

THE CIRCUS REPORT

Number 14

April 5, 1982

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEK
OUR 11th YEAR



YVETTE and Michu

Hospital Show

by HUNT BUSHNELL

On Tuesday, Mar. 9th, in Downey, Calif., at Rancho Los Amigo Hospital over 60 members of the Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club gathered from the far corners of the globe to put on an hour and a half two ring, one stage, outdoor sidewall circus for close to 400 patients, staff and friends and families. The patients are the severely handicapped, practically all permanently confined to wheel chairs or beds. But come to the circus they did. The members arrived early in the morning to begin setting up and so did the audience but low and behold they stayed out of the way. It was truly a miracle to see so many people take such an interest in the show and its erection and not once get in the way.

The show consisted of Ed Russell, ringmaster, Virginia Lee Fenton, organist, Bob Moore w/Kari Jones Mongrel Revue, Wini McKay, circular trapeze, Bill Patterson, escapes, Dave "Happy the Clown" Twomey, llama, pony drill and elephant dog, John Baldwin's Charming Chimps, Heidi Wendany juggling, Nancy and Darryl and Terry Ferges trampoline, Frank Dean, ropes, Phil Shear & Co., Jargo giraffe and magic, Karl Mitchell,

movie dog, Kenny "Koko" Twomey, unicycle, Chester Cable, foot juggling, plus his new inflatable ring curb, 90 seconds to set up a 36 foot ring curb 120 to tear it down, and on the midway a male cheeta on lead by Jan Giacinto and the pony size cage wagons of Hunt Bushnell.

There were also many clowns and roustabouts, all members of the Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club which meets every Monday of the year at Philippe's Restaurant, 1001 N. Alameda St. (1 block east of Olvera St) in downtown Los Angeles, and it is open to anyone who is with it or for it. Drop in at anytime.

PEOPLE

DON ARTHUR, Ringling Bros. Clown School Professor, starts April 5th at the Princess Hotel in Bermuda with his Oriental Illusion Show. It's a 6 month gig and his show is part of the '82 Follies produced by Greg Thompson Productions of Seattle.

Show Dates

Carson & Barnes Circus

- Apr. 3 Idabel, Okla.
 4 Texarkana, Ark
 5 Magnolia
 6 Camden
 7 Warren
 8 El Dorado
 9 Minden, La.
 10 Longview, Tex.

Circus Vargas

- Apr 2-8 Northridge, Ca.
 9-11 Pico Rivera

Coronas Circus

- Apr 9-18 Atlanta, Ga.

Hamid-Morton Circus

- Apr 8-10 Binghamton, NY

Hoxie Bros. Circus

- Apr. 2-11 Macon, Ga.

Reid Bros. Circus

- Apr. 8 Brookings, Ore.
 10 Coos Bay

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

- to May 31 New York, NY

Ringling-Barnum - Red

- to Apr. 4 Cincinnati, Oh

Roberts Bros. Circus

- Apr 10 Arcadia, Fla.

Sarasota Sailor Circus

- Apr 7-10 Sarasota, Fla

Circo Italiano

- Mar 26-Apr 9 Tijuana, Mex

--- MAGIC ---

Corky's Magic Circus

- Apr 5-6 W. Palm Bch, Fla
 9-10 Jacksonville

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

- Apr 5 Berryville, Va.
 6 Front Royal
 7 Keyser, W. Va.
 8 Leesburgh, Va.
 10 Manassas

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney on Ice

- Apr 6-11 Dayton, Ohio

The Great Wallendas

- Apr 6-7 Ft. Pierce, Fla.
 9-10 W. Palm Beach

Holiday on Ice

- Apr 6-11 New Or'ns, La

Scott's Medicine Show

- Apr 5 Mt. Pleasant, Tex
 6 Longview
 7 Greenville
 8 Paris
 9 Denison
 10 Gainesville

"Center Ring"

by JOHN S. STILL

Circus Fans and art fanciers had an extra three weeks in which to see and enjoy "Center Ring: The Artist" at the New York State Museum in Albany. Prompted by public interest in the exhibit and by favorable reaction from critics, Museum officials extended the show thru March 28th.

"Center Ring" was conceived and organized by the Milwaukee Art Museum, where it opened on May 7, 1981, under the expert guest curatorship of Dean Jensen, circus fan and scholar as well as art critic for the Milwaukee Sentinel. It's overwhelmingly successful seven-week stay on the shore of Lake Michigan was followed by a month and a half of public acclaim at the Columbus (Oh) Museum of Art before its unveiling in Albany on Dec. 11th as an early Christmas gift to lovers of the circus and the fine arts. The Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC will be the final stop for the exhibit, from April 24 to June 6th.

"Center Ring" consists of 103 paintings and sculptures, balanced by the more "popular" or "folk art" expressed in 78 posters, woodcuts, broadsides and wood carvings. It comes as a surprise to visitors that many famous artists of the past two centuries chose the circus as their subject. Works by Picasso, Toulouse-Lautrec, Matisse, Chagall and Calder rub shoulders with such well-known paintings as W. H. Brown's 'Bareback Riders', Milton Avery's 'Chariot Race', A. B. Frost's 'The Circus', John Steuart Curry's 'Clyde Beatty', Walt Kuhn's 'The White Clown' and Reginald Marsh's 'Pip and Flip'. And all of these are compatible with widely varying schools of art and media ranging from Fernand Leger's ideas of space and dynamism expressed in 'The Two Acrobats' to Anne Kingsbury's fabric sculpture 'Circus

Blanket.'

The popular art section is introduced by a small but impressive group of circus historical rarities, including a 1797 broadside, 'The Elephant'; two spectacular large woodcuts advertising the Association Menagerie's Museum Pavilion (c. 1835) and June, Titus and Angevine's Menagerie and Circus (1841); and nine other woodcuts and prints antedating 1880. A dozen wood artifacts reveal the skill of the carvers whose work embellished 19th century circus wagons. Dominating this artform is a resplendent red and gold full-size Sells Brothers cage wagon side from 1880, lent by Chappie Fox. Rounding out the show are five side show banners and nearly fifty posters spanning the years between 1880 and 1945. Many familiar images appear from the 1920's onward - Gargantua, Felix Adler, May Wirth, Tom Mix, etc., but the number of rare and little-known lithos from the earlier decades is remarkable. Most of these gems come from Circus World Museum at Baraboo, with a half-dozen breath-taking treasures on loan from Fred Pfening. His Forepaugh's 'Equestrienne', Ringling Bros. 'Aviary and Aquarium' (1898), Barnum & London's 'Chang the Chinese Giant' (1880) and Barnum & Bailey's 'Family at Four Ring Circus' (1907), to mention a few, are long to be remembered.

In the tradition of the circus "afterpiece" the New York State Museum installed a large complementary exhibit of its own filling another 4,000 sq. ft. This bonus was planned and organized by Dr. John S. Still, chief curator for the museum, as well as a CHS and CFA member.

Adhering to the art theme of "Center Ring" but avoiding duplication, the exhibit focuses on three subjects, "The Art of the Photographer," "The Art of the Model Builder" and "The Art of the Superlative." Drawing upon its own collections, the mus-

(Continued on Page 23)

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Jumbo Centennial

by E. CLARK BEURLIN

One hundred years ago, the most famous animal in the world arrived in the United States. A century later, he remains the most famous animal in the world!

In 1865, the Royal Zoological Gardens at Regent's Park in London participated in an exchange with the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. A small African elephant about four years old and just five feet high found a new home in London.

Abraham Dee Bartlett, superintendent of the Royal Zoological Gardens, was the likely originator of the elephant's name, Jumbo. Jumbo is a variation of a Zulu word, *jumba*, meaning a large packet.

Under the watchful eye of his keeper, Matthew Scott, Jumbo grew in size as his popularity grew. When a second elephant, Alice, was purchased by the Zoological Gardens, an imaginary romance was created by the London press.

Jumbo was most famous as a ride elephant and he carried six or more passengers on wooden benches strapped to his back. The zoo patrons loved to feed Jumbo fruit and buns. He was the center of attention for over fifteen years, and even Queen Victoria and the Royal Family were among his admirers. At this time, the elephant was said to be over eleven feet tall and to weigh over six tons.

As the years passed, Jumbo became violent at times. He battered his quarters and did damage to the walls and to himself. Late in 1881, zoo officials purchased an elephant gun to prepare for the time when Jumbo's temper might not be controlled.

P. T. Barnum, the famous American showman, had agents in many countries. They were aware of the problems with Jumbo and managed to purchase the elephant for just \$10,000 in Jan. 1882. By the middle of February, Barnum's workers arrived at the zoo and constructed a large crate on wheels for Jumbo's transportation to the United States.

Public awareness of Jumbo's sale resulted in an outcry throughout England. Protests, letters, speeches, newsprint and even poems and songs were used to attempt to keep the elephant at home. Barnum encouraged and used the publicity to build up anticipation of Jumbo's arrival in the United States. He was especially pleased when the elephant re-

fused to move after lying down in the roadway. After Matthew Scott was hired to accompany Jumbo to the United States, the elephant was soon led into his crate without much protest at all. He was drawn to the docks by forty horses and set sail for America on March 25, 1882.

On April 9, 1882, P. T. Barnum and his partners, James A. Bailey and James L. Hutchinson, went aboard the "Assyrian Monarch" in New York Harbor to welcome Jumbo.

Including the purchase price and transportation expenses, the elephant had cost them over \$30,000. Late that night, Jumbo's crate was pulled up Broadway by a team of sixteen horses with two large elephants pushing from behind. The very next day, Jumbo became the feature of the Barnum & London Circus at Madison Square Garden.

During his first year in the United States, Jumbo earned over one million dollars for his new owners. He toured in a red and gold railroad car called Jumbo's Palace Car. It even contained quarters for Matthew Scott.

Jumbo was the subject of dozens of advertising trade cards selling thread, soap, insurance, hats, laxatives, liniments, baking powders, sewing machines, coffee, clothing and every imaginable product.

He was featured in books, children's stories, newspaper cartoons and magazine articles. Toys, figurines and souvenirs were manufactured and sold by the thousands. For three and one half years, Jumbo was a gentle and willing participant in the circus and was considered a national pet.

On the evening of Sept. 15, 1885, the circus elephants were returning the train following a performance in St. Thomas, Ontario. Jumbo and a small elephant, Tom Thumb, were nearing their car when an unscheduled freight train struck them. Tom Thumb was injured, but Jumbo was hit directly and died a few minutes later. The impact derailed the train engine and two cars, Barnum, in an effort to continue the feature of his circus, had Jumbo's 1,500 lb. skin stuffed and his huge skeleton mounted. His former companion, Alice, was brought from England and exhibited in 1886 along with Jumbo's remains. She died in a fire at the end of the 1886 season.

In 1889, Jumbo returned to England one

(Continued on Page 21)

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THE GREAT CIRCUS OF CHINA

by GORDON BROWN

Heading into the last month of its three month Canadian tour, The Great Circus of China, produced by Circus Tivoli, was completing the most successful tour by any circus across Canada. Circus impresario, J. Sergei Sawchyn arriving in Edmonton, noted that attendance had totalled about 300,000 with capacity crowds in Eastern Canada and Saskatchewan.

When the show closes in Vancouver, Mar. 21st, it will have performed 85 times on 83 days, and grossed about \$5 million. Another first, the show is travelling by two chartered C.P. Jumbo Jets in Canada, allowing just one day off between stands.

The Edmonton Sun noted: "the incredibly talented troupe provided a stunning introduction to the ancient art of the circus an art that in China is even older than Western civilization."

Madame Xai Jai, China's top circus director oversees everything. Starting as a circus apprentice at age 5, she began to perfect a tough contortion routine known in the Chinese circus for 2000 years. She helped found the circus troupe in Wuhan in 1953, which is now accepted as the best of 80 in China.

Program: -

The Great Circus Orchestra conducted by Zhu Yonghui, played melodious appropriate traditional circus music, composed specifically for the circus, with ten musicians, with flute, piccolo, Chinese strings; bass viol and marimbas and drums, but no drum rolls. Zhu brought down the house with three Canadian known entries - "The Maple Leaf Forever", "Snowbird" and "It's Later Than You Think."

The Grand Entry with all performers, introduced the 1000 year old traditional opening - the "Dance of the Lions". There were no live animals in the show; during the Cultural Revolution, authorities had banned their use. Instead, 13 yr. old Wan Ji and 12 yr. old Hu Libo, tumbled and soared with two long phosphorescent lions, each stuffed with two acrobats, who leaped from one pedestal to another, and four "cubs" who helped them all with some cartoon-like antics.

Ten Pretty Girls spinning 80 plates and si-

multaneously Liu Yun performed unusual hand balancing and He QunQiong plucked a flower in her teeth in a deep backward lean from precariously balanced trestles.

Six Slim Young Men leaping thru rings showed agility and comedy, then much daring as they dove through daggers and fire-lined rings.

Beauty on The High Perch Pole and off-center trapeze by Feng Yangin and Zhang Sui.

Teeterboard Titans in Mongolian garb featured Al Bing in a stilt somersault, then a four high and a double into a high chair to finish.

Fantastic Foot Jugglers, Huong Honghong and Zhan Hong effortlessly flipped heavy porcelain jars, carved wooden tables and oriental runs to one another.

The Sky-High Wire: Bai Tuline and Li Chih-ping walk up to and cavorted alternately on the 40 ft. high wire, then finished with a foot slide and a split-slide down.

Intermission - Ron Morris had the concessions; a 65 page all color program at \$3.00; Chinese fans, lanterns and wind chimes sold well.

Two Bicycles on the Pedestal stationary with one atop another and Tu Yongzhen and Zhong Sui balanced on the top one, and Hu Libo, the 12 yr. old star above them doing a full split.

The Dance of the Flying Comets - Two bowls filled with water and suspended from the ends of a limp rope are kept constantly in motion, flying between, around, under and away up and over the experts Li Zhinia and Peng Yangin, without spilling a drop.

Head and Shoulder Juggling with unique spinning, bobbing and throwing of large porcelain vases by two muscular artists, without any use of the hands.

The Incredible Tower of Chairs, nine in all, stacked in a pyramid on 4 thin bottles on a table with 6 stars aloft, who go into perfectly balanced synchronized handstands.

The Pagoda of Bowls, a centuries old routine performed by 13 yr. old contortionist Li Liping, alternating with her older sister, who balanced a stack of bowls on one foot throughout an astonishing balancing routine.

(Continued on Page 13)

GREAT CHINA CIRCUS (Continued)

Liping finished supported by her mouth as she revolved a full circle while the bowls remained in position.

The **Mastery of the Bicycle** started with a top-mounter tossing a somersault from a two high on one bike to another similar pyramid on a second bike. For the "Pheasants Tail", Huong Honghong managed to balance 13 other women on one chromed bicycle, qualifying her for the Guinness Book of Records.

Wu Weimin and He Zhongjie, two imaginative slapstick slowans, accomplished circus artists in their own right, made numerous appearances mainly with hilarious parodies of the various acts.

The **Grand Finale**: All of the performers saluted to a standing ovation at each performance. Beautiful Tu Yongzhen, the ringmistress graciously thanks the audience for the warmth of their reception.

The show is presented in one ring with a wide, tall decorated partition closing off the backstage preparations on the floor of the arena and reducing seating by one-half to one-third depending on the size of the building. The bandstand is above the performer's entrance curtain.

Box seats close to the ring were \$12.00, with \$10.00, \$8.00 and \$6.00 elsewhere.

Tour dates: Ottawa Civic Centre, Jan. 6-10; Quebec City Coliseum, Jan. 12-20; Toronto CNE Coliseum, Jan. 22-31; Montreal Maurice Richard Arena, Feb. 2-14; Regina Agri-dome, Feb. 17-18; Saskatoon Centennial Auditorium, Feb. 20-21; Edmonton Coliseum, Feb. 23-28; Calgary Stampede Coral, Mar. 2-7; Winnipeg Arena, Mar. 9-14 and Vancouver PNE Coliseum, Mar. 16-21.

FOOTNOTES:

J. Sergei Sawchyn, the executive producer of the show, is Director of Cantour Circuses, Ltd., which in 1977 presented the record breaking Canadian Moscow Circus tour. In 1981, he completed public financing of Circus Tivoli with 260 stockholders sharing 500 units in a limited partnership to make up a total of \$2.5 million. The show bowed last spring in Ontario with a huge Canobbio round top, one ring and spectacular equipment. Reviews were good but the show closed early, Sergei is hoping to re-open in 1983.

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Kamala Circus

The "Kamala Circus", produced by Billy Gunga and playing dates in the suburbs of Cleveland and Pittsburgh, featured the following acts:

Rolling Globes by Ivy and Kamala; Magic by Art Jennings; Clown Pony presented by Hal Haviland; Juggling, Lenny Mazel; Acro and Tumbling, the Gunga Sisters; "Capers with Papers" with Hal Haviland; Intermission.

Hat Manipulation, Lenny Mazel; Glass Balancing, Billy Gunga; Illusions, Art Jennings; Angela Wilnow's Collies; and circus announcers, Art Jennings, Billy Gunga and Hal Haviland.

Madame Xai Jai Hai, age 44, the circus leader, is the Deputy Director of the Municipal Cultural Bureau of Wuhan, an elected delegate to the National People's Congress and has been recently elected to the Standing Committee of the Congress of China.

The troupe celebrated their New Years Feast on Jan. 25th - fur the Year of The Dog, at the Cathay II Restaurant in Toronto.

Feeding the artists is a serious business. One-eighth of the clauses in an amendment of the English language version of their contract in Canada was concerned with food provisioning. Leading Chinese restaurants in each Canadian city arranged hot spicy 60% vegetable and 40% meat meals and good supplies of beer for the vigorous appetites of the acrobats.

Amazing feats at Circus of China



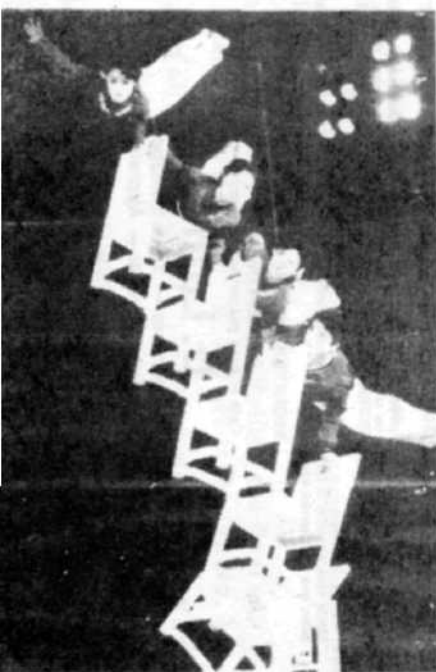
The Foot Jugglers



Worker Asleep on some Circus Trunks



Li Liping, 13 years old, performing
the Amazing Pagoda of the Bowls



The Tower of Chairs



Display of
Martial Arts



Circus Artists
Wu Weimin and He Hongjie



The Popular Bicycle Act

PEOPLE

JIM RIDENOUR is busy with school assemblies as Happy the Magic Clown. He's already worked 160 schools with 55 more booked this year. Next year Jim will switch to the "Incredible World of Science" assembly program.

BERT BELL is looking for copies of The Circus Report from the years 1972, 1973 and 1974. You can contact him by writing to: 2066 Triumph St., No. 8, Vancouver, BC, Canada V5L - 1K8.

JOHN LENTZ and **EVI KELLY** were married on March 9th in Sarasota, Fla. She is the widow of the late Emmett Kelly and John is a circus fan and well known to many CFA's in the East.

TOM TOMASHEK, with the Happytime Circus last season, has his own company in Eugene, Ore., called "Ringmaster Attractions" where he is booking dates for fairs and school assemblies. He also serves as the Business Agent for Local 689 of the Musician's Union.

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Speaking of . . .

BY JIM PARKER

The Children's World of the Circus (Bill Garden's Holiday Hippodrome) played the Brandon High School Auditorium, Brandon Fla. on Mar. 11th with a 7 p.m. performance.

This clean, wholesome, fast-paced family show had the following: Juggling Roberts (Bob, Jane and Vicky Lang); Magic with Floyd Bradbury and assisted by Barbara Sherry; Pork Chop Revue with Linda Penny and Grumpy; Sword Balancing by Hanzinni (Hans Klose); Balloon Pitch with Floyd Bradbury; Intermission.

Foot Juggling by Janie Ann Klose; Balancing trapeze by Chris Oler; Teeterboard with the Lang Troupe (Bob, Jane, Susie, Robie, Vicky and David); Gorilla Parody with Adele and Gory (Hans Klose). The show band had Floyd Bradbury on drums and Phil Oler at the organ. Floyd (Brad) also announced the show and is manager.

The show was very well received and the Pork Chop Revue was the favorite among the kiddies with Grumpy doing an excel-

lent job. Janie Ann Klose is debuting her foot juggling for the first time and this pretty young lady does an outstanding job utilizing flashy props. It is uncanny how the three Langs, Bob, Jane and Vicky juggle everything to unison and present a very pleasing act.

Visitors at the show included Dick, Mavis, Lisa and Richard Johnson, Dennis and Lynn Michaels, Dick and Laura Lunsford, Johnny Media, the Goodwins, Wayne Murray, Ward Hall and his special guests, Mr. and Mrs. Pere and Majken Longander, magician and carnival owner from Kalstav, Sweden. Dick Johnson claims his favorite act in the show is Brad's balloon pitch and it is done very cleverly with excellent results. Opps, forgot that Mr. and Mrs. Roy Huston also attended the show. Mr. Penny and the Lang family handle the concessions. Music is excellent and they play lots of circus tunes which adds much to the show.

Activity at Ward Hall and Chris Christ's winterquarters in Gibsonton, Fla., is unreal as there are at least a dozen projects going on as they ready a huge tent for the '82 season under the Wondercade title. The former King Bros. Circus pole semi and stake driver, along with the big top has been purchased and right now one of the largest stages is being built at the quarters, strong enough to hold Mike and Sally LaTorre's elephant Stoney.

Also, Johnny Media is painting the show fronts like mad. It is good to see an old time show painter hard at work as what he paints is superb. Lately a lot of shows have gone into airbrush painting for show lettering and pictorials and it certainly cannot compare to the old hand style like Johnny does. The air brush looks cheap and fuzzy, so thank goodness there are still those in the business that can do the old style lettering.

Yellow Barnett and Roger Boyd, please write!

ROBERT "Rags" THOMAS, the Amarillo (Texas) Tramp Clown, has added two more to his already large collection of trophies, having won second place in the Tramp Category and Third Place in the Individual Skit Competition during the Int'l Shrine Clown Association's Mid-Winter Meeting in Rockford, Ill.

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Castle Show

by RALPH HENDERSON

The Blue Unit of Hubert Castle's Shrine Circus produced by Tarzan Zerbini opened it's season with a three day, seven performance stand in Spokane, Wash., March 12-14.

Reggie Armor is the unit manager and Robert Dunham is the personnel director. Clem Tocca is the musical director and Inga Lowe was ringmistress, and producing clown was Rick Legg, with the alley were Lee Marx and Bobby Davis.

After the National Anthem and a circus overture by the band, the show opened with a bang with the Great Huberto's Inclined cable walk and slide for life.

John Cox worked the Hawthorn act of 12 tigers and one male lion. Next was Mr. Sensation himself, Billy Barton.

A three ring display followed with the Terry Family, unicycles, Dionisio, juggler, and Danacheck, unicycles. Next came a very entertaining act, the Italo Musical Clowns.

A production number, Vive Les Girls, featured Sasa the Goddess of the Satellite, a class single trap act, Then came three rings of animals, Baby elephant Tarra, Marina's dogs and a Baby African elephant Akili.

Clown Lee Marx does an audience participation bit while props are being set for three rings of foot jugglers, Rosa, Loni and Barb.

The clowns do the long shirt gag and then comes Marco Polo. A pitch is made for the novelties sold at the concession stands and the first half ended with the Benici (Fornasari) trampoline act.

The second half opened with the Flying Fornasari Troupe, the Clowns did a Construction gag and then came the Horwath's



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Chimps. The clowns operated thier Hot Dog Factory which was followed by three rings of wire acts: O'Brien, slack wire juggling, Los Latinos, Playboy and Bunny.

The Starlords Sky Cycle is a different, flashy act. The Hawthorn elephants (5) are presented by the Ben DeWayne Family. The show closed with the entire company filling all three rings with sort of a May Pole effect.

The show was well received with good crowds at every performance.

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Montana's 'Wild West' Debts Still Unpaid

By MARTHA L. WILLMAN, *Times Staff Writer*

Monty Montana Jr. stood before the handful of workers and cowboys who remained at the Newhall site of his collapsed "dream," "Buffalo Bill's Wild West" show, and vowed on that Aug. 13 that he would pay back what authorities estimate as more than \$100,000 in bills and back wages.

Dozens of contractors and performers lost money when the show collapsed 10 weeks after it opened last summer following a series of closures because of county building and safety violations. The show's demise forced a variety of small business entrepreneurs into bankruptcy.

Consideration of possible criminal charges resulting from complaints of bad checks was initiated by the Los Angeles district attorney's office. One element of the investigation would be to determine if Montana had criminal intent in writing checks that bounced.

Now, seven months later, creditors say virtually none of the debt has been repaid, the total amount owed has not even been determined by investigators and Montana has dropped from public view.

A sheriff's spokesman said the district attorney's investigation has stalled because only 14 of at least 38 persons known to have been issued bad checks by Montana have filed complaints. Authorities have no estimate of the amount of other debts, not reflected in bounced checks, that resulted from the show's failure.

One subcontractor, whose own business collapsed because of the show's failure, said he has not filed a civil action against Montana because he cannot afford the le-

gal costs of a suit and believes Montana has no assets.

Another businessman, asking anonymity, said he received checks that bounced but felt it was futile to file a criminal complaint.

Montana had said he expected to pay debts through profits from tours of the show to Japan and other countries, scheduled to have been held last fall. However, Montana could not be located and his attorneys have refused comment on the status of the traveling show and whether it ever opened in Japan.

Though not in bankruptcy proceedings or receivership, the Wild West show's management is now under the direction of Montana's attorneys, Robert Swanson and David Hart of Sherman Oaks, Hart said. The attorney told *The Times* in early February that Montana, who was briefly out of the country, would reveal the status of the show and plans for restitution of debts "within a week."

However, neither Montana nor his attorneys could be contacted again until last week when Hart told *The Times* he is unable to comment about the show until an agreement, which he would not describe, is reached with the district attorney's office, possibly as early as this week.

Clifford Kline, deputy district attorney with the major fraud division, said only that the case is still under investigation and denied any agreement is under negotiation.

Hart refused all further comment on the Wild West show, including any plans to repay debtors.

The elusive cowboy promoter appeared briefly in January as emcee of a nine-day show at Anaheim Stadium.

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Show Report

Big John Strong reports that business for his tent show was off at dates in Arizona, due primarily to bad weather throughout the state.

In mid-March the show played a date near Victorville, Calif., and set up the big top as a snow storm moved across the area.

On May 22nd, Big John will open a special circus variety show which will feature: Swami and Marsha, Mike Martin, The Rolling Diamonds, Hunt Bushnell, Phil Kavanaugh, Rosa Douglass, Neil Armstrong, and others.

This show will open in Orange, Calif., and then will move on to play dates in the Midwest and Texas area.

PEOPLE

KEN and ROBERTA GRIFFIN, magicians, will be featured on a show at the Annual Picnic of Bob Hurt Ring 219, at Lafayette, Ind., on June 13th.

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JUMBO CENTENNIAL (Continued)

last time as part of the Barnum & Bailey Circus tour. The skin and skeleton were returned to the United States to reside relatively unnoticed in Museums. The skin remained at Tuft's University until 1975 when it was destroyed by fire, and the skeleton is in the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

The memory of Jumbo has remained a part of our culture and his name is a part of our language, used to describe anything large and extraordinary. Jumbo is well remembered in his centennial year of 1982.

Texas Clown Notes

by BOB STODDARD

Steve Baker and Gary Ray (Checkers and Patches) played second fiddle to an even bigger star as Forum 303 Mall in Arlington (Tex) brought in their super-star "Santa Claus."

Susan 'Little Dot' Huguley, Lou Flowers 'Honey' Stoddard, James 'Jim Bow' Decker, Martin 'Lancelot Goodperson' Reeves clowned in the Red Bird Mall Christmas Parade. The Dallas Cowboys' 'Crazy Ray' and the mascot of the Washington Redskins 'Chief Zema Williams' of Washington DC were in the parade too.

Martin 'Lancelot Goodperson' Reeves headed a cast of seven Shrine Clowns that were featured on the Peppermint Place TV show that promoted the Shrine Circus on two TV stations in Dallas.

After our November Clown Meeting, 35 members of Alley 85 went to the Storer Cable TV studios in Grand Prairie to watch more than two hours of tapes that were taken during our Clown Days at Traders Village in October. One-half hour show

from these tapes has been aired. More are coming.

One of five special holiday shows produced in as many shopping centers in the Dallas area by Joseph Crawley, Special Events of Dallas. I visited the one at Cedar Park in Duncansville because that's the one I had to deliver my clown and her props to. The clown was Lou Flowers 'Honey' Stoddard and this was her job for the day.

Of course there was a tent and some others in the shows which included Pix Smith and Ron Ramsey and the Fred Cowan Puppets; Jeff Dunham, the ventriloquist and his side-kick Archie.

A special attraction, a miniature horse show from the Sligo Miniature Horse Farm. Twenty-eight inch high horses with big lovable eyes and tiny little bodies.

Phyllis Crawley managed this one!

(Note: Because of production problems at holiday time, followed by several other distractions, including a week on Jury Duty, the above article was delayed in getting into print).

CENTER RING (Continued)

eum copied and enlarged to heroic dimensions twelve circus photos as large as 8 x 12 ft and 22 others to varying sizes. Most of these are from originals made by E. J. Kelty of which the museum owns more than 100.

Moving into the three-dimensional, young and old are delighted by the Museum's animated 1/4" scale model of the Ringling Bros. Circus of about 1915, which was made by Henry Duncklee of Framingham, Mass. Recorded circus music filled the air as the parade tours a small hamlet, the band practices under the big top and performers rehearse in the backyard. Tribute is paid to two of the great names among model builders, Charles Lockier and Milo Smith, both New Yorkers who died in recent years. Thanks to the cooperation of Louise Lockier Litke and the Smith Family, the museum features in eight specially constructed cases a total of 42 superb examples of the model builders art, most of them one-inch scale replicas of famous circus wagons, among them the Two Hemispheres Bandwagon, the Barnum & Bailey Fairy Tale Floats, Ringling Bell Wagon, Pawnee Bill Bandwagon and four of the Continent wagons with telescoping tableaux. In addition to lending her father's models, Mrs. Litke is generously donated to the museum a 1/4" scale diorama of Sig Sautelle's canal boat circus, a collection of side show banners first used on the King Bros. Circus about 1950, and various circus paraphernalia such as an elephant tub and an aerialist's ladder.

In the category of the "Superlative" are examples of the ultimate (or close to it) in size, exaggeration, fame, or rarity. Four 20 sheet posters (Reb Russell with the Russell Bros. Circus, Cole Bros. Menagerie, Ringling Barnum's Maharajah's Regal Reception for Frank Buck, and the Loyal Repenski Family) are the largest in the entire show. They are among some 1,500 posters given to the museum in recent years by George H. Barlow III of Binghamton, NY. The Barlow Collection also includes heralds, programs, route books, and other material.

Two dozen additional posters and broadsides were singled out for the extravagant claims they make, for their lurid prose, or for their rarity. Notable examples are the Barnum, Bailey & Hutchinson one-sheet "Jumbo, The Children's Giant Pet"; a black-and-white litho of the "Public Entry

A Clown

by VELMA LOWRY

From the Independence (Kans.) Daily Reporter, Feb. 28, 1982.

Got a copy of a recent issue of White Tops a circus magazine, and found a feature story and picture of Jack Noakes, a former circus clown who with his son, David, operates a real estate business here.

The story, submitted by Mrs. Velma Lowry a Sedan, Kans. circus buff, recounted the years Noakes spent in circuses, starting in 1931. He started with the Joe B. Webb Circus and over the years on the road was connected with Seal Bros., Jungle Oddities, Dailley Bros., Goly Myre, Russell Bros., Kelly-Miller, Ringling, Wallace & Clark, Pop Porters Combined Shows and a few others.

Looking back over a colorful career, Noakes summarized his years in different fields.

"I have had a very colorful life, starting on my own at a very young age, not by force but by choice, worked my way through high school, then learning the barber trade in which I worked through the day and worked dramatic and stage shows at night. With this kind of work I worked my way through college and taught school for several years, seven to be exact."

The local man quit the road in 1970.

of June, Titus & Co.'s Menagerie and Circus Band Carriage into New York, May 1848"; and two small trunks lined with broadsides advertising, respectively, the elephant Columbus in Troy, NY in 1828 and "An African Lion and The Elephant" in Massachusetts or Connecticut in 1820. The superlative among performers is typified by the late "Poodles" Hanneford, the greatest of all equestrian clowns, whose trademark fur coat, derby and red wig were lent by Mrs. "Poodles" and their daughter Gracie. The special exhibit also includes other parts of his costume, his makeup case, and his photograph taken about 1920 when he was starring at the Hippodrome in New York.

The unanimously enthusiastic media coverage of "Center Ring" included a full-page review in Newsweek, and a CBS-TV crew spent two days filming for a spot on Charles Kuralt's CBS Sunday Morning News,

Magic Meet

by JIM RIDENOUR

Just returned from the Winter Carnival of Magic held in Gatlinburg, Tenn., on March 12-13. One word sums it up - Super.

The Knoxville International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 58 sponsor this fantastic weekend. This was the 8th annual affair and it gets better each year.

Many times in today's fast moving world we take a lot of things for granted. These boys put in a lot of hours on this and the net result is most rewarding. For \$25 you get four lectures, a close-up contest, a close up show with six performers, two big star-studded shows, a Midnight Talent Show case and the all-night close-up lounge. This convention leaves nothing to be desired.

Every performer was really outstanding. John Shirley, of Chicago, with MC bits to include balloon animals was worth a ten spot. Bev Bergeron, of Disney World, had them rolling in the aisles. Rick Johnson is a very clever MC and close-up worker. I must mention Paul Driscoll & Co., with

the company being four beautiful girls who knew their stuff. I thought I was in Vegas, talk about class.

I must mention Mr. and Mrs. Everett Lawson who is an old-time Burlesque comic from the old school who did a very funny bit with the Passe Passe Bottles. I was laughing so hard I couldn't write down the gags. He's 70 years old and with the energy of a teenager. I loved it.

Plenty of dealers with old and new. My favorite dealers were Al Cohen, Bob Little, and Bob Chadwell.

Since I do the magic clown in school shows I must mention 5 yr. old Kiki the *Magic Clown*. This little charmer should be locked up. She makes guys like me look sad. Colorful costume, make-up, beautiful props and a nice musical score made this the icing on the cake for me. Someone should get this young lady on 'That's Incredible'. Hope she doesn't start working my territory. If she does I'm out of business.

It is a shame that I can't list everyone on

(Continued on Page 25)

On the Cover

MIGHTY MICHU, the 33 in. high Argentine mini-horse, trained and presented by Yvette. Michu is believed to be the only horse in the country doing a free sit-up like a rabbit.

Michu will be featured at the "Mini-Horse Show" in Pomona, Calif., this month

MAGIC MEET (Continued)

the program as there were no 'stinkers' this time around. It is also a shame that I cannot list everyone of the boys in Ring 58 for Don Cox and the boys outdid themselves again this year.

I am highly critical of magic clubs, but in all honesty, this was the best \$25 I ever spent. I stole \$80 worth of new bits and gags. If you only go to one convention a year this should be the one.

I am not a member of the ring and do not pay compliments to bad acts or activities. I am looking forward to next year's carnival.

Florida Fair

by JOE WIEBUSH

The Lake County Fair opened in Eustis, Fla., on Mar. 15th. The fair featured a midway by Johnny's United and had the Hanneford Family Circus as an attraction. We attended the 6 p.m. performance on Tuesday. The crowd on the midway was a bit below expectations, despite the perfect warm sunny weather. When you consider that within a month the area has had the State Fair at Tampa, and the large Central Florida Fair at nearby Orlando, the meager attendance is not surprising. The area does have a great number of winter residents which bolster such events however.

Despite the meager crowds for the fair, the circus performance had a half house. Such an outstanding performance deserved better. The performances were held in the Hanneford top, with all equipment in excellent condition. The main entrance fronted on the midway, and the excellent petting zoo was a few steps away, also on the midway.

Fair admission entitled you to go to the circus. (And the circus itself was worth the price of a ticket to the fair); We enjoyed a nice chat with George Hanneford before the show. I don't know when we enjoyed a circus any more. The show was in the usual one ring format, with all seats unreserved - 7 rows of blues, encircling the tent. The show ran for about an hour with no real breaks or lags.

The pre-show featured clown Danny Chapman, an old timer with a traditional audience warm up, and with his small dog in tow. The acts followed in quick succession:

The Hanneford Elephants presented by George Hanneford, followed by the "Baby

Elephant Walk" - the clown and his dog with the latter in the traditional elephant outfit.

Miss Diane followed, with an outstanding single trapeze, including a spectacular toe hang, and an upside down walk across the top of the tent and back, hanging from the loops. A short, entertaining comedy number followed, featuring "the best whip cracker in the west", the youngest of the Hannefords - Georgie, with clown Danny Chapman as the reluctant accomplice - a classic clown gag.

The canine review presented by Miss Diane featured a pony and a group of dogs (and not a pedigree in the bunch, I'd wager) including Pee Wee, the high diving dog. Trained ponies by George Hanneford were old-time circus fare indeed. Another stint by clown Danny Chapman followed and in turn was followed by the traditional Hanneford Family riding act. This has been a trademark of Hanneford performances from time immemorial. Young George is working into the clowning routines which have been featured in Hanneford riding acts for generations. The family talent and coaching are evident.

The music was delightful and the organ melodies were quite in keeping with a circus performance. The music did much to accent the show itself.

An enjoyable performance indeed. George Hanneford mentioned that his summer schedule is filling up pretty nicely by now. He expects to play several weeks at Carowinds Park in North Carolina, among other pending dates.

PEOPLE

SUSAN "Little Dot" HUGULEY, RENA "Candy" BRANNON, LOU FLOWERS "Honey" STODDARD and BOB "Boppo" STODDARD will entertain at the Duncanville Library in Texas, during the Spring Break.

CHARLES GERMAINE recently purchased acreage in Arizona from FREDERICKA WAGNER which had been advertised in the Circus Report. He plans to provide tenant farming of the alfalfa crop but will maintain the home for himself.

JOHN H. WHITFIELD, Sarasota-based Entertainment Accountant and former show secretary, was married Jan. 2nd to Ms. BONNIE LEE BROWN, singer and dinner theatre actress. The couple will reside in Sarasota.

GEORGE PERKINS is recovering from a stroke and is at home and would enjoy receiving cards and letters. The former circus clown resides at: 12688 California St., Yucaipa, Calif. 92399.

Miscellaneous

Franzen Bros. Circus will present two performances at Tybee Island, Ga., on Sunday, April 11th (Easter Sunday) under sponsorship of the local Jaycees.

In an article in *Cosmopolitan* for March 1982 there is an article which describes the difference between an agent and a manager and what each one does for a performer. Of special interest is the brief paragraph that reads:

"Both managers and agents work on a commission basis, with agents usually receiving 15 per cent of a performer's earnings, and managers 15 to 25 per cent."

The California State Fair has been shortened from 18 days to 14 days because of an expected loss of \$1 million in support from the state government.