

CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Happy New Year

Number 1

January 4, 1982



MARK ANTHONY

Show Dates

Circus Odyssey
to Feb. 14
Mexico City,
Mexico

Ice Follies
Feb. 2-7
San Fran, Ca

Feb. 9-14
Oakland

Clowning Around

again on the unicycles,
plus additional numbers
AVAILABLE FOR SPOT DATES
IN 1982

Pappy Hall (Mel)
934 Calder
Beaumont, Texas 77704
713 - 833 - 3341

FOR SALE

BABY MALE WHITE-FACED
CHIMPANZEE - 22 lbs -
Roller Skates - Rides
Scat-Scooter - Eats
with Spoon - Super
Gentle.

\$12,500.00

Please call
516-378-2451

Holiday Show

Acts featured in the Christmas Show presented at the Medinah Temple in Chicago, Ill., on Dec. 11 and 12th were:

Frank & Estreleta, aerial perch; The Freddie, rola bola; Paul Bachman, juggler; John Shirley, balloons; The Francarros, foot juggling; The Kersawes, bicycle; Veno Berosini, sword balance, and of course Santa Claus.

HOTLINE

Dec. 11 - Las Vegas, Nev. - Javier "Pelusa" Esparza, clown with the old Polack Bros. Circus and most recently featured on ice shows, was hospitalized with major injuries after being hit and run over by a hit-and-run driver. He is listed as being in stable but serious condition at the Sunrise Hospital in Las Vegas

Dec. 15 - Gibsonton, Fla. Raphael Vasquez lost his new truck, chimps, dogs and wardrobe in a fire and explosion at a garage where his truck was being worked on by a mechanic.

In Memoriam

CLARENCE J. VON NIEDA (90) a retired circus flier, died Dec. 10th at Lebanon, Pa., after a long illness. He started his circus career in 1909 as a part of the Four Readings, an internationally famous acrobatic team. He toured in vaudeville for a long time, working with many big name stars, then he studied painting and wood carving and finally settled down in Reading, Pa., where he operated his own barber shop.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

Acts appearing with the Funs-A-Poppin Circus stage variety show for the holiday season tour in Central California were:

Chester Cable, foot juggling; Wini McKay, single trapeze; Bob Emerico, circus clown; Henry Crowell, trampoline; Dolores Coronada, web; Hunt Bushnell, birds/puppets and Sillie Millie, clown.

The show was MC'd by Betty Wendany and music was provided by Virginia Lee Fenton at the organ and Chuck on drums.

AVAILABLE FOR 1982

THE HAM N' EGG REVUE

America's finest performing Pig and Chicken Act
5 talented pigs and 3 chickens
and featuring
"Denny" the Singing Duck
— 15 Minutes of Country Fun —

Act can be seen on the following Shrine Circus Dates

Jan. 16 to 24 - Flint, Michigan

March 19 to April 4 - Detroit, Michigan

April 16 to 25 - Columbus, Ohio

April 29 to May 2 - Indianapolis, Indiana



MR. JOE AND CO.

Hilarious comedy chimpanzee act with
monkeyshines galore, plus audience participation

Both acts presented by renowned animal trainer

JOE SKIBIKI

News from Florida

by MARJORIE HACKETT

News of the death of Jeannie Carson, long-time wardrobe lady on Ringling, in spite of her age, came as a shock. One thought Jeannie would go on forever, she "opened" all three of the Madison Square Gardens during her busy life time.

David Hackett has returned home from a long weekend trip to Tacoma and Seattle, Wash. where he surprised friend Ralph Decker, a fellow circus

fan, fire buff and Masonic brother, when Ralph was installed as Master of Joseph Warren Lodge in Tacoma. David flew while our Circus Fan President took the leisurely way to go west from Springfield, Ohio, on Amtrak. Jim Saunders is with the Springfield fire dept. and is also a fire buff and train buff.

He had planned to get Ralph to drive him to SEATAC on the pretense of taking another look at their fire house but due

(Continued on Page 25)

People

CARLTON & CO., illusionist, has moved from Las Vegas to Reno where they are appearing in the big MGM Show "Hello Hollywood Hello."

JONATHAN LONGJEANS, stilt walker, made a special surprise appearance on the streets of downtown San Francisco just prior to Christmas to promote the arrival of the musical show "Barnum" which is playing at the Golden Gate Theatre.

WANTED

FOR 1982

FAMILY ACTS
doing 2 or more

ANIMAL ACTS
of all kinds

Clowns - Show Girls

ADVANCE PEOPLE
To Start Now
Full or Part Time
Eastern States

ADAMS BROS. CIRCUS
Jim Hand or Bob Adams
305-587-8502
or write

P. O. Box 17017
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33318



1 - Fire debris litters Damrosch Park (New York City) after the fire at the Big Apple Circus. The elephant van in back was not occupied.

2 - Firemen wet down hay in the stall area.

3 - Firemen aid performer Sacha Pavlata after she collapsed while attempting to save the show animals.

4 - Sacha is supported by fellow show people as a pony is led away to be destroyed.

(All photos were taken from the New York Daily News of Dec. 11, 1981. Photos were taken by Carmine Donofrio and Robert Rosamilio).

2 animals dead after circus fire



2

3

4

Reliable Promoters

Needed for 1982 Tour

CARSON & BARNES

5 Ring Circus

Must Have References

Several offices opening Jan. 4

*

918 - 455 - 3768

(Bob or Jane)

No Advances - No Collects

British Fans

The Circus Fans' Association of Great Britain welcomes new members on a world wide basis.

The organization's official magazine "King Pole" is published four times a year and features international news, reviews, photos, etc.

For details on the organization write to:
John Sheward, 9 VI Carage Road, Haydock, St. Helens, Merseyside WA11 0UF, England.

Christmas Show

The program for the annual Caterpillar Children Christmas Party, at Decatur, Ill. (Dec. 13) featured the following acts:

Danacheck, unicycle; Lee and Rita Henneberry, variety act; Marina, Mini Circus dog act and Hank Marr, clown balloon act.

Also included in the show were Armand Tosetti organist, Wayne Kerr, MC and Santa Claus.

Happy New Year

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

Wonderful friends
Are jewels in your crown
Keep the jewels sparkling
Don't wear a frown

Praise the Good Lord
Each and Every Day
He Makes Our Lives Happy
In So Many Ways.

Christmas Time - Joy Time
Love, Friendship, Good Cheer
Our Golden Opportunity
To Greet You Every Year.

Merry Xmas, Happy New Year
Our wishes are the best
Sprinkled with love
From you friends Bob and Es.

GREETINGS & BEST WISHES
Bob and Esther Weigel
2911 Westchester Avenue
Ellicott City, MD 21043

In Memoriam

SAMUÉL COHEN (62) an avid musician and circus fan died recently at Harrisburg, Pa. He was the only known left handed tuba player and had toured on Mills Bros. Circus and various Shrine circuses. He frequently sat in with the band on such shows as Beatty-Cole, Ringling, Hoxie, Bartok, Cristiani, Great American and Circus Kirk.

He had a large collection of original circus music, was an active member of the Reading (Pa) Cadet Band and an officer in the Musicians Union of Reading, Pa. He worked at the Veterans Action Center in Reading and for five years had served as a revenue agent for the Pennsylvania Dept of Revenue.

DEWY "Pigmeat" MARKHAM (77) former vaudeville

comedian, died Dec. 13 at a hospital in Bronx, NY. He is described as "one of the funniest and most popular black comedians" by the Black American Reference Book.

Markham started his show business career as a dancer and comedian with carnivals and medicine shows then in the mid-1920's he came to New York to appear in vaudeville, along with his straight man, the late George Wilshire. He recorded 16 record albums.

WILLIAM "Duke" MONAHAN, Sr. (83) the man responsible for bringing many big bands to the Reading, Pa. area, died Dec. 11th in Reading, Pa.

He operated a booking agency in Reading for the big dance bands touring that area. Some of the bands he brought into the area were: Paul Whiteman, Vincent Lopez, Jan Garber.

A TV Set up

Last month a small circus was set up on a lot next to the NBC studios in Burbank, Calif. In addition to the necessary film equipment there was a circus big top, elephants, 3 cages of animals, plus a trampoline act, four small midget clowns and such show personalities as Cliff Mosley, Bob Yerkes,

BILLY RAYE - Accomplished Show Organist - Have equipment - Phone: 219-845-1292/219-931-1933 - Box 15, Calumet City, Ill. 60409.

and Doug Ashton.

The circus set up is being used as background for a new TV series that is presently being filmed. The show is tentatively being called "The Great American Hero."

People

CECILIA PLESHAKOV, animal trainer, was featured on a recent Merv Griffin TV Show program.

NEWS FROM FLORIDA (Cont'd)

to Eastern Airlines two hour delay out of Atlanta, the surprise meeting did not take place! Otherwise these kindred souls had a marvelous time and were all at the Jack Bell Tent #90, CFA dinner and meeting at the Wharf restaurant in Seattle on Sunday. Also enjoying a western jaunt was Shirley Ryon, Washington, DC, who is District Director (4) covering DC, Maryland, West Virginia, Virginia and Delaware.

David visited by phone with Lucille Lane, Director (16) at Atlanta, covering Florida, Georgia, South Carolina. Lucille and Bill Lane will spend Xmas with son Ralph, Daughter-in-law Kathy and grandson Nathaniel in St. Petersburg.

We drive to Lakeland on Sunday, Dec. 20th for the Rucker Family Circus as guests of Milonga Escalante Cline and in company with her sister Esther and brother-in-law Luis Caucica.

David and I are very happy to see Jim Parker's newsy column in Circus Report, keeps all of us informed about what is going

HOTLINE

Two escaped lions stopped rush hour traffic in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Nov. 26th when their cage fell off a circus truck. It took three hours to capture both animals.

People

BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON, played a date clowning and juggling for Betty Wendy's Funs-A-Poppin Circus at Norwalk, Calif. last month.

MURILLO and ULISES are still featured in the Tropicana Hotel show Folies Bergere '81 in Las Vegas.

THE OSMANI SISTERS, all girl juggling act, will open at the Holiday Casino in Las Vegas on Jan. 25th, appearing in the show Wild World of Burlesque.

MEL PACHECO, Mime, EMMY KAY, marimba, KEN KARTER, ventriloquist, CHARLES & CO., magic, BILL WILLIAMS Clown/Santa and KEN CHAMBERS, organist, worked a Xmas Party date in Santa Rosa, Calif. on Dec. 20th

on around Gibtown, River-view, etc.

HELEN WILSON -- Show Organist
(own equipment) 704 - 786 - 4563
Box 1167, Concord, NC - 28025.

People

HARRY BLACKSTONE, magician, served as co-host on a recent Mike Douglas TV Show.

BOBBY KAYE, who recently completed a teaching session at the RBBB Clown College, reports that 60 students were enrolled in the latest class and that 22 were accepted to work with the circus.

AVAILABLE

All new acts available for the '82 season
Pefer Theme Park

- 1 - 16 tiger cage act
- 2 - Mixed 4 tigers and 4 Great Danes in cage act
- 3 - Illusion act with Lion, Tiger, Black and Spotted Leopards

Performed at Lion Country Safari
last summer

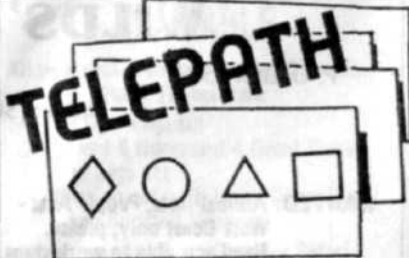
Contact: **JOHN WEINHART**
9478 Bellegrave Riverside, Ca. 92509
Phone: 714 - 685 - 0368

ED MIGLEY, producer of Circus Odyssey/Circus America, reports his circus will play Baltimore this November and in '83 the show will tour Japan and The Philippines.

Halloween Show

A Halloween Night program presented at the Roxy Theatre in Los Angeles, Calif., used the theme of "Outer Space". All acts were dressed in special wardrobe to fit the theme and Phil Shear, who did the clown numbers, also did the special make up work.

Acts working the show were: Ken Willer, balancing/juggling; Faye Snyder, animals; Gerry Mc Millan; announcer; Hunt Bushnell, birds; Skeeter,



A Masterpiece of mental magic. You show four plastic plaques 4"x10" with 16 different symbols. Four spectators are asked to just think of one of the symbols. You name the symbol they are thinking of, 100% accurate. No one ahead, no slips of paper, no swami gimmacks, no nothing, professional strong mental effect.

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knife throwing; Baldwin's Chimps; Julian, snakes; Elena Omar, balancing; Bobby Reynolds, fire eating/swords; Howard Johnson and Wally Ross, elephant rides; Jett's Petting Zoo with three rides; Bill Rice, lighting; Virginia Lee Fenton, organist and Cliff Mosley, concessions.

People

BILL WILLIAMS had a busy Holiday Season playing Santa for various parties and stores in the San Francisco (Calif.) area.

BY
DON
MARCKS



It is just impossible to say "Thank You" personally to each and everyone who sent a card, wrote a letter or phoned to offer their sympathy and understanding following my Mother's death in November. I appreciate everything and want you to know that it is really great to have friends such as you. Many thanks.

The past couple of months have been difficult and it isn't going to be easy for some time, for there is still so much that must be done.

However, we will keep Circus Report going out on schedule each week.

There may be some new features coming up, and we will continue to offer a variety of news, reports and information on what acts are appearing with the various shows. We also plan to reprint more stor-

ies and reports from various magazines and newspapers and probably will be providing more photos in each issue, plus some historical material.

For those who are interested in other phases of show business, we hope to bring you news and information about magic, promotions, ice shows, and the theatre.

This issue has been set in a special type on the typewriter because the old trusty composer broke down and we are presently waiting for a serviceman. We hope he comes soon, for a lot more material can be set-up in a smaller space on the composer with its special type faces.

Thanks again for your kindness and continued support and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year!

The Cole All-Star TV Circus will open its tour on Jan. 16 at Halifax, Pa., and closes at Gloversville (NY) on April 2nd.