



AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS PAPER

2nd Section

April 1, 1983

## Oscarian Bros.

by JIM PARKER

The Port Richey (Fla) Chamber of Commerce sponsored a brand new under canvas three ring circus under the title of the *Oscarian Bros. Circus*. The well known Manuel Ramos family are bringing out their own show under a beautiful red and white striped big top, that is a 130 wide and 260 long.

Show moves on red and white decorated semis and trailers which include the prop semi, canvas and pole semi, performing cat semi, concession trailer, generator wagon, mustang with automatic stake driver and the usual number of privately owned trucks and house trailers. All show equipment has been ornately painted by veteran show painter and circus enthusiast Dennis Gilli.

This three day date was the opening engagement for the 1983 season as the show will be playing a number of Florida spots before moving up north. Show days were Feb. 11, with show times of 4 and 8 p.m., Feb. 12 with show times of 2, 4 and 8 p.m. and Feb. 13 with show times of 1:30 and 5:30 p.m.

On the midway was Dean Potter's Circus Side Show, the newly painted concession trailer, managed by Andres Ramos and the colorful ticket bus with Gusta Ramos in charge. A Moon Walk will be added.

Big Show announcer was Bobby Fairchild and music was provided by Lynn Michaels and the organ.

The *Oscarian Bros. Circus* program ran as follows: Overture by Lynn Michaels; Senor Ramos and his Mixed Jungle Killers (two lions, two tigers, two black leopards, two jaguars); Two rings of loop-the-loop with Juanita and Alicia Ramos; Ring 1, Lancelot Ramos w/dogs, Ring 3, Sally La Torres w/macaws; Peanut Pitch by Bobby Fairchild; Clowns with Musical Chair production; In Center Ring, Stoney, the performing elephant, trained and presented by Mike La

Torres and Sally; Center Ring, the Lucky Brothers, comedy tables; Center Ring, Regalito (Carlos Campa) with juggling and musical bottles; Center Ring, The Zerbini Teeterboard Troupe (Mario and Roberto and troupe); Aerial Production with Juanita and Araceli, Alicia on the Moon, The Munoz Sisters; Intermission.

Cloud Swing by Glada Oklahoma (Munoz); Center Ring, The *Oscarian Troupe*, risley; Ring 1, Carlos Campa, Jr., rola bola; Center Ring, Regalito, plate spinning; Center Ring, The Zerbini Riding Act.

Pre-show and intermission time had Mike La Torres and his elephant Stoney available in the big top for elephant rides.

Clown Alley consisted of Tommy Medina (Manuel's step-father), Regalito (Carlos Campa), Diamond Jim Parker and Bruce Baker. Regalito and Diamond Jim worked come-in.

The circus lot was next to the Port Richey Village Shopping Center and was on a dirt lot. Heavy rains prior to the show's arrival required setting up in a sea of mud. The sky broke during part of the first day, however, all day the second and third days heavy rain fell and since the lot was lower than the shopping center it became a swamp with the runoff water. Mud and water were calf deep in all three rings, however, morale was high among the performers as well as the public who braved the adverse weather conditions.

And in the weather department things got steadily worse instead of better as high wind including tornado warnings were out the last day, Sunday. At approximately 12:30 a.m. on Sunday I had just completed putting on my greasepaint when Mike La Torres banged on my camper door and told me to get the hell out of there (I was parked at the end of the big top and I asked what for and looked out the door, just in time to see a huge gust of wind hit the big top, which almost in

(Continued on Page 2-A)

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## OSCARIAN BROS. (Continued)

slow motion style fell to the ground. Fortunately no one was under the canvas when she went down but the wind was so strong that it blew over the cat cages inside the top.

Immediately, everyone was out of their trailers and rushing to the now flattened big top. Again, Lady Luck was with us and no props were damaged, and the cages were quickly righted and the cats were okay and best yet, the canvas itself was not seriously ripped or torn. All during this time and for almost the rest of the entire day the rain continued to pour down and it was decided to cancel the remaining two performances.

It was sad as the Ramos family had put together a strong show and despite the bad weather everything looked so clean and nice

and they really tried. Considering the inclement weather, the public had come out to see the show and those who saw it really enjoyed it. This was hardly the ideal way to begin a new show with a new season - in a sea of mud, pouring rain and a blow down.

Like true troupers and under the guidance of Manuel Ramos, everyone pitched in and helped load the show. It was a heart-rendering set-back but once back in quarters minor repairs were made to the canvas and equipment was washed off and by now the wagons have already rolled out to other Florida towns and the Oscanian Bros. Circus, under their red and white striped big top, and with a few changes of personnel due to prior commitments, will be bringing a fast moving, high quality performance wherever they show.

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(Above clients reflect about 80% engaging me as Announcer/Ringmaster and remaining 20% as Solo-Aerialist which I've included as I feel that I'm just as much a Performer on the Floor as in the Air).

In addition, I've also been a television newscaster in Indiana and an editorial writer for Billboard Publications. Hold a B.A. degree in Communication Arts from Michigan State University, Class of 1957.

I can be seen as Ringmaster for CIRCUS CORONAS as follows:

- + April 1-10 - Marietta, Georgia - YAARAB SHRINE CIRCUS (Repeat)
- + April 15-17 - Monroe, Louisiana - ANNUAL SHRINE CIRCUS
- + April 22-23 - Little Rock, Arkansas - ANNUAL SHRINE CIRCUS
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## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

"Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day," was what we used to chant when the sun left us and we (as little kids) could not go out to play! Florida began to look like California when God sorted out the weather and sent us one of the wettest Februarys on record. (this was written on Feb. 18, 1983). We were not unhappy about getting rain, just that there was too much of it for outdoor activities.

First week of February is a busy one on the Tampa Bay Area with the Florida State Fair and the big exposition for outdoor showmen at Gibsonton, both of which bring in many visitors and exhibitors for the many events surrounding these dates. The banquets; meetings; memorial services, etc.

All the pre-publicity promised many new and exciting innovations at this year's fair and we decided to attend on opening day. It is going to be one of the top State Fairs in the country (as native Minnesotans like David and me who know that the Minnesota Fair is "tops") can attest to, in fact the folks here are now beginning to refer to it as the Florida State Fair instead of the "Tampa Fair." It used to be in Tampa, on the edge of what is now the ever growing campus at the University of Tampa (Old Henry Plant Hotel and grounds) and as the area and the population grew, it had to find a new home, which it did in 1977 on Interstate 4 and 301.

Our primary interest in attending the fair is to attend the Eddie Zacchini "Free Circus" sponsored by Art Pepin (Pepsi-Annehaueser Busch Distributor) and Hav'A Tampa Cigars. I shall tell you of that performance under the blue and white striped big top.

We arrived at the Buffalo Ave., Entrance to the Fair and were directed to a grassy field by a young man, to park our car. David was as aghast as I when we saw cars "stuck" in the mud, trying to get out or to jockey into a parking row! We were lucky and drove in, without getting "stuck." (Needless to say, after the end of this date, a hi-priority must be macadam paved lots for parking). Sorry about that, as it seems that the whole world is getting "paved over." This was a "pepsi day promotion" so

all we had to do was give the gate keepers the coupons and we were into the grounds. There is some type of "promo" every day of the fair.

First stop was a favorite taco stand and as we were eating them, David spotted friend Bill Kourmpates and his wife, Sandy, who joined us and then who came thru the gates but Lili Kristensen, her husband Sven and her Dad, Karl, who also stopped for a short visit. We all visited the building which housed exhibits from many of the counties of

Florida, all done in a Circus theme. There was even a unicycling clown passing around the crowd. Very well done. Even the plants were exhibited on a larger than life size circus wagon.

Next stop was to the main (and 1st building) which housed a variety of exhibits where we were thrilled to see John Zweifel and his White House. One of the marvels of the miniature world, this has to be seen, in person, to be appreciated.

Degeller Amusements have the carnival and the midway had more rides and concessions than the previous year. We found the big top and the first person we saw was Walter Patterson who was on the show with daughter Wendy. The band was directed by Keith Kilinger and included Russ Darr, Lenny Balesteri on drums and Wanda Darlington (sister of Keith) at the organ. Bill Boren was the announcer-ringmaster.

The following acts appeared, working under the handicap of lots of water, in fact only two rings and the stage were used as the third ring was under water, too much of it for the wood chips and sawdust to absorb! Troupers all, they came out and smiled and worked. Derek Rosaire and Tony, his wonderful horse; Frank and Ruthie Clark doing two turns as Francarro and Estrellita on the cradle and their foot juggling routine. The Bertinis doing their cycling and wire acts; The Bovays, doing two turns; Buckles Woodcock's elephants; the Flying Larrays; Albullett Brothers, high wire and clowns Dime and Connie Wilson and Danny Chapman, Glimpsed Barbara Woodcock backstage but the pretty little girl working with Buckles this day was, I understand, a niece of Barbara. We enjoyed it all in spite of the intermittent rain and dampness. (It got worse as the engagement went on).

(Continued on Page 25-A)

# There's been a change

by GORDON TAYLOR

It can't have been an easy decision. Tommy Hanneford has removed both himself and his family from the legendary Royal Hanneford Riding Act. Rather than introducing, "That Riding Fool," Ringmaster Ray Orszak now calls Hanneford, "Circus Impresario." Unlike Baraboo, Royal Hanneford is not a museum, it is an enterprise.

The riding act is the centerpiece of his Royal Hanneford Circus, yes, there's not very subtle feeling somehow that the act represents the culmination of seven generations of performing Hannefords. Royal Hanneford Circus was there for the riding act, not the other way around. One fan puts it this way, "You could drop the Hanneford act in Caesar's Palace tonight, and it would out-class everything in town." With Tommy's departure an era has ended.

So, the torch has been passed. This year, young Mark Karoly stars in an act billed as, "The Karoly Riders."

For two years ringmaster Orszak had introduced him as "Mark Hanneford Karoly". The kinship, however, was not evident in a review of Hanneford family genealogy in a '79 Royal Hanneford program.

The effect of the departure of Tommy Hanneford from the act is profound. The loss is made greater by the absence, also, of Dennis Zoppe. Zoppe added - in addition to brilliant riding - a knack for zany clowning and an element approaching sibling rivalry. The Sundance Kid. He was a strong foil for Karoly.

"He'll do something until he makes you laugh," said one delighted watcher.

Further, the change in the focus of the riding act - from a driving, intense "ensemble" work to a "star vehicle" - was fundamental. Remarkably, none of this was insurmountable.

Judged on its own terms, the new act, I feel, is a triumph. Mark Karoly is as compelling and exciting to watch as anyone in the business. Circus writer Ken Holehouse described Karoly as, "agile, charismatic" and said Karoly's work with elephants, his equestrian acrobatics and his "backwards somersault from the back of one galloping horse to another," is "ten hands beyond

tremendous." Karoly, also descended from generations of circus families, raised on Ringling, probably ranks with Gunther Gebel-Williams and Wayne Franzen in the triumvirate of U. S. circus super stars.

"And now," Orszak says, "Mrs. George Hanneford proudly presents," . . . fanfare . . . "two hundred years of equestrian excellence! Ladies and Gentlemen, The Karoly Riders." Music: "New York, New York," flamboyant, raz-ma-taz music. Everyone who saw the finale of "A Chorus Line" has a good idea of the "look" of the opening. The ring is flooded in golden light. Five women riders in gold form a line across the ring from Karoly who is in gold tails and gold top hat. Everything is so gold it hurts the eyes.

What's going on? This and the Golden West on Ringling 112th and Dolly Jacobs golden entrance on 113. What does it mean? Is this a throwback to depression tastes? Goldiggers of '37 revisited?

Struppi Hanneford paces the horses. I believe this is why the air of regality and the driving tempo are still evident. If the specs Royal Hanneford did in Savannah the last weekend in February were, perhaps, lacking in polish, the riding act is well rehearsed, tight and still all grace and breath-taking vitality. A bareback riding act, like opera, has many different entertaining elements: rich costumes, fast, relentless pacing, attractive looking people, huge, beautiful horses, acrobatics, humor, a triumphant reaffirmation of the work ethic and best of all, those extraordinary, breath-taking tricks.

It's a moment Circus Report has mentioned before: "Ladies and Gentlemen, The First Lady of the American Circus, Mrs. George Hanneford, herself. Ninety-four years young!" There is applause and a woman in the next row shouts "All Right!" Considering what a spine-tingler this Great Moment is, I don't know why they bring her in so early.

To a greater or lesser extent, everyone in the act seems turned on to the music. Orszak introduces Karoly's somersault before he does somersault six spotlights follow as Karoly elects to bounce over to Mrs. Hanneford and starts dancing. Mrs. Hanneford picks up the step. Up in the stands the

(Continued on Page 24-A)

## The Red Unit

by KEN HOLEHOUSE

The 113th edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus is on the road and although it's known as the Red Unit, it might well be called the Pink Unit because that was the color that was most evident when we caught the show in Greensboro, NC, on the last Saturday in February.

The show has been completely reworked. A new vigor and vitality has been infused into the show - perhaps it's the order of displays, the balance of acts - whatever, it works better than ever. A Pink Panther motif is carried throughout. Remember the Pink Panther of cartoon fame? He's a Ringling circus star now, with his fantastic theme music preceding him in the many entrances he makes in the show.

One change that you'll notice when you first enter the arena is that the ring curbs have been reworked and painted a kaleidoscopic white, blue, yellow and orange. The music is now blasted out of speakers disguised as derby hats mounted on top of the rigging. This innovation was introduced on the Blue Unit last year and makes for great sound and clear sound all over the arena. Not a word of Dinny McGuire's or a trumpet note is lost. The sound system is excellent and a great improvement over the in-house system I remember straining to listen to at Chicago's International Amphitheatre.

Speaking of Dinny McGuire, both Dinny and Alice Lynn have moved to the Red Unit. Although one wag commented that the two reminded him of Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald (they're before my time, but I understand they were very popular vocalists), Dinny's dramatic announcing which varies from Marine Sergeant loud to a hoarse stage whisper as he intones the usual circusy jargon "Otto the Magnificent leaping over four ponderous pachyderms" etc. is well-liked by the audience and is augmented by a relaxed and smilingly pleasant stage presence and a mellow, authoritative baritone voice.

Dave Caesar, when we first arrived, told us that this was the "best show ever" even before we sat down to watch the first performance. Dave, as usual, was right on target. Under the cool, capable and congenial direction of Tim Holst, the show moved brisk-

ly without noticeable flaw or hitch. Unlike in previous years, we noted that very little was cut out of the early Saturday shows - something we certainly applaud and commend.

The upbeat opening Spec featured the Pink Panther popping out from the ringmaster's podium as the opening announcements ended. And as Dinny sang "Everybody Wants to be a Ringmaster" the Panther pranced, Gunther Gebel-Williams rode in with two uncaged lions, dancers were whirling everywhere, elephants thundered through, and the whole troupe was introduced. The Panther came roaring in on a makeshift motorcycle to begin the second display, the Urias Troupe in the Globe of Death and then the Panther pretended to be a bank robber, chased all around the center ring by a bevy of Keystone Cops to begin the third display The Leaps. Serf Rocha is the star of this display with his mugging and carrying on, and the cops quickly shed their uniforms and guns and become instant gymnasts.

With the frantic, fast-paced series of opening acts, we're ready to relax a bit and are treated by some rather leisurely antics by Hall's Baboons and a goat display featuring Michelle Antalek and Mark Oliver Gebel. But in the center ring, the madcap antics of the Antalek Chimps in a bull fighting routine keep us jumping. This is followed by more action with the Clown's version of a hill-billy wedding, complete with a shotgun toting daddy and an outhouse full of appearing clowns - a variation of the clown car gag on the Blue Unit.

The show continued with three aerial acts - The Franconi Duo, memorable from their seasons on Vargas, Miss Lisa with a wildly executed mid-air heel hang, and Satin, a new act on a star-disc put together by two very athletic and talented showgirls. Such stunning beauty over all three rings was breathtaking.

Three rings of liberty horses followed the aerial acts, with Sigrid and Tina Gebel performing in the outside rings putting six horses each through their paces, and Gunther in ring two with 12 liberty-minded liberty horses.

Clowns returned in another thematic display - a ride-around instead of a walk-around, riding on all kinds of crazy bicycles,

(Continued on Page 24-A)

## Roper's Convention

The International Trick and Fancy Ropers Association with members now in ten countries will hold their first annual convention on April 16-17 at the Montie Montana Rodeo Ranch in Agua Dulce, Calif. Sunday afternoon, starting at 2 p.m. the members will produce a real western extravaganza of Wild West acts with aerial shooting stunts, fancy riding, whip cracking exhibitions, fabulous horse catches, Mexican Charros rope artistry and a Guinness World Record attempt by Vince Bruce. He will try to beat the legendary record of 1,000 continuous jumps thru a spinning Texas Skip Loop said to have been done by Will Rogers over 50 years ago.

Vince will be the first roper to ever try to beat this record that has endured for over a half a century.

Proceeds from this show will help keep rope spinning from becoming a dying art.

For further information on the convention and show write to: Box 369, Palmdale, Ca. 93550.

## An Anniversary

The Jack Bell Tent, CFA, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this month. The name of the tent will be extended to Jack Bell-Helen Billetti Tent No. 90, in honor of one of its members, Helen Billetti Warburton.

Helen and her husband Eddie, and his sons performed as the Billetti High Wire Act, appearing with such circuses as Hagenbeck-Wallace, Polack and Hamid-Morton. They also appeared at numerous outdoor shows, fairs, parks and promotions. Helen is serving her second term as a Director of Showman's Club. She is also the sister of Lillian Bell, widow of the late Jack Bell, circus bandmaster for whom the Seattle tent is named.

This gracious lady and great performer is probably Circus' No. 1 fan. She still has many old friends in the circus and is constantly making new ones.

As Charlie Smith, trainmaster from Ringling says - when the train pulls out be sure Helen is off - she just might be tempted to stay on and start all over again.

## In the mail

from BUCKY STEELE

Before April 1st, I am putting my male Asian, "Buke" to sleep.

Although he was one of the few to produce off-spring. My facilities and pocket book are the reason and mainly, the danger to human life. Very few zoos have facilities to handle a male, let alone a breeding male of 8' 3" at the shoulder, 8700 lbs. in weight and 15 yrs. of age.

As we have seen recently, history is starting to repeat itself with male elephants. Mine, as with many, is very good in the summer, but come October and November, then March and April again, is very incorrigible and this increases with age.

He is part of the family in our hearts, but Mother Nature does strange things that helps a species to survive, and for this he is forgiven and admired, but truly respected.

I have lost friends, Eloise Berchtold and Morgan Berry, in the spring, almost one year apart. And how many others in a fit of a

few seconds.

Although his potential of breeding has been proven, and is a shame, it's danger is more than I can handle or want on my conscience. His life or that of a fellow human being, is my choice.

This is a goodbye to one of the best elephants I ever had and my family shares my feelings, as he helped them through school and life.

We will all miss him deeply, and so will his off-spring to come.

## PEOPLE

PAM and RON PERRY are presently with the George Carden Circus, doing their two acts, which includes the double wire act.

RAUL SUAREZ and THE GAONAS plan to bring their "Suarez-Gaona Mexican National Circus" to the states this year. They plan a heavy pitch to the Latin areas.

# PEOPLE

ROD STEIGER is the star of the 1969 film "The Illustrated Man" a story of a tattooed man. The movie is becoming one of TV's regular film showings.

## Jury says "sane"

William Daguman, Jr., the 23-year-old street preacher who drove his auto into a group of children last Sept. 3rd, has been found sane by a jury following his conviction of second-degree murder.

Daguman's attorney, Jasper Monti, had argued that his client was suicidal and believed God had told him to kill himself when he aimed his car at a group of children waiting for a bus just across the street from the Cow Palace.

The children had just crossed the street to wait for their bus after attending a performance of the Ringling-Barnum Circus. Lamont

Metoyer and Tiffany Summers, both 4, were killed and Tamaris Griffin, 18 months, was crippled. Adults with the children were unharmed.

Sentencing has been set for later this month.

## I Remember

by WILLIAM WOSTCH

I see Danny Chapman's picture on the cover of Circus Report (March 15, 1983). When the Moscow State Circus first appeared at our Cleveland Arena, about 1967, Danny was working as advance set-up.

We worked with him in the 42 ft. ring, when the dirt was dumped in. We picked out bricks and stones and raked it down. We also built dressing rooms and the carpenter built stalls for the horses, used by the Cossack riders.

We used half of the arena, with one end masked in, thus making lots of room back stage. An interpreter was used and we got along fine.

## On the road

by RON MORRIS

Int'l All-Star Circus opened its 38 week, 1983 season in Pensacola, Fla. on Feb. 4th. "This makes the 16th year, under its various titles, that this show has been on the road," says producer Jim Nordmark.

All dates are telephone promoted and are one-day stands. Show moves on 13 vehicles including private trailers. The five show-owned vehicles are all new this year. Due to the high amount of lighted effects the All-Star Circus carries its own generator, perhaps uni-

que among stage circuses. Most dates are played in school gyms or auditoriums.

The All-Star package has been refurbished this year and sports new ringmats, chasing lights in the ring curbs, plus a new telescoping backdrop.

Company manager of eleven years is Hines Rucker, and he again presents his uncaged leopard as well as announcing the 90 minute show.

Featured performers include Uncle Heavy's Original Pork Chop Review, presented by Leslie 'Grumpy' Kines. "This act had been bought from the estate when Uncle Heavy died," says Nordmark, "but Grumpy bought it back from us when he turned eighteen."

Other acts include The Vincios (Mario Droquette), revolving aerial perch; Patty Bryant, foot juggling; DeMille and Debbie, wire act, juggling and Argentine bolo; Lee Stevens presenting his Champagne Poodles and Rubichonik's five baboons.

Joe and Betty Eddy have new and bigger pyrotechnical magical displays this year. Seven dancers, three imported from England, appear as back-up in all production numbers. David Epperly fronts the six piece band which features vocals by Michelle Hopkins. Producing clown is Phil Sadler; Chris Brian is electrician; Mario Droquette, prop boss and Patty Bryant is superintendent.

Ralph Bowen is general agent for the circus. There are currently four agents on the road, as well as 54 promoters.

The Nordmark organization recently moved into new quarters in Sarasota and employs eighteen people in its offices year round. As well as office space the 9,000 sq. ft. building encompasses a carpenter shop, rehearsal area and a costume shop with six seamstresses under the direction of designer Lynette Parker.

Nordmark's ice unit, Jubilee On Ice, is now being readied for its 6th season and a 34 week tour. Circus acts hired to date include the Knops, perch pole routine. Staffers include company manager Levoie Hipps who is supervising the preparation for the road, and director/choreographer Bobby Denard conducting rehearsals in Sarasota. David Balton has prepared the original score.

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RBBB Gargantua poster as on Page 263 of 'Circus in America', Page 122 of 'Ticket to the Circus.'

DOUG MORRIS

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## Beck's Circorama

by RANDY WILLIAMS

A show rarely mentioned in Circus Report is Beck's Circorama. This show plays mainly armories and school gymnasiums in the Southeastern portion of the U. S.

On March 11th, the show got off to a spectacular start at Cedar Bluffs, Ala., with a variety of acrobatics, animals and magic.

I caught both the first and second days of the 1983 tour and found the shows to be fast-paced and very entertaining.

The second day at Albertville, Ala. (March 12th), the program ran as follows: The Bo-ways, horizontal bars; The Magnificent Macias, hand balancing; Inge Williams and her Samoyed and Chinese Chow Chows, dogs;

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Miss Alexandria, rola bola; Joe and Georgie Smiley, magic; Intermission.

Opening the second half was Miss Elizabeth a foot juggler; The Great Oscar, cloud swing; The Great Stroganoff, comedy hand balancing; Miss Rebecca, Spanish web, and an American Tribute finale with Joe Smiley.

Both days attendance was very good and the show was well received by the audience and sponsors with many compliments from both.

# The Blue Unit

by KEN HOLEHOUSE

A 1982 report -

The 112th edition of Ringling Bros. is in Chicago for its annual Mid-October to Mid-November run. I caught the show a number of times and can confidently tell those of you on the Blue Unit's route that this is a show worth seeing.

Although some circus purists will poo-poo the Hollywood veneer of the Specs in the Ringling shows, these do bring the TV generation customers out of their arm chairs, towing Mom and three to five kids, paying three dollar parking fees, buying numerous quantities of food and novelties. That, and the prospect of seeing some of the finest circus stars in the world, combine to make this show a memorable experience.

Tall, golden-maned, velvet-voiced Dinny McGuire opens the show with a blast of his whistle and, in the darkness, you can almost feel the rush of wind created by the scurrying of a hundred clowns and other performers as they find their places for the opening spec.

When the lights come up, your eyes are filled with the gorgeous magnificence of brilliantly sequined costumes everywhere and the whole company dancing and jumping on everything from pogo sticks to tramp olines, as Dinny sings "Jumping Jack" from "The Greatest Show on Earth." The spec is called *Jump for Joy*. And joy is what it brings - a rousing enthusiasm from the audience. Alice Lynn's vocal talents assist in making this a memorable show opener.

Although she didn't appear at all the shows I saw, Nellie Ivanov's dazzling fall from the sky cradle let the audience know there were many surprises to come in this jam-packed show.

After this stunning opening, the audience is given no time to catch its breath with the spotlight on three ring display of the best teeterboard acts in the world, the Kovatchevi, the Silagi, fresh from the Monte Carlo international tour, and the Oblocki troupe who are virtually Ringling veterans. Their bounding somersaults to the five-man high are extraordinary and beautiful Yanka of the Silagi does it without benefit of safety harness. Applause brings the house down.

And as the applause rolls through the arena, handsome Michael and Kevin Gautier come bounding in with two rings of baby elephants, three elephants in each ring. Following in the footsteps of their talented father, they put on a polished performance with the aplomb of veterans in the ring.

Daniel Suskow (and sometimes Bela Tabak) drives a mix of five dromedary and one Bactrian camel through their paces in ring three.

The arena is then filled with clowns, swarming over and under each other, pulling gags everywhere as the workingmen set up the netting for the Flying Caceres and the Flying Vazquez.

As both sets of the aerialists move thru the triple with ease, the stage is set for Miguel Caceres' three and a half which he completes to the thundering roar of the audience. Then the drum roll and Miguel Vazquez takes off for the quadruple somersault. In talking with Miguel the night of Oct. 29th, before the evening show, he said that he has made the quad 26 times in performances, 7 times at Chicago's Rosemont Horizon. Here's a superstar who has the audience in the palm of his hand and whether he makes it or not, the ovation is deafening.

After these aerial heroics, the King Charles Troupe come roaring in with their madcap, non-stop brand of unicycle basketball, an interlude of clowns is followed by Bela Tabak's dogs, a cavorting romp with lively poodles and Michu and his little ringmates. and Sandor and Elizabeth present liberty ponies.

The Clown Car and Elvin Bale's terrifying walk on the Wheel of Death bring us to spec time again.

The first half ends with a action-filled spec called the Wild, Wild West where the whole company garbed as cowboys and cowgirls strut and sing while horses are put through their drills, Indians pow wow, kids are carried around the track in stage coaches, all culminating in the first long mount of the show.

As you can see from the lineup above, the first half is loaded with good acts and moves at record pace.

The second half opens with either Daniel Suskow or Charley Baumann putting eleven

(Continued on Page 17-A)



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## THE BLUE UNIT (Continued)

tigers through their paces in a well-controlled display. This is followed by the extraordinary gymnastics of the Grantcharovi and Elvin Bale's Mechanical Monster, which could be described as a fire-belching erector set come to life. "It's for the kids," said Elvin after the show. And the kids around me were wide-eyed seeing this Star Wars beast whirling Elvin through the air.

Perch pole artistry of the Polonia, Dobritch and Davit continue the parade of excellence as does the superb riding of the veteran Slavovi Family whose rehearsed "accident" is breath-taking.

A uniquely choreographed Elephant Highland Fling fills all three rings beautifully costumed elephants and lads and lassies up and down the track. This unusual display has some of the elephants wearing giant tams and to the tunes of lilting Scottish music in the background finds the Gautier family adroitly putting the big beasts thru their paces.

Two thrill acts, Elvin Bale riding a motor cycle up a high wire incline and Chris Adams being shot from a cannon close the show.

Thrill show, Las Vegas revue, three-ring circus combined, there's something for everyone and no matter what you may read or hear, it's still "The Greatest Show on Earth."

---

It is meat and drink to me to see a clown.

... Shakespeare

---

Damn everything but the circus.

... E. E. Cummings

## Book Review

'CIRCUS BUFFOON' by Danny Chapman.  
Reviewed by Alan Graham.

Danny Chapman's novel "Circus Buffoon" lets you in on the truth - through the back door. If fiction is to succeed, it has to do that. It not only could happen, but while you read it, it is happening.

The hero, Amos, is a real clown. So is Danny, but he wasn't - at least not professionally - when he first wrote the book, in 1958-1962. He was a ground aerialist. A paralyzing fall had given him a chance to catch up on his writing.

Amos shares his trade secrets - and a few other secrets, too. Pointers on flying technique; details of circus life that most of us would never hear about.

Will the beautiful ballet girl finally get the older, worldly wise clown? Three of them do, and in the process he teaches them - and several other girls, too - some tricks they never dreamed of doing.

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## Little People Meet

More than 100 dwarfs, from California, Nevada and Hawaii, attended the Meeting of Little People of America at the Holiday Inn in Stockton, Calif., March 25-27.

The event was hosted by the Stockton Convention and Visitors Bureau. Alfred Stickney of San Bruno, Calif., president of the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter, and his wife, Harriet, immediate past president, served as co-chairmen.

Billy Barty, a founder of Little People of America and Betty Stewart, served as chair persons for the business meetings.

In addition to a variety of activities for all age groups, there was a discussion on the needs of parents of dwarfed children and teen-agers.

The family-oriented organization has a national membership of 3,000. Last year its 25th national convention in Reno drew 650 people.

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Tina - 23 yrs

Ellie - 29 yrs

Lilly - 13 yrs

Becky - 14 yrs

Jenny - 13 yrs

Debbie - 14 yrs

Alta - 17 yrs

Opal - 14 yrs

Tracy - 13 yrs

Libby - 13 yrs

Rosie - 15 yrs

Del Rita - 13 yrs

Barbara - 36 yrs

Minnie - 25 yrs

Lydia - 36 yrs

Mona - 15 yrs

Isla - 13 yrs

Amy - 12 yrs

Viola - 14 yrs

Missy - 14 yrs

Isla - 14 yrs

Kelly - 14 yrs

Bunny - 19 yrs

Sis - 14 yrs

Margaret - 13 yrs

**+ African Elephants**

Pauline - 17 yrs

Ruby - 19 yrs

**Ford Bros.**

by JOHN W. BEARD

Nice to know you are back in action. I've heard it said by others and it's true "you were really missed."

Gopher's Ford Bros. had big business in Burnt, Texas. The show's African has been getting some training in quarters. The gir-

**BOB WEIGEL****Says "Thanks"****FOR THE MANY GET WELL CARDS**

Thank you, my Friends  
So Thoughtful, So Kind.  
Good Friends like you  
Are not easy to find.

It's so very nice  
To have so many friends  
Happiness that it brings  
Will never, never end.

Rejoice in your friends  
They are treasures untold  
Yes, Fabulous wealth  
More precious than gold.

Happiness for others  
Your motto, your goal  
Makes life so beautiful  
Always warm, never cold.

**BOB WEIGEL**

2911 Westchester Avenue  
Ellicott City, Md. 21043

affe gives the show flash with the other animals exhibited on the front end.

One gets the feeling that Gopher is building his show; hence the show seen today may be stronger in the summer.

The new top is a beauty. It is blue with red and white striped sidewalls. He also has one of the former Vargas seat wagons.

Lou Regan is with the show. The Termite Davenport's are expecting. He says she will be called Eve.

Peggy McDonald, Doc Hartman, Spike Hansen and Fred Icke were seen on the lot.

Jack Goble is with the show, Bill Ballantine's grand-daughter does a single trap act and the flying act is back, while Gopher is working the cats. Also in the show is Victor Flore's high act.



**GORILLA EXPERTS BOB and MAE NOELL** plus enterprising grandson Bob Noell and party visited recently. My talking dog act and my paper act are helping "Doc" Tommy Scott make stage show history. Scott's country Med. Show, having exceeded the 18,000 one-niter mark, has set a record that is only exceeded by what Will Rogers long ago said was the nation's longest running comedy act - political affairs in Washington, DC.

Mae Knoell is also Sec-Treas. of a wild animal people's organization which has as its President John Cuneo, also one of the famous Berosinis as vice president. Mae tells me the organization has quite a treasury on hand, drawing interest.

Somehow, often unhappily, exhibition animal people have managed to live with federal control statutes that may never be repealed like the Prohibition Amendment. Just a handful of people brought the federal exhibition animal control statutes about and just recently in an Indiana appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court condoned prevarication by police officers. This makes me sure that some federal employees are temporarily fooling the blind goddess called "Justice."

There was some hope that whimsical US DA-APHIS regulations would be stopped when we heard the President of the U. S. promise he'd "get the gov't off our backs" No wonder economists call America's present financial condition a quagmire of debt. In a dozen years the feds have spent more money regulating exhibition animals than the animals cost.

Some of the whimsical inspection of ma-

gician's rabbits and kid's dog acts is just plain simple bureaucratic overkill. The author of all this is now running for President of the U. S. in the Democratic primaries for 1984. He won't listen to our grievances either.

We need a champion in Congress. Certainly, some Congressman must be interested in fairness. Please write to me c/o "Doc" Scott, P. O. Box 100, Toccoa, Ga. 30577. I still haven't given up the fight to end this foolishness. If you know a Member of Congress who will listen - please advise me.

## PEOPLE

**BONNIE and BILLY EARL** are presently doing their musical comedy show on cruise ships. They are currently working on the S.S. Emerald Sea in the Bahamas. Henrietta is now being called "Chicken of the Sea."

**MIKE PIKE**, for the third consecutive year, conducted the Tony DiPardo orchestera intermittently throughout the 16 hour Variety Club International telethon in Kansas City. The show was hosted by TV personality Dennis James and featured performers Kathy Lee Johnson and Marilyn Maye, from ABC's Good Morning America, as well as other stars. The telethon raised more than \$300,000 for handicapped kids in the Midwest.

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## PEOPLE

**CAPT. DON LESLIE**, sword swallower and tattooed man, recently presented his act at a Tattoo Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., as a feature of that event. He now plans to attend the International Tattoo Convention in London, England on Sept. 23rd.

**MARK WILSON**, magician and illusionist, was featured in a repeat showing of his "Magic in China" show on TV late in March.

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## Random Notes

by Circus Joe Valenciano

The PBS-TV network has an interesting program called "Matinee At the Bijou" with movies, shorts, newsreels, and cartoons of yesteryear. Just recently I saw the movie featuring Clyde Beatty called "Lost Jungle" which had the Hagenbeck-Wallace animals and its first portion was filmed in the circus winterquarters.

The Harry Dubsy Family have already begun their season, playing dates with the Coronas Circus. Their two acts are very nice and it was the first time I've seen Harry's son, Sir Harry James. He presents a fine and stylish act, with real showmanship. The Royal Palace Leopards is a beautiful animal presentation, with all new shiny props.

The John Dubsy Family will tour with Hoxie Bros. Circus for most of the coming season. They'll be presenting three numbers, Miss Christiana with her Poodle Fashion Parade, Cinderella and her Birds of Paradise, and Miss Jana, half moon and trapeze, on a revolving rigging.

A juggling class was held on March 23rd at the Port Tampa Recreation Center. Basic techniques, throws and rhythms of juggling were taught at the one time, one hour class. The instruction was free, taught by Dave Parkinson.

A big event in the Tampa area was the Florida Strawberry Festival & Hillsborough County Fair, at Plant City, Fla., Feb. 25-Mar. 5.

For Country Music fans this was the place to be in 1983, for they had: Sylvia, Bill Anderson, Louise Mandrell, David Frizzell and Shell West, Johnny and June Carter Cash, Conway Twitty and Loretta Lynn. They all performed at the grandstand on various evenings.

Also on the midway was the Commerford & Sons very fine petting zoo. Among all of

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the animals on display was the giraffe that was on Ringling for a couple of years.

The carnival was the Mighty Blue Grass Shows. It is a colorful show with major rides and their trucks are painted shades of green and blue along the bottom, white in the upper portion and all with big, bold, fancy lettering. I think they are the best looking trucks on the road today. Their people do the painting with the air brush technique and many of the trucks are pictures of the rides they are transporting. This show also played the Sarasota Fair, March 14-19.

## PEOPLE

JOE and TAVANA LOPEZ are the proud parents of a second child, born on Feb. 16 and weighing in at 9 lbs. 2½ ozs. The new arrival has been named Logan Dallas Lopez.

## Please Note -

The area code of phone numbers in the San Diego, Calif., region has been changed. Thus the new phone number for the Rex Horton Bear act and Gran Mar, high wire act is now 619-238-1375.

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**THE RED UNIT (Continued)**

unicycles, etc.

Perennial teeterboard champs, the Kovatchovi, the Dukovi and the Paravoni next fill all three rings with bounding action as they all attempt the four man high and 15 yr. old Antonio Dukovi premieres the backward somersault to a free standing 5 man high.

As the applause for this energetic display fades, Mike Keever pulls in his mule in what I call a slapstick rodeo clown routine; Eric Braun does the washerwoman and dog; and Rudy Barnes does an amazing unicycle routine.

The Carillo Brothers do their usual heart-attacking antics on the high wire, leaving the audience breathless and ready for the Spec ending the first half of the show. The Spec this year is done in Pink and features the Pink Panther joining the circus. During the Spec, Gunther's son rides two baby African elephants Roman style around the track.

Opening the second half, the clowns do a variety of routines.

And then we are treated to a performance by the Fearless Bauers. This family of dare-devils sways out over the audience on 50 ft. aluminum poles. I wondered how they could travel with an act like this. Well, the poles are mounted in portable drums (50 gal) of water for stability. The drums are emptied for travel and are easily stored, along with the poles, on the train for travel. The family members change positions on the sway poles and finish their act in a head-first plunge down the pole.

The clowns return again, this time to center ring with a slapstick barbershop act that leaves the ring covered with soap and clowns sliding every which way across the water and soap slicked plastic ring covering. The Panther joins this routine at the end, and barely misses getting a piefull of soap in the face.

Three rings of dogs entertained us next with the Braun Family, the Lorias Dogs and Tina Gebel with Russian Wolfhounds. The highlight of the three rings is when Eric Braun's dog, Dino, lands on Eric's hand on his front paws.

Dolly Jacobs repeats her stunning act on the Roman rings, followed by the Elephant Spec done in bright colors of black and gold

**THERE'S A CHANGE (Continued)**

neighbor slaps her hands together and says "All Right!" again. Nine thousand of us all chuckle and laugh at the same moment.

Three women race across the ring and, at once, all three sprint up mini ramps and all three land on the running horse at the same moment. Now, Karoly runs across the ring towards a circling horse. He misses, the horse runs past him. But Karoly is in the air and . . . lands smartly on another horse standing outside the ring.

For the Savannah date, Royal Hanneford also presented a "living statue" act. Introduced as from Mexico City, Mexico, they are a troupe of three body builders. Each is painted in silver or, to be more accurate, pewter. Each of the men wears a pewter colored hood covering his head and pewter trunks. Blue and red spotlights highlight the gleaming bodies. Each man moves at a very slow, measured pace; they manage to twist and balance and counterbalance each other into what I thought were amazing looking positions. This act brings to mind the "Million Dollar Carlos Twins" who proceeded intermission on Circus Vargas. First because both acts show such great strength and balance. Also because of the almost identical way the audience responds. At first restless and not paying attention; about two thirds of the way through the act the audience is literally cheering.

**PEOPLE**

featuring elephants "Prancing Down Broadway" with Gunther and the cast and 19 whirling, dancing elephants - culminating in Gunther's two teeterboard leaps.

The Flying Espana family attempting the triple over both rings and the short closing Spec end the performance.

Neophyte circus fans Todd Fuentes and Nick Coccoaro joined us at the Greensboro performance. We also enjoyed many pleasant moments talking with David Mullany, a man who loves circus and probably knows more about circus history than any other person.



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### FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

Glimpsed visiting were Gene Mendez and wife; the Kristensens; Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Marietta and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Jones, Circus Fans and many of the talented Wilson clan. A real surprise was seeing "Jonsie" and wife Shirley from Shaker Heights, Ohio, "Jonsie" was boss-props on my first circus date in Detroit and Shirley was one of the ballet girls from the Cleveland Grotto Show, said they were looking for a Florida residence in the Sarasota area. "Jonsie" for several years did the lighting for the Ringling TV broadcast from the Bayfront at St. Petersburg. (Not to be confused with the Ed Jones who are from Zanesville, Ohio).

(More on Page 28-A)

## Bill Introduced

Assemblyman William J. Filante, M.D. authored A.J.R.-14, a bill now before the California Legislature that requests recognition of Trick and Fancy Roping as an art and to honor it with a commemorative stamp to be issued by the postal service.

This assembly joint resolution will also recognize the fact that "the International Trick and Fancy Roper's Association is keeping the art alive not only for the enjoyment of the roper but for the benefit, entertainment and enrichment of the lives of all citizens."

## PEOPLE

VILEY PRIEST, a CFA member from Arkansas, will tour with the new Roller Bros. Circus this season.

## The Advance

by John Craig Carpenter

You hit the road before springtime,  
and it's not very long 'til you are  
Cussing your maps and the towners,  
the mud, the dust and your car.

If you like our style order your own copy of Circus Report now. You'll be happy that you did

## Circus in Detroit

by JON FRIDAY

The 75th Diamond Jubilee Moslem Temple Shrine Circus at Detroit, March 11-27, was produced by the Hanneford Circus and presented at the State Fair Coliseum.

The show program:

Pre-show clowning by the Moslem Clowns, Elephant Banner Parades and the Moslem Shrine Temple Parade featuring officials.

Spangles Serenade Overture under the direction of Keith Killinger with the Shrine Circus Band.

Introduction of the Million Dollar Ringmaster, Senor Rai.

Jay Cochrane, break-away sway pole (over the back track).

Douglas MacValley, Globe of Death motorcycle spectacular (between rings 2 and 3 and hoisted skyward after the act).

The Farrells (2), high wire (no net) (over the front track).

Moslem clowns with the 'Fire House'

The Verdus (3), rolling globes, Backstreet Flyers (6), All-Black tumblers, Franciscos (7), teeterboard.

Spanish-themed aerial fantasy (opening with comedy bull fight tableau with 'bull' being cut into two parts), 5 webs on front track and 5 on back track, Belinda Maynard in center with single trapeze and bare-foot twisting heel catch, one hock.

Space Age Illusions of Mike Phillips & Tricia "Sexy Fox" - Nobody will fall asleep during this Phil Morris production with loud bombs that shake the Coliseum and an assortment of other fireworks plus flashy illusions in all 3 rings, not to mention Tricia's well-rounded assets in her briefest of red briefs; enough to arouse the dearest of males. For the mechanical-minded, the main illusions are Tabouret, Disappearance from Ascending Chromed Rocket to Appearance in Crystal Casket and Motorcycle-thru-Girl all done to fast-paced 'Star Wars' music.

Gaylord Maynard and Chief Bearpaw, apaloosa horse. Bearpaw's birthday celebration gets out of control with too much bubbly champagne imbibed.

Heidi Herriott, dressage, Mark Karoly Bare back riders (7) with introduction of 94 yr. old Mrs. George (Catherine) Hanneford, Mary Ruth Herriott, dressage.

Mark has added some of Tommy Hanneford's comic bits such as the kiss and resultant face-slap; the "missed" leap or vault onto a spare horse standing just outside the ring; split-second walk in front of a horse and race in front of the finish horse.

Mark has the lithe body and acrobatic skill to do nearly anything in the circus field he chooses; however I feel that if he does comedy in the bareback riding act that he should go into the traditional comedy wardrobe, at least oversize suit jacket and a hat, so the audience knows that he's a comic. The bright canary yellow unisex wardrobe worn by his troupe makes it difficult for the crowd to figure who Mark is when he's in the ring with the others and I suppose the people down in the end of the building would have a hard time telling the boys from the girls and vice versa.

Also, the loss of Dennis Zoppe who Mark worked well with in recent years is evident. When Tommy Hanneford did comedy he wore comedy wardrobe (purple baggy pants and oversized plaid jacket would be standard) and also, his brother George or more recently Enrique Suarez, would continue the straight riding immediately after Tommy's outlandish nonsense such as knocking over a floss butcher and hiding behind his Mother or doing an Elvis Presley imitation; the music started again immediately and the act lost no momentum.

With Mark Karoly doing both straight and comedy riding; it seems like the act gets turned on and off too much. Mark reminded me somewhat of Tommy's uncle 'Poodles' the way he wandered away from the ring to talk with people in the seats and sometimes borrow a Sno-Kone from a patron and when the band broke into "New York, New York" he did a brief chorus line routine with the Lighting Director and finally, Mrs. Hanneford. But, the ring action just falls apart when he's gone more than a few seconds and as a result even his sensational horse-to-horse somersault fails to get the applause it deserves. I'm sure that master showman Tommy Hanneford will soon tighten this act up and hire another good bareback leaper-rider to complement Mark like Dennis did last year.

The Garzas (3) Living Statues. Gold-toned Adagio Acrobatics. Biggest hands of the

(Continued on Page 27-A)

**CIRCUS IN DETROIT (Continued)**

evening (like Chicago) go to these superb athletes and their slow-motion muscle control. Work to semi-classical music and when you see this act you'll discover what a great and versatile band Moslem Temple has assembled, led by Keith Killinger.

Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp - Spec - Entire company with elephants, camels (even a snake), get into the act with Phil Morris Arabic/Oriental wardrobe. Mark Karoly and Nellie Hanneford have featured roles.

Intermission.

Jungle Jamboree - Witch Doctors and Jungle Maidens Dance prelude for:

Jorge Barreda's African Lions (6). This compact lion act has become one of my all-time favorite wild animal cage acts. Everything is neat and clean; there are no prop-moving stalls and all six of the cats are active in several routines, i.e. no seat-warmers here. "Tuffy" (appears to be a neutered male) and his routine of hiding from Jorge when he sees the gun and then saying his prayers is a classic bit of animal training. Act has an effective strobe-light finish as the lions

leap thru a fire hoop and also over a fire hurdle.

Lion Chase (Clowns) around the track.

The Flying Lantons (4), all girl flyers and The Flying Gaonas (5), Julio attempted a triple. Both groups conclude with a passing leap. (Both from Mexico).

The Moslem Clowns - various clown bits on the track, the one playing my center section involved the old Shell-Game (using water buckets) and a "worm" that kept popping up in the wrong location.

Sabu, uncaged leopard, Nagana's Snakes (that's right, big snakes, mostly pythons, of about 4-5 of them), Mary Ruth's Poodles. I get a vision of a visiting Shriner coming out of the hospitality room with a paper cup in his hand; taking one look at these giant reptiles crawling all around the center ring . . . and going cold turkey.

Cristiani's Elephants (4), Hanneford's Elephants (3), Vidbel's Elephants (3). In addition to these 10 elephants, Bill Morris is also present with Jewel and Cora to make an even dozen elephants. Besides their arena performance, the elephants give rides in an adjacent building that also has mechanical rides, petting zoo, exhibits and a mini-circus Side Show. Also the elephants advertise various firms in the pre-show with their bill boards and banners on their sides.

Mark (Hanneford) Karoly - Elephant propelled teeterboard leap to the back of another elephant.

Fantastic Flag Waving Finale - Entire company - Six giant flags unfurl around the Coliseum. Features a giant inflated Earth/globe in center ring and several strings of running lights.

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## From Florida

Sunday a.m. we attended the Memorial Services at Showman's Rest in Tampa where the services were conducted by Tampa Showmen's Chaplin Bill Kourmpates, like the fair, in the rain, altho here we were under an awning (which leaked). These services are impressive as the names of departed members (during the preceding year) are read off, the men and women of the outdoor show world. Talked to Karl Ericksen, the Wiregards and Egle and Carl Sedlemeyer, Egle told of flying to Miami for the funeral of her aunt Olga Mangiavacchi along with brother Eddie and Uncle Mario Zacchini.

Next stop was Gibsonton and the International Showmen's Assoc. Clubhouse where the big exposition was in full swing. Saw a lot of folks we knew here also, but sad to say it was too soggy to go outdoors to look at the big rides, etc. Enjoyed lunch and visiting and discovered Oscarian Bros. Circus was to be up at Port Richey the following week. (We drove up only to discover it was almost totally rained out!). This show, owned by the Ramos family was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, everybody had to be sad about all that rain!

Like Thrill Shows? You can be a member of Joie Chitwood's Thrill Show Fan Club. Write to: 4410 West Alva St., Tampa, Fla. 33514, if you want to join, it's all free. You will receive news of their appearances as a Fan Club member. Chitwood, the "chief" of the stunt car driving clan, and his sons, Tim and Joie, Jr. recently finished working in Burt Reynold's Smokey and the Bandit III.

Circus World attendance was down 1% in 1982, according to officials at the central Florida tourist attraction. 1982 attendance was 948,756, compared to 957,482 the previous year.

TV showed a Circus theme opening on Denny Terio's "Dance Fever." Did you know Denny is a native Floridan? Dave Mc Millan and tigers from Circus World were on TV as well as a re-run showing Fay Alexander and the Participation Circus. Good Morning America had a visit to RBBB winterquarters in Venice, Fla. (The Felds would like to move the quarters back to Sarasota, according to recent news).

Circus Fan Julian Wheat, of Jackson, Mich.

forwarded the obituary of the late J. Adrian Rosenberg, attorney, who died at the age of 86. He and his late brother, Paul Lewis Rosenberg founded Lewis Bros. Circus which traveled throughout the midwest in the 30's, 40's and into the late 50's. (This is the show where our "Young Nelson's" risley act was started).

A while ago I mentioned in this column that Gardinier Phosphates (an international company) had purchased the John Ringling Towers in Sarasota and planned to re-do it, plus building a number of condominiums on surrounding property. They originally planned to restore the old Hotel, for concessions in zoning, but the plans have now been changed and the Ringling Hotel will most likely be "balled down" by a wrecking crew. It was built by Chicago millionaire Owen Burns in 1926 and named El Verona, after his wife. John Ringling purchased it in the early 1930's and named it after himself. Historians (including this one) will miss it very much, but it is now a run-down, ugly hulk, so unless a company with a lot of money like Gardinier could make it beautiful again, better that it be torn down. It housed many celebrities over the years and many circus folks performed there. Some to the accompaniment of Rudy Bundy's orchestra.

This is a very "soggy" report after the State Fair and "Gibtown", both of where I got wet feet. I went to bed for a few days with a cold, which does not happen too often here in Florida.

Joanne (Wilson) Pinson now has a costume and design business operating out of her Gainesville, Texas home. Rte. 1, Box 970, Gainesville, Texas 76240.

Harris Reynolds, with several of his relatives drove down from Atlanta, Ga., in all this lousy weather planning visits in various parts of Florida, but the weather was so discouraging that they left from Bobby and Caroline (Hodgini) Hodgson's in Valrico and headed home as we were driving over from Gibtown (on the spur of the moment), so we missed them but had a quick visit with the Hodgsons, Corrine Dearo and Caroline's daughter Carol, Virgie Hansen who is Harris' eldest sister (Beverly Hills, Ca.) visited with Bobby Kaye in the hospital just before she left California, he is now at home in Long Beach, with a nurse,