

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 10

March 8, 1982



THE HERNANDEZ TROUPE

TEETERBOARD ARTISTS - The Hernandez Troupe

Unprecedented teeterboard artistry abounds at Circus World's Circus Spectacular with the unforgettable debut of the Hernandez Troupe, who take audiences to new heights of excitement as these superb athletes demonstrate one of the most popular of all circus skills - the classic art of catapulting human bodies from the springboard into towering totems.

This family team of outstanding equilibrists performs a nerveless repertoire of majestic mid-air maneuvers designed to "just entertain the audience," according to Manuel "Manny" Hernandez, the patriarch of these

The Hernandez Troupe demonstrates their incredible dexterity and agility as they present a dazzling display of lightning-fast, non-stop gymnastic maneuvers, each one designed to top the previous effort as they carry on the circus tradition begun by their parents.

Their mother began studying the teeterboard at the age of five in her native Germany.

"I used to travel with the family who taught me - The Mendels - and we performed for the GI's after the war," she said.

Manny began his teeterboard career early



teeterboard titans.

Their fast-paced routine features the beautiful Sylvia performing a backward somersault into a chair perched atop a pole 15 ft. high held by her father. In another brilliant teeterboard display she is propelled from the springboard by her mother, Lisa, and brother, Danny, through the air in a backward somersault to the waiting shoulders of her brother, Tim, as they execute the four-man pyramid reaching 20 ft. in the air! At the bottom of this graceful human totem is another brother, Randy, the act's "understander", a person of great strength supporting and balancing the pyramid of performers.

in life, enrolling in classes in school in his native Cuba. After leaving school he joined the circus and performed throughout Cuba. While working for the Great American Circus in Cuba, he met Lisa when he joined her teeterboard act.

After getting married they moved to the United States and formed their own act incorporating their five children into the routine as they became old enough and showed an interest in the act.

Like many other circus performers they established a permanent home in Sarasota,

(Continued on Page 23)

SHOW DATES**Circus Vargas**

Mar 9-11 Monrovia, Ca.
12-15 Oxnard

Cole All Star Circus

Mar 8 Clifton Sprgs, NY
9 Marion
10 Lyons
11 Fabius
12 Canastota
13 Clinton
14 Madison

Paul Eagles Circus

Mar 9 Downey, Calif.

Hamid-Morton Circus

Jan 29-31 Roanoke, Va.
Feb 10-15 Hartford, Conn
26-28 Topeka, Kans.
Mar 3-7 Kansas City, Mo

Ringling-Barnum Blue

Mar 9-14 Norfolk, Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Mar 9-10 Fayetteville, NC
12-14 Asheville

--- OTHER DATES ---**Tattoo Convention**

Mar 12-14 Minneapolis, Mn

--- MAGIC ---**Blackstone**

Mar 9-14 San Fran, Cal.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Mar 7 Winter Haven, Fla
8 Lakeland
9 Port Charlotte
10 Cape Coral
12 Titusville
13 Altamonte Sprgs.

Winter Carnival of Magic

Mar 12-13 Gatlinburg, Tn

Dates received at press time**Olympic Int'l Circus**

Mar 1-21 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Hanneford Circus

Mar 4-7 Lansing, Mich

--- ICE SHOWS ---**Ice Capades - Eastern Unit**

Mar 2-9 Detroit, Mich.

Ice Capades -

Mar 11-21 Chicago, Ill.

Ice Follies/Holiday on Ice

Mar 4-7 Louisville, Ky.

Castle/Zerbini Circus

Feb 27-Mar 7 Minneapolis,
Minn.

Mar 12-14 Spokane, Wash

PEOPLE

LAURIE A. WORD (Twinkles) and TOBY JOHNSON (Toby Twist) were married on Sept. 30th, as clowns, at Billings, Mont. The wedding took place in the "Clown Town" toy store with a circus theme. Since then the couple have been working mall dates and variety programs.

BRADD FRANK and family will be touring with the Martin & Downs Circus this season. Bradd will have a dressage horse, plus ropes and whips, while daughter ATHENA will be doing ladder and trapeze.

NEED PROP MEN**FOR HOUSTON DATE**

April 29th to May 9th

— TOP SALARY —

Just be there for set up at

8 a.m. - April 28th

BOB ATTERBURY

**COLISEUM
HOUSTON, TEXAS
DOWNTOWN**

Polack Bros. Circus.

by HENRY and SALLY PAYNE

The 42nd year for the Polack Bros. Circus, produced by Sam T. Polack, for the Kosair Shrine Temple in Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3-7, was a huge success, and a nice kick-off for the opening date of Sam T. Polack's 1982 season of dates.

The kick-off at the Louisville Gardens was eleven full houses, the capacity at this facility being 5,732.

The audience's happy responses to the show and the Shrine Temple being pleased with the quality of the program of acts, brought in by Sam T. Polack, for Kosair Temple's 57th year of presenting circuses was said to be the best yet, by shriners.

Something new this year was the block tickets sold to the merchants, who buy them to give to the underprivileged children, were used to let Senior Citizens also have the use of some of those tickets so they could attend the circus, and it was heart-warming to see quite a few of them in the area where I was, enjoying the show.

The news media "got with it" this year also, and the Circus was covered by all three network stations, Channels 3, 11 and 32 and the Louisville Times, the afternoon paper had some nice coverage with photos and short write-ups.

Al Dawley came into town ahead of the show, to promote some extra publicity, as well as the regular promotional staff.

The Kosair Temple liked the quality of the show so well, they have signed the Polack Bros. Circus to produce their circus in 1983.

The weather this year was variable, some rain, some freezing rain, and a little snow. The temperature also zig-zaged, the coldest being Saturday night at 13 above. Of course the performers coming down from New York (Rix Bears), Des Plaines, Ill. (Boom

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Boom) and St. Louis (The Fossetts) came through heavy snow.

Some of the new acts this year, on the Shrine date were: Aerial Cradle Duo, Reginines (Mr. and Mrs. Fornasari, Sa-Sa, The Kursawes, bicycle/unicycles).

Darrell Wallen and Mr. Rythm, the high school horse, that's at the head of the class; The Valencia Troupe, flying return act; Sa-Sa Fornasari, trapeze; King Arthur and Goldie (Duchek); The Fornasari Family Clown Band; John Cuneo's Hawthorn elephants worked by Johnny Walker, Jr. and Heidi

(Continued on Page 19)

THE ALL NEW!
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From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Wherever you live, as you are reading this edition of Circus Report, how about coming to some wonderful events with us in warm, sunny Florida, on the weekend of Feb. 7-8. Saturday found us driving to the new State Fair Grounds east of Tampa at the junctions of 14 and U.S. 301 - we chose to drive from our back door across old Tampa Road (which turns into Hillsborough Ave.) and is also Hwy. 92. We cut off 14 at Orient road, turned into Buffalo Ave., and drove in thru the Buffalo Ave. Gates to what is the greatest show for the price in all of Florida.

Parking was \$1.50 and we were directed to a flat, grassy field. A short walk to the gate where it cost \$2.50 (each) to get in and since it was close to lunch time, I got a delicious Taco while David bought an Italian sausage sandwich which we ate under one of the Geodesic Domes that contain chairs and tables and are open all around to the air. This fair has several of them scattered about the grounds, which incidentally consists of some 60 plus acres.

Since the first Florida State Fair which we attended in 1978, there has been vast improvements to the grounds and many new buildings added as permanent structures. This is also a fair grounds that is used the year around for many diverse events. In the center is an artificial lake that now is bridged thru the middle with a natural dirt bridge that is macadamized. It makes a pretty site with the flags of all states fluttering in the breeze along each side and colorful small sail boats in the water.

It was "short sleeve" weather. After lunch we headed down the Midway to the circus tent, produced this year by Eddie Zacchini's Olympia Circus. A rock group entertained us until the performance started at 1 p.m. We are not "rock" fans but this was a bunch of merry mad caps dressed in what looked like "early Good Will cast-offs" who played and sang very well and loud! The circus is sponsored by Pepin distributors and Hava-Tampa Cigar Co. All of the free attractions are sponsored by companies from the area which is why this fair is such a terrific bargain.

Bill Strong, whom we had not seen in quite

some time came over to speak to us before the show started. We were most pleased to know we were going to see Bill and Trudy's dog act for the very first time.

Bill is also in the process of training a Liberty horse act and since they have dates up in the frozen North, friend Johnny Herriot offered to keep the horses in Florida and work on them, in company with Philip Anthony (who has the Hollywood Liberty Horse Act) until the Strongs return South. Typical of the "good buddy" camaraderie so often exhibited among circus people.

The "come-in" was worked by clown Danny Chapman and his little dog; followed by Dime and Connie Wilson and their clever balloon animals which were given out to many of the small children at the show.

The show band was led by Keith Killinger, consisting of 4 pieces, they produced a heck of a lot of music. Announcer and soloist with a fine voice was Bill Boren. Opening with a walk around Spec, followed by Benny Williams and the elephant Anna Mae assisted at this date by Danny Chapman's pretty daughter Debbie. If you have seen Anna Mae and Benny I do not have to say anything further, if you haven't had the opportunity, I hope they "play" your way soon!

The line-up continued with a trampoline act done by some of the Wozniaks; Cradle act, the Venturas; Trudy (Wilson) Strong's beautiful Dalmatian Dog Act with husband Bill and son David assisting and a gorgeous appaloose horse. (This is really a flashy, class act, colorful, fast with gorgeous costuming on Trudy and old-time red firefighters shirts on the fellas!).

Clown gags were interspersed in between the following numbers, the 3 Woodcock elephants worked by Benny Williams; Jack Cook's Comedy Car; the Flying Larrays and the 4 Wallendas, and the 8 people Wozniak Teeterboard act from Poland and recently on Ringling. Show was fast and the crowd loved every minute of it. Interesting to note that the acts (I do not know about the Polish folks or the Larrays) were representative of three or more generations of circus performers with the Wilson-Strongs representing three generations in this one show.

(Continued on Page 17)

Circo Atayde

by *BOBBY GIBBS*

The Circo Atayde program was presented in the Arena in Mexico City, in one ring, using green sawdust, a lighted ring curb and a live band.

The program included a big spec, 3 production numbers with girls from Circus World on webs and as dancers; Lots of clowns including 3 midgets; a Bruno double sway pole act; Stephenson's Dogs, chimps and trampoline; Several show-owned acts including cats (4 lions, 4 tigers Tim Delbosq), elephants (5) plus a group of 8 palomino horses; then there is a flying act, rolling globe act, contortion and a Russian swing act with 6 people.

The show has, but they are not working, a big sorrel high school horse, and an elephant named 'Tanya' which is crippled. The Flying Padillas were not working since one of the people had been injured.

Mexican Award

by *GRACE BORSTELMANN*

The Sociedad Amigos Del Circo (The Circus Fans of Mexico) awarded their diploma and silver medal for "Best Act" of the Atayde Bros. Circus to Gary Borstelmann and Jay Cochrane for their dual performance of George Bruno's "Breakaway Swaypole" on Jan. 23rd, at the Arena Mexico in Mexico City.

Billed as "Los Brunos", they have been the dramatic closing act from Dec. 19th to Feb. 9th.

Jay will be performing his aerial Skywalk back in the U. S. A. while Gary will continue thru April with Circo Atayde in the bull rings of four Mexican cities, performing on the swaypole in Guadalajara, Monterrey, San Luis Potosi and Torreon.

Gary's wife, Terri, who has been assisting in the swaypole performances, has joined the Valentine's Trapeze Act and will be touring with the American Circus in Puerto Rico, then in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Royal Hanneford

by CHRIS AUDIBERT

The Royal Hanneford Circus played the Community Center in White Plains, NY on Feb. 13-15 and the writer caught all seven shows. All were full houses except one that was about a half house.

The program included: National Anthem; Senor Rai introduction; Jungle Opening with everyone in African costumes; The Rix Bears; Mr. Sensation, Billy Barton; Super Clown with a Kiddies pulling contest; The Sanger Riding Act with Nellie Hanneford in center ring on a rosinback, followed by the mechanic with audience participation, Julie Leonard and Tommy Hanneford; Safe Cracker, Gaonas as thief and cops, chase and catch Warren Adams who goes into his straight jacket escape with fire rope; Vidbel ponies with the Vidbel grandchildren in Ring 3, Nellie riding Midnight in Ring 2 and the

Zoppe ponies in Ring 1; Ricardo, juggling in Ring 3, The Drouguettes, balancing and unsupported ladders in Ring 2, Warren Adams, juggling in Ring 1; Natuska (Dana) single trapeze, center ring, after introduction by girls and men in sailor outfits, Nellie and two other girls on webs over track; Francisco's (Gaonas) teeterboard; Zoppe-Karoly Riding Act, includes Kim Loyal and Nellie Hanneford in center ring; The Droguettes, hat juggling in center ring; Spec "Pinochio in Toyland" everybody in soldier uniforms with Nellie as Pinochio; Intermission.

The Vidbel elephants, Vidbel's daughter and Al Vidbel work Daisy, Danelion and Daffadill in center ring; The Dynasty Duo, Zoppe iron jaw act; The Flying Gaonas with Julio (13 yrs old trying for tripe, 2 out of 3 times), Kim Loyal is working with them now; Finale "Flags of All Nations."

Star Falls

Marguerite Ayala, who is in Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., after falling some 25 feet while performing her hair hang act with the Ringling-Barnum Circus, is reportedly in stable condition, according to hospital officials. The accident occurred during a performance of the circus in the Omni on Feb. 20th.

Marguerite suffered a neck fracture, a concussion and a fractured right arm.

Doctors at the hospital reported that she was able to move her limbs, leading the doctors to believe she would not suffer from any paralysis. They said her chances of recovery were good.

According to spectators in the audience, the circus performer was spinning and revolving in an expanding circle when she fell. The momentum continued to spin her until she hit the floor of the building, just outside of the darkened ring.

She was apparently knocked unconscious by the impact, not moving until she was carried away on a stretcher.

Both circus people and the audience were stunned by the accident and the house lights were immediately turned on and other performers and circus officials rushed to the injured woman.

Clowns were sent in to divert attention but all circus action halted for about 10 minutes as the woman was examined and then carried off by a medical team.

As a part of her act Marguerite juggles three flaming torches while suspended by her hair, a feat she had performed just prior to the fall.

Many in the audience said "it was awful" and several were seen to be leaving the building shortly after the accident. "It all happened so fast it was hard to tell what was going on," one spectator added.

PEOPLE

THE FRANK PARADE HEADS will be a part of the March 6th Orange Blossom Parade in Davie, Fla., as well as a parade in Seminole, Fla. on Mar. 13th. Both Frank Cain and Jimmy Knapp will be clowns in these parades.

In Memoriam

TOM UPTON (83), circus photographer, died at Berkeley, Calif., on Feb. 24th after suffering a heart attack at his home.

Tom was well-known to circus people all over the country because of his intense interest in the circus and his dedicated filming of circus acts and programs. He first began to take circus movies in 1941 and he continued to record each show that he attended over the years, so that his films are a complete history of each circus.

In his early life he had been a high diver and trampoline performer. He was an avid record collector and circus collector.

Miscellaneous

The World of Fantasy Players, produced by Philip Morris, opened their 1982 season on Feb. 15th at Muscle Shoals, Ala. This year's tour is scheduled to run for 40 weeks and will, again, be under the management of William J. English, of Greater American Entertainment of Sarasota, Fla.

The production this year will be "Cinderella," and it is the 16th consecutive year for the group.

The group went into rehearsal on Feb. 1st at the Morris Theatre in Charlotte. Road Manager for the 1982 tour will be Robert Lee Jackson.



"Get out there, Janie! You're not too sober yourself."

Jacobs Honored

In the center ring of the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit, on Sunday night (Feb. 21) the family of Lou Jacobs - Jean, Dolly and Lou Ann - were presented with the charter of the new Lou Jacobs Tent No. 139, CFA.

Paul Fitzpatrick, MD, past president of the CFA and President of the Duggan Bros.-Arnold Maley Tent presented a bull hook to Phil Moyer, new Lou Jacobs Tent president.

Kit Haskett introduced Dr. Fitzpatrick who made the presentations to the Jacobs Family.

After the presentations, Lou Jacobs gave a resume of his life on the Big Show and a Question and Answer period followed his talk.

Mercer and Ann Sullivan, Lucille Lane and Phil and Helen Moyer worked hard to make the meeting a success. Paul E. Fitzpatrick, MD, was the master of ceremonies.

On Monday, Feb. 15th, the Duggan-Maley Tent and the Lou Jacobs Tent combined to put on a special dinner at the State Capitol "Garden Room" for Lou Jacobs and his

family.

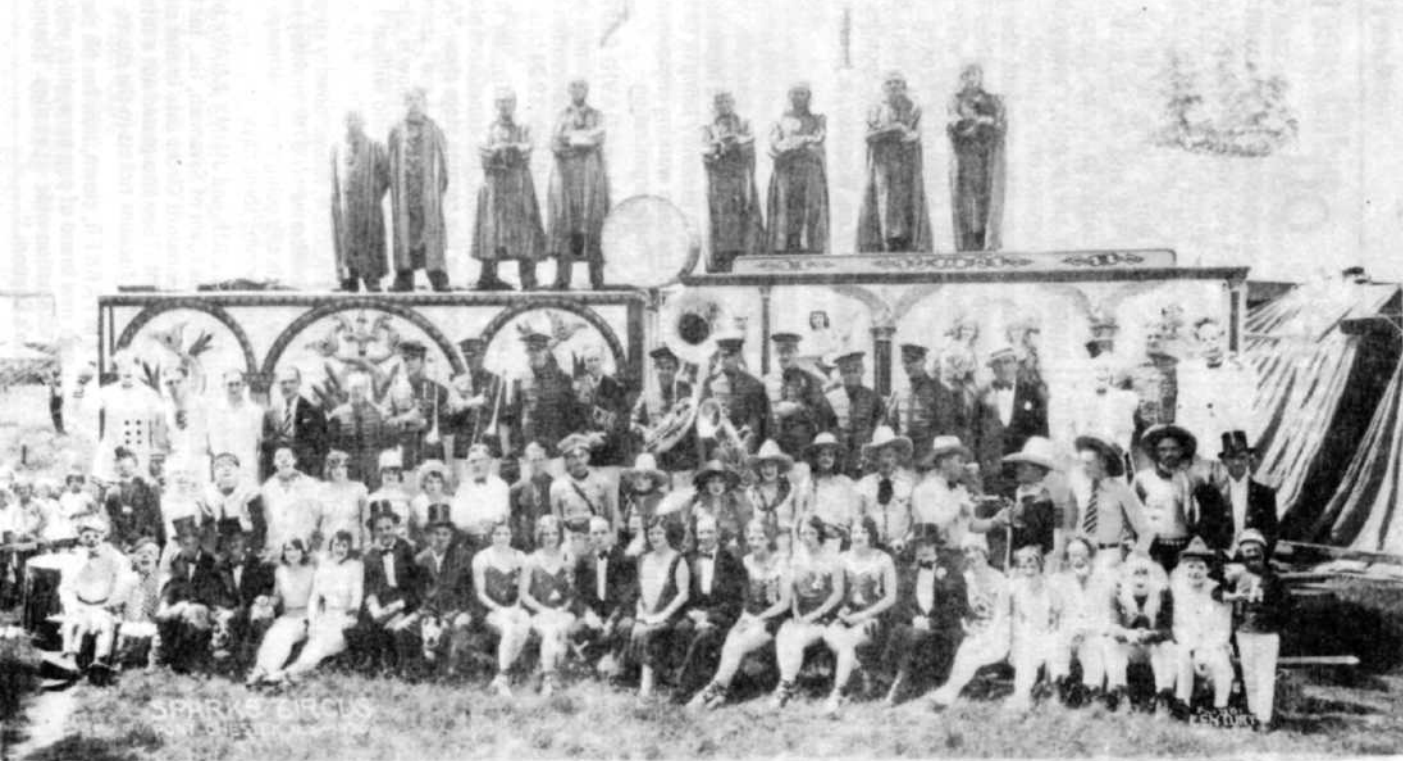
The Honorable George Busbee, governor of the State of Georgia, proclaimed Feb. 15 "Lou Jacobs Day". Also Mayor Young of Atlanta and the Mayor of Stone Mountain proclaimed "Lou Jacobs Day" in their cities in honor of the famous clown.

A buffet meal was served, the proclamations were presented as well as a copy of the new Tent Charter to the Jacobs family.

Mail Returned

The Post Office has returned Circus Reports addressed to the following people:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Bill Hamilton | James B. Stowe |
| Paul Lubera | Aerial Wards |
| Robert Brockwell | Gary Johnson |
| Dolores Coronado | Tim Stinson |



SPARKS CIRCUS PERSONNEL
Port Chester, N. Y. - 1930

'the show goes on'

Tosca Schroer paused a moment Saturday night before her high-flying circus act to accept a reassuring embrace from the man who was her assistant.

When the spotlight came on, she climbed a rope and gracefully dangled by an ankle 30 feet in the air while the audience gasped.

Only five hours earlier, another aerial artist — Marguerite Michele Ayala — was seriously injured when she fell from the apparatus holding her 25 feet in the air.

The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus went on Saturday night, with all the glitter and fanfare of earlier shows. But the performers carried with them the chilling reminder of how their acts came to be called death-defying.

"It's unfortunate that it takes accidents to make people realize that these people take their lives into their hands," said Mike Franks, a marketing director for the circus. "Anytime this happens, it makes them think about their own act, and being more careful."

The accident was on the minds of the performers, but not necessarily in their conversation. It was as though acknowledging the danger was bad luck.

"It's something you don't talk about, but it happens," said Larry Robie, 51.

One of his duties is to help Mrs. Ayala with props. "She's such a sweet lady," he said. "I'm sorry it happened to her. Everyone is sorry."

Robie said he has seen accidents before in his 14 years with the circus, and that they always "shake everybody up."

"The thought that something like

this can happen is with us all the time," said one woman who performs acrobatic stunts. "You just don't think about it until something happens. The worst thing is to go out here and smile and try to make the audience laugh, to make them feel happy. You see people choking back tears, but they go on."

The last serious accident the performers remember was when two brothers who walk the high wire fell. One of them suffered a broken neck and a concussion, but both were back on the high wire in three months, according to Ken Wachter, a marketing director.

PEOPLE

LASH LA RUE, Hollywood movie star of over 80 films, is presently living in Charlotte (NC) and has been working engagements for the Philip Morris organization.

MUHAMMED ALI and DAVID COPPERFIELD were among the name people seen at the Cavalcade of Magic Convention held in Los Angeles (Calif) Feb. 19-21.

WILLIAM J. ENGLISH, of Greater American Entertainment, has announced plans to re-open the live cartoon stage show "Amazing Adventures in Cartoon Land" starring Popeye on April 24th. The show is a joint venture of Philip Morris and William J. English.

BERT HANSEN, retired novelty stage performer, celebrated his 87th birthday in January and is still going strong, although he is not performing these days.

FRANK CAIN and JIMMY KNAPP bill posted the town of Savannah, Ga., for the Royal Hanneford Circus date in that city, Feb. 23-24. They also passed out a total of 500,000 discount tickets in the stores.

JIM PARKER, clown, now has his picture on a new brand of pop corn which will soon be sold nation-wide - it's called "Diamond Jim's Popcorn."

Coronas Circus

The 1982 season for the Coronas Circus Productions will get underway on March 20-21 when the show plays at Daytona Beach, Fla. This will be followed by an engagement at Orlando on March 27-28, with both dates being for the Bahia Shrine.

Appearing will be Jay Cochrane doing a skywalk over the Tangerine Bowl, the Abulett High Wire Duo, the Flying Aztecas, the Ashton Risley Troupe, the Oscarian Risley Troupe, four rings of one finger balancing, the Bales with 3 rings of dressage horses, Adriani Motorcycle Illusion, the Coronas elephants, Ramos' caged wild animal act, Stevana, rocketship, Janie's Dobermans, Chimpanzees, uncaged leopard, foot juggling, Sebastian, ringmaster, the Bahia clowns, Bruno, break-away sway pole, slide for life, Miss Bonnie, cloud swing and the Coronas Cannon.

On the season tour the show will feature: Jeannette Rix Bears, the George Hanneford Family elephants and horses, the Young Troupe, teeterboard, Princess My-Immba,

baboons, the Swiss Family Nock, sway pole act, The Kursawes, Miss Diane, trapeze, double motorcycles, Twin Gyro Wheels, The Dobermans, the Nock Poodles, the Hanneford Dogs, the Jupiter Duo, triple trapeze, Miss Bonnie, cloud swing, The Bales, dressage horses, Taxi Comedy Car, the Coronas elephants, the Cannon act, plus the added extra attractions of The Wallendas, high wire, the Cristiani elephants, Jimmy Fossett Swaying Stars in Atlanta's Yaarab Shrine Circus, Col. Lucky Larabee, Satani Demon.

In June the Coronas produced circus for the Moolah Shrine in St. Louis, the circus will include 7 rings of acts, the David Merfield Helicopter Trapeze and a Fireworks Display in the finale.

PEOPLE

LOTTIE BRUNN, juggler, will be with the Royal Hanneford Circus when that show appears at Farmingdale, NY in early April.

February 21, 1982

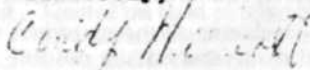
To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the February 15 issue of Circus Report, mainly regarding the review of Circus Vargas by a Don Covington, pertaining to the performing horses and their so called trainer Dutch Crawford.

I personally appeared on Circus Vargas with my parents in the 1979 season, in which we presented three rings of liberty and high school horses. I rode the white stallion General Vargas in a high school routine. As for the training of this horse, he was trained by Dick Wallen of Sioux City, Iowa. As for the liberty horses, the eight Andalusians were trained by Glenn Randall, the six Arabians by Wally Ross, the eight Appaloosas by the late Bob Hofmeister. My father takes no credit for training any of these animals. However, training is much more difficult than presenting, speaking from my own experience. So please, let's give credit where credit is due.

An interesting side note: the ponies and baby elephants that Mr. Crawford presented on Hoxie Bros. Circus were trained by my father, John Herriott.

Sincerely,



Cindy Herriott

In Memoriam

ZENG JIN-LIAN (17) reportedly the tallest woman in the world, at 8 ft. 1 in., died Feb. 13 in Hunan Province, central China. She was hospitalized for diabetes in October, but had returned home for the new year holiday. Death was attributed to diabetes and complications.



ABOUT THE LOGO — This column feels obligated to thank cartoonist Ray Dirgo, of Bridgeport, Conn., author of the recent masterpiece "Ray Dirgo's Circus Sketchbook."

ABOUT VAUDEVILLE SHOWS — I insist that if you are under 60 years of age you have never really seen a good one! History is that in 1929, America's 45 major big-time vaude theatres went for talkies. Competition between movie theatres kept some stage shows going close to another 30 years. Then nearly everyone became hearth-bound, staying home with the TV tube.

Crowds of people must be having "cabin fever" because hopefully there is a revival trend. The phenomenon of a turn-around to polite family-oriented theatre is taking place at the 900 seat Cabot Street Cinema Theatre in Beverly, Mass., north of Boston. On Sunday, every week, there is a two-a-day live-in-person entertainment with Marco the Magi's production of the spectacular LE GRAND DAVID magic show. Films on week days are the best and respectable - no troglodite waste!

Here are a few facts as space permits: An American-style commercial business operation is showing a profit with success bringing about the acquisition of the theatre itself for around \$110,000 cash plus estimated accrual of perhaps \$250,000 worth of theatrical equipment of super quality, scenery, props, lights, costumes, etc. A varied repertory of over 50 full-sized stage conjuring illusions presented with relaxed, precision expertise. A resident company of 75 headed by gracious Cesareo Pelaez as Marco, David Bull as David, Seth Bartlett as Beth, Bob Murphy as Professor Besco, Webster Bull as the Mariner, specialty dancer Edlita with a tap dancing moo-cow jargo, 16 charming, dancing lady assistants with Sonia as Captain, barber shop harmonies with 30 singers, half a dozen clowns, puppeteers, jugglers, musicians with more than one trumpet virtuoso and an extraordinary pianist billed simply as Avron. There is so much excellence in the enchantment of the

performance - if I have missed anyone the slight is certainly unintentional.

Sunday vaude at the Cabot Street Cinema has been going on continuously for over 5 years with nearly 650 performances at popular prices - \$3.50 for children and \$5.00 for adults. Audience appeal is wide-ranging covering all age groups. Many patrons return and bring friends, over and over again.

The "magic" part of the show at the front-of-the-house is a genuine no-secret gimmick style of constantly making friends with everyone. Old-time Yankees used to call it business Good Will. Cesareo Pelaez is a psychologist.

A warm friendly mood prevails from the moment a customer enters the theatre until they leave. They call it Joy and Kindness. It's a success.

The Cole Show

by *BOYD FINCH*

The 44th annual tour of the Cole All Star TV Circus was presented at Sidney, NY, on Jan. 25th.

Billy Martin, ringmaster, opened the action packed performance with the introduction of the owner and producer of the circus, Mr. Cole.

The first act was aerial artistry on the Spanish web by three lovely ladies (Brenda, Ricki Bovay and Elizabeth Macia).

Then flashy Billy Martin and Cheryl continued to hold the audience spell-bound with a impressive rola bola routine.

Oscar Macias, amazed the audience with the difficult one finger stand, high above the arena floor, following this with his clever hand balancing.

From amazement to amusement was in store for the appreciative audience. Children of all ages were delighted by the antics of Mongo-Bongo, the all most human gorilla. Cheryl, the attractive trainer had her hands full trying to keep things in order to

(Continued on Page 23)

FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

We visited in the backyard for a short time and continued our tour of the Fair making our way down the Midway, thru hordes of Western style riders of all ages; heading for the edge of the little lake where Heidi (Gutis) Grogan; husband-pilot Jim and trapeze performer Mark Pilger were getting ready for the Helicopter Thrill act. This was our first time to see this act and we were impressed by the Finesse, glitter and expert piloting of Jim Grogan as he flew over the water, green grass, colorful boats with Mark performing on the trapeze up against the clear blue sky with just a few lazy white clouds floating by. It just made you wish you were up there with them!

We waved goodbye and toured the main exhibit hall and the "Cracker Village" which consists of donated buildings from old Florida, now restored and manned by Historical Society members telling of where, what and when. Set on gently sloping grassy ground and shaded by giant oak trees, you really feel "history" coming alive.

David had been eating his way thru all of this touring and my feet were giving out so we headed for the car, we'd have to return several times to take in all of the attractions but it was a rewarding day, so remember if you are in Florida in February, plan to attend.

- * -

Sunday a.m. found us a little reluctant to get out of bed but soon we were on our way to the Memorial Service held by the Greater Tampa Showman's Assoc. and Ladies Auxiliary at Showman's Rest on North Blvd. in Tampa. Traffic was heavy and we arrived at the end of the service but in time to greet some friends like Karl Ericksen and the Wireguards and Bill Kourmpates (former high act and very active Egypt Temple Shriner) who is the chaplain for G.T.S.A. Bill wanted to be sure that I mentioned the free ride time on the kiddie rides donated by Deggeler Attractions at the Fair when the Shrine brought the unerprivileged children to the State Fair. They were escorted by Shriners and had two full hours of rides.

Bill said, why don't I call him when I send in an article to Circus Report so we don't send duplicate news. Gee, I would Bill, but when are you ever home? He is a busy fellow with Shrine activities, etc., and until a

year ago was still doing his act!

Parking is anywhere you can find it when this event is on but we were not too far away and again although the sky was slightly overcast it was warm. At 12 o'clock the Intl. Independent Showmens annual Memorial service went on at Sunset Memorial Gardens on Hwy. 301.

We ate hearty sandwiches at the Club and then registered, put on our Showfolks badges, Showfolks of Sarasota and Circus Fans and went in to look at the exhibits, but not before I spotted (Author) Joe McKennon selling his book, "American Carnival" Vol. III and also Ward Hall's "Struggles and Triumphs of a Modern Day Showman," his autobiography. Bought both of them and had Joe autograph his book. Talked to the staff from Amusement Business, down from Nashville and also representatives of Outdoor Amusement Business Assoc. which is based in Minneapolis and since we had talked to folks in Minnesota yesterday morning we were able to report the temperature was 22 degrees below zero!

We got the biggest yardstick I have ever seen as a gift from the Frank B. Hall Insurance Agency but they are based in Texas where everything is supposed to be bigger and better! As we walked around, David was eating again, nuts, elephant ears, sugared doughnuts, we ran into Genevive and George Porter and John Hurdle from Sarasota and later Dolly and Tex Copeland and their guests from Nevada. There were as usual many of the same items and products in the show but some new, fresh things as well. The club is improved every time we get a chance to visit.

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More news of a 3rd generation circus family arrived in the mail with the invitation to the wedding of Herbie Weber, Jr. to Yolanda Gonzales on Saturday, the 6th of March in Redlands, Calif. Herbie's Mom is Chata (Escalante) Weber and his Dad is Herbie Weber, Sr., the eternally young wire walker! Well, I wish we were going to be there. . .

PEOPLE

JIM DALE, star of the show "Barnum" was a guest on the Merv Griffith TV Show on Feb. 24th.

Spring Celebration

The annual Spring Celebration at the National Museum of American History, produced by the Smithsonian's Division of Performing Arts, will include a one-ring circus and side show, a wild west show, a clown alley, vaudeville performers, a concert of circus music by the U. S. Marine Band and music from a steam calliope and mechanical band organ.

Crafts demonstrators will include a costume maker, a circus model builder and a harness maker. A program of special films will run throughout the weekend.

The Celebration will run from Friday, Apr. 23rd thru Sunday, April 25th, from noon to 5 p.m. daily, in the National Museum of

American History, 14th St., and Constitution Ave. N.W.

Admission to the Museum and to all Celebration events is free. The Museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily.

HOTLINE

Feb. 20 - Atlanta, Ga. - Circus aerialist Marguerite Ayala (28) was reportedly in critical condition at Grady Hospital after falling during a performance of the Ringling Barnum Circus. Marguerite, who did a hair hang act, fell near the end of her act and suffered head and neck injuries and a fractured right arm.

POLACK BROS. (Continued)

Herriott; Super Locos, leaping (Valencia Family); The Fornasaris, trampoline. Other acts on the program have worked this date at various times.

The full program ran 2 hrs. 15 min. and featured: National Anthem, with Shriner singing it on two nights. Boom Boom Brown ing directed the band.

The Rix Bears with Albert and Jeanette; Reginines (Mr. and Mrs. Fornasari, Sa-Sa) aerial cradle; Killer Willard, the Fossetts (Tony, Irene, Christine, Vickie); Walk of Death, Vashek, inclined wire; The Kursawes bicycle and unicycles; Darrell Wallen, with Mr. Rythm, dressage stallion and Donna Marie with Cabaret on long reins; Clowns; Irene & Tonga, gorilla parody (Christine and Vickie); Clowns; The Valencia Troupe, flying act (Flyers Lynn, Pepe, Ignacio and Antonio Valencia, catcher); Intermission.

The Kursawes, rola bola (omitted to tighten program); Sa-Sa, trapeze; Clowns; The Christine Chimps (Fossett); King Arthur, high wire (Duchek and Goldie); The For-

nasari Family Clown Band; the Hawthorn Elephants presented by Johnny Walker, Jr. and Heidi Herriott; Clowns; The Super Locos, leaping (Valencia family); The Fornasaris, trampoline; Vashek and Kathy, aerial motorcycle.

Clowns were: John McKay (Yo-Ho), producing clown; Tom Mulvey (Gumpy); Billy Vaughn and Mohammed (Habibi).

The staff included: Sam T. Polack, producer; Al Dawley, ringmaster; Boom Boom Browning, musical director; Ron Kelroy, supt. of props, and Harry Mills, concessions.

PEOPLE

DAVID TETZLAFF, 10 years old, is busy assembling a large leopard act for presentation at Jungle Larry's African Safari Park. Also working at the park is JOHN ILLIG, 19 yrs. training bears and a baby chimp, plus PATTI HOLT, training a baby chimp as well as a pony and some llamas.

Have Trunk Will Travel

by BOB STODDARD

A diamond is nothing more than a piece of coal that stuck with it, and you only get a chance to see Halley's Comet once every 75 years. If something is happening right now and it hasn't happened in the last 63 years, it can be considered rare and valuable. If you are going to cash in on it, you had better strike while the iron is hot.

A case in point.

Since he has trained 15 or 16 of them and he has seven right now, I think that we can safely say that Bucky Steele is into elephants. Elephants are rare and are on the endangered list. No more will be imported from Africa or India - or anyplace.

So, how are you going to have elephants here for our great grand-children to watch?

"Simple," you say, "breed them."

Ah, but there's the rub. We aren't able to breed them! People like Bucky Steele are working on that all the time.

The fact is that Bucky has allowed one of his male elephants "Buckalee" to sneak off with a female elephant (for some private talks) on seventeen occasions in the last four years, without much success, until recently.

Bucky thought that he had succeeded with Zola but she aborted in February of 1980.

One of these sneaky two week vacations into the brush took place during a heat period between December 2nd thru 7th, in 1979 when "Buckalee" convinced "Whimpelina" that there was more to life than eating hay.

He did a good job of convincing her because (right on the money), 681 days later

(on Oct. 22, 1981) "Whimpey" presented "Buckalee" and Bucky Steele with a beautiful 167 lb. baby boy.

"So what," you say, "It's the same old story . . . Boy meets girl and . . . guess what?"

Ah, but there's rub number two! It's not that simple!

The fact is that this is the first time that an elephant was born on a circus since 1918 when four were born to Sells Floto Circus elephants, but all of them died soon afterward. That's 63 years! (Do you realize that your furniture became genuine antiques long before that?).

Well, it did.

Yes.

In the wild, most mothers won't nurse first born calves because their nipples get so sore after the first few days, so almost all of the little ones die of starvation.

Buckalee takes no responsibility at all, so Bucky gets stuck with the problems of formula and round the clock feedings, exercise and name, etc.

The name part wasn't really any problem for Bucky because he has a friend who has devoted his whole life to the medical care and welfare of elephants, an elephant specialist who was raised in a hut in Lebanon on goat's milk. For the last ten years he has been a student at Wayne State University in Detroit. He's the head of a world-wide interest group on elephants. His name is Hezi Shoshani, so Bucky decided to honor his friend by naming the little one after him and called him on the phone and told him

(Continued on Page 21)

HAVE TRUNK (Continued)

so. Mr. Shoshani was thrilled to hear this.

American born, 100% full blooded Yankee Doodle Circus elephant "Shoney" born in Seagoville, Texas, was really his namesake.

He really is!

Now, here we are in Dallas, for the Texas Shrine Circus in the Convention Center.

Little Shoney is with his mother and the rest of the Bucky Steele elephants that are on the show, and he is the hit of the whole basement parking area.

In four weeks he has gained 18 lbs and is 2½ in. taller, making him 36¾ in. tall.

More living Americans will see a circus elephant, this small and this frisky, in this one week, than have ever seen one before, simply because there hasn't been any.

This brings me to the "Missed Opportunity Dept." Wouldn't you think that some promotion-minded Shriner or circus producer would jump on this rare opportunity and make Shoney the star of the show with a big debut on opening day; a big production number with television cameras, newspaper photographers and the whole works?

Wouldn't it seem that this is a natural to get media attention, that sells tickets?

Believe me . . . it's awfully hard to convince

people that a company like MGM will spend as much as sixteen million dollars to promote a movie that only cost eleven million dollars to make. In this case, the amount of money it would take would be insignificant.

They didn't exactly miss the opportunity but it was the night before the show closed that Shoney was carried into center ring in a box and made his circus debut.

One television station filmed it and, if he really wanted to, Shoney could have watched his own TV debut on the Channel 8 News on Nov. 24th, when he was only one month and two days old, but he'd rather chase and rough-house with Jodde Craigmile who presents Bucky's elephants in the ring, by herself.

Tarzan Zerbini came to Dallas with some good news for Bucky. It seems that "Jan" one of Hubert Castle's elephants who sneaked into the brush with Buckalee in Apr. '80 while showing at the Indianapolis Shrine Circus has milk now.

Bucky was thrilled and advised Tarzan to stop working her right now and send her home for special care.

Who knows? If they send Jan to Texas

(Continued on Page 23)

Tent Show Plans

by *TONY R. CAMACHO*

The world's largest circus under the direction of its new owners will debut in early April, in DeLand, Fla. John Pugh and Doug Howaddell, from Columbia, SC, will take the show out under the title of "Cole Bros. Circus."

Doug Howaddell will be General Manager and Secretary/Treasurer, while Pugh will assist him and be Superintendent.

Yours truly will be handling the phones and phone promoters, a few being Red Whitaker, Frank Walker, Jerry Kaye, George Manders, Al Schaddee, Nancy Moore and Bob Beck.

Joe McMahon is the general agent, a long time Beatty employee, and the man who is responsible for the successes of Dorey Miller's Carson & Barnes Circus. McMahon is one of the most knowledgeable general agents in the country, and the Cole Circus is proud and lucky to have him. He will have Carl Albright, Lucky Gordon and E. J. Mc Daniels out front booking for him. He is also routing Ford Bros. Circus.

Miscellaneous

The Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club will present its annual circus program at the Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, Calif., on March 9th, with the show starting at 1 p. m.

The Great All American Youth Circus attended the noon performance of Circus Vargas on Feb. 5th at Riverside, Calif., when the show played the Tyler Mall. Some 60 members of the Youth Circus were in the group.

JAMES COLE SHOW (Continued)

no avail.

Just before intermission a new act to this area was introduced. The Bounding Bovays a family routine on the high parallel bars (Mother, Father, and daughter).

Miss Elizabeth performed a dazzling display of foot juggling.

Happy the Clown tried to sucker Billy Martin in the telephone gag (Let Me Have It) much to the delight of the audience.

The Bovay family returned with a comedy routine called "The Great Stroganouf."

Oscar Marcias performed on the cloud swing, thrilling the crowd with his usual daring feats.

If this fine show should appear near you, by all means visit it.

HAVE TRUNK (Continued)

maybe there will be two American elephants that are Texans.

Bucky has a book, almost finished, titled, "Everything You wanted to know about Elephants but were afraid to ask."

Bucky Steele puts all of his money into elephants and he says he won't die rich but he'll be happy.

Well, maybe not all of his money, because he treated the whole cast to a Thanksgiving turkey dinner at his elephant farm in Seagoville after the show closed on Thanksgiving Eve.

HERNANDEZ TROUPE (Continued)

Fla., even though the family worked in circuses throughout the United States.

Audiences in the Circus Spectacular, Circus World's large scale circus show presented daily featuring more than 40 internationally acclaimed performers will continue to be dazzled by the Hernandez Troupe as the teeterboard tornadoes constantly strive to be "one up" and add new twists to their stirring salvos of sensational springboard superlatives.

PEOPLE

GENE and ELEANOR MENDEZ, high wire performers with the Gerry Cottle Circus in Hongkong, report the show has extended its engagement for an additional six week, running thru April 25th.