns. Before you can believe what you are hearing the six marine performers are playing "our song."

At this point the audience is all wrapped up in the circus fantasy and applause ripples appropriately at the climax of each

(Continued on Page 27)

WANTED

Small Animal Acts to work in Asia for one month - Must have light equipment to fly across the Pacific.

TIBOR ALEXANDER, Artist-Manager
 P. O. Box 87
 West Lebanon, NY - 12195
 Phone: 518 - 794 - 7878
 Hotline: 518 - 794 - 7784

HOTLINE

Linda Evans was scratched by a leopard while working in the upcoming film "Circus of the Stars". She will remain in the special TV show, working as a host rather than performing in an act.

Bob Top, roller skating star, suffered a mild heart attack while rehearsing with Carol Lawrence for the show "Circus of the Stars."

In Memoriam

JACK A. LEONTINI (81) died at a Sarasota, Fla., nursing home on Sept. 30th. He was a long-time director of the Tom Packs Circus and had been associated with the late Karl Wallenda for many years. He was a member of the Moolah Shrine Temple in St. Louis. Burial was at Manasota Memorial Park in Sarasota, Fla., on Oct. 6th.

Correction

The following acts were somehow omitted from recent ads in CR for Tibor Alexander: Angela Wilnow and Her Collies should have been listed in the Ian Garden advertisement (Sept. 21) for Three Rivers, Quebec.

The Young Troupe, teeterboard and juggling and Philip Anthony, liberty horses should have been listed in the Bentley Bros. advertisement (Oct. 12).

A couple of clowns

(from an article by Michael Bates, which appeared in the Topeka (Kans) Capital-Journal on Aug. 23, 1981).

Tammy Parish chases her husband around with a rolling pin - sometimes twice a day.

Then, Tom Parish gets out his lawn mower and goes after his wife's grass skirt - while she's in it.

But no one wants to break up the frequent marital confrontations. They are part of the Ringling-Barnum Circus which played Wichita earlier this year.

The couple is the only husband-wife clown



Tammy Parish chases her husband, Tom, during their act with the Ringling-Barnum Circus performance.

team with the circus. Parish once thought he and his wife might end up as art teachers.

But he changed his mind after graduating from a junior college near his hometown of Neodesha, a community of about 3,500 in the southeastern corner of the state.

He began sending unusual pleas to the Ringling-Barnum Clown College in Florida, attempting to become one of the 50 to 60 students accepted annually from the thousands of applicants. He wrote frequently, putting his message on tissue, post cards, cardboard and a 200 foot roll of tablecloth paper.

"I was persistent," he said.

He didn't know how much being a clown paid and didn't care.

"I would have done it for practically nothing just to say I was with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus," Parish said.

After clown school graduation he served a \$155 a week, one year apprenticeship with the circus' Blue Unit, and then began a swift climb to the supervisory position of clown boss that he now holds. Next year, he will be able to negotiate his own contract.

"I've been lucky," he said. "At the time I joined the Blue Unit, there just weren't a lot of senior clowns."

The couple were married after Parish's first season, and Mrs. Parish was accepted at the clown college.



Tom and Tammy Parish as they appear with out clown make-up.

"Relatives like what we're doing and they come and see us whenever they can," Parish said. "We've got friends we grew up with who have 9-to-5 jobs and we don't see how they do what they're doing - that old routine of a normal person.

"They don't see how we do what we do, living circus 24 hours a day. But while they watch the clock and put in their eight hour days . . ." Parish said, "we're busy playing all day long," Mrs. Parish added.

Getting in the mood to perform, even on occasional down days, is no problem for

(Continued on Page 23)

A Clown Show

by HANABELLE

Last night, Oct. 1st, marked the opening of a New York show, but it was more than "another opening of another show." This time, the opening was a clown show.

With the revival of public respect for the arts of clowning, sparked some ten years ago in equal parts by Ringling's Clown College and Fellini's The Clowns, a show devoted to and made for, by and with clowns, is a natural hit, if it's good. This one is.

"My Heart Is In Your Shoes" is a telling of old clown tales (new to Americans, however), with an addition of contemporary flair and talent. It is the first New York effort by Yuri Belov, formerly Director of Clowning for the Moscow State Circus. It is a small show, at an intimate theatre, and is done with taste, humor, pathos and grand professionalism. The latter quality is present in a finely-distilled essence made up of Mr. Belov's knowledge of clown skits, gags, and skills, and the experience and talents of his performers. Mr. Belov is the orchestrator, and plays lovely tunes on his willing and disciplined instruments. They, in turn, function as solos and as ensemble players with a high degree of responsiveness.

Fred Yockers, who is Ringling trained, and has spent some time on circus circuits, has honed his character, Fritz, to exquisite physical intensity and emotional clarity. Fritz is sometimes schoolmarmish, but then again he reverts, in silliness and purposeful confusion, to a most touching and delightful clown-school child. Fred's candy-lover, ballet partner, and statue all merit close attention and were evidently loved by the audience.

John Grimaldi, who is mainly known for the excellence of his juggling, puts his usual skills to unusual uses, coming up with the help of Mr. Belov, with a marvelous turn of true juggling and clown juggling. He has never been in better form. Other nice bits were John's hilarious struggle under a huge trunk (as a magician's assistant) and his balletic villain.

Tanya Sadofyeva, in her American debut, is an actress-comedienne-clown of enormous charm and skill. She gives the kind of performance that wins the audience's heart, using her bubbly, forthright earthiness with great effect. It is interesting to note that one or two of the endings provided for Miss Sadofyeva that try for poignancy are impos-

(Continued on Page 21)

A New Star

10 year old Karen Antoinette Howe (her middle name is for Antoinette Concello), and daughter of former Ringling-Barnum Circus press agent Eddie Howe, told her Dad to tell the circus world "she is ready to perform professionally next year."

Karen states too, that she wants to carry on the Howe family show business tradition, her Grandpa was the late famed show man M. D. "Doc" Howe, while her Dad is Eddie Howe who was a press agent on major circuses, including RBBB, Cole Bros., Polack Bros., Clyde Beatty and others for 24 years before he became a movie studio press agent.

Karen went to her first circus when she was but two weeks old, in July 1971. That was backstage at Ringling-Barnum at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif., where she first met her idols, the Flying Gaonas.

When Karen was two years old and at that show again, Chela and Tito Gaona put her up on the backstage practice trapeze bar where Karen promptly hung by one ankle and did other routines that astounded the

Ringling on-lookers. She has done so ever since on both the Ringling and Vargas circuses nearly year-around in her travels to them with her Dad.

Karen has been into advanced gymnastics and tumbling classes in Huntington Beach, Calif., daily for the past several years. She also has been learning dressage and menage horse riding at Corona, Calif.

On the circuses she practices with the flying acts where her main love lies. She has also learned aerial web ballet from the Ringling pro's.

She knows just about everyone on both Ringling units and with Circus Vargas and is a familiar sight on these shows annually.

Acts told Eddie this year that "Karen is already - ready right now" to perform professionally. So Dad made up his mind recently while they were visiting and practicing on Ringling Red at Salt Lake City that Karen will be performing professionally in '82 and onwards.

She is now in Anaheim, Calif., and attending So. Calif., area flying act instructors-classes.

Wild West Show

(From the Moberly, Mo., Monitor of Sept. 25, 1906 - Reprinted in their 115th anniversary issue dated Sept. 27, 1981)

from CHARLES LIEDL

Traveling on its own train of 20 specially constructed cars, the Greater Cosmopolitan Shows and Wild West, regarded as the largest street fair and carnival company carrying only moral and refined attractions, arrived in Moberly (Mo) yesterday afternoon from Sedalia, Mo., and will furnish local people with refined and attractive amusements during the entire week.

A large throng of interested spectators awaited the carnival's arrival and when it pulled into the Katy yards and a great number remained to witness the unloading of the show's vast paraphernalia.

It was almost a revelation to the larger proportion of the crowd, not so much the mere work of unloading, but the orderly manner and the absence of profane and vulgar language ordinarily heard about a circus train at such times. This alone made quite an impression and added largely to the already good opinion formed through the newspaper notices and excellent testimonials gained in other towns where the company has established itself as enviable reputation for providing only moral and refined features suitable for ladies and children.

The Cosmopolitan company will furnish Moberly people 13 excellent paid attractions, chief of which is Tantlinger's Wild West and Indian Congress, which requires over 50 people to present the realistic re-

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production of western life, in which the Indians, cowboys and other western people are seen in mimic battles and sporting contests, a full hour's amusement is provided.

Included also is the list of paid attractions are the Outlaw Show, Great London Ghost Show, the Alps, or a day in Switzerland, Fighting the Flames, Jumbo, the giant snake Ferris Wheel, carousel or merry-go-round, Arcade or Penny vaudeville, Crazy House, Turtle George, Animal Zoo, Hike the Bike, Alabama Minstrels and the Katzenjammer Kastle.

Chief among the free attractions is Charles Strahl's remarkable high dive from the top of a 110 ft. ladder to a small life saving net below. Although Moberly people have been accorded similar sights, in the diving of several excellent performers who have been here in the past, it is said that Strahl's remarkable dive will more than please them.

It is the claim of Mr. Strahl, who declares he will not be called "professor" as some performers demand, that he is diving 30 ft farther than any other person has dared to attempt. In using a net for landing Mr. Strahl has made his act not only a novelty in this class of attractions, but assumes added risk of his life.

Special concerts of classic and popular music on the big calliope, as well as programs of excellent band music by the Greater Cos-

(Continued on Page 19)

RBBB Blue Unit

by ALTON L. JONES

RBBB Blue Unit moved into Indianapolis (Sept. 22-27) for six days and was well advertised on TV and in the local media. We Hoosiers like to write up any story possible about all the visiting circuses, hence this one.

This was the 110th edition of "The Greatest Show on Earth!" The program began with a Circus Celebation, a new first for RBBB. Well done and well applauded. Then followed the Beauty and the Bears, handled superbly by Ursula Bottcher. These giant white bears perform magnificently. Ten polar bears, six males and four females, weighing close to 1600 lbs each. There is a rumor going around that this will be the last tour of this troupe in the United States.

The bears were followed by some additional 'First in America', Duo Krisztov and Duo Grzelak with their splendid aerial artistry in two rings. Then the Cyclonic Cossacks with exquisite horsemanship - one the deluxe side. The clowns filled in with much fun til the

Flying Families of the Segreras and the Flying Padillas, showed us artistry deluxe in the air.

Our next exhibition was the King Charles Troupe who can do more on wheels with a basketball than most of us could do all afternoon on the ground. This was followed by the Clown Charavari, most worth-some.

The perch pole perfectionists followed in one ring the Polania Troupe, the second ring the Duo Dobritch and the Georieve Troupe exhibiting their skills of strength and endurance.

The Grantcharovi, first time in America, kept everyone on a high interest level as they performed their aerial artistry. Then came The Circus Galaxy, that took space adventurism with aerial satelittes to a new height, as Betty and Johnny Zoppe performed at top-notch ability - space ships galore.

The astounding Charly Baumann as the titan of the tigers gave his usual grand performance with 15 Royal Bengal and Siberian tigers, with many of the younger ones hav-

(Continued on Page 17)

Clown News

by BOB STODDARD

Checkers and Patches have some TV commitments that forced them to cancel this year's Dr. Pepper Circus at the State of Texas Fair in Dallas. Producer Gil Gray has replaced them with Johnny Peers as producing clown.

James "Jim-Bow" Decker and Poppy 'Poppy' Benner of the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85 make their debut as circus clowns at this year's State Fair.

The Grimaldis, Vesta and Kenny were the stars of the Sept. 26th Grapevine Opry shows. They featured their vent and dog acts. I believe they are direct decedents from the original Joey Grimaldi. All clowns are called "Joey's" today, in honor of this great clown.

Rags the Clown (the Pride of Amarillo) came to Dallas to help Lou Flowers "Honey" Stoddard and Susan "Little Dot" Huguley do some advance promotion for their Clown and Circus Days event at Traders Village, Oct. 17-18.

RBBB BLUE (Continued)

ing been trained after being raised by the master. This was following intermission.

Then came the fearless Elvin Bale on his Wheel of Death. He just recently returned from a tour in Australia and Japan, as a celebrated artist.

Some new acts, the first in America, were the Lipenska, from Poland, the Salavovi from Bulgaria and the Bober, also from Poland. Their horsemanship was perfection first class. Then came the bounding group, The Oblocki, from Poland, the Silagi, from Bulgaria and also from that country, the Kehaiovi, who were teeterboard experts of the super class. One must see it to appreciate it.

The Gautier Family, another first in America, presented the elephants. The elegantly trained elephants performed many astonishing deeds. Next were the Guerrero Troupe on the silver strand and finally came the Great Elvin Bale with his Blast Cannon spectacle.

This summary is very brief, go see the show and enjoy what we saw.

Rember

by BILL WOTSCH

Around 1958 or so I was in Sarasota, staying at the Pioneer Motel near downtown Sarasota, Fla.

The owners were Mr. and Mrs. Gotlieb Fischer, former giants with the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

I was staying in Unit 1, and Mrs. Gotlieb seeing my name was German, came over and spoke in German to me. Mr. Gotlieb shook hands and my hand was small when compared to his.

Mr. Gotlieb often was dressed in shorts and wore tennis shoes. In the evening he would sprinkle the lawn and cars would stop to look at this giant in his unusual apparel.

One time he stood in the pool and touched his chest. "Only this deep here," he said, "jump in." But since I wasn't dressed for swimming I just sat and watched.

We used to sit in the deck chairs and talk about the old circus days and enjoyed some nice memories.

WILD WEST SHOW (Continued)

mopolitan Military Band, under the leadership of Harry McGowan, together with the various free acts in front of the several shows will furnish ample amusement for the people between performances and not an idle moment need be spent. All of the attractions will be open promptly at 7 tonight. In short, Moberly is to be afforded the same big show, not curtailed in the least, that attracted such great crowds and so highly pleased the Sedalia people all the last week.

Clear weather is all that is required to make this the greatest amusement event in the history of the city.

NOTE: The population of Moberly in 1906 was 10,000 and is 13,700 now. The Ringling show played there Sept. 21, 1905, Sept. 16, 1915 (this date was canceled on account of a muddy lot); then July 21, 1917 and under the Ringling-Barnum title Aug. 29, 1930; Sept. 6, 1935 and the last time Aug. 20, 1937.

Flying Valentines

We are pleased to announce that

on

October 4, 1981

DIANE VALENTINE

has become the 6th woman in the world

to

successfully and consistently
accomplish the Triple Sommersault

on the Flying Trapeze

without the use of a Safety Belt of any kind.

* * * * *

CONGRATULATIONS DIANE
AND MAY ALL YOUR GOALS
BE AS EASILY ACHIEVED.

. . . . Raymond Valentine

CLOWN SHOW (Continued)

ed upon skits that do not lead to poignant conclusions - making me suspect that European blow-offs may differ in tone from those used here, and that perhaps the European version of a female clown differs from our own.

However, as the pivotal focus of several skits, Miss Sadofyeva shines brightly, particularly in "The Train" (partnered by also excellent Jan Greenfield), "The Plates" (supported by delightful Joe Killian), and in several well-done bits in "The Gun."

Two clowns, unknown to this reviewer, Jan Greenfield and Joe Killian, are both stand-outs.

Jan is a highly accomplished technician, whose restraint, along with believability of action, gesture, motivation and idea, is a pleasure to watch (his ballerina was quite wonderful, ditto the very ambitious solo saxophonist). In partnering the other clowns, he was extremely sensitive to their needs and the structure of the skit. As Mr. Greenfield relaxes into this material, his performance will gather momentum and dazzle.

Joe Killian (probably the youngest of the quartet of men) was very pleasing. He has a rare quality: unself-conscious funniness. Beginning with this rarity, he takes advantage of many opportunities to make people

laugh - using the nature and foibles of the character he is building - a facial expression here, a small gesture there, an action very nicely suited to his character somewhere else (loved his step-rope as compared to the other clown's jump-rope).

Mr. Bolov introduced the show, and stepped in once or twice - effectively, and in sync with the production.

The music was well done, the pianist Gary W. Gewant, in tune and in time, and tapes interspersed nicely.

Scene and prop changes were handled efficiently and smoothly.

In all, this evening's offering was an exciting addition to the New York circus and theatre scene, and we hope that its limited engagement of three weeks will spread and that we will see much, much more of Mr. Belov's work.

ACTS

Acts set for the upcoming winter tour of the Cole All Star TV Circus, the show's 44th annual tour, will include:

The Great Oscar, the man who flies into space; the Beautiful Elizabeth, foot juggling; Billy Martin, announcer; The Bovays, strength and agility horizontal bar act; the Cole Lovely Aerial Ballerinas, and a number of other features.

Wm. Kay Circus

The William Kay Shrine Circus wound up its 1981 season playing for its 16th year for the Morocco Temple in Jacksonville, Fla., at the Jacksonville Coliseum on Saturday, Oct. 10th and Sunday, Oct. 11th.

Prior to the above named date the show had played in Mobile, Ala., which was an excellent business engagement.

Acts playing both Mobile and Jacksonville were: Andre's lions; Miss Michele, single trapeze; Erik and Bobbie, dogs; The Jupiter Trio (Nock) double trapeze; Vidbel's ponies; Albanis, aerial motorcycle; The Flying Lantonys; Katinka's Poodles; Adams Chimps; Cooks Comedy Car; Vidbel's elephants; Nocks swaypoles (Pio and Tony); Walt & Wendy, hand voltage and Ma-Ho-Pin, slide.

John Malett directed the band and Mike Pike was the organist. Leo Mascitto directed the band in Jacksonville.

Kris Krenkel, long-time Polack manager, promoted Mobile for Kay and then jumped to Charleston, W. Va. to work the date for Sam Polack.

A COUPLE CLOWNS (Continued)

the couple.

"Once you're out there in front of those people and the lights come up, you forget all of your problems," Mrs. Parish said.

"You're in makeup, so you've really left that other person asleep back in clown alley," says Parish.

As teenagers the two were members of a Neodesha unicycle clown club. Calling themselves Topper and Twinkles, they and other clowns of the group entertained at birthday parties and in local shows.

Now the couple lives in a small compartment on the circus train. They enjoy the travel by rail and occasionally get time to do some sightseeing at circus stops.

William Kay's Circus season for 1982 will get underway when the show opens Feb. 12 thru 14 for the Ismailia Temple in Buffalo, N. Y., followed by Madison, Wisc., Albany and Syracuse, N. Y.

Press, radio and TV will be handled by Asta Welling, in Jacksonville, Fla. She is a member of Kay's promotional staff.

KING BROS. CIRCUS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

- 1 - On February 24, 1959, Trustee Durward B. Mercer, acting on an order entered by Judge E. P. Johnston, U. S. Referee in Bankruptcy, Macon, Georgia, conveyed the title to the mark "KING BROS. CIRCUS" and its related goodwill to Vicki Kernan King (Mrs. Floyd King).
- 2 - Vicki Kernan King (Mrs. Floyd King) leased to the partners, Remo Cristiani, Adolfo (Tripoli) Cristiani and Freddie Canestrelli, the exclusive right and privilege of using the title and trade name of King Brothers Circus for the years 1959 and 1960. The lease agreement was executed by Paul M. Conaway, Attorney-at-Law, Macon, Georgia. Weekly rental/royalty payments were paid directly to Vicki Kernan King.
- 3 - For the years 1961 thru 1974, until her death in January 1975, Vicki Kernan King (Mrs. Floyd King) leased the title "King Bros. Circus" to General Circus Operating Co., Inc., Sarasota, Fla.
- 4 - When General Circus Operating Company began using the mark "King Brothers Circus" in 1961, the use of the mark was solely through the permission of Vicki Kernan King as Lessor and General Circus Operating Company as Lessee. Payments were made to Vicki King, P. O. Box 814, Macon, Georgia 31207 by General Circus Operating Co., Inc., for rent/royalty on use of the mark "King Brothers Circus."
- 5 - Mr. Floyd King who fell heir to the mark "King Bros. Circus" after the death of his wife in January, 1975, was not a named party to the 1975 consent decree by the Federal District Court in the State of Florida which was an action between Mr. Frank McClosky and Mr. Pete Cristiani. Mr. King was not mentioned by name in that consent decree and his signature does not appear thereon.
- 6 - The heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd King - Repeat - "We have not sold, leased, or given permission to anyone for use of the title "KING BROS. CIRCUS and/or "KING BROTHERS CIRCUS".

MRS. LINDA KING PRITCHETT
Route No. 1
Cochran, Georgia - 31014



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A crowd of about 150 magic hungry people were at the 'Christmas In September' Mini-Convention of the S.A.M. No. 70 at Penn-grove (Calif) the day before Labor Day. You ask where is Penn-grove? Well, it's just a short way from Petaluma which was once the egg basket of the U. S. The Community Hall was decked with holly and trees and members were dressed as elves and other characters, and even Santa was there.

Featured were two fine lectures: those of Patrick Martin and Petrick. Each showed many clever things and would you believe it, they also had the tricks and notes for sale.

A too long close-up session had several performers including top men like Arthur Murata, Jack McMillen, Petrick, Roy Slater, Tony Lewis and one other whose name escapes me at this time, but he was doing

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different magic, mainly with safety pins. A good routine. Less than a dozen dealers had space in which to hawk their wares and all reported average business.

A good help yourself meal was provided and was followed by the Big Show.

MC was chatty Jay Malbrough who threatened to be Mr. On Too Long because of stage delays, but he handled it well. Featured were two club presentations that produced lots of laughs, a joint rendering (that's the correct word) of the Twelve Days of Christmas with a magical theme and four tambourine banging 'Salvation Army Lasies' with a bit of fun.

Stars of the show were the class act of Petrick and Mia, who increases in standing everytime I see the act. Great! This was followed by a show stopping pitch act by Doctor Lovecraft.

Opener was Dan Quierolo, followed by a circus act, but he admitted it was more of a side show act, as Roy Slater did fire eating, concrete block busting while reclining on a bed of nails, some magic and a strait jacket escape. It was different, to say the least.

Then it was goodnight.

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CIRCUS TARANTARI (Continued)

"never before" feat.

Now three dazzling show horses circle the ring, handled by three beautiful riders they execute dressage par excellence. They are followed by six liberty horses, circling, grouping, rinding the curbs and then finally the hind leg mounts - what a dazzling display!

The crowd catches their breath during the intermission.

Now come the apes, a monkey, a chimp and two gorillas. Shivering simian shenanigans. All in the open ring monkeying around. Then front and center, the world's only smoking monkey, seated on a pedestal he receives the long handled cigarette from the ringmaster and inserts it in the monkey's mouth. You'll never believe it, but the monkey is smoking and the smoke puffs bellow forth like a Camel Broadway ad. What a show! What a blast!

Enter the clown troupe. Buffoons, musicians, acrobats and around they go. See the mechanical accordionist. Enjoy the Fiddle Joey. Wow, at the hand-standing clown gymnast. Guffaw at the clown-driven comedy car, actually breaking up the act!

Enter the unusual people. The Woman whose torso is pierced by a menacing snakes. The tough one who lies on a bed of nails only to be sat upon by two tons of ponderous pachyderm right upon his chest. Relax, folks, it's all in jest! Chandu the mystic magician from the East enters with his beautiful damozel. The lights dim, the music is hushed. You hear the Oriental airy

harangue ushering you into legerdemaine yet not seen. You cannot believe what you see - the maiden rises before your eyes with no visible support. Ach, you say, it's a trick. Is it when the ringmaster passes the hoop thrice round her risen body? What a show stopper!

Finally, five ponderous pachyderms circle the center, execute turn arounds, head stands, one foot stands, lie upon the helpless maiden, and then a walking long mount round the ring.

When the royal family of Holland enters and circles the ring in majestic open carriage drawn by two magnificent stallions, the end arrives to the wild applause of the emotion-swept crowd.

There's no circus around comparable to Circus Tarantari.

Photo identification:

1 - Louise and Bert Kramer, of *Abcoube, Holland*, owners and producers of *Circus Tarantari*.

2 - *Clowning at 1981 CMB International* between performances of *Circus Tarantari* were *Dapper Dan*, the *Elephant*, presented by *Wilma Bonner*. *Dan Bonner* has revived the old elephant clown gag, not seen for forty years until *Dapper Dan's* new production.

European Tour

by 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

Ulla and Inge Valenciano had a wonderful vacation in Europe, visiting with relatives and catching shows. They drove all over the place with a Ford Fiesta rental car, which was arranged before they left.

In Germany they caught Circus Krone, Circus Berlin and Circus Atlantic, as well as the famed Oktoberfest and the Frankfurter Mees, which is like the Oktobertfest only a smaller event.

They were lucky, you could say they had a circus fan's dream, because in Bamberg they stayed at the Hotel Neukauf, which was right next to the Circus Krone lot. This circus is presented under a solid blue tent with four center poles circular tent. A one ring format with 18 row high seating, with back rests. The usual box seats were out in front.

The program was very good. There was one unusual animal display, which consisted of llamas, camels and a hippo. My Mom and Aunt had a nice time visiting with the

Enrico Caroli Family, who they knew several years ago and they last toured together on the Swiss Circus Knie.

Circus Berlin is a very nice, but small family show. The big top is set up much like the Stebbing Circus over here. Circus Atlantic is also a small tent, but a nice one.

From Germany they went to visit relatives in Czechoslovakia and while there visited Circus Humberto. This show is fully owned and operated by the state. It is a good medium sized show.

Also, my Mom and Aunt enjoyed a unique restaurant that revolves atop a 1,000 ft. tower, offering a breath-taking view of Frankfurt and Germany's beautiful countryside.

They report that near Koln, there is "Phantasia Land" which is much like our Disneyland parks, but smaller.

E. P. (Tony) LYLE, of Greenwood Mobile Home Park in Tampa, Fla., spent a few days at Sarasota's Sailor Circus where his brother-in-law was filming a segment for a kiddie show.

Elephant Tested

by VELMA E. LOWRY

Remember "Lois" the elephant who is at the Seattle Zoo, formerly of Independence, Kans? She made the news again - this time Science Year, The World Book Science Annual. It is interesting to see that "Lois" the Ralph Mitchell Zoo elephant has been given quite a spread in it and some photos too.

The article is in regard to a hearing test given Lois in 1980 by Rickye and Henry E. Heffner, of K. U.'s Bureau of Child Research and Ned Stichman, local zoo man.

Basically the researchers found that various mammals hearing is regulated by the distance between the ears.

The photo shows Lois getting set to push a button to start a hearing test that proved elephants can hear low-frequency sounds better than any animal previously tested.

A scientist successfully crossed a parakeet with a tiger. He doesn't know exactly what he's got, but when it sings he sure listens.

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New Rules Coming

The American Humane Society is planning to set up guide-lines for the protection of circus animals, similar to the rules and regulations they have established for the use of animals in movie and TV work.

The A.H.A. are professional animal control officers who are on hand during filming of movies and TV shows to see that producers do not exploit or harm the animals.

Once the rules and regulations are established they can be printed in the various circus program books, thus showing the public that the circus is complying with the A.H.A. This is expected to set the public's mind at ease, concerning the welfare of circus animals.

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Circus Festival

Mill Bridge Village in Lancaster, Pa., was the site of a Gay 90's Circus Festival on Sept. 18-20 and Sept. 25-27. The event was reminiscent of the days when the Welsh Bros. Circus wintered in Lancaster, the tent show starred magicians Roberto & Alexandria, who in addition to their regular performance, recreated Houdini's mail bag escape as a midway attraction.

Barney the Clown, excentrique was featured in the big top and throughout the village. Additional clowns kept visitors entertained around the grounds.

Also on display was Bill and Nancy Cooker's 10,000 piece animated, miniature circus, which attracted enthusiastic attention.

Other nostalgic attractions included organ grinder Pete and Pop and a circus parade which included all performers, horse drawn wagons, antique autos and old time mechanical instruments. The parade stepped off twice a day and made its way throughout the restored Amish village.

Show Acts

Marlboro, Festival, Marlboro, Mass. - Sept. 5-7 - Center Ring Circus produced by Jerry Fields Promotions.

Acts appearing in the show were: Marie Hager with Bongo the chimp; Marcelli & Janis, slack wire and juggling; Cheezo the clown with a giant robot mouse; Jim Davis and his All American Mutts; Jimmie & Millie, iron jaw with juggling and hand balancing mixed with comedy.

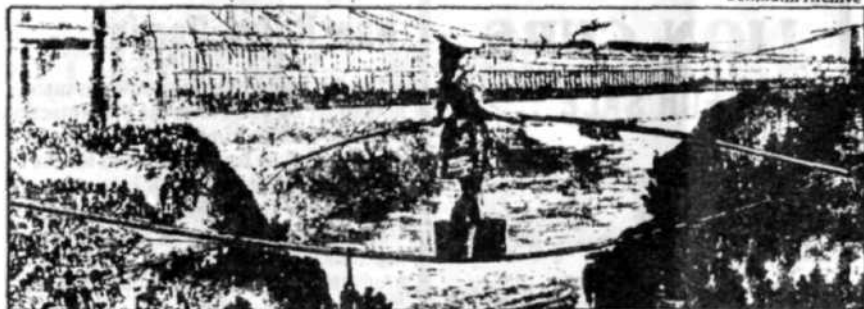
Other acts were: Norm Bigelow, world's greatest escape artist; the Amazing Fields, magic and illusions; The Hagers, acrobats; Nellie the elephant with trainer Clarky and John Wooten, world's strongest man.

Jerry Fields was the ringmaster and music was provided by Les Smith.

On Sept. 26th, escape artist Barry Yienst appeared as a special added attraction,

Numerous circus fans and performers were seen visiting the Autumn Days Festival.

Bettmann Archive



Maria Spelterina's second walk over Niagara Falls, with feet in baskets

Eight people have walked across Niagara Falls on a tightrope, and one of them was a woman. Little is known about the background of Signorina Maria Spelterina, who made her debut on July 8, 1876. It was a field day for the press, however, who described Maria as 23 years old, "superbly built," and 150 pounds of female pulchritude.

Her tightrope was a 2¼-inch, 1100-foot long rope that spanned the deadly gorge at a height of 165 feet. Crossing

steadily, she danced back over the falls to waltz music played by a band on the river bank.

For her second walk, on July 12, she strapped peach baskets to her feet and made the journey in 11 minutes. She returned in 10—walking-backward.

Trip number three, on July 19, was executed blindfolded. For number four, on July 22, she had her ankles and wrists manacled. She was scheduled for another crossing on July 26 but didn't go.

Mattel Info

(The following information are excerpts from Mattel, Inc., report to Shareholders for the six month period ending Aug. 1, 1981. To understand the full picture one should read the entire report).

" . . The Entertainment segment of our business, consisting of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice, and Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World, continues to be adversely affected by lower than expected attendance due, at least in part, to the impact of a weak economy on the amount of disposable income consumers appear to be spending for entertainment away from home. It is unlikely that Entertainment segment results will recover in the second half of the current fiscal year to levels comparable to the prior year."

" . . Revenues of the Entertainment segment were 15% below fiscal 1981 due primarily to lower attendance levels at the traveling circuses (20%) and Circus World (20%) and the absence of revenues from

the Monte Carlo one-ring circus which was discontinued at the end of its foreign tour in fiscal 1981. Reduced attendance at the circuses was attributable to ticket price increases and a weak economy. The Circus World attendance decline was largely attributable to a general decline in Florida tourism."

" . . The Entertainment segment's decrease of \$2,850,000 was due principally to the combination of lower attendance levels and the absence of the Monte Carlo Circus."

" . . Lower attendance levels at the Entertainment segment attractions - a significant portion of expenses are fixed and cannot be reduced as attendance declines."

" . . The Entertainment segment's lower operating profit was caused principally by the combination of lower attendance levels, the absence of the Monte Carlo Circus and the fairly fixed nature of many operating expenses."