

# CIRCUS REPORT

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OUR 12th YEAR

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TKT STUDIOS

THE RIANOS DUO

# Show Dates

## Carden Circus

Apr. 8 Amarillo, Texas

## Carson & Barnes Circus

Apr. 1 Jacksonville, Tex.  
2 Longview

## Castle/Zerbini Circus

Mar. 31-Apr. 3 Seattle, Wash.  
Apr. 8-17 Columbus, Ohio

## Chipperfield/Cottle Circus

to Apr. 10 Hongkong

## Circus Coronas

Apr. 1-10 Marietta, Ga.  
15-17 Monroe, La.

## Circus Vargas

Mar. 31-Apr. 4 Alhambra, Ca.  
Apr. 5-7 Santa Monica  
8-11 Northridge  
12-14 Simi Valley

## Easter Circus

Mar. 26-Apr. 3  
Santa Clara, Calif.

## Hamid-Morton Circus

Apr. 4-9 Wilkes-Barre, Pa.  
11-17 Harrisburg

## Hubler Int'l Circus

Apr. 9-10 Springfld, Ohio

## Lewis Bros. Circus

Apr. 1 Valdosta, Ga.

## M & M Circus

Apr. 12-17 Sioux City, Ia.

## Olympic Int'l Circus

Apr. 13-17 Nashville, Tenn.

## Oscarian Bros. Circus

Mar 18-20 Maitland, Fla.  
22 Chiefland  
25-27 Perry

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Mar. 29-Apr. 10  
Washington, DC

## Ringling-Barnum - Red

Mar. 29-June 5  
New York, NY

## Roller Bros. Circus

Apr. 2-3 San Antonio, Tex.  
4 Jordanton

## Royal Hanneford Circus

Mar. 29 Ann Arbor, Mich.  
30 Adrian  
31 Jackson  
Apr. 2 Port Huron

## Shrine Circus

Apr. 14-17 Tacoma, Wash.

## --- MAGIC ---

### Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Apr. 2 Bigerville, Pa.  
4 Chambersburg  
5 Carlisle  
7 Sniremanstown  
8 Sanbury  
9 Ephrata  
11 Brockway  
12 Williamsport  
13 Towanda  
15 Taylor

## Felix Snipes

Apr. 1-2 Louisville, Ky.  
8-10 Brenham, Tex.

## --- OTHER DATES ---

Bruce Anderson - Sway Pole  
Apr. 8-17 Redlands, Calif.

Blackjack Round-Up  
Apr. 10-13 Reno, Nev.

Carnival Time Shows  
Apr. 8-17 Redlands, Calif.

Disney Great Ice Odyssey  
Apr. 5-10 Peoria, Ill.  
12-17 Chattanooga, Tn.

Disney World on Ice  
Mar 29-Apr 3 Dallas, Tex.  
Apr. 5-10 New Orleans, La.  
12-17 Okla. City, Okla.  
- End of Tour -

James H. Drew Exposition  
Apr. 4-16 Augusta, Ga.

Film Festival  
Apr. 13-24 San Fran, Calif.

'Doc' Scott's Medicine Show  
Apr. 1 Sherman, Tex.

2 Durant, Okla.  
4 Sulphur  
5 Cleburn, Texas  
6 Gonzales  
7 Laredo  
8 Kerrville  
9 Lampasas  
10 Belton  
11 Gatesville  
12 Hillsboro  
13 Waxachie  
14 Weatherford  
15 Stephenville

Trick Roper's Convention  
Apr. 16-17 Auga Dulce, Ca.

## Detroit Anniversary

The year is 1906. There's a new show opening at the Light Guard Armory (Detroit, Mich.) featuring the Flying Fadettes, Prof. Schepp's Ponies and Dogs, Francis Ferrari's Dancing Bear, equestrians Homer and Estelle Hobson, a drill team by the Arab Patrol of the Moslem Shrine Temple, the local Shrine clowns and the Five Flying Decomas, plus carnival games.

More than 3,000 people attended that first Moslem Shrine Circus, a one-ring affair. Detroiters didn't know it then, but the 25c the people paid to get into the show helped to start a tradition. The show, held to raise funds to send a Shrine group to a convention, made so much money that funds were left over to support the Shrine hospital. This event inspired Shriners all across the country to start their own fund raising programs.

Now, 75 years later, the Detroit Shriners are still putting on their annual circus. Since 1925 the show has been held at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum. Now the largest of all Shrine Circuses it is estimated that more than 11.2 million people have attended the circus over the years. Last year more than 5 million attended.

While other forms of entertainment have changed drastically, the circus remains much the same. Lions, elephants, glamorous girls on the trapeze, clowns, they're all there.

The Shrine Circus is celebrating that tradition this year with a "Diamond Jubilee Extravaganza," highlighted by the launching of the Shrine Circus Gallery of Stars, a memorabilia exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Among this year's attractions are: The Backstreet Flyers, an all black-act from New York; The Garza Brothers, Living Statues in a balancing act; Mike Phillips and Patricia, space-age illusionists; Gaylord Maynard and his drunken horse Chief Bearpaw; Douglas MacValley and his motorcycle Globe of Death.

In the adjoining Agricultural Building there will be elephant rides, clown make-up demonstrations, side show novelty acts, a petting zoo and a circus memorabilia exhibit.

The Shrine Circus Gallery of Stars will pay tribute to circus greats whose talents helped elevate the genre from mere dog and pony show to an enduring art form. It will be in-

stalled at the Masonic Temple next January, featuring photos, plaques and mementos of circus history. In the meantime thirteen circus greats have been installed into the Gallery of Stars.

The Honorees are: Russell Pearce, the first circus chairman; Fred Bradna, ringmaster; Merle Evans, bandmaster; Struppi Hanneford, aerialist and animal trainer; The Riding Davenport, riding act; Clyde Beatty, wild animal trainer; Antoinette Concello, aerialist; Mickey King, aerialist; The Wallendas, high wire artists; The Nelson Family, acrobats; Emmett Kelly and Shorty Flem, circus clowns; Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball and Cheerful Gardner, elephant man.

In the early years there was really no competition. The circus was held in the winter, a boon to circus performers who otherwise had no work at that time of year.

The Detroit circus brought together stars who might not ever have worked together otherwise. German trapeze performer Struppie came to the circus as the Indian Princess Tajana in 1955, considered by many to be the greatest single trapeze artist of all time. Here she met and married Tommy Hanneford, a 6th generation circus performer and bareback rider. Several years later Struppi fell, sustaining a serious shoulder injury, but determined to stay in the circus she became an animal trainer and returned to Detroit as a tiger trainer.

Nowadays she does most of the book keeping and veterinary work. She enjoys coming back and says, "Coming back to Detroit always means so much to me."

Since 1976, she and Hanneford have had their own circus and have been awarded contracts for many of the nation's Shrine circus presentations.

Bandmaster Merle Evans, who worked for the Detroit Shrine Circus for 11 years (1928-1939) has a soft spot in his heart for circus of the past. "They put on great shows in those days," The acts are good today, but not as good as they used to be. I remember Lillian Leitzel, she was fantastic. She was just a little thing, but a great performer. In those days there were great performers like Alfredo Cadona and clowns like Emmett Kelly.

MOMENTS in Detroit Shrine Circus History:

(Continued on Page 8)

# PEOPLE

BRUCE ANDERSON, sway pole act, worked with the 'American Amusements' carnival in Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 4-14, and will be with 'Carnival Time Shows' in Redlands, Calif., Apr. 8-17.

## Clown Photography

by WILLIAM WOTSCH

When the Moscow State Circus appeared in Cleveland, Ohio, about 1965, the clowns had a number that brought some real laughs from the audience.

Before the show they would take some pictures of people in the audience and then in a room we had set up for them as a dark-room they would develop and enlarge the pictures.

Later, during the show, they used a large imitation camera to take photos, then with much todo, they'd remove the actual photo and give it to the person who had been photographed.

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### DETROIT ANNIVERSARY (Continued)

1928 - Lillian Leitzel, executed 102 backward swings and was hailed as "the human pinwheel."

1936 - Carpenters are called in to build an extra long bed at the Fort Wayne Hotel for circus giant, Clifford Thompson, who was 9 ft. 1 in. tall.

1937 - Antoinette Concello, a member of The Flying Concellos, becomes the first woman in history to execute a triple somersault

1938 - Capt. Clarence Phoenix presented the first high dive from the rafters of the Coliseum to a small net below.

1942-1945 - The fairgrounds is taken over by the Army and the Shrine Circus closes in Detroit.

1954 - Clyde Beatty's famous spinning tiger is killed in an arena fight.

1962 - The Great Wallenda's 7-high pyramid on the high wire collapses, killing two people. Two days later they are performing again.

1966 - Aerialist Louis Murillo is seriously injured when he falls from the high wire at almost the same spot as where the Wallendas fell.

## Seattle Report

by BETTY BARTHOLOMEW

When the spring and summer circus season starts in Seattle, it's like one continuous cookie and lemonade party for the Jack Bell Helen Billetti Tent. The Seattle fans started out by presenting a gigantic bouquet of daffodils to the women with the American Continental Circus on Mother's Day. Then it was a bouquet of carrots for Baby Tarra, the rollerskating elephant and a plate of homemade cookies to her owner Carol Buckley when Hubert Castle Circus was in town.

But the fans wanted to thank all of the people of the circus - performers, workers, personnel and their families. So, now the fans start baking cookies and freezing lemonade as soon as the first circus is due. It is not unusual for them to serve 20-30 dozen cookies and ladle up 20-30 gallons of lemonade at a party for Vargas, Castle, or American Continental circuses.

The question was what to do about Ringling with their vast number of people? The fans decided on a hospitality booth. Previously there had been some individual gestures such as presenting Gunther Gebel-Williams with a T-shirt that bore a picture of Gunther hugging his leopard and the words "Love Me, Love My Cat." They also presented a basket of fruit and a box of homemade cookies to a member of the Bulgarian teeterboard troupe who had been injured. This was a special moment for all concerned for even with the language gap, the smiles and tears on both sides was a sure indication that friendship knows no international boundaries or language barriers. They even arranged a soccer match between Ringling Blue and the crew of a British nuclear

submarine. It took almost a day of ship-to-shore telephoning but the results were a successful game and headlines in a local paper stating "Ringling Tigers Sink Submarine Sailors."

But the fans still wanted to make everyone on the Ringling show feel they were personally being welcomed. They finally came up with the idea of a hospitality booth. Here the circus people would receive information on the location of laundries, grocery stores, post office, etc. They could find out what ethnic restaurants were nearby, their menu, prices and if they had entertainment. Directions to these and also to the nearest park, soccer field, and other tourist attractions were shown on maps and fans even offered to drive groups to different locations.

No matter whether it is a cookie and lemonade party (which many circus people now look forward to each year) or a hospitality booth, the Seattle tent finds some way to say to the people of the circus "Welcome, we are glad you are here."

But the important thing is that the events are for ALL the people of the circus and not just a select few. Also the Jack Bell-Helen Billetti Tent adheres to the CFA motto "We Pay As We Go," and does not expect free tickets or special treatment. They go even further with their own tent motto: "Ready to Serve and Seeking No Reward Except the Success of the Circus."

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DON 'Okie' CARR, PAT WHITE, BOBBY and ROSA GIBBS, TIM FRISCOE and DON and MADIE Mc LENNAN are the animal trainers currently traveling with the big Carson & Barnes Circus.

## '83 Plans

by RON MORRIS

Hoxie and Betty Tucker plan to field a single unit for the 1983 season. The tent is appropriately titled Hoxie Bros. & Great American Combined Circus.

Equipment will be pulled from both previous Hoxie units, utilizing the blue and white Great American tent (built by Leaf in '82), along with the Hoxie Bros. bleachers. Seating for approximately 2,500 is mounted on all-aluminum stringers. There are no reserved seats.

All show-owned rolling stock and equipment has been freshly painted by Bob Rawls in a red, white and blue 'Stars & Stripes' theme. Show moves on 13 vehicles.

Key personnel include Allan C. Hill, producer/manager; John Weathersby, boss canvasser; Marie Rawls, office manager (assisted by Dave Hill); Billy Martin, side show manager; Chris Rawls, concessions; Charlie Moyer, leading a four piece band, which this year features the dynamic vocals of chanteuse Noel Price.



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Personnel on the back burner include Jim Raab, general agent; Dale Lawrence, road agent; Vanessa Towne handles the home office in Harrisburg, Pa., although plans are in the works to move the home office to Sarasota in the near future.

Acts for '83 include: Billy Martin, ringmaster, gorilla parody, rola bola; Timmy and Denise Loyal with the Loyal-Repinski Riding Act, plus a cradle routine; the John Dubsky Family, bird fantasy, dressed poodles (20 in all), plus Christina on traps; Bobby and Sonya Fairchild; Hoxie's herd of five elephants; Cindy Price (formerly Cindy Herriott), high school horse, dogs and ponies, cloud swing. Buck Nolan is producing clown along with John 'Egg Roll' Cain.

This year's midway features a pony ride, elephant ride, moon walk and side show.

Allan Hill reports that advance telephone sales "are way above" last year, which he says was the best year ever. "We expect a good season," says Hill.

Perhaps the most interesting feature for visitors to the Hoxie lot will be Hill's sumptuous new living quarters. A brand new 1982 M.C.I. bus, it has been converted by Hoffman Coach Co. of Pennsylvania at a cost of \$250,000.

## They're Married

JOHN HALL, former general manager of Hoxie Bros. Circus, and BARBARA BARTTEE, of Huntington, W. Va., were married on March 6th, at St. Augustine, Fla. The couple are residing in St. Augustine. John owns and operates the Gold & Silver Center at the Palatka Mall in Palatka, Fla.

# Kamala's Circus

by CHARLEY VAN BUSKIRK

Kamala's Circus, produced by Billy and Ivy Gunga, opened it's 5th annual tour on Nov. 6th, at New Wilmington, Pa. Despite the serious economic problems in the area, especially high unemployment in the steel industry, attendance was disturbingly light in only one or two of the western Pennsylvania and northeastern Ohio towns where the show played. The show's best day was its closing in Madison, Ohio, Nov. 14th, where it played to two straw houses.

Billy and Ivy Gunga were co-managers of the operation and Ivy was also in charge of concessions. Music was recorded and Charley Van Buskirk handled the announcing chores.

The program ran as follows: Ivy and Ka-

mala, rolling globes; Art Jennings, illusions; Pat Davison, juggling; The Gunga Sisters, acro-contortion; Sunny Dayze the Magic Clown (Jennings); Angela Wilnow and her Braves, trained collies; Intermission.

The Patricks (Davison), rola bola; Billy Gunga's cocktail glass balancing act; The Cyclonians (Van Buskirk), unicycles.

According to Gunga, a number of sponsors have expressed interest in re-signing for next year and he is also considering a 1983 spring tour.

## PEOPLE

FRANK POWELL will be producing the World Premiere of the motion picture "Modern Day Houdini" which opens in Indianapolis (Ind) on April 14th, at the Eastwood Theatre.

# PEOPLE

THE ESQUEDA's are currently working at Circus Circus in Reno.

DON BRIDWELL (Whizzer the Clown) and RICK LEGG (The Amazing Kelmar) were both subjects of pictorial articles in "Grit" the national news magazines. Articles appeared in the Jan. 9 and Jan. 16th issues.

THE PICADILLY CLOWNS were featured at the "Photo Show International" in San Francisco, Calif., on March 10-13.

ANGELA WILNOW and her Collies start their 1983 season the week of April 4th at the Midtown Mall in Rochester, NY. The

booking was handled by the Michael Bongar Agency, of New York City.

REV. WILLIAM PINDAR, of Philadelphia, Pa., was recently featured in a photo story released nationwide by the Associated Press. He clowns for hospital patients.

## Reptile Show

Monty's Traveling Reptile Show played at the Broadway Shopping Center in Walnut Creek, Calif., March 17-20.

The show offers an opportunity to view a total of 42 reptiles which includes a 30-inch black-beaded lizard, a Leopard tortoise, an American alligator, a Burmese python and a 4 ft. rhinoceros Iguana.

# The Circus

by KEN HOLEHOUSE

The Brown County Arena in Green Bay, Wisc., was filled with circus excitement on the weekend of March 3-6, with the two hour forty minute edition of the 11th annual Shrine Circus. Three brightly painted Carden International semis graced the parking lot of this beautiful arena, as did the usual assortment of trailers, motorhomes, and other assorted trucks and cage wagons.

The performance, with a twenty piece band, directed by Richard Rosio, featured:

Plates, Spec, Bicycles, High Wire with the Wallenda Duo, Eight tigers put through their paces by Harry Thomas, The Golden Sisters, Victoria, Sir Harry and Francarro, Jorge Rosell's comedy car, Perry Trap, Frank and Estrelleta, Cloud Swing, Killer Willard, the Boxing Kangaroo, the Gutty's flying act, Ronald McDonald preceded by a sway pole display.

The second half of the show featured Ron Perry on the slack wire, the Moon with Miss Evelyn, Captain Circus shot out of a cannon and an assortment of animal acts with bears, doves, chimps, elephants, leopards.

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## Circus Visiting

by Circus Joe VALENCIANO

This writer ended 1982 by enjoying an evening performance of the *International All-Star Circus*, which showed at Ft. Myers, Fla. It was sponsored by the local JC's and was presented in the Civic Center to a full house the night of Dec. 20th.

This show had all the right elements for an evening of good entertainment: music was provided by a good sounding five piece band, the lighting was excellent and all of the acts were good with nice wardrobe.

The New Year for circus visits brought Ringling-Barnum Red Unit to the Bayfront Center Arena and I attended on Jan. 4th. It was the first day of the ten day run, for the 113th edition with Gunther Gebel Williams.

Among the top acts were Dolly Jacobs, the Carrillo Bros.; the Fearless Bauers, the Urias Troupe, the Flying Espanas, etc.

During the week that the show played here the TV program P. M. Magazine showed local segments taped earlier on location at the

winter quarters.

Ringling Red has a nice souvenir program this season. Of special interest for the fan, the first nine pages are a historical circus story of the show, titled "Barnum to Ringling to Feld."

The next circus this writer attended was the first annual Shrine Circus in Sarasota, which was produced by the Coronas on Jan. 9th. It was the best Shrine Circus that I have seen in a long time and was a strong production at Roberts Arena.

Jan. 31st, saw Circus Joe on the midway of the very flashy Mighty Blue Grass Shows at the Southwest Florida Fair in Ft. Myers. At the head of this midway was Joe Frisco with his Circus Elephant Ride and under canvas petting zoo.

A week later, on Feb. 8th, this writer saw the large Florida State Fair, where Eddie Zacchini had his good show, under a blue and white striped two pole top.

## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Hoxie Tucker Tent No. 137, CFA were hosted to a meeting and dinner at the Kissimmee home of Jayne and Walt Searfoss on Sunday, Jan. 9th. It is an 88 mile trip to the Kissimmee exit from our home, but Walt provided good directions and we found the house with ease. Some of the guests had already arrived and were in the spacious backyard visiting. We had a prediction of rain but God sent lovely sunshine and breezes instead.

Friends Doris Conn and Tim Miller were assisting the Searfosses in the preparation of tables and the delicious meal of barbecued beef over noodles, green beans, rolls, green salad, mints, coffee and iced tea which we enjoyed very much. The following tent members and guests attended:

Martha and John Pendergrass, Ft. Pierce; Art and Judt Spellman, W. Palm Beach; Sophie and "Chappie" Fox, Winter Haven; John Van Maitre, Winter Haven; Tent President Wayne and wife Marty Scott; Orlando; Russell and Kathryn Ryon, Winter Springs; Bill Ballentine, Groveland; Billy Griffin, Harry Hammond, Edna Antes and Mari Jo Couls, all of DeLand; Ed Jones, CHS National Secretary and wife Jean, Zanesville, Ohio, and the other Marge and Dave team, the Carpenters, Port Huron, Mich., visiting in Florida. Terry O'Brien (former wire act) who lives in Kissimmee chauffeured the Carpenters to this dinner-meeting. Terry is now at Disney's EPCOT and wife Camille is at Disney World.

President Wayne Scott conducted a short meeting after we ate, discussing in particular the up-coming convention of Circus Model Builders at Circus World and then introduced Frank Langely, Winter Park, Circus World Communications Manager. Langely was a TV writer from New York who came to Florida in 1970 for Disney World, later joining Circus World for the Mattel Corp. Mr. Langely told us some of the newer plans for the Circus World Complex including, a 156 ft. high ferris wheel, made in Hamburg, Germany with 26 gondolas, that will each hold 6 people. Also plans for a new restaurant, etc. He gave all of us poster maps and a poster of Circus World.

Terry O'Brien who worked many of the same date as David did when he had the chimps invited us to see his home before we drove away, so accompanied by the Carpenters we enjoyed a tour of his home and looked at some scrapbooks, even some snaps of the Hackett's chimps. Met his charming children and reluctantly left for the drive back to the west coast. Camille was at her job and Terry explained to us that it was his multi-lingual ability that landed him the job at EPCOT.

Just want to mention that Willis "Eck" Lawson donated the wonderful red and white striped canvas tops and hangings that turned Robert's Arena into an intimate European Circus atmosphere for Show Folks Circus. Nice gesture, Eck!

Forgot to say the band music at the Sahib Show was also too loud, horrible!

Milonga (Escalante) Cline called to say she had joined Betty Escalante in Sarasota for Showfolks New Years Eve Party and Gee Gee Engesser's "bash" at Gibsonton the next day. Niece Sandy Escalante who is a film cutter at ABC television in California and just returned from Tahiti visited Milonga in Lakeland, Fla., enroute to Haiti. We enjoyed both Christmas and New Years at home this year.

Next show should be Eddie Zacchini's "free circus" at the Florida State Fair in Tampa.

I would be re-miss if I did not mention all of the wonderful comments received along with the Holiday mail about "From Florida", thank you all, it is good to know that it is enjoyable for you to read this news, plus I have mail from folks I have never met that are readers.

While visiting with Bill Ballantine at Kissimmee, had news of Bobby Kay, whom as a lot of us know has been very ill and hospitalized in Santa Monica, St. John's Hospital. Bill reported that arrangements had been made for a male nurse so that Bobby could leave the hospital and return home to his Long Beach Condominium. We hope he is home, now, as you read this news.

Bill, incidentally, is doing a book jacket for a book written by Bev Kelly, due out soon.

## Circus in Jamaica

by GEORG GOLDSTINE

Recently I had the pleasure of being a guest of the Wallenda's here in Jamaica. I have attended many circuses, but this show was one of the finest I have seen anywhere.

It was a fast-paced show with plenty of excitement and the Jamaican public was left spellbound and the circus performers became celebrities.

The line up of the show as seen here was:

The National Anthem (both Jamaica and America) sung by Patricia Klukow; Razzle Dazzle, clowns, leaps, roman ladders, plate spinning, unicycles, juggling, gorilla, big heads; Johnny Luxem's wheel; Cradle and Hanging Perch (Larry Gill, Mario and Doris, Mike and Valentina); The Wallendas, on high wire; Vashek, motorcycle on incline; The Flying Larrays, flying trapeze; Carla Wallenda, sway pole; Aerial Moons, web; Miss Rietta, rocket; Clowns: Kenny Hertshog, Jim Danner, Mike Brevic, J. P. Theron,

The main feature of the show was Miss Rietta, Goddess of the Galaxy. A whole space production was built around this act.

Including Moons, Darth, Vader, Creatures, Space Guards, Explosions, Lazar rifles, guns, robots, E. T. The special effects in this number undoubtedly took a good deal of time and planning.

## In the mail

from VICTORIA CANNON

I really like your Circus Report and hope you will be able to get back to doing it each week very soon.

Why not do a story about the children in the circus? Maybe something about Tina and Mark Gebel? Another idea would be a story about life on the Ringling train.

When you have book reviews please be sure and give the publisher as well as the author.

Please, keep up the AGVA reports about what is happening on Ringling, we do want to know.

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## Wedding Bells

by FIFI REED

On Feb. 27th, at the Gene Autrey Melody Ranch, Newhall, Calif., two of the west coast's well-known circus performers, Dolores Coronado Hastings and Henry Crowell, were married.

The wedding was planned to be held at the site of the Old Mission on the grounds, but the unseasonal heavy rain changed the setting. The wedding and reception for nearly 150 guests was moved to a huge building that houses countless antique vehicles.

The center was cleared for two rows of decorated tables on either side of a center aisle. That Dolores' trapeze equipment was in place for practice sessions and that the bridal party marched under it to their places for the ceremony, added to the charm of the occasion.

Dolores was attired in a lovely floor length, off-the-shoulder white eyelet gown, white flowers in her hair and carried an unusual antique fan decorated with the same flowers. She came down the aisle to the familiar strains of the traditional wedding march on the arm of her father, Chuck Hastings.

The very beautiful words of the minister as he joined them in Holy Matrimony, had the bride and groom in tears and laughter and many of us sharing those moments, shared the same emotions.

The reception followed and sighted among the guests were circus performers Hunt Bushnell, the Junior and Senior Tegges, Heidi Wendany, Ed Russell, Wini McKay, Chester Cable, and Faye Snyder. CFA's attending were Jane and Jim Conley, of El Segundo, and Fifi and Fred Reed and Joe Rettinger of Phoenix, Ariz.

The bride is a trapeze and web performer and a classical dancer. The groom is a trampoline performer.

## Old route study

The leader of Operation Hannibal is "90% sure" his party has found the route used by Hannibal to cross the Alps and invade Italy in 218 BC.

"There are one or two pieces to fit in the jigsaw yet, and the next stage will be a return trip to France," said Capt. Mungo Melvin, of Edinburgh.

"We hope to do further work there, but the major step will be to re-enact the journey across the mountains with men and elephants in 1985."

Capt. Melvin, 26, an officer in the 39th Engineers Regiment (England) has worked for two years on the riddle of Hannibal's exact route, something that has fascinated generations of military historians, some of whom have formed the privately funded Operation Hannibal.

The great Carthaginian general took 37 elephants and 50,000 men over the Alps from France to engage the Romans, defeating them decisively at Cannae, but ultimately losing the war.

In 1979, Capt. Melvin took an elephant over the passes with his teammate, Wolfgang Zeuner, chairman of the Hannibal Trust, an educational charity.

Capt. Melvin has just undertaken an archaeological survey of the region with two new theories in mind: that Hannibal crossed the River Rhone at Orange instead of at Beaucaire, as is traditionally believed, and that the mountain pass he used was in the region of the Monte Cenis group above L'Ark Valley.

"I don't want to say more than that at this stage because we don't want the area covered with scores of other people before us..." he said.

"We have walked along the river bank for

more than 100 miles talking to local people, checking and cross-checking local traditions and stories. As a result, we believe the crossing point was much further north than the favored place.

"Secondly, we have found concrete evidence about Roman routes over the Alps which have not been published widely but are only about 100 years after Hannibal.

"This is a view supported by French archaeologists, as we have also found some tumuli (burial mounds). We didn't dig these because we did not have full authority, but we believe that if excavated they could hold the final evidence of Carthaginian remains."

Melvin and Zeuner hope to take six elephants and a team of up to 100 people on the re-enactment. Melvin estimates the cost of the re-enactment would run about \$340,000.

## Correction

In writing the article about the wedding of Austin Miles, which appeared in the last issue of CR., the writer made a mistake. The mention of bridesmaid Patti Gilbert should have said she was the wife of Johnny Gilbert.

## PEOPLE

MCDONALD and MABEL SPERRY BIRCH, of Malta, Ohio, have sold their Oriental Fantasy backdrop, from the 40's and 50's touring show, to Rick Legg (The Amazing Kelmar, for inclusion in his "Showtime USA" show. Birch is also acting as a magic consultant to the Kelmar show.

## A Picture Missed

by WILLIAM WOTSCH

When Ringling-Barnum played our Cleveland Arena (Ohio) in 1960, the elephants and horses were kept in a building at the rear of the arena.

A large hole was cut into the east side of the building so the elephants could get in and out, and a canvas was hung across the opening, as protection from the cold. The horses entered via a door on the other side of the building.

Near performance time Hugo Schmitt and his elephant crew would march the elephant herd up a driveway from this old building.

One day as I was snapping pictures as they moved along, Hugo said that later he and an elephant would pose with me for a picture. I thought that would make a great picture for my collection.

Giving my camera to a friend, I instructed him in its operation and then waited for the elephant and Hugo to come. When they arrived, Hugo had the elephant stand on its

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back feet and the two of us posed beneath the elephant as the camera clicked.

Later, when I opened the camera, I found there was no film in it. I had forgotten to load the camera, so I had a picture that was never taken.

## PEOPLE

CECIL NORRIS exhibited his miniature circus at the model railroad show in Vallejo, Calif., the weekend of March 12-13. He is a member of the Yankee Robinson Ring, CMB.

## At the Fla. Fair

by Circus Joe VALENCIANO

The Valenciano family attended the Florida State Fair in Tampa on Feb. 8th. As usual, Eddie Zacchini brought in a very good one hour and 15 minute show under the big top. Acts on the bill were: Walter and Windy, balancing; Frank & Estreleta, hanging perch; Rosaire with his educated horse; the Bertinis, low wire and unicycle acts; Woodcock's elephants (4); the Abulet Bros., high wire, and The Flying Lar-rays. The clowns were Dime and Connie Wilson and Danny Chapman. Music was provided by a good five man band. The circus, a free attraction had standing room only crowds for each performance. It was sponsored by Have-A-Tampa Cigar Co. and Budweiser Beer.

For a circus/carnival fan, this was the place to be in '83.

The midway was just outstanding, truly the largest carnival this writer has ever seen.

The gigantic midway was produced by the Deggeller Attractions, also spotted were trucks and big rides from: World of Wold Shows, Gooding Amusements, Cumberland Valley Shows and the James E. Strates (railroad) Shows.

The midway had over 95 rides and 25 of the big major rides were built in Germany. The names and writings on the rides were in German. It was as if we were looking at a carnival somewhere in Europe.

It was a sparkling, beautiful sight and one very pretty feature high in the sky were 4 "Sky Wheels" (Double-Double Ferris Wheel).

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all standing right in a row at one end of the huge midway.

Other features at the fair besides Country/Western entertainers and the circus were Jim Grogan's "Starship III", a helicopter/trapeze thriller, and a High Diving Show.

Jimmy and Judy Devine had their concession trailer on the midway. Helping them in the trailer were Judy's father and sister. Jose and Millie Diaz. It was a surprise to see them and we said "Hi" to them. Later when we sat down at a McDonald's stand to eat, up came Roger Boyd, Jr., with his wife, Marina, of the Diaz family, with their son. Also Roger's mother. We had a nice long chat.

The day we were there the sky was clear and sunny, but it was on the cool side in the evening. Even though the weather was cool, this writer didn't want to miss the light show that this fantastic array of rides puts out.

It was too bad the fair had such bad weather. It rained nine days out of the 12 day run. The fair grounds were soaked and at some places the midway was really muddy. The weather for this fair was the worst that I can remember.

# The Elephant Man

by GARY MOORE, *News-Journal*

When you're working with a massive animal that could crack your skull with a casual swat, the relationship must involve mutual respect.

Fred Logan, known as the "elephant man" in the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus headquartered at DeLand, Fla., is still alive after handling and training elephants for 42 yrs. He understands the concept of mutual respect.

The circus has new owners who intend to keep the show under canvas despite previous financial problems. Its season opens at the Deland Airport with benefit performances for the DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club.

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus is the nation's only major traveling circus still performing under a football field sized tent, billed as the "World's Greatest Big Top." Most other circuses have abandoned the traditional big top and accessory tents to perform in arenas and stadiums, because of high operating costs. But owner John Pugh and his partners believe it's important to preserve the centuries old tradition of circus performances under canvas.

And "Elephant Man" Fred Logan agrees. He has grown up with that tradition. At 56, he is the suntanned leathery patriarch of a circus family spanning three generations. He trains elephants, assisted by a crew of handlers and "grips" who move the heavy steel pedestals and other props during the act.

Four of his daughters, ranging in age from 11 to 20, perform with the elephants. Another daughter and his eight yr. old grandson are high wire performers with another circus.

Logan's life reads like a Hollywood script. He ran away from home in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada, at 14, to join a circus.

"At first, I worked as a roustabout and a "pilot," cleaning up after the elephants," he said. "We were called 'pilots' because we were supposed to 'pile it here or pile it there.'" Later his circus toured the U. S. and he served with the Navy in the Pacific during World War II.

After the war, he returned to circus life, working as an animal trainer and performer with some of the nation's biggest traveling

circuses, including the grandiose Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus during its heyday. He joined the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus 15 years ago.

During his career, Logan has worked with the big cats - lions and tigers - as well as elephants. "Both can be dangerous, but you have to be on your toes a little more with the cats. They're more aggressive by nature as predators," he said.

Nevertheless, Logan has been injured four times by elephants. But never because the pachyderms were aggressive. "In every case, the elephants were startled by something and stampeded," he explained. "I just happened to be in the way."

But any elephant is massive, powerful and an intelligent creature. That's why Logan says they must be treated with respect. "They have individual personalities and they recognize their names and voice commands," he said. "You teach them their jobs and rehearse them like other performers. As with humans, there are outlaws." These are elephants who resist training or authority, Logan added, but he's never had to deal with one.

There is also an apparent "pecking order" among the elephants in his troupe. The leader, or "boss" elephant is a female, inconspicuously called "Pete." After a strenuous rehearsal she's the first at the water spigot for a giant swig and a quick shower. An elephant's trunk can hold a gallon and a half of water at a single snort, which can then be swallowed, sprinkled over the shoulders or squirted at an incautious bystander, as desired.

Logan's elephants obviously enjoy their work, including daily rehearsals. They vocalize their enthusiasm during the routines, not with the fearsome trumpet of challenge but with pleasant falsetto trills resembling the sounds of dolphins. Some more experienced members of the troupe may nudge a neophyte back into position if she gets out of step during a routine. Logan speaks to them conversationally, but authoritatively.

"Pete, get over here, that's your cue . . . wake up!" At the end of the act, when Logan says "Tail, tail" the elephants twine trunks to tail to march out of the ring.

(Continued on Next Page)

## At Houston

by BILL WOSTCH

When Ringling had their two units in 1969 I caught the Blue Unit at the Houston Astrodome, just across from the Astrodome. I was there in Texas for about a week, staying at the Rice Hotel, which is now torn down.

You could buy a combination ticket for a ball game at the Astrodome and the circus at the Astrodome. I attended both events almost every day.

The circus had a lot of room, a high ceiling in the hall and plenty of room for the horses and elephants in the back part.

I visited with Mr. Morgan who was general manager at the time. He had a private railroad car on the train, which was about a half mile away from the building.

Coming back from the train I rode in on the bus which went right into the building.

Count Nicholas had a side show in front of the building.

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### ELÉPHANT MAN (Continued)

Logan now works with nine elephants in the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, but he said the new owners want 30 elephants next year. "I think it's great. It will be a terrific show and I'll have some new friends to train.

It means greater responsibility too. Elephants cost about \$25,000 each and require considerable care. Logan said his charges must be kept warm in northern show sites to prevent pneumonia. Certainly, the thought of an elephant sneeze is awesome. And in the south, parasites such as hookworms can plague elephants just as they infest domestic pets. "We worm our elephants about three times a year with veterinary medications to rid them of hookworms and other parasites," Logan said.

Despite the fact they are pampered performers, the seasoned veterans eventually must face retirement. During a recent rehearsal at the circus grounds in DeLand, one female placidly munched hay while the others worked in the practice ring.

"That old girl will be going soon to the Central Florida Zoo in Sanford," Logan explained. "She's worked hard and deserves to spend the rest of her days enjoying peanuts from the kids."

## Johnny Brown

by BOB STODDARD

Johnny Brown performed for the Hyatt Regency Hotel employees and V.I.P. banquet in Dallas in June.

This is the fifth time that the Hyatt Regency has hired him for special occasions, and has booked him for an upcoming event in California.

He stays busy - mostly in the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

In the last four years he has performed in every school in Dallas - from kindergarten thru high school.

He imitates no one. On stage or off, he is always himself. And "himself" is that "some one different" that you look for, but rarely find.

His is a unique act that combines astounding feats of magic with large doses of laughter that really packs a wallop.

He brings his audience into the act and involves everyone as he intrigues and entrances everyone present.

He has performed all over the United States and Canada for conventions, trade shows, banquets, large and small parties, and birthday parties for all ages.

He never works a job once. In most cases he gets repeat bookings on his repeat bookings. He has appeared on local and national TV stations. Merv Griffin put it this way, "Johnny Brown doesn't do tricks. He does miracles!"

His fans include entertainers like: Carol Burnett, Dolly Parton, John Davidson, Mel Tillis and Howard Cosell, who said, "Johnny Brown is a man dedicated and a credit to his talent." (That's easy for Howard to say, I wonder what it means?).

This funny, magic fellow has two books of his magic currently published.

*The Calgary Herald in Calgary, Alberta, Canada*, summed it up, "You can't believe your eyes when you watch Johnny Brown, the tall, blond magician from Texas."

Johnny has the experience you expect when you get the best. A beautiful, seasoned performer and a warm friendly fellow you'll never forget.

Truly a four-star entertainer.