

# CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY  
OUR 12th YEAR

Number 16

June 27, 1983



DIME and CONNIE WILSON

# Show Dates

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Jun 27-28 Abington, Mass.  
29-July 1 New Bedford  
July 2-4 Salem

## Big Apple Circus

June 25-29 W. Orange, NJ

## Carson & Barnes Circus

Jun 26 Yakima, Wash.  
27 Moses Lake  
28-29 Spokane  
30 Kellogg, Idaho  
July 1 Polson, Mont.  
2 Helena

## Castle Int'l Circus

Jun 26 Nanaimo, BC  
27 Chilliwack  
30 Bremerton, Wash.  
July 1 Bellingham

## Circus Vargas

Jun 28-30 Chicago, Ill.  
July 1-4 Hillside

## Europorama

July 4 Centralia, Wash.

## Hall & Christ Circus Unique

June 24-July 2  
Winnipeg, Man., Canada

## Leibel Family Circus

July 2-9 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

## Peanut Circus

July 4 Pine Mt., Ga.

## Pickle Family Circus

July 2-4 San Fran, Calif.

## Police Circus

July 1-3 Seattle, Wash.

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue

## Ringling-Barnum Red

June 29-July 10  
Phoenix, Ariz.

## Roberts Bros. Circus

June 27 Worcester, NY  
28 Tivoli  
30 Cheshire, Mass.

## Super Circus Int'l

Jun 26 Port aux Basques,  
Canada

## TNT & Royal Olympic

July 1-4 Bluefield, W. Va.

## Wenatchee Youth Circus

July 1 Toppenish, Wash.  
2 Cashmere

## --- OTHER DATES ---

## James H. Drew Exposition

Jun 27-July 2 Grundy, Va.

## Elliott Amusements

June 30-July 4  
St. Johns, Mich.

## NY Festival of Clowns

to July 10 New York, NY

## Tent Troupe

Jun 25-28 Dickerson, Md.  
29 Lovettsville, Va.  
30 Romney, W. Va.  
July 1 Wordensville, Va.  
2 Keyser, W. Va.

## --- MAGIC ---

## Magic of Money

Jun 27-30 Dallas, Texas

## Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Jun 26 Crestline, Ohio  
27 Springdale  
29 Urichsville  
30 Cambridge  
31 Crooksville

## --- LATE DATES ---

## Last Real Medicine Show

Jun 27 Cedar Falls, Iowa  
28 Waverly  
29 Charles City  
30 Mason City

# Samantha



Gollys, someone discovered I could sew, so they put me to work patching the big top. It's sure hard pushing this big old needle thru the heavy canvas.

At least it's nice weather and there aren't too many rips in the top, so it won't take long to get the job done.

We got in here early so there is time to get a few jobs done.

July 1 Austin, Minn.

2 Owatonna

3 Fairbault

Lewis Bros. Circus

June 28 Maybrook, NY

29 La Grange

# PEOPLE

SAMUEL J. VAINSI, DVM, director of Animal Eye Associates, in Chicago, along with Dr. SUE WEST, removed cataracts from the eyes of Ronnie, an elephant with Ringling-Barnum. The operation was performed at the show's quarters in Venice, Fla. this past winter.

CHUCK JONES, illusionist, is appearing at the MGM Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The booking was handled by MIA of Las Vegas.

MEL WARKMEISTER and BA, along with ANDRE PRINCE and HILDA, visited the American Continental Circus at San Jose, Calif., where they cut up jackpots with Tommy and Pom Pom Donoho.

KEN CARTER & Co., ventriloquist, and CHARLES & CO., magic/illusions, were featured on a variety show held at the Livermore (Calif) High School on June 12th.

MONTIE MONTANA, JR. had his Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show at South Lake Tahoe, Calif., June 20-24, for "Tahoe Wild West Week."

TOM DONOHO has the elephant ride with the American Continental Circus and is assisted by his son GEORGE.

OTTO WESSELY, magician, THE SALY BROTHERS, balancing act, and TANYA, the elephant are appearing at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

HERB MILLER, former bandleader with the American Continental Circus is touring in England with a Glen Miller type band. His son, John, who was the circus ringmaster, is the band's vocalist.

MIKE PHEL, circus ringmaster, is working with a summer circus playing under the London Bridge at Lake Havasu City, Ariz.

THE SAXONS, jugglers and unicycle act, will be in Hawaii at the PCAM Convention on June 25th, then they are off to Hong Kong, which will be followed by engagements on cruise ships in the Atlantic.

FRED LOGAN is back working with the Beatty-Cole Circus after spending time in the hospital to undergo an operation for a perforated ulcer. He wants to thank everyone for the cards and flowers that were sent him while he was hospitalized.

PAUL LUBERA was the guest at a Polish dinner party given by Suzanne "Potts" Perry in honor of visiting Joe E. Hodgini. Susi the meal was outstanding, says Paul.

JOCO the Clown, has been busy entertaining kids during Library Week in the San Francisco Bay Area (Calif.)

## Franzen Bros.

by ALLEN BABCOCK

Thursday, May 26th, will be remembered as a red letter day in my 53 years of following circuses. At the invitation of my friend Dr. Henry Maxwell, of Mason City, Ill., I visited Franzen Bros. Circus in his home town that day. Since I had already been on the show for six of the previous days I almost passed up the invitation.

Dr. Maxwell bought out the circus and invited his patients and the people of Mason City to see the circus "free" as his guests.

Dr. Maxwell said this was a very minor way of saying thanks for the loyalty, trust and faith the community has had in me for 37 years of being their doctor.

Mason City, population 2,600, is located in Mason County, about 20 miles west of Lincoln, Ill.

Originally there were to be shows at 6 and 8 p.m., but a few days before the circus arrived it was agreed that a 4 p.m. show ought to be added. It was a good idea since the 6 and 8 p.m. shows were filled.

The people of Mason City really like Dr. Maxwell and one of them said, he has it all wrong, we should be doing something for him. He really cares for the people of this town and even does house calls when needed.

Maxwell has been a circus fan for years and also enjoys snakes and has a 7 ft. anaconda. Each year when the circus plays near or in his city, Dr. Maxwell has always taken the circus folks out for dinner and takes care of any health problems they might have. I saw him out on the lot with several gallons of

coffee for the show folks.

It was a perfect day with perfect weather and the news media covered the circus day in in full force.

There are a few changes in the program since the show was written up in the CR of May 23rd. They include: Teako is doing the 3 clown turns by herself; Mike and Leslie Ashton have joined and do juggling, risley and a musical number and Mike drums for the show. Also, not listed in that previous report is the aerial ballet with Amy Muller, Heidi Cassidy and Sherry Pfau. Also, goats and Sicilian donkeys are presented by Brian and Chad Franzen.

The program presented here was: Wayne, cats; Program Pitch; Wire, Curtis and Sherry; Sponsor; Camel and llama, Wayne; Clown; Mike and Leslie Ashton, juggling/risley; Brian and Chad Franzen, goat and donkey; Aerial Ballet, Amy, Heidi, Sherry; Intermission;

Ashton & Young, musical comedy; Aerial Ladders, Curtis, Sherry, Harry; Clown; Elephant, Okha, Wayne; Clown; Heidi, Roman rings; Dogs, Curtis and Sherry; Coloring contest; Harry and Amy, cradle; Wayne and his liberty ponies.

Some of the visitors seen at the show were: Bob Phebus, Jack and Clifford Albea, Merle Pepper, Tom Parkinson, Mike, Marilyn and Tim Sorrell, Ed Freeman, Howard Tibbal, Dr. Maxfield, and Phil and Rosa Kavanaugh.

SHOW DATE

Summerfest

June 30-July 10

Milwaukee, Wisc.

# Lewis Bros.

by Jim (Happy) Ridenour

John Lewis brought his all new Lewis Bros. Circus into Lexington Park, Md., for a Saturday and Sunday date (May 21-22). All three performances were strawed despite the rain.

John certainly has come a long ways since opening in Georgia on April 1st. The show is brightly painted with nice pictorials on all rolling stock.

Business has been excellent, according to Billy Griffin, who has the office. Johnny Walker has the concessions, Bill Lane is the 24 hour man and Jose Diaz is electrician.

Dennis Michaels has the side show featuring an old fashioned banner line, with magic, fire eater, sword swallower, Punch & Judy, and the show's animals.

Don Prevost is supt., and his wife Barbara

is in the office. Pete the Tramp is the boss canvasman.

Everything sparkles and the midway is all real circus. The Brusky family has a pony ride. There is a giant snake show, and the baby hippo purchased from the Memphis Zoo is scheduled to arrive for the Westfield, NJ date.

Jack Jackson has the band, Gary Holveck is ringmaster and the performance includes the Tabek family and Mike Rice with his elephant.

Like any new mud show, John has a few growing pains, but all in all, he has a handle on it and things are moving right along. I'll predict big things for this show as John sure knows his stuff.

Catch Lewis Bros. Circus and enjoy a real old fashioned mud show in its finest form.

## Show Plans

Rob Bloch, of Critters of the Cinema, will be producing promotion shows for shopping centers in the Los Angeles/Orange county area in California this fall.

An Aug. 6-7, promotion will feature the following acts: Seal act; Cougar on leash; Wini McKay, aerialist; Chester Cable, foot juggler; Bob Moore's Mongrel Revue; Howard Johnson's elephant Katie; Chester Hayes, stilt walker.

The seal and cougar act will be provided by Animal Actors of Hollywood.

## Miscellaneous

The Buffalo Bill exhibit of costumes, guns, posters and other items owned by the famous wild west star and his co-workers, is currently being displayed at the museum in Oakland, Calif.

## Comments

by Circus Joe Valencianos

I very much enjoyed the article by Gerald Burns "Collections" in CR on June 6th. He tells about the fine collections at the Texas area libraries.

This article reminds me of a question that is often thought about. What ever happened to the Circus Hall of Fame collection?

A few years ago someone reportedly bought the collection and material there and was to build a new facility in the Orlando area, but this apparently has not taken place.

Mr. Burns mentioned that it would be nice to donate to the collections he mentioned. Well, in this writer's opinion, it isn't a good idea.

The reason I say this is that I was one of those who donated to the Circus Hall of Fame which closed and things just seemed to have disappeared.

The articles that I donated were not spectacular, but made for a nice exhibit. In fact they got a write-up in the German show-biz magazine "Das Organ."

# Great Y Circus

by FIFI REED

On Saturday, May 14th, this writer experienced an afternoon of sheer circus delight. Seven members of the Roland C. Butler Tent of Phoenix, Ariz., dove to Redlands, Calif. for three hours of mind and eye pleasing entertainment. A group of young people between 7 and 18 years of age were performing many of the traditional circus acts. Surely any circus lover in that area should make every effort to catch one of their performances.

Under the guidance of Mr. Warren Wood, and his associates, the young performers have mastered every act from clowning to high wire, from tumbling and juggling to cradle and perch as well as flying. Cradle acts of upside down pyramids were exceptionally well executed and unicycle expertise was equally as outstanding. Mr. Wood has incorporated beauty, grace and the fine art of precise timing and rhythm with a dedication to perform at a professional level into the fine young participants. Their delight in performing almost matches the enthusiasm of the delighted spectators.

This concept was first born in Redlands to Mr. Roy Coble, a former performer with Ringling-Barnum. He said that when he married, his wife did not want to travel so he settled down and eventually started teaching his skills as well as those he'd observed, to a group of young people. Mr. Coble attended this same performance and was seen reminiscing with Mr. John Strong, owner of the Big John Strong Circus, about those days.

Performance was to a straw house . . . tickets were sold in advance for all performances. Anyone between the ages of 7 thru adult is encouraged to join, either to participate as a performer or as a volunteer to aid in putting on "the show!" Costumes were well done, the Ringmistress was easy to understand, as well as beautiful. Lighting was excellent, great music (live!) and some of the



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*roustabouts doing their jobs so efficiently were easily recognizable as performers.*

I cannot possibly express our admiration for Mr. Wood and his assistants. The total involvement of such a large number of that area's young citizens, demanding self discipline and total trust in each other, is outstanding. Surely the self esteem and self confidence that results from their efforts must reflect on the dedication of Mr. Wood and his associates, and will reach far into each performer's future. I wonder if the City of Redlands recognizes their worth?

Our hats are off to you Mr. Wood and to your associates . . . your gift to them is greater than their gift was to us on that afternoon!

## Franzen Bros.

by KEN HOLEHOUSE

So much has been written this year in Circus Report about Franzen Bros. Circus that I'm going to limit this on-the-road report to some of the acts that haven't been highlighted.

This 10th anniversary edition has lots of color, new costumes, a snazzy lighted ring curb and a new aerial ballet. The trucks have all been repainted, and a stunning job of airbrush artistry in various circus murals decorates the side of each unit. A pony ride is now a feature on the midway, as well as the traditional elephant ride.

Under the big top, Michael Ashton and Leslie is a new act that has joined the show. Michael does a superb job of foot juggling with lots of styling, and in one flashy part of the routine, tosses Leslie around on just about every part of her anatomy. Lots of youthful, athletic enthusiasm in this act. The Ashton's

open the second half of the show with a comedy falls routine, highlighted by the down-home singing of Michael.

Miss Heidi (Bolz) on the Roman rings is definitely the mud show's answer to Dolly Jacobs. And Dolly, watch out. This kid is good. She is so good, in fact, that she practically stops the show. Always smiling and obviously enjoying herself immensely, after her opening styling moves, she does a toe hang, a split, a somersault and a number of dislocates, then a variety of other aerial contortions in a superbly honed routine. This girl is going places. She must be seen!

While the show played Lisle, Ill., recently, VIP's on the lot visiting included John Broeker, Charles Hill, Bob Phebus, Bill Knox, the affable, low-key advance man for the show was also visiting.

The show will be moving thru Wisconsin and Michigan in the coming months. They don't broadcast their route, so you'll have to depend on spotting their paper.

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: -

At the request of my present partner, Roger LaMothe, we will be terminating our partnership as "The Pirates of The Sky" at the completion of our 1983 season, on Oct. 2nd. Contrary to rumors circulating, I am not selling out my half of the partnership to Mr. LaMothe, instead all equipment and rigging will be divided equally and both parties will be free to re-organize a new act.

In keeping with my reputation of providing only first class, dependable presentations, I have chosen not to present a Pirate act for next season as there would not be the necessary time needed to put together a polished act. Therefore, I will have no connection, nor will I be responsible for any act or acts being booked by Mr. LaMothe for 1984 or any time in the future.

I will, instead, be presenting a sensational new act (see advertisement in this issue) with my new partner and fiancée, Miss Christine Fossett. This is an act that has been in the planning for some time and has been constructed at a cost of over \$10,000.00. We will also be presenting two fantastic slides. A traditional neck slide and the sensational break-away slide for life previously performed as a finale for "The Pirates of the Sky". The slides will be a great show opener and "The Centrons" selesstial cycle sensation of the century is the greatest closing act available.

We look forward to doing business with all our long time contacts and with many new associates who appreciate quality and dependability.

... D. CHABIRA

## In Memoriam

**LAVERNE (Red) LINDEMANN**, a show rigger and builder of aerial equipment, died recently at Dallas, Texas. He was well known by many show business people.

**IVAN TORS (66)**, who produced family oriented TV films such as *Flipper* and *Sea Hunt*, died early this month of a heart attack while on location in Brazil, with his son Peter.

Tors also produced three animal related films - *Gentle Ben*, *Daktari* and *Cowboy* in Africa.

## Show Acts

The acts appearing with Al Stencell's "Super Circus International" touring in Eastern Canada includes:

*Overture* by Lee Maloney (organ) and Tim Tegge (drums); Mike Clark's wild animals (lions); The Crissens (Phillipe and Chris) aerial cradle; the Aguilar's perch; Cimse's Rus-

sian Wolfhounds; Ethel Joyce's greyhounds; Tegge and Sicard, musical clown number; Jackie Althoff's chimps; Christianna (Chris Crissen) globe and sword balancing; Ethel Joyce, sword balancing; Vickinas (five people risley and teeterboard); Intermission.

*Aerial Ballet* (2 webs) with Phillipe on the single trapeze; Althoff's Bears; Marguerette Michelle, hair hang; Tegge and Sicard, magic production; Bill Morris' Hollywood Elephants; Finale.

Miguel Ayala, opens the second half with his tightwire act.

The show closes on June 26th at Port aux Basques.

## PEOPLE

**STEVE McPEAK**, high wire daredevil, was given a six months prison term for violating local rules, when he got married on a cable 700 ft. above the Colorado River.

# PEOPLE

**MURILLO & ULISES**, balancing act, and **MISS LUISA**, hula hoop sensation, have been signed to appear on a TV special in Hannover, Germany and Milano, Italy. The booking was handled by MIA of Las Vegas.

**DAVE "Skinhead" LEWIS**, the Highland, Mich., clown, MC'd the 4 to 6 year old Miss Charm Pageant in Keggo Harbor on June 5. He is also scheduled to do the 7 to 9 year old pageant this month. Dave is slowing down on his activity as he is scheduled for a quadruple bi-pass operation.

**BOB and LOU STODDARD** and **JAMES "Jimbow" DECKER** worked the De Soto (Texas) County Fair earlier this month.

**NICK BRADLEY** (Nicola the clown) a recent Ringling Clown College graduate and **DONALD "Ajax" PERRYMAN** are working the 1983 season at Sasame Place in Irving, Texas.

**TOM "Bunky" HARMON** clowning at the AAFES (Army Air Force Exchange Service) carnival in Dallas, Texas, on June 11th.

**PAUL WISSLER** spent the weekend of June 10-12 visiting on the Carson & Barnes Circus in Northern California.

**JIM MORAN**, husband of wild animal trainer **KAY ROSAIRE**, has been working the cat act with American Continental Circus when Kay flies to Florida to be with her mother who has been undergoing extensive surgery.

**OLIVER BEAHR**, a surgeon at the Mayo Clinic, in Rochester, Minn., credits his interest in magic as an aid in his medical work. He worked his way through medical school by doing magic shows.

**W. C. GOUDY**, of New Martinsville, W. Va. operated a "10 in 1 Show" with the Leo Washburn's Trained Wild Animal Show for about 5 years. Since then he has operated a car repair shop in his home town.

**SCOTT RIDDLE** was the subject of an article in the Los Angeles (Calif.) Examiner on March 13, 1983, called "The Elephant Man" which tells of his experience with elephants in both zoos and circuses.

**THE SENSATIONAL LEIGHS** will have their space wheel act at the Bavarian Festi-

val, Barnesville, Pa., from July 1 to 10.

**JOHNNY ZOPPE** is planning a new rigging for his twin rocket ship aerial act which he expects to have ready for the 1984 season.

**THE FLYING LARRAYS**, flying trapeze, **CRISTIANI's Elephants** and **JOSIP MARCAN's lions and tigers**, are reportedly appearing at Fantasy Island near Buffalo, NY for the summer season.

## Circus Kudos

(from Zoe Lighty's "People Around Rodeo" column in the West County Times, of June 14, 1983. Contra Costa County, Calif.)

Congratulations to Steve Palmer and all of the members of the Rodeo Chamber of Commerce for bringing an exciting circus to Rodeo! It was certainly a treat for children of all ages and gave families an opportunity to share a wonderful day together.

The Soroptomists of Carquinez Strait served a delicious pancake breakfast to start off the day at the circus. Events like these help people in our community to grow closer.

(The circus was Carson & Barnes which played Rodeo, Calif. on June 5th).

### THE COSTUMER By Philip Morris



## At St. Louis

by NOEL ROBERTS

The 41st annual Moolah Temple Shrine Circus in St. Louis, Mo., was held June 7-10 at Busch Memorial Stadium. The circus was produced by the Coronas Circus.

The program started with the Moolah Temple Shrine Units grand entry and national anthem. Next was a circus musical opening overture with David Pryum conducting.

The program continued with the following features in a 9 ring presentation:

George and Serge Coronas, gyro wheels; Alan Gold, lions and tigers; Andre's Serengeti lions; The Flying Rodriguez, double wide flying trapeze; Teddy Balance, Bovay, bars, Valla, unicycles, Tram-Peters, trampoline, Zamperla, unicycles, Playboy, wire, Robert Williams, juggling; The Abulet Bros. on high wire and Gran Mar, high wire; Cucciolo, comedy trampoline; Ermes, juggling, Marco Polo, Baron, perch, Rolling globes, Helena, perch, Bovay, rola bola, Rodriguez, trampoline; Serge Coronas Motorcycle Duo; Clowns; Karin, elephant, Inga's Chows, Robert, pony, Dressage, Wells, ponies, Steven's poodles, Whitey, elephant; Clowns; Scott's Unrideable Mule "Nebraska"; Rodriguez girls, triple hair hang; Erna's Chimps; Horton's Bears; Steven's baboons; Jay Cochrane,

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Musical Overture; Aerial fire dive; Scott's comedy Boxer dogs; Paublo, cradle duo; Bertini, perch, Baron, trapeze, Tony, cradle; Napoleone's Roman Riders, bareback riding; Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla; Clowns; Cristiani elephants, Diano elephants, Gee Gee elephants; Jay Cochrane, slide for life; David Smith, cannon act; Coronas Rocket Cannon act; Dave Merrifield, helicopter trapeze and fireworks.

Col. Lucky Larabee was the ringmaster.

## Circus Book Sale

Gargantua - Plowden (Special)	\$ 3.50
My Wild Life - Ivan Tors . . . .	3.95
(special)	
It Was Better Than Working ..	14.95
Bev. Kelly	
I Loved Rogues - Lewis . . . . .	12.95
Step Right Up - McNamara . . .	12.95
Old Time Circus Cuts - Fox SB	4.50
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## IN RESPONSE

In response to the article about Earl Michael, let it be known that in as much as he enjoyed the publicity, it should be said that yes, he wants to be the "best" at his profession. Earl would be the first not to "blow his own horn" with comments referring to putting anyone else below him.

As long as Ernie McLean is the ringmaster, he will always be on the Texas Shrine dates.

Knowing Earl and having worked with him, he has been a pro, a conscientious ringmaster and complimentary of all acts. Anyone speaking other than kindly of Earl would not know him close enough to make a correct judgement.

I am not a performer, nor a Circus Fan, but having mutual friends who are in the business, I think we can all agree to Earl's expertise in the center ring as "ringmaster."

B. & B. Kubik

## Show Notes

THE MAGIC CAPADES road show, featuring Dennis Loomis, is going back on the road again after a three year lay-off.

Mr. Loomis and his beautiful wife, Annette have been doing school assembly programs.

Loomis says he thinks the time is right, but will operate with a "low nut" by staying closer to home and not criss-crossing the country as he did before. The show is set to open on July 8th.

## Elephant Day

Some might call it elephantmania, but it received the official nod of the city of Westminster, Calif., when council members voted unanimously to designate June 18th as Elephant Day.

The move came at the suggestion of the Westminster Elephant Museum Committee, which is seeking grass-roots support for the museum.

A fund raising event is planned for that day with tentative arrangements calling for rides on an elephant, a walk-a-thon and an auction of elephant memorabilia.

All money collected will help to provide display cases for the collection of elephant data that has been donated to the city by Dr. Jack Adams, a Westminster resident.

The City Council voted to provide \$5000 for the cost of security for the exhibit, temporarily housed at the 17th Street School.

## PEOPLE

LEN HUMPHRIES wishes to thank all of his friends in show business for their cards and get well wishes, following his major surgery and time spent recuperating at his home in Toronto, Ontario.

A special thanks goes to Canadian Circus friends, Shirley Stencill, producer of Martin & Downs Circus under the big top, and also to Al Stencill, producer of Super Circus International, indoor dates.

# Roberts Bros. Circus

by *GEORGE C. BINGAMAN*

Roberts Bros. Circus played Newport, Pa., for the local Grange on June 19th, at the Perry County Fairgrounds with two performances, 2 and 4 p.m., while enjoying two strawhouses next door to the County's craft festival.

The 1982 season program tops last year's in quality and diversity. Improvements are marked in two major areas. Numerous three ring displays spotted the performances with juggling, swinging ladders, dogs, ponies and special skills. Joe Myers' clowning was augmented by J-Jo the Clown who gave support to the buffoonery department a big plus.

Lalo Murillo, a veteran catcher in Ringlings Flying Gaonas, dazzled with his amazing spinning tops, a rare skill seldom seen in this decade and especially appreciated by rural and suburban customers for whom Roberts Bros. gears its splendid family show.

Kalimar & Company provided super magic in his flamboyant entertaining style while doubling as ringmaster.

The Stephens added class with Yvonne's classy canine capers and Frosty the Wonder Pony with Miss Leanne starring aloft on the single trapeze and Roman rings.

The Fairchilds with Bobby's sword balancing on ladder and Sonya's stunning beauty on Spanish web and silver strand contributed substantially to a beefed-up '82 program.

Christopher and Dorito closed with dramatic aerial cradle. Jeff Earl, Mr. Everything for Roberts Bros., presented dogs and Lisa the ponderous pachyderm.

Bob and Doris Earl keep this tented circus alive and well for America's hinterlands.

Don't miss this fine tenter in your area!

Photos with this report were taken by the writer and are identified as:

- 1 - Lalo (drums), Checkers (organ), Kalamar (ringmaster).
- 2 - Yvonne's Classy Canine Capers
- 3 - Strawhouse
- 4 - Elephant Skin Dog Midway
- 5 - Jo-Jo and Joe Myers
- 6 - Jeff Earl and Company
- 7 - Frosty, the Wonder Pony and Yvonne
- 8 - Tammy, Miss Leanne, Sonya



1



5



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# Reid Bros.

by Dr. DAVID E. REID

This will supplement Ralph Henderson's review of the Reid Bros. Circus as it appeared in CR on June 6th.

I caught their last date at Albany, Ore. on June 1st, when they played at the Linn County Fairgrounds Arena. The sponsor at this date was the Albany Elks Lodge.

Due to building restrictions the flying act and the sway pole act were set up outdoors and the Les Blocks high wire rigging was left down. In its stead, Alain did an inclined wire walk.

The sword balance number mentioned in the previous review was performed by Alain who is one of the Blocks. I have been going to circuses since 1915 and this is one of the

best, if not the best, balancing acts I have ever seen - wire, ladder, trapeze, what have you. Truly outstanding. I last saw the act several years ago when he only worked on the ladder. He told me he's had the wire routine for about 5 years now.

Cathy Rogers took over as announcer about 10 or 12 days before they came in here and she does a good job.

Mrs. Reid told me they had some weather difficulties in Montana but managed to survive them. I gathered from her conversation though that it did affect business.

I believe this was probably the best production the Reids have put together. All the acts were good, worked fast and were well costumed. The physical features of the show were good, ring curbs painted well, good sound system and good lighting.

# PEOPLE

**CHAPPIE FOX**, circus historian and author of several circus books, recently celebrated his 70th birthday at a party at Circus World Park in Florida.

**EDDIE the Clown (Dinford)** of Sandusky, Ohio, is in the hospital and would enjoy cards and letters which can be sent to him at: Medical College of Ohio Hospital, Room 4134, Toledo, Ohio.

# Hamid-Morton

by GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

George A. Hamid, Jr.'s 1983 Hamid-Morton Circus presented the 36th annual Zembo Shrine production in Harrisburg's (Pa) Farm Show Arena, April 11-17, giving the local patrons a great dose of chills and thrills as large crowds broke the all-time attendance records in State Capitol land.

The program had an international theme, featuring new acts from Argentina and Morocco. The Gauchos brought the Argentine Pampas to the crowds featuring electrifying flashes and beats of bolos (boliabara), drum, swords and dance with the Flamenco-flair of bounding boots. The Tangier Troupe featured eight (8) amazing Arabian acrobats who tumbled and flipped into your hearts and took you aloft in fantastic human pyramids. Well done, Ahmed, Abdull, Hassan, Mohammed, Hassan, Aziz, Branim and Hammad!

A striking contemporary novelty was the opening slide for life by E. T. himself, via Eddie Ventura who continues to perform in outer space as he ships over from rocket car to cradle.

The Pueyrronedons brought outstanding perch to the international diversity of the program featuring a spin of death, a double-revolving with a cross-frame.

Plenty of animals were displayed. John Cox's opening twelve tigers and one male lion. Wallen's eight spunky liberty prancing ponies. The former Elkins Sisters as the Fabulous Darnells mixed beauty, magic and marvelous poodles and afghans. Darryl Wallen's Mr. Rythm. Ben DeWayne's fine ponderous pachyderms.

The Flying Vasquez completed their triple, a 1½ full twist with a forward somersault, a full-twisting backward somersault and a double passing leap. A great foursome, Goldie, Ryan, Telicio and Gordon.

The 1983 edition justified its three-ringer logo with two steller displays, one in juggling, The DeWaynes, The Dieters and The Patricks; the other later via The Olivers (hat juggling), Pat Davison (rola bola climaxing with board over the rolling ball!) and The Navarros (sword balancing).

Master producing clown Gene Randow supervised the buffoonery while excellent back-up music was provided by a group of

nine windjammers including four trumpets, two saxophones, one trombone, one guitar and a drummer.

Earl Michaels, Hamid's established ringmaster, provided the vocals "Let's Begin" as the show opened with a great flair featuring three lighted ring curbs, red and blue ornamental string lights accentuated by two breath-taking bomb blasts.

The program of displays: Introductions; National Anthem; Overture; E. T. slid-for-life, Eddie Ventura; Cox's tigers and lion; Senor Vinicio, Senora, head balancing; the Pueyrronedons, perch; Wallen's Prancing Ponies; The Juggling DeWaynes; The Dieters; The Patricks; King Arthur and Goldie, comedy on the high wire; The Gauchos; Clowns; The Fabulous Darnells; Clowns; The Flying Vasquez; The Olivers; Pat Davison; The Navarros; The Tangier Troupe; Los Galambos; The Eddies (cradle); Mr. Rythm; Clowns; Hawthorn Elephants; The Great Wiregard.

Pictures with this article, provided by the writer, are identified as:

- 1 - DeWayne's Elephants (Hawthorn)
- 2 - La Gauchos
- 3 - King Arthur and Goldie
- 4 - The Flying Vasquez
- 5 - Mr. Rythm

## The Acts

Acts pictured in the 1983 program book of the "All American Circus" which just recently completed a tour in Southern California were:

Mlle. Ruth, single trapeze; Col. Seabri ght, sway pole; Jorge Barreda, lions; Ken Willer, one finger stand/balancing; The Ferges Troupe, trampoline; The Aerial Jordelos; Duo Winn, aerial motorcycle; The Saxons, juggling/unicycle; The Painters, comedy; Sheila Winn, slide for life; The Willettys, juggling; The Jordelos, rolling globes; Sebastian's Poodles; Moore's Mongrel Revue; The Flying Rodriguez; Richard St. John, cloud swing.

John Regis was the show's ringmaster/announcer and George Goulding was the circus organist.



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## PEOPLE

**WOOD FAMILY SHOWS** Pride of Wild Jungle Killers, mixed African lions and Royal Bengal Tigers, presented by Bill and Ann Cramer, are appearing for the 1983 season at Great Escape Fun Park, Lake George, N. Y., booked through the Tibor Alexander Agency.

Wood Family Shows are back for the third year at Bob-Lo Island Amusement Park, one of the largest parks in the Ontario and Michigan area.

Wood Family operate a three acre themed Petting Zoo and Stage Show with 250 animals and birds.



5

This is a novel (282 pages) set partially in Gibsonton and revolving around the world of hucksters and scam artists. Written by Hob Broun (son of broadcaster Heywood Hale Broun and grandson of journalist Heywood Broun) presents the seamy underside of the American Dream.

The story is peopled with enough human curiosities to satisfy even the most insatiable side show enthusiast. If you know "Gibtown" you may recognize some of the characters. Step right up ladies and gentlemen and have your morbid curiosity satisfied.

## New Book

by MARJORIE HACKETT

"ODDITORIUM" by Hob Broun, Published by Harper & Row. Cost: \$14.95.

## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

The 1983 edition of Bahia Temple Shrine Circus (Orlando) was held for the first time in the brand new Orange County Convention and Civic Center west of Orlando. The circus, produced by George and Larry Carden, ran for three days, starting Apr. 22nd with two shows at 4 and 8 p.m. Three on Apr. 23, at 10 a.m., 2 and 8 p.m. and shows at 1 and 5 p.m. on Apr. 24th. This is a multi-purpose complex, but so new that no provisions had been installed for guying out the aerial rigging. The Cardens, therefore, at their own expense had to drill and install threaded inserts into the concrete so that the various acts' eyebolts could be put in with which to guy out!

No reserved seats were sold for these performances but maybe after this shake down cruise that could all change. What is good about it is that no longer will shows have to cancel out (as in the old Tangerine Bowl) because of inclement weather (which as you have read here, we've had a lot of, especially

## Two

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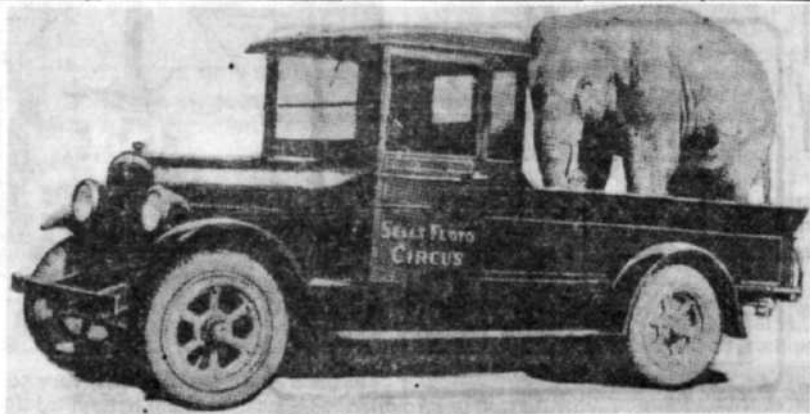
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this past winter).

Much of the talent was booked by Gunnar Amandis' agency in Sarasota. David Hackett drove to the show by himself as he was anxious to see the new building. The following acts were there: Rosie (formerly of the Rodos troupe, who now own and operate the Old Heidelberg restaurant in Sarasota) came out of retirement to fill in for Mrs. Winn, opening the show with a slide for life. Ada Smieya with her cage act. Dianne on single trap, Deliah, cloud swing, Edmondos, cradle, comedy trapeze by Grinn & Barrett. Two rings of ponies by George and Katherine Hanneford. Great Hans, inclined wire walk, In 3 rings, Antonio, perch with Grancescam, Morale, juggling (foot), Aguilar, perch. The clowns, Danny Chapman and two assistants. George Hanneford Riding Act. Wallenda high wire act, Intermission.

Rix polar bear act, Clowns, Balancing in 3 rings by The Vickinas, Karl, Bertini, Annie & Her Soldier, fantasy, Aerial by the Cortez Family Flyers, Clowns, Monika, slack wire and Valla, slack wire, hand balancing by Pedro, Clowns, George Hanneford, elephants, Winn motorcycle daredevils. The show ran about 2 hours and 40 minutes with intermission time.



The above photo appeared in the "New York American" newspaper of New York City on May 8, 1927. It was part of an advertising campaign for the Sells Floto Circus and the makers of Graham Bros. G-Boy Trucks. The idea was to publicize the circus as well as show that the trucks were "built to carry things of all sorts quickly and economically."

## East Coast News

by FRANK ROBIE

Hoxie Tucker was badly injured on June 5, at Geneva, NY, by the elephant Jennie. It is reported that Hoxie suffered a broken pelvis (4 places) and is bruised from head to foot. Further details were lacking. Cards can be sent to him at: Geneva Hospital, Geneva, N. Y., where he is recovering.

Chateau Madrid, Hotel Lexington, NYC, has closed its doors for the last time. After 25 years the night club has shown its last revue and shut off its lights. The hotel is rumored to have been sold to Playboy, Inc., and perhaps a bigger and better showroom will be built. The well known South American producer Hector San Juan had framed the final show called "Latino Royale" starring the juggling genius of Michael Chirrick. After a brief rest, Mr. Chirrick will go to the Chateau Champlain in Montreal.

Mr. John Pugh visited the Ringling Red Unit and talked with Tiny Phillips. He reported that business had been unusually good so far this season despite the bad weather. Frank Ball, prominent Washington lawyer, caught Beatty-Cole in Middleton, NY, as did Henry Bush, the Albert Rix Family, Tiny Phillips and other NJ circus fans. The Middleton lot at the fairgrounds was rocky and slopey and elsewhere it was soggy. The show had two good crowds in spite of rain in the evening with water cascading thru center ring and lightning flashes seen thru the tent above the bail rings.

Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Wilkie, of Boswell-Wilkie's Circus, Johannesburg, So. Africa, visited the Ringling Red Unit and Gunther Gebel-Williams. The Wilkie's were on a talent search and were headed for Europe. Mr. Wilkie stated that wild animals are hard to come by in South Africa and that his last batch of lions were shipped in by a breeder in England.

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Lewis Bros. Circus played a few dates in NJ, Pa. and NY. Business is reportedly good and they are making the payroll every week. The show carries a hippo tank but has not yet purchased the animal. Two Clydesdale horses were recently purchased to team up with a trained pony. The equipment looks good and is painted white with red lettering done by Ozzie Schleentz and John Lewis doing the pictorial art work. The concession trailer is so highly decorated it could pass for a parade wagon. The side show equipment has a flatbed trailer of uncertain lineage in appearance, but the side show presents a very fine appearance with banner line and balley stand and flags. The snake show also has a banner line, with banners and flags.

(Continued on Next Page)

# Show Notes

by ED PHILLIPS

Robert Cline, "Little Bobby" has rejoined Capt. Fred Logan's bull crew as an elephant handler after an absence of four years from the Beatty-Cole scene. He arrived at the invitation of management during the June 3 Burlington, NJ, stand looking very fit.

Fred Logan, elephant superintendent, returned to a full schedule of work including four appearances in the show at the Brick Township, NJ date on May 27th. Capt. Logan was hospitalized and underwent surgery in Norristown, Pa., on May 16th.

Visiting the show on the Atlantic City lot were John Lewis and Pete "the tramp". Pete related his famous tale about manager Art Branning and the Cleveland mission. Robert Goulet also visited on May 25th. He was honorary ringmaster for the matinee performance.

Father John G. Toner conducted Mass in the big top at 10 a.m. on June 5th. Over 25 circus personnel attended the service. Coordinating the event were Dave, Lois and George Hoover. Alice Harris was acapella vocalist.

# PEOPLE

THE YOUNG FLYING VALENCIAS, flying act, were featured on TV's "That's Incredible" on June 24th. Next month they'll be in Hongkong and this fall they will work the Texas Shrine dates. Bookings were handled by MIA of Las Vegas.

MYNA MOON, former circus aerialist and single trapeze star, has been teaching Yogo in the Dallas (Texas) area. She is also putting a magic show together for cruise ship programs.

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## EAST COAST NEWS (Continued)

Besides a cook house the show carries a grease joint trailer which handles hot coffee, cold drinks and grilled items. A sausage and roll was \$2.00 and a really great grilled hot dog with plenty of fried onions was \$1.00.

Charlie White is vacationing on the Lewis show. A very strong staff should keep this show rolling with Johnnie Walker, Pete the Tramp, Dickey Palmer, Josie Diaz, Billy Griffin, and their years of experience ought to bring success.

The Ringling show reported good business so far on both units. The Garden date was slow and seemed under par.



## SNOWDEN TRINIDAD CIRCUS SUCCESS

Trinidad's first indoor circus-type show was staged by Robert Snowden at the Port of Spain Spectacular Forum Bldg. May 20 thru 29, receiving heavy and enthusiastic press coverage.

Cast, besides producer/director Snowden, consisted of Hollywood's Stunt Action Demo Team and Fire Manipulators, comprised of Kim Kahana, Debbie Kahana, Irene Plante, Joe Witherell, Thomas Dewier and Richard Sumogishi; Gilda and Lucio Cristiani, leopard act; clown Danny Chapman; Andre & Ree Schweizer with their Playboy and Bunny wire act and their famous Marco Polo hand balancing classic; Ken Sherburne, unicycles, rolling globes and other feats of dexterity extraordinary; Karl Linares, poodle revue with Doggie Wedding; the sensational acro-dancing Gladney Brothers; Lipko & Co. funny chimps; aerial artistry of Cherie Barnes and Debra and Stephanie Chapman; Amazing Armondo's master juggling routines; showgal Lynette Pellissier from Las Vegas with Ree Schweizer as ringmistress and music under the direction of Charles Schlarbaum, assisted by Richard Groller

## School Feature

by JIM MOYER

The Oak View Elementary School (Fairfax, Va.) celebrated National Fitness and Sports month by presenting its 15th annual physical education show before a large and appreciative audience at the Oak View gym.

Oak View students demonstrated a variety of fitness, acrobatic and circus activities, including tumbling, balancing, juggling, rope jumping, pyramids, gymnastics, plate and rope spinning, rhythmic dances, stilt walking, unicycling, rolling globe, parachute dances, German gym wheels, circus bicycle, chair and table balancing, Roman ladders and contortion.

The show was presented under the direction of the Oak View physical education teachers Jim Moyer and Cheryl Thompson.

and Lee Reynolds.

Indeed, I feel personally honored by the efforts of the Little Rock, Ark., I.B.M. (magicians) Ring, the efforts of one of their stalwarts - Logan Pritchett for dignifying my venerable circus-variety-TV specialty stint called "Capers with Papers."

After years of professional performances in the lighter vein, even having been categorized by agents and producers in the juggler vein, I feel that I have at long last arrived! Around July 15th, "Professor" Hal Haviland (Prof. of magic, that is) will conduct a lengthy seminar on the highly specialized art of "conjuring with paper" as some of our British associates would put it.

At this writing, the exact date and location in Little Rock has not been set for the paper act seminar. Tickets will be on sale soon to all interested magicians, conferees and aficionados.

## PEOPLE

THE SIKORSKY's, from Baltimore, Md., were featured in a recent Nissan-Datsun commercial, which was filmed at Wild World Amusement Park, in Largo, Md. The ad featured "Wild Sales."

The Sikorsky's, Al and Larry, were joined by their brother, Tom, who hasn't performed with them for some time, and the commercial showed them juggling, riding their unicycles and globes. Tom fire ate in the commercial.

The commercial, actually, three different versions, are being shown on TV nationally, having been released on May 18th.

Also shown in the commercial were clowns and stilt-walkers, also provided by TAL World-Wide Productions, Inc. (The Sikorsky's company) as well as the University of Maryland gymnastic troupe, show girls and the Wild World performing elephants.