

THE CIRCUS REPORT

Number 27

July 7, 1981

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year



DIANA - Foot Juggler

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

July 3-5 Methuen, Mass.
6-7 Auburn, Maine
8-9 Bangor

Carson & Barnes Circus

July 6 Fremont, Nebr.
7 Norfolk
8 Yankton, S.D.
9 Piperstone, Minn
10 Windom
11 Shakopee
12 Richfield

Hubert Castle Circus

July 7 Bellingham, Wash.

Circus Arts Troupe

July 9-12 W. Mifflin, Pa.

Circus City Festival

July 10-18 Peru, Ind.

Circus Odyssey

Jul 10-Sep 4 Mexico City

Circus Vargas

July 7-9 Springfield, Ill.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

July 6 Hammonton, NJ
7 Cape May
8 Avalon
9 Manahawkin
10 Lavalette
11 Hackettstown
12 Piscataway

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus

July 6-11 Las Vegas, Nev.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

July 6-7 Jackson, Miss
9-12 New Orleans, La.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

July 8-12 Tucson, Ariz.

Royal Crown Circus

July 8-12 Tulsa, Okla.

Royal Imperial Circus

July 8-9 Littleton, Colo
12-13 Lakewood

Swan Bros. Circus

July 6-15 Pleasanton, Calif.

--- MAGIC ---

Berger the Magician

July 4 W. Union, W. Va.

David Copperfield

July 7-20 Las Vegas, Nev.

Krystali's Kavalcade

July 7-9 Davenport, Iowa
10-11 Rock Island, Ill.
12 Moline

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

July 6 Loves Park, Ill.
7 Baraboo, Wisc.
8 Beloit
10 Marsailles, Ill.

Felix Snipes

July 10 Spring, Texas

Starfire

July 6 Joplin, Mo.
7-8 Springfield
9-10 Columbia
11-12 Independence

Pickle Family Circus

July 3-5 San Francisco, Ca.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama

July 6-12 Falmouth, Mass.

James H. Drew Exposition

July 6-11 Shelbyville, Ky

R. J. Kelroy & Associates

July 11 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Tent Troupe

July 6 Bechtelsville, Pa.
7 Lehighton
8 Tannersville
9 Sparta, NJ
10 Ramsey
11 Kingston, NY

Tip Top Shows - Blue

July 9-12 Two Rivers, Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green

July 10-12 Lodi, Wisc.

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Salute to

LA NORMA

BY JOHN HURDLE

LA NORMA, trapeze artist supreme and once billed as The Ballerina of The Air, appeared on Lowell Shumaker's Sarasota, Fla., TV program "Dimensions," in June.

Now retired from the performing arena, La Norma (Mrs. Andre Fox), has turned her artistic talents to a new business venture - creating original and unique Circus Ceramic Portraits.

During the half hour airing she talked about her career as featured aerialist with Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey and other circuses around the world, and showed examples of her personally hand-crafted ceramics, including completed orders for many well-known current performers.

Using her memory and photographs, she fashions anything from a single figure to a five-person balancing act, and which can include anything from dogs to elephants.

The most unusual aspect of her work is that the sculptures are actually recognizable portraits of the artists depicted, thus making

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them one-of-a-kind collector's treasures. Featured in this presentation was an exquisitely detailed 18-inch standing figure of the great clown Lou Jacobs and his little dog, Knuckle head.

From bolo-tie clown faces to web girls to trapeze flyers to animal trainers, it was easily seen that La Norma uses the same care, expertise, and joie de vivre in her new career of creating Circus Ceramic Portraits as she did when she was Queen of the Air high above center ring.



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in the Headlines

HUMANE SOCIETY SETS FORTH PLANS

Included in the various resolutions recently adopted by the Humane Society of the United States are two that will effect traveling shows of all kinds.

The Society has adopted a policy to work for the abolition of circuses and wild animal traveling shows. They charge that animals in these shows are exploited for profit and entertainment and that these animals live under stress conditions that cause abnormal behavior. They also charge that show animals are forced to do things which are not suited for them. The animals, they said, are not provided with adequate space, that performances give a distorted view of animals and that show life causes animals to live under a constant stress.

The Society has also adopted a program calling for an end to all menageries. Animals in menageries, they charge, are random collections which contribute nothing to education or conservation. These animals, it is said,

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are usually housed in facilities that prevent them from acting normally, they are often in poor health, lack proper medical care and live in conditions that create distorted behavior.

The organization has also adopted resolutions to fight drug abuse in horse racing, the surrender of animals, and animal sacrifices. They also plan to work to protect the California sea otter and animal rights, and push for federal regulation of laboratory animal experimentation.

If you've been reading someone else's copy of Circus Report each week, isn't it time to order your own copy and get it direct?

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FOR SALE

CIRCUS FOR SALE

A recent issue of the New Jersey "Bulletin" carried an extensive story, plus some pictures of Harry T. Hunt and the Hunt Bros. Circus. The article, written by Fredda Sacharow, reports the nation's economy and Harry's declining health have placed the circus on the sale block.

The circus and its facilities are for sale, and can be purchased by anyone with \$375,000. For this the buyer gets the circus "lock, stock and barrel".

Hunt took over his father's circus and then brought it to the Florence quarters in 1934. The financial picture, Hunt says, got so bad that in 1978 the circus lost \$80,000 in one week playing the Philadelphia Civic Center. He decided to sell after an unsuccessful comeback in 1979 which left him \$200,000 in debt.

Included in the sale is the main circus building, semi trailers, bleachers, lighting equipment and generators. The animals have all been sold to other circuses or zoos, but there are still some cages, tents and poles available.

Once the sale is completed, Hunt plans to retire to Clearwater, Fla.

Report

CMB INT'L MEET

Circus Day! These magical words have inspired anticipation and joy in the hearts of children of all ages for countless decades. This summer, Maryland will be the scene of several unique and exciting circus days when the Circus Model Builders International Exhibition comes to the Howard County Fairgrounds, July 15-18th. The event will offer the public a rare opportunity to view more than 100 hand-crafted miniature circus displays from all over the U. S. and from such other countries as Canada, and The Netherlands.

One of the local hosts, the Baltimore area Rudynoff Family Ring No. 60, is known throughout the country for its 16 x 32 foot display which has traveled to many locations and is an annual feature at Thanksgiving at Harford Mall in Bel Air. This display is a complete operating circus train and show built in two scales, 1/4 in. and 1/8 in.

Circus Maximus



Ringling Bros.' all-star troupe visits California.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. World-famous wild-animal trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams visits Southern California this year, along with the wire-walking Carillo Brothers, the Flying Farfans trapeze artists, and all the sights and sounds that have fascinated audiences for over a century. The circus plays the Forum 7/21-8/5, with subsequent performances in Anaheim 8/6-17 and Long Beach 8/19-23. Forum performances are Tuesday-Friday at 8 P.M., Saturday at 11 A.M., 3:30, and 8 P.M., Sunday at 1:30 and 6 P.M., matinees on 7/22 and 23 at 1:30 P.M., on 7/24, 28-31, and 8/4 and 5 at 2:30 P.M. Tickets \$5-\$8.50. Forum, Manchester and Prairie aves., Inglewood (674-4700).

The above advertisement appears in the July 1981 issue of "New West" magazine.

A special feature of the exhibition will be an authentic model of a typical European circus built by L. W. Kramer, of Abcoude, a suburb of Amsterdam. Mr. Kramer and his wife will present Circus Taratani, complete with lighting, sound and animation. The entire show will be brought to the U. S. just for this exhibit.

Governor Hughes has declared July 15-18 as "Circus Days in Maryland" in honor of the International Exhibition.

Special events will include a performance by the Bly Circus Band from Fairfax, Va., performances of the "Silent Circus" a mime group, a circus band concert by the Bel Air Community Band, circus model demonstrations, circus clowns, circus acts and even a flea market.

REPORT

GEORGE CARDEN, INC. CIRCUS

BY KAYE SCHEIMAN

Despite the rains and flooded conditions in the area, the George Carden, Inc., Circus gave three performances for the South Bend (Ind) Shrine Club at the 4-H Fairgrounds on June 9-10th.

The program ran as follows: National Anthem; Alan Gold, 3 tigers, 4 lions; Grin & Barrett, casting; Ventura Duo, swinging perch; Cuccillo, trampoline; Clowns with camera gag and long shirt; The Yvonne Duo (Dino and Yvonne Medro) rola bola; Edwar-do's Gypsy Bears (Eddie Steeples), Kathy English, trapeze and Roman rings; King of the Air, wheel (Jaime Garcia); Intermission.

Annie and Her Soldier, Gary and Vickie Barrett; Cuccillo, mules; Wendy Walters and "Buckskin" dressage; Goldfinger, balance; The Flying Garcia Family; Miss Marquis with Fantail doves (Steeple); Dino Medro, sword ladder balance; Gary and Vickie Barrett, perch; Clowns and Washerwomen; Jaime Duo on cradle (Jaime and Lenora Garcia); Cuccil-

lo, elephants with Jinny Vickie, Judy.

The show was produced by George Carden; Prop boss was Eddie Ventura; Concession by Fritz Lauber; Tiny Scott, animal supt.; Wendy Walters, wardrobe; Cleo Plunkett, ring-master; Lee Maloney, organist, and clowns were Arie Steeples, John Scholtes and Al King.

This is the first year for the use of the title of George Carden, Inc. Circus. The second unit of this circus is managed by Larry Carden and is, at the present time, doing western dates. No program line-up is available at this time for that show.

WELCOME TO

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Maas are the proud parents of a son - Noah Gardiner - who was born at Tampa, Fla. on May 2nd. The new arrival weighed in at 15 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Wallen are the proud parents of a son - Daniel Eugene - who was born on June 4th. The new arrival weighed in at 6 lbs. 14 oz.



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NEWS BRIEFED

MGM EARNINGS DOWN

A disastrous fire last year at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas cut operating revenues nearly two-thirds during the quarter ended May 31st. The corporation said revenue for the third quarter of its fiscal 1981 year totaled \$49.6 million compared to \$76.8 million for the same period in the previous year.

This year's revenues included \$24.8 million in business operating insurance, which MGM Grand Hotels collected after the fire on Nov. 21, 1980, which forced the hotel to close.

Net income was \$7.4 million, or 23 cents a share, for the third fiscal quarter compared with \$7.7 million, or 24 cents a share, a year ago.

HOTLINE

June 28 - Toronto - Circus Tivoli closed its doors after giving its employees a week's notice about the pending closing.

The show played to poor business in two towns and reportedly lost in excess of over \$600,000, thus making it impossible to continue its regular daily operation.

The show won high praise for its new and interesting appearance, and offered patrons an exciting array of talent, many of the acts had been imported from the United States and Europe.

Most performers and other workers have reported they are stranded, at least that they did not have enough money with which to get home. It was unclear if there would be any aid for them at this time.

June 24 - San Francisco - Radio Talk show host Jim Eason, of Radio KGO, talked about the fact that the Pickle Family Circus mails its annual show date schedule via a Government Permit from the Interior Dept. A considerable number of callers phoned in to discuss the subject and to object to the fact the public has to pay for a commercial operation mail program.

Tell a friend about CR, or better still, buy him a gift subscription. He'll be pleased and happy that you did.

REPORT

ALL AMERICAN CIRCUS

BY JACK AND BRENDA PAYNE

This year's All American Circus turned out to be everything one could ask for in a new circus. The Wally Webb Agency spared no expense in bringing together a top notch spectacular.

Playing almost every performance to packed houses of thousands were some of the best entertainers in the business.

Just look at the line up: Howard Hardin, ringmaster; Bob Moore and Syd Moore, dog acts; The Young Troupe, teeterboard; Richard St. John, cloud swing; Winnie McKay, high ring; Berosini, horse and lion; The Kardelas, hair hang; Karl Winn, motorcycle (Pauline Winn made her debut here); Ken Willer, balancing; Chester Cable, foot juggler; (After a performance everyone helped Chester celebrate his 50th birthday, supper party Winnie); Bucky Steele's elephants; Bruce Anderson, sway pole; The Young Troupe and The Willettys, juggling; Sheila Winn, slide for life; The Dielkes, globe walk; Otto Berosini, wild animals; The Jumping Jacks, trampoline; Rodriguez Family, flying act; Hi-Fi & Co., clown acts; and last, but hopefully not least, us, The Saxons, juggling and unicycle act.

It is not just the great acts that made the show so successful. It is how the fast paced show is pulled together with proper lighting, music, and timed so the audience never sees the changing of props, which is so prevalent with many circuses.

As a performer, this is the kind of show we are proud to have been on and would recommend to friends.

Miscellaneous

The Tent Troupe is currently making its 12th annual summer tour. This year's productions include a matinee show called 'Big Top Tales' which features a circus theme with lots of juggling, balancing and some magic, as well as children's stories that have the circus as their focal point. The evening show is called 'The Wall'. Watch their route in CR.

REPORT

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

BY B. EVERETT ESLINGER

The Carson & Barnes Circus played Joplin, Mo., May 27th, coming in from Bartlesville, Okla., where two good houses were reported.

Charles Belleli, advance promoter was in the day before and news coverage was excellent. Show played a new lot on the north Main St. Road, in good condition, although a bit small for this show. Parking space was ample. Due to tire trouble and the like, the stake drivers got on the lot a little late, yet everything was up in plenty of time. D. R. Miller arrived at an early hour and he with the 24 hour man spotted everything in good shape.

The midway has two pit shows on the left with a moon walk on the right, handled by Manuel King, as well as a pony ride operated by Alphonso Loyal. In the center is the attractive ticket office all leading to the main entrance trailed used in past years.

The menagerie display is spotted in the open alongside the big top, so performing cage animals can be displayed with the featured rhino and giraffe. The elephants still hold the location on the right side. You enter the big top through a connection on the left at the rear.

The new tent is a sensation of color with five rings attractively decorated. Rigging is set up for three flying acts and a high wire is located in front of center ring. The big cage is erected in the center ring with a chute connection directly to the cages on the big semi in the menagerie. The owner and staff

have done their best to give the public a pleasing impression as they find their seats.

The band is located on a trailer just back of center ring next to the performers entrance which connects with the menagerie. These fine musicians are under the direction of William Reynolds, who plays trumpet along with Bill Doyle and Bill Bill Bingham, Others are trombone, Wayne Reynolds and Tim Davis, baritone, Charles Stevenson, tuba Dan Reynolds, organ, Faye Reynolds and drums Bob Gardner. A 15 minute concert is given before show time. These people played many old-time circus numbers such as Royal Decree, Pahjahmah, Salute to the Sultan, Big Cage Gal op, interspersed with new late numbers to please the younger generation. During the big cage act and the big elephant act it is hard to keep old-timers from stamping the floor right out of the grandstand.

Carson & Barnes advertised a five-ring circus, so presented it. Time and space does not allow a complete review which the writer hopes to report at a later date.

There was quite a bit of visiting between Carson & Barnes personnel and members of the Ford Bros. Circus owned by Gopher Davenport, Mr. Miller visited Gopher at Oswego, Kans., for the afternoon show and both showmen reviewed the Carson & Barnes show at night in Joplin.

Mr. and Mrs. Stone, of Ford Bros., has visited earlier in the day. Several circus fans were in evidence during the day, including Herb Hoyt, Jim McRobert, John Thiele, John Marietta. The latter stated he had seen Ford Bros. at Baxter Springs, Kans., and reported seeing a very good performance.

REPORT

FRANZEN BROS. CIRCUS

BY KEN HOLEHOUSE

Franzen Bros. Circus recently arrived in Country Club Hills, Ill., and played to two straw houses under Wayne Franzen's brand new yellow and blue striped 80 ft round end tent. The hour and a half performance moved rapidly before a wildly enthusiastic audience. But Franzen Bros. always generates a wild circus enthusiasm for its delightful, intimate, single ring family fare

Lynn Michael doubled again as ring announcer and organist and did her usual competent job of keeping the show moving. Byron Burford accompanied Lynn by playing the drums this year - a nice rhythmic touch to the lively circus music.

Freddie the Clown, who also doubles as Lynn's husband, warmed up the audience with a fake balance of a bottle of Pepsi and glasses and then proceeded to a coloring book and program pitch.

Wayne Franzen, dressed in a royal purple jumpsuit, then burst into a cage of lions and

tigers. These cantankerous jungle beasts responded to every command without fault - rolling over, jumoing through a flaming hoop, walking on their hind feet, balancing on a ball. The master showman tough is evident here in this fascinating display of man's dominion over beast. Wayne Franzen and his jungle companions - superb!

The juggling of a new performer with Franzen, Jose Ochoa, gave the audience a thrill as balls, rings and tambourines were deftly juggled.

Freddie returned with Freddie's Cafe and gave us a surprise recipe for Skunk Pie that hardly stunk at all. The surprise ending to this charming clowning really skunked the audience.

Wayne Franzen's time honored Arabian Fantasy followed featuring a llama playing leapfrog over a camel and both animals leaping barricades. The camel concluded the routine by walking across the ring on his front legs.

The neatly tuxedoed Amazing Zajicek entertained us next with a mystifying magic routine in which he appeared a variety of colored silks from a closed tube. The amazing finale to this act was a breath-taking fire-eating routine with Zajicek at one point consuming two wands of fire at the same time.

Miss Tina did her perennial ballet on the Spanish web to the tunes of "Shangri La". After going through a series of complicated maneuvers she ends with a fast spin - hanging by one wrist. True poetry in motion, 40 ft. in the air.

Tonto the Wonder Horse ended the first part of the show.

Intermission featured a group of visiting clowns - The Chuckles Clown Troupe featuring Tom Kramer and Scott Fehr and a group of young merrymakers who ran a balloon chase, juggled, and created animals from balloons to pass out to the enthralled crowd.

Professor Bryan put Tonto the Wonder Horse through his paces again in a counting routine.

The foot juggling of Senor Ochoa brought a good response as this talented young man juggled a large drum, sticks of fire, and rotated a large tire with his feet.

Miss Tina returned billed as "Queen of the Single Trapeze." To earn her title, she performed an exciting and colorful series of exercises on the single bar.

Oka the elephant, another old timer with

(Continued on Next Page)

CARSON & BARNES

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REPORT

CHILDREN'S VARIETY SHOW

BY BOB SWANEY

To the strains of "California Here I come" Big John Strong, in person, unfurled one of his best Children's Variety Shows at Omaha Music Hall on June 15th. It was all under the sponsorship of the Ralston Jaycees.

The show had something for everyone. The Clown Alley consisted of Bob Owens (Spiff) and Madeline and Tom Sink (Madelena and Popcorn), who greeted the youngsters at the door and then presented well executed (and funny) routines throughout the show.

Show line-up featured: Jim Bovay and Ricky, parallel bar gymnastics; Maureen Hall, trained birds and animals; Brad Zinn and Brenda, illusions; Miss Roulette, trapeze; Inge Williams, trained Samoyeds (Big John also made a special introduction of Robert Williams).

The grand finale was presented by Rolick Montebanc who did a unique audience participation rendition of the classic linking rings. This was followed by his sword swallowing specialty.

Music was under the direction of Maestro Neil Armstrong. Rolick Montebanc handled

FRANZEN BROS. (Continued)

Franzen, did a fast paced routine in which she kicked a football to the crowd, did a series of head and leg stands and balanced on all fours on a huge ball which she rolled across the ring.

Freddie returned with a cute "painting the crowd" routine using volunteers from the audience. Freddie is getting more time in the center ring this year and this heart-warming clown deserves every moment in the spotlight.

Don Jose Ayola who earlier balanced on four chairs stacked to the top of the tent, returned with a neat rola bola routine.

The grand finale, as always, brings on Chief Red Feather - really Wayne again - in the fast paced precision drill of 12 matched ponies. This is one of the best liberty drills - if not the best - in the business, and is alone worth the price of admission.

Family fun and entertainment at its best. Franzen Bros. is the finest circus entertainment around.

staging for the show. Particular impressive this year was the imaginative use of lighting to highlight the acts. From start to finish it was obvious that both the audience and the personnel had a great time.

Report

THE ALL AMERICAN CIRCUS

BY JACK MESTER

At first glance it might appear that the All American Circus was a carbon copy of the Bentley Bros. Circus, but there was a difference.

Bentley Bros. was sponsored by the San Bernardino (Calif) Fire Assoc. and the All American Circus (a Webb-Lowry Production and not to be confused with the All American Youth Circus produced by the Redlands YMCA, Warren Wood, director) was sponsored by the San Bernardino County Marshall's Assoc. The promotion for both circus units was via phones and personal ticket sales by members of the respective association.

Had the older conventional promotions such as newspaper ads, radio, and TV spots, been used it could have been a disaster for the All American Circus, with the duplication of some acts, within a 10 day period. As it turned out, the All American Circus did as good if not better than the Bentley show.

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In my previous rundown of the Bentley Bros. Circus, I pointed out that the Swing Auditorium has seating for 2500 on the main floor and 2000 in the balcony for a capacity of 4500.

On Sunday, June 7th, All American Circus presented a 2:30 matinee to a tight packed $\frac{1}{2}$ house. The 7:30 evening performance resulted in a near capacity full house.

The 4 p.m. show on Monday, June 8th resulted in a very poor 125 to 150 spectators. Temperatures in the area of 98 degrees, with a humidity of 81%, plus a 1st stage smog alert may have had a direct effect on the attendance. To make conditions more intolerable the air conditioning equipment in the auditorium is in bad shape - like using a 6" fan in a hot tub. The 8 p.m. evening show drew a loose-packed $\frac{1}{2}$ house.

Acts which had previously been in with the Bentley organization, wisely altered or modified their performances where practical. Few seemed to notice any similarity between the two shows.

Because of this unusual sequence of events, I had a great opportunity to really check out each act and the audience response to it.

(Continued on Next Page)

ALL AMERICAN CIRCUS (Continued)

Two of the big hits of this show were Winnie McKay on a ring trap and Richard St. John, cloud swing. This young Englishman has only been in this country several months and is definitely destined to become a sensation in the circus world.

Another unusual sight on the same program were Syd Moore's Mess of Mutts and Bobby Moore's Mongrel Revue. With these two dog acts in adjoining rings at the same time, it's a fantastic nightmare of comedy and confusion. The proverbial escapes of the dog pound just makes me hope that the Moore's know whose dogs are whose. It must get confusing when they apparently get intermingled and all that.

I believe one of the most fantastic acts working this show had to be the Flying Rodrigues Family. This is a double-wide flying act. With 8 people in the act, there is plenty of flying action. They act like a group of kids on a picnic and will try anything imaginable, whether it works or not, as though it were a dare.



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561 E Maple St. Annyville, Pa. 17002

If a trick didn't work, try it again, and if it still didn't work, so what. They were having fun anyway. These people are real showmen and they scream, holler and yell like crazy, with every move. They definitely know how to hype an audience. The piggy-back routine is fabulous as a climax.

Ringmaster/mc was Howard Hardin and the program ran: Moore's Mongrel Revue; Moores Mess of Mutts; Winnie McKay, ring trap; Richard St. John, cloud swing; The Young Troupe teeterboard; Clowns with a Mini-scooter and long shirt; Otto Berosini's wild animals with tiger on horseback; The Kardells, hair hang; The Saxons, juggling/unicycle; Karl Winn and Sheila on aerial motorcycle; Ken Willer, with sword balance; Chester Cable, foot juggling; Clowns and The Slot Machine; the Steele elephants presented by Bucky Steele and Jody Craigmeir; Intermission.

The Willety's, juggling; The Juggling Jewels; Sheila Winn, slide for life; The Dielkes, globe walk; Berosini's mixed animals; The Flying Rodriguez Family.

Clowns included: Bob Emerico (Hi Fi) and Bill Francis (Noodles).

SPECIAL

A REAL TROOPER

BY WILLIAM RINGLE

Almost every day, in a different American City, they erect a unique testimonial to Guy A. Buswell, who left a New Hampshire farm 71 years ago to join the circus.

The testimonial is made up of hundreds of patches and several kilometers - if not miles - of stitches that the 87 year old "Buzzy" has bestowed upon the Hoxie Bros. Circus big top.

Each morning, before the huge expanse of canvas goes up, he scrutinizes it, sometimes on all fours, replacing ropes and pouncing up on any new rent or tear with his patches and sewing kit.

This is after he's helped lay out the lot and joined the ranks of young men - some of 'em one-fifth his age - unfolding the heavy sections of tent and sidewall.

One of the first vehicles on the lot each morning, just after the show's 24 hour man, is usually the Plymouth Volare (a red, white and blue window sticker proclaims "I'm glad to be an American Showman") in which he drives himself from city to city.

The overnight jumps nowadays are longer than those made by his first employer, Al Wheeler's Dog & Pony Show. "Then, we moved by horse and wagon from town to town," he says in rich New Hampshire intonations reminiscent of Parker Fennelly, the actor who sells Pepperidge Farm cookies on TV. "The hop then was usually 14 to 20 miles."

He was 16, only a little younger than many of his co-workers today, when he left the family farm near Franklin, NH, and joined Wheeler in Concord.

After Wheeler, his first big circus was Wallace Bros. From then on, his employers read like a roll call of 20th century American circuses: Sparks, Sells-Floto, John H. Robinson, Walter L. Main, the old King Bros, Hagenbeck-Wallace, and in the 1930's, Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey. He had graduated from laborer to working with horses, for which his farm experience handling teams proved apt.

With Ringling he was a member of the crew that almost every day had the responsibility to load and unload the four huge railroad trains that carried the show. That process

was so complex and so efficient that - before Buswell's time - the General staff sent a team to study it.

"I'm glad I had an opportunity to be part of that," he says. "Nothing like it will ever come along again. We'd start unloading before daylight and be finished by 8 or 9 in the morning.

"At night we'd start at 6:30 or 7. Sometimes it didn't get loaded until midnight, sometimes later. That was a big, big outfit. The horses sometimes were so tired they just dropped and slept in their harnesses. Those poor animals."

In 1941, at an age when most of his contemporaries were content to be ineligible for military service because of age, he joined the Navy (he's served in the Army in World War I) and put in almost four years in the Pacific.

After the war he returned to New Hampshire and, to earn some money, began helping out an undertaker. "If I can help someone else do this," he said to himself, "I can do it myself."

So he screwed up his courage, enrolled in a school and became a licensed embalmer. He worked for other undertakers. As job insurance he still renews his license annually in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Also, he owned a wood lot, but couldn't get anyone to handle the logs. So he bought a sawmill and went into the lumber business.

But five years ago, after his wife died, he felt the old lure. He signed on with the Great American Circus, doubtless one of the few cases in U. S. history where an 82 year old left home to join the circus. After three seasons with Hoxie Tucker's Great American Circus he shifted to Tucker's other unit, Hoxie Bros. Circus.

A Granite State frugality guides his work. "With the price of things today, the longer Mr. Tucker can go without replacing tents, the better off the circus will be.

"I'm a maintenance man, help out here, there and anywhere I can. Help with the big top, help with the seats. I like to keep busy and I can keep busy, all day, every day, without anyone telling me.

"When we get up to New England I'll go back to Franklin for a month or six weeks. Take care of a little business. When it gets cold I'll connect with the show again, stay with them into winter quarters in West Miami, Repair things, take care of the animals

(Continued on Next Page)

PEOPLE

EMIL and HANNA PALLEMBERG visited with REX HORTON and his bears at Kansas City where Horton was playing with the Coronas Circus. Emil even helped work the act.

SCOTT KOSER and ALLEN DUFFIELD, CFA's, visited with TIM HOLST of the Red Unit (RBBB) when the show played in Philadelphia. They were in for the 25th anniversary banquet of the Charles Ringling Tent No. 81, CFA, at the Hilton Hotel.

BERTHA PEARCE visited the Ringling Red Unit at Madison Square Garden on April 25 and then went to Glens Falls, NY, to visit the Blue Unit on June 5th.

BILL WISCHE and his newest lecture "Wishes II" were featured at the Omaha Magical Society Lecture Series on June 12th.

DAVID and MARJORIE HACKETT, Dune-din, Fla., recently visited with HARRIS REYNOLDS in Forest Park, Ga. Harris and Marjorie enjoyed a reunion after many years. Both were members of the 'Young Nelsons' Acrobatic Risley Act. Harris was a tight wire performer and was married to the late Denise Wathon of the 'Juggling Jewels'. Harris presented Marjorie with two old English oil paintings from the collection of his late father-in-law, theatrical booker Stanley Wathon. Marjorie is cleaning and restoring them to hang in the Hackett's Florida home.

AUSTIN MILES was the ringmaster for Circus Maranatha, June 29-July 4, at Heritage, USA Amphitheatre in Charlotte, NC. Portions of the circus will be shown on the Jim Bakker Show over the PTL Television Network.

Miscellaneous

The Father Ed Sullivan Tent CFA will hold its Summer Gathering (open to all fans) at Benson's Wild Animal Park in Hudson, NH, on Saturday, July 25th. Featured will be a circus concert by the South Shore Concert Band, as well as many circus related activities (admission will be charged).

The Backstein and Great Wallace Rings of

REPORT

KISMET SHRINE CIRCUS

BY NORMAN ABRAHAMS

The Hamid-Morton Circus played the 11th annual Kismet Temple Circus, June 12-14 at the Fireman's War Memorial Park, Lindenhurst, NY.

Binkey the chief clown of Kismet Temple and his gang of clowns worked the come-in and during intermission. Mr. Lollipops and Jay Jay the Mecca Temple Shrine Klowns were guests.

The crowds were excellent and once again it was a pleasure to meet Bob Atterbury who keeps the show running from set-up to tear-down. George Hamid has put together one of the finest editions in years.

The program opened with the National Anthem and greetings from the Illustrious Potentate of Kismet Temple. The show then started with Harry Thomas and his tigers, The Venturas, Clown Hot Dog Hunt, Herbie Weber, slide for life, Elkes Chimps, Los Latinos (Herbie and Marcella), wire, intermission, The Duvals, Jackie Althoff Bears, Princess Satellite, The Fornasari trampoline act, The Frankys, high wire motorcycle, The Italo Clown Band (you wouldn't believe how clever these funny musicians from Italy are), Gee Gee Engesser's circus elephants, Hugo Zucchini, human cannonball.

John MacKay was the producing clown and the announcing was handled by ringmaster Earl Michaels. Donn Conn directed the circus band.

REAL TROUPER (Continued)

and take life easy, then start out again in spring.

"Senior citizens don't have to sit down and wait to die. They can get out and find something to do."

About his career he certainly harbors no regrets: "If I had the chance I'm just crazy enough that I'd do the same thing over again."

CMB will have a CMB Lot Gathering at the Hickory Point Mall, Forsyth, Ill., on Oct. 16-18. Information may be obtained by contacting: R. E. Flesch, Sr., 4135 Camelot Dr., Decatur, Ill. - 62526.

REPORT

ENGLISH TENT SEASON - 1981

BY JACK NIBLETT

The English tenting season opened rather later than usual this year, bad weather and economic conditions being mitigating factors which contributed to the late start.

Even so, continuous rains and a couple of belated snowstorms turned many circus lots into mud-baths which did not encourage any would-be circus patrons.

First off the mark was Jimmy Chipperfield's Circus World at Plymouth on Mar. 1st, but this show turned out to be the Austen Bros. Circus using the Chipperfield title, which I understand they have leased for a couple of seasons. This circus had Austen Bros. Indian elephants, Arabian horses, African lions, camels, and exotics, presented by members of the family and Jack Varney, plus specialties by Duo Delmarr (balancing and juggling), Mitchellis (tightwire), Sonya (trapeze), and Amanda (web). The Austen Bros. also took part in a trampoline act, with other artists and also as the Dallas Troupe (western act). Patrick Austen appeared as Prof. Watnot, and also with his Crazy Taxi.

Later in the month the two other Chipperfield circuses started out - Dickie opening in Banbury and sister Sally in a nearby West Midland town.

Richard (Dickie) Chipperfield still had plenty of animals, though missing was his big lion act, this massive group having gone to the U.S.A., America's gain being England's loss.

The program included Chipperfield's Polar and Black Bears, Bengal Tigers, Elephants, Camels, Horses and Ponies, High school horse, Farmyard animal group, all presented by members of the family and Alexander Storey, Miss Louise Torsten, Canga (Spiderman) Birus Troupe in flying trapeze and springboard/risley, Oporto Family (Portuguese clowns and a foot juggling act), with their Riding Machine inviting the audience to have a go at it, made up an entertaining bill.

Sally Chipperfield's program included husband James Clubb in the big cage with eight tigers; presenting Russian and Himalayan bears, liberty horses and Sally herself with dogs and monkeys. Berondi Troupe (high wire), Berousek Brothers (revolving perch), Los Pedros (balancing), Jimmy Scott, clown, Frankie Paulo and Co (musical clowns), Clar-

inda (pigeons), Ken McManus (ringmaster, also presenting ponies), Miss Danielle (trapeze).

Roberts Bros. Circus which had expressed doubts about a tenting season in 1981 have stood firm by their circus inheritance and emerged once again, this time with a brand new tent, albeit a slightly smaller one more in keeping with the times.

Roberts had an impressive program to open the season, but now the big elephant act, lions, liberty horses and chimpanzees, together with some members of the family have since departed to ad lustre to the Blackpool Tower Circus.

However, the Roberts Bros. have ample resources and the program is still a strong one which includes: Tommy Roberts (spotted ponies, elephants and spotted horses), Beverley Roberts (camels and horse), Johnny van Hussen (tigers), Jacko Fossett (boxing kangaroo, clowning throughout), Karl Brenner Family (illusions, trapeze, ladder); Tonya Roberts, (rolling globes), the Brukson Family (wire act and comedy springboard act), Little Willy and Conny (clowns) and Pamela Enos, football dogs.

Sir Robert Fossett's Circus, generally considered to be the oldest British circus, has an interesting program which includes: Fossett's elephants presented by Robert Fossett and Brenda Haeni, tiger presented by Franz Tabak, trampoline acts by members of the Fossett family, Haute Ecole by Robert Fossett and Co., The Flying Jarz (flying trapeze and equilibrist acts).

Circus Hoffman has continued its policy of fielding two circuses during this season. The slightly smaller version is now christened 'Circus Holiday' and has Colin Timmins (a brother-in-law) with lions and tiger, Valeria Hoffman with football dogs, Highland Horses presented by James Conway, also exotics and Shetland ponies by the same trainer who also rides high school, Evelyn Darnell with doves, goose and dog, Otto Europe, hand balancing, Jock and Cathy McPherson, western act, the same artists in a display of fancy lariat spinning, Kong Fu, Fakir, Clowning by Jock McPherson and others.

Hoffman's No. 1 has Martin Lacey with his lions, the Hoffman elephants, horses and ponies presented by Geoffrey Hoffman, Eli Hoffman riding high school, and the usual varied traditional acts whose names I have

(Continued on Next Page)

BRITISH CIRCUSES (Continued)

not yet been able to confirm.

Jerry Cottle's Circus never got to Africa as promised at the end of last season, and appeared during the Easter holidays, firstly at Ealing and then at Shepherds Bush, London for a month's stand.

The show has been re-styled, now known as 'The Rainbow Circus' and is billed as 'a theatrical production of the circus arts.' Emphasis is on modern lighting effects, costumed spectacles, pop-style music and with confetti and perfume to create atmosphere.

Acts include jugglers, clowns, acrobats, rolling globes, haute école, but very few animal acts. Sadly, business was not up to expectation and with heavy London costs, big financial losses have occurred. However, at the time of this writing, the show is still out, playing another London suburb where it is hoped that the prospects will be better.

Philip Gandey, our youngest circus proprietor, has enlarged his circus program this year with two elephants, two camels, a 'zebroid', and two bears from Mary Chipperfield's resources. Philip has a neat show with acts mainly from his own family, and 'old faithful' members of this small popular circus.

Fosserfields are having their second circus season, also somewhat enlarged with lions from Gerry Cottle's Circus and Phyllis Allan (a Bertram Mills stalwart), dog act, Tommy Fossett (proprietor) has his own clown, juggling and unicycle acts, Frankie Bailey & Co. are clowning throughout, and there are contributions from Vera Fossett and Tommy's two young sons, promising comedy musicians.

An innovation was announced by Peter Jolly, whose small show was going to be moved entirely by horse-drawn vehicles. However, difficulties have been discovered on this gas-less circus, notable a lack of horse drivers and estimated mileages being proved too great for the horses. Peter has had to pull back into winter quarters for re-grouping. I hope to catch up with this novel circus later and report; meanwhile I wish Peter and his horses luck.

James Bros. (more Fossetts) a medium sized show with two elephants and mainly house acts is tenting around the Midlands, and will stand for its annual season at Mablethorpe a seaside resort on the East Coast.

Other small circuses include Weights which

has a few wild animals, is out as usual, but a bit difficult to locate; Pinder's a real family show is making for it's former country of origin, Scotland, and Cirque Perrier, a small circus owned by one of the Hoffman brothers, with a French wife (hence the title) is currently tenting around the southern counties.

The Chessington (near London) Zoo which last year announced its new policy of dispensing with its annual summer circus has had a change of heart, and this season have booked Circus Hassaniyas as a free attraction, a rather surprising booking for this controversial circus without animals, to be showing in the midst of caged wild animals.

David Smart has not yet announced his circus plans for his massive 'Super Circus' which is still built up at Battersea Park, London, and which has already been used this season for concerts and exhibitions. With David's daughter Yasmine and her husband together with the horse acts being away at the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome Circus, speculation is rife as to what sort of a show David will be producing. Whatever happens the circus will have a short season only, this year.

Conditions are not good for out-door entertainments in England at the present time, but our circus proprietors are a resilient lot and the general feeling is that "it can't be as bad as last year's."

Report

CIRCUS CIRCUS SHOW

Local residents of Bellevue, Wash., were offered an opportunity to visit an animal show and to ride the elephants at the Crossroads Mall in Bellevue, June 25-28.

The elephants performed three times each day as a part of the Wild's Amazing Animals presentation. Other animals included a 13 ft. long Burmese python, a blackfooted ferret, a kangaroo, rare birds and even an African pigmy goat or two.

Occasionally throughout the day the Amazing Meltz, a juggler performed for the spectators. He worked with unicycles and a variety of special things.

SPECIAL**A CLOWN COLLECTOR'S PLATE**

This past week's newspapers carried advertisements about a Clown Collector's Plate that is being made available to the public.

The plate is said to be of heirloom-quality the first such to be sponsored by the Ringling-Barnum Circus. It is a porcelain plate, rimmed in 24K gold and orders are limited to a ten day firing period.

The plate, in multi-colors shows two circus clowns sitting on an old car, with two stilt walkers in the background, along with two girl aerialists, a circus band and the audience. It's actual size is 8½ in. in diameter.

The plate is available at \$30.00 each and can be ordered from the Hamilton Collection, 1 Charter Plaza, P. O. Box 2567, Jacksonville, Fla. 32203.

The ad suggests that orders be placed by July 31st in order to assure acceptance and purchasers are limited to two plates each.

SPECIAL**R. J. KELROY & ASSOCIATES' DATES**

The R. J. Kelroy & Associates, Inc., list the following engagements for which they supply entertainment and/or produce shows for circuses, parks, fairs and other special occasions.

The dates are: May 28-31, A Grimm Celebration in Chicago; June 11-Aug. 30, Shakespeare Festival, Oak Park, Ill.; June 18-21, Al Koran Circus, Wellington, Ohio; June 26-29, Sudan Temple Circus, Fayetteville and Raleigh, NC.; June 25-July 5, Summerfest at Milwaukee, Wisc.; July 11, South Shore Water Frolics, Milwaukee, Wisc.; July 20-22, Tebala Temple Circus, Woodstock, Ill.; July 23-26, Tebala Temple Circus, Rockford, Ill.; July 25-26, Swim Meet, Hinsdale, Ill.; July 20-26, Women's Open Championship P.G. A., La Grange, Ill.; July 29, Northwest Wisconsin State Fair, Chippewa Falls, Wisc.; Aug. 3-8, Western Kentucky Fair, Hopkinsville, Ky.; Aug. 6-16, Illinois State Fair, Springfield, Ill.; Aug. 8, Door County Fair, Sturgeon Bay, Wisc.; Aug. 13-22, Kentucky State Fair, Louisville, Ky.; Aug. 19, Murray County Agricultural Society Fair, Slayton, Wisc.; Sept. 2-5, Central Wisconsin State Fair, Marshfield, Wisc.; Oct. 23-25, Beni Kedem Temple Circus, Charleston, W. Va.

REPORT**HOLIDAY HIPPODROME**

BY ALLAN BABCOCK

The Holiday Hippodrome show came into Decatur, Ill., for a June 12th performance at 7 p.m. The show was presented at the Mac Arthur High School.

This year's show was another fine performance which drew many more people than was recorded last year.

Featured were: Valla Duo, tight wire (Bertini); Bradbury & Co., magic; Pork Chop Revue, trained pigs (Kines); Miss Randa Lynn, foot juggling; Bradbury, balloon sculptures; Intermission.

Bradbury & Co., sawing a lady in half; Miss Christina, single trapeze; Danny Carey, hand balancing; The Bertini's, unicycles.

The Bertini unicycle act has been increased to four people now that the mother has remarried. I am sorry but I did not get his name.

Danny Carey's wife said that he was not performing here as he was away, attending a funeral of a good friend, who had been killed in a motorcycle accident.

The show folks stayed over at a nearby camp grounds, and then just took their equipment to the date at Alton. When they left from this area they were heading to Lafayette, Ind., and some planned to stop, if possible, and visit with folks on the Int'l All Star Circus, which was playing at Danville, Ill.

Miscellaneous

There is some confusion between acts on the west coast, with similar names and performances.

The Willers do juggling, balancing, rola bola and a one finger stand; The Willer Family is a hand balancing group and the Weller Family presents balancing, rola bola and a bar act.

BILL WATSON visited Robert Bros. Circus on June 17th, where he cut up jackpots with his old friend JOE MYERS. The circus was playing in Sharpsburg, Pa., and the evening performance had a concert by the Steel City Ambassadors Bugle & Drum Corp. The circus drew two full houses here.

FROM ELLIAN ROSAIRE

In regard to the June 8/15 issue of CR, we would like to thank Mr. George Bingaman for his favorable write-up on the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show.

We appreciate his enthusiastic report on the show, however, there were some incorrect pieces of information that we would like to correct. For example, Major Carlos Mancero and Dianne Olds are not with the show this year.

The show's program follows and we would all greatly appreciate it if you can print this in Circus Report.

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show - 1981

Overture and Introduction

Pas de Deux (two Lipizzans presented by the senior trainers).

Yvonne Christiani and Sgt. Pepper (high school to Star Wars and other space themes).

Training Session (presentation of Lipizzans in training.)

Robert Kiley and Favory Slatina (fine dressage by one Lipizzan on long lines).

Ellian Rosaire and Golden Prince (high school on sidesaddle in western theme to music of Electric Horseman).

Pas de Trais (three man exercise on Lipizzan).

The Christianis - Benny and Yvonne (comedy pony and buggy slapstick)

Airs above the Ground (Mazzair, Levade, mounted courbette, long line courbette, mounted capriole, long ling capriole).

Intermission

Pas de Quatre (four man exercise on Lipizzan).

Patti Schaffer and Shiek (high school to TV Detective themes).

Rosaire Arabians (brothers Derrick, Jr. and Duke Rosaire - Two Egyptian Arabians presented on long lines)- to military French Foreign Legion theme).

Peter Van Borst and Jahil (Andalusian Stallion doing dressage).

Derrick Rosaire and Tony the Wonder Horse (sophisticated comedy).

The Grand Quadrille (six Lipizzan stallions performing in a precision drill)

Finale (entire cast)

Note: Announcer, Mr. Patrick Simpson, the Senior Trainers are Mr. Patrick Crampton and Mr. Robert Kiley.