

CIRCUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

The logo for 'Circus Report' is a stylized, hand-drawn illustration. At the top, the words 'CIRCUS REPORT' are written in a large, bubbly, outlined font. Below the text, a central figure of a clown with a wide, open-mouthed smile and a pointed hat is shown. To the left of the clown is a circular frame containing an elephant's head with its trunk curled. To the right is another circular frame containing a tiger's head with its mouth open in a roar. Below these elements is a banner with the text 'AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY' in a smaller, outlined font. The entire logo is set against a background of horizontal lines.

9th Year

September 8, 1980

Number 36



Joseph C. Reisinger

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Entertainment Law - Civil Trials - Immigration

For Free Consultation or Appointment
Call: 415 - 472 - 1050

Show Report

HANNEFORD FAMILY CIRCUS

BY DON SANDMAN

The George Hanneford Family Circus returned to the Darke County Fair at Greenville, Oh, to play an Aug. 15-22 engagement.

The show played in their 2 pole, red and white striped top, with a one ring concept. The Hannefords presented three shows each day and the tent was filled for all performances as the patrons of the fair look forward to the circus each year.

The shows as presented this year featured: Tex and Marci Maynard, musicians; Vickie Hanneford, ringmistress who announces the show beautifully and clear; Joe Sherman, clown assisted by George Hanneford, Jr.; The Bouncing Kays, trampoline; Clowns and balloon blowing; George Hanneford, mixed animals (llama, pony, elephant); Clowns and magic handkerchiefs; Dianne and Cathy, canine revue; Amazing Mr. Bell, balancing; Clowns and Hot Dog Sales; the Hanneford Elephants presented by George, Cathy and Dianne (four 7 yr. old Asians); the George Hanneford Liberty ponies; Princess Morning Star, upside down aerial walk (Dianne); Clowns and the Long Shirt; Wendy & Walter (Patterson) on teeterboard; The George Hanneford, riding act, featuring George Hanneford, Jr.

The program ran just short of 60 minutes and was presented at 3, 7 and 9 p.m.

Seen on the show lot the day this writer was visiting were: Porky and Mrs. South, Carl and Nancy Gray, Vivian and Angie Bowman and Don and Grace Sandman.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$15.00 for the year, Overseas rate via surface mail is \$20.00 a year.

ADVERTISING RATES: (Per issue on a first come basis) Minimum Ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$20.00; Full Page \$35.00

ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

DWIGHT DAMON
Entertainment Unlimited



Lane Manor, Box 685, Merrimack, NH 03054

603 - 424 - 3341

Notice:

REPORT WAS AN ERROR

A report in the Aug. 25th issue of Circus Report, No. 34, that Frank Briggs, of Chicago Heights, Ill., had died, are simply not true. This information was passed on to Circus Report by a writer in the Chicago area.

Mr. Briggs is alive and well and continues to be active in his varied business ventures.

Circus Report regrets any problems or confusion that may have resulted from this inaccurate report.

SPECIAL

A L O H A - KENT GHIRARD

Hawaii's No. 1 Circus Fan! A dedicated Circus man!

How terrific you made our stay
How generous with your time each day.

Your kind of enthusiasm makes the circus life worthwhile.

Seeing your admiring face from the ring,
makes the performers smile.

Your Creative Circus Collection -
Is certainly one of Pure Perfection!

The joy you get from the circus world, Kent
Indeed makes you Hawaii's No. 1 Circus Gent.

... Shirley Miller

License Plates

Official Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus License Plates. Limited edition of 500. Bright colors embossed on sturdy metal.

- \$ 6.00 post paid -

B. F. B. ADVERTISING

P. O. Box 578 Winter Park, Fla. 32790

The Oscar Cristiani

Performing Elephants

Presented by

CAPT. LARRY and CARIN FRENCH

"Wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Kenneth Feld, Mr. Irvin Feld, R. B. B. B., and the entire staff of the Monte Carlo International Circus Festival, for a very successful and memorable tour in Tokyo, Japan."

— A L S O —

Returning to the U. S. A. via California, Sept. 15th.
Interested in dates from Sept. 20th to Oct. 25th.

Also booking 1981 dates after July 1st.

CONTACT:

Mr. Larry French

or

Mr. Oscar Cristiani
1747 Riviera Circle
Sarasota, Fla. 33582

Phone: 813 -
921 - 6129

Show Dates

Carson & Barnes Circus
Sep. 8-13 Cleveland, Ohio

Hubert Castle Circus
Sept. 8 Gallup, N.M.
9 Farmington
13-15 Colo Springs, Colo

Circus Vargas
Sep. 8-11 Hoffman Est. Ill
12-14 Mt. Prospect

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Sep. 8 Bloomington, Ind
9 Greensburg
10 Seymour
11 Salem
12 Elizabetht'n, Ky
13 Frankfort
14 Lexington

Lions Club Circus
Sep. 12 Auburn, Wash.

Police Circus
Sep. 9-10 Spokane, Wash
13 Chehalis

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Sep. 11-14 Portland, Ore.

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Sep. 10-14 St. Louis, Mo.

Royal Crown Circus
Sep. 10-13 Cheyenne, Wyo

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Sep. 8 San Fran, Calif.
10 Forest Grove, Ore.
11 Beaverton
12 Salem
13-14 Mt. Angel

TNT & Royal Olympic
Sep. 10-14 Kansas City, Mo.

--- MAGIC ---

Prf. Miller Magic Time USA
Sep. 8 La Mar, Colo.
9 La Junta
11 Alamosa
12 Pueblo
13 Canon City

Tom Ogden
Sep 12-13 Toronto, Ont.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Bonnie & Clyde
Sep. 9-14 Windsor, N.S.

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
to Sep. 13 Norway, Me.

Century 21 Shows
Sep. 8-13 Jackson, Tenn.

James H. Drew Exposition
Sep. 8-13 Carrollton, Ga.

Foley & Burk Shows
to Sep. 21 Fresno, Calif.

Gutis Family
Sep. 10-21 W. Springf'd, Mass

Hall & Christ Attractions
to Sep. 14 Abilene, Texas
to Sep. 21 Albuquerque, NM

Los Latinos
Sep. 10-14 W. Springf'd, Mass

Mighty Thomas Shows
to Sep. 13 Spencer, Iowa

Old Time Medicine Show
Sep. 8 Millinocket, Me.
9 Brewer
10 Skowhegan
11 Waterville
12 Rockland
13 Lewiston
14 Dover, N.H.

Royal American Shows
to Sep. 14 Hutchinson, Kans

The Sikorskys
Sep. 8-11 York, Pa.
14 Cleveland, Ohio

Tip Top Shows - Blue
Sep. 10-14 Viroqua, Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green
Sep. 12-14 Blair, Wisc.

W. G. Wade Shows
to Sep. 13 Allegan, Mich



Billy Barton

PAST MURDER IMPERFECT is off the press boxed and shipped. Allow several weeks for delivery as all books were mailed book rate the first week of Sept., other than those large orders mailed UPS. The special autographed edition sold out before the end of August and a second printing is coming off the press. This edition, exactly the same as the first, is also available by mail order but these books will NOT be autographed.

We've had a problem with the mail. Several people tell me they mailed in orders which the office never received. I have checked and double-checked, both the office and with the post office. If, after a length of time, say the end of Sept., you haven't received your copy of 'Past Murder Imperfect' please write to: Mr. Tom Zullinger, Bilbar Books, P. O. Box 177, Green castle, Pa. 17225, and let him know. If your bank hasn't mailed back your cancelled check then your order was lost in the mail (the Post Office is notorious for its inefficiency nowadays). We have done all that is possible to double-check from our end. Money orders can be traced thru the post office, lost checks can be nullified by a 'stop payment' order.

Because we know that a few orders have been lost in the mail I have signed extra books which Mr. Zullinger can then ship to those customers. So, please check your bank statements and let my office know so this problem, when it occurs, can be corrected. Now that the giant backlog of ordered books is already taken care of, orders as they come in will be filled and mailed at once and checking for any lost orders can be effected with more dispatch.

The new Circus Odyssey is indeed a fabulous show. TRUDY STRONG called it the Circus of Stars and husband Bill remarked: "In 1968 there was Circus Maximus, in 1974 there was Circus America; now in 1980 there is Circus Odyssey - more beautiful than either of the other two and I ought to know - I built them both!" That about sums it up too. Unquestionably this new circus will make more than a ripple in the mainstream of the circus industry. What's more, Mogley refuses to underbid for a date. "I can't produce a quality show for price-cutting rates and neither can any other producer." Circus Odyssey is the best thing to happen to Shrine Circuses in more

than two decades and producer ED MIGLEY will be to indoor circus what CLIFFORD VARGAS has been to the big tops. Perhaps, with new blood transfusions our business can be revitalized. Let's hope so. The Shrine Circus in America was once the epitome of class and top-quality performers, ONLY top-quality performers in fact; over the past two decades we have seen a sharp decline in the quality of these circuses, a burden of blame that must be shared by "budget-producers" and those Temples who took advantage of all the price cutting and under-bidding and then wound up the loser. Americans exposed to TV are no longer easy to hoodwink. They know a good act when they see it and the difference between a bad show and a good one. That knowledge is demonstrated by lack of attendance. There are those of us in the industry who know that some budgets now are LOWER than they were ten years ago and that's ridiculous. Time has not stood still for us - we're victimized by inflation, too. The majority of acts are operating at a loss. An act is a business. No act can keep operating on that sub-level. Let's face it, without acts, there is no circus.

SNAPSHOTS: The PIRATES of the SKY will join lovely LOU ANN JACOBS on Circo Atayde in Mexico City in Dec. . . LOU ANN JACOBS, by the way, is now doing the incredible full-standing, swinging ankle-drop, the first aerialist to do this trick in many, many years . . . And speaking of tricks, AERIALETTA, who made a comeback this summer, is doing a swinging neck hang, and of course, that incredible open-hock catch. Joining these two trapeze greats is DINKY PATTERSON (Loreli) with yet another outstnaing routine. How wonderful it is to see really first-class trapeze acts coming into their own again. On the way UP is a fourth champion, PATSY and JOHNNY JORDAN's daughter, LISA . . . and, while I am on the subject of trapeze acts, 1981 may ver y well see the return of one of the super-greats of all time, the legendary PRINCESS TAJANA. Struppi will not be doing the tiger act next season as the Hannefords have engaged a new trainer to take over the cats and talk is rife that TAJANA will once more enter astride the Apaloosa with a coterie of Indian

(Continued on Page 24)

REPORT

THE MIDGET'S PALACE

(This item is reprinted from a Canadian Press release originating in Montreal).

The Midget's Palace, as it is called in circus hyperbole, is one of Montreal's oddest tourist attractions. It is the former home of two renowned dwarfs, now dead.

Their names were Philippe and Rose Nicol, but out of a carnival sense of flamboyance they preferred to be called the Count and Countess Nicol. They claimed to be the world's smallest couple and the richest of all dwarfs.

He was three feet tall, she three feet, eight inches. And although dwarfs commonly have offspring of normal height, their son Prince Philippe grew to only four feet, one inch.

Photographs on the walls of the house chronicle only the family's Montreal days from 1913, but the count was born 32 years earlier near Quebec City, the seventh son of a seventh son - traditionally a good omen although he was the only dwarf in a family of 14 children. His father was six feet, three in.

The count began a circus career at the age of three. On a stop in Lowell, Mass., in 1906, he met Rose Dufresne, married her, and left the circus seven years later for Montreal to build his dream home.

It was to be a miniature palace in the center of eastend Lafontaine Park. But the city wouldn't let him build there, so he remodelled a house nearby at 961 Rachel St.

The count and countess moved into the first floor and made everything dwarf size.

"He must have faced a lot of problems while travelling and decided he would have his own house some day," said Hugette Rioux, the three foot, nine inch curator who bought the house in 1972.

Ever the showman, the count opened his home to tourists at once, charging five cents admission. Now the price is \$2.00 for adults and \$1 for children.

A photo on the wall shows the count looking like a distorted Humphrey Bogart - finely dressed in tuxedo, top hat and cane. And there is the countess in a flowing gown on her wedding day, looking adult and childlike at the same time.

A caption of their child when photographed

HOTLINE

Aug. 20 - Bend, Oregon - A 420 lb. tiger was shot and killed after it escaped from its cage inside a tent at a shopping center during a practice session. No audience was present. Circus USA's animal trainer Larry Sheffield borrowed a deputy sheriff's rifle then fired five shots into the tiger. Another deputy shot the tiger again with his revolver.

Aug. 22 - Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Highwire performer Louis Posso suffered only a sprained back when he fell during a performance of the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit. His fall was broken when he caught the edge of a net and landed in the laps of a woman and child spectator. The latter two were treated for minor injuries and released.

On The Cover

This week's cover painting was created by Ludwig Knaus, of Germany, in the early 1900's. It is quite different than most of his works and shows the serious and domestic life of a group of early day circus performers.

Called "Behind The Scenes", Knaus shows a circus family in a bit of brush set aside as a dressing room. The performance is in progress as can be seen beyond the curtain.

The father and husband is a clown and has just come in from the ring. His infant son is in his arms. There is a look of weariness, almost misery on the man's face. The mother, probably a trapeze artist, is awaiting her "turn" and, while she waits, flirts with a well-dressed stranger. Three trick dogs lie on the ground. Outside the crowd cheers a tight-rope walker, the eldest son of this strange, gifted family. Two other children warm their hands at the stove.

at school age predicts that the boy will be short but great - as great as Sir Wilfrid Laurier, prime minister at the time, whose portrait still hangs in the living room.

Philippe, Jr., 58 years old now, became a wrestler (so-called "midget" wrestling was once an attraction in North America).

My

**SINCERE
THANKS**

to

CLIFF VARGAS

**FOR HIS AID AND ASSISTANCE
DURING WALT MATTHIE'S TIME
OF NEED.**

... PAUL WESSLER

REPORT

CARLA WALLEDA'S CIRCUS

BY JOHN D. WEINHOLD

Carla Wallenda's Aerial Thrill Circus appeared at the Westmoreland County Fair, Greensburg, Pa., during the week of Aug. 17 to 23rd.

This small family circus features Carla's always spectacular 110 ft. swaypole act, followed by a long and fast ankle hung slide-for-life. One other high act, a hanging perch by Sandy and Mark Fetch, was presented along with a variety of ground acts.

Doing two and three shows a day in five hours or less can be very taxing to the performers, especially when they are doubling two or more acts and handling props, but this very professional appearing troupe kept the show moving smoothly and fast with no signs of boredom or fatigue.

Carla's ten year old daughter, Valerie, is rapidly developing into a versatile and seasoned performer and, in a few years, should become very well known.

Although this is only the show's second season it has already developed a flow and maturity

that is equal to or surpasses that of older troupes. Although the show performed on a makeshift stage erected for them by the fair just off the carnival midway, the performers readily adapted to the rough and confined stage. A popular after show feature is Carla's appearance in front of the stage visiting with the younger members of the audience.

The show's repertoire is extensive and varied so that successive performances are not identical. Among the acts available are Carla's swaypole and slide-for-life, the aerial perch, unicycles, low wire, clown routines, roman ladders, pigeons, a web production, gorilla parody, cloud swing, dog variety and Sir Quagmire's wild animal.

The show personnel includes Carla Wallenda, Mark Fetch, Sandy Wallenda Fetch, Valerie Wallenda, Cindy Wilkes, Paul Rabbitaille, and 3 year old Tara Fetch. Mike Morgan is the organist/announcer.

ACTS

P & G CIRCUS - Wheaton, Illinois

Acts appearing in the P&G Circus at Wheaton, Ill., were: Clark's lions; The Rolls Duo, cradle; the Great Whizbini, low wire; Erna's Chimps; The Bertinis, aerial perch; the Kolmedy's, balancing; the Olmeda's bicycles; King's elephant act; King's Mixed Animals; the Albanis, aerial motorcycle and single trap; the Darnells, magic; Tina Wallenda Zoppe, high wire; Olinka, trapeze; The Flying Lanes; Joyce Rice, baton twirling and whips; Hugo Zacchini's cannon. Ernie McLean was the ringmaster.

Observers report the show ground area had to be scraped free of mud before the first performance. The opening day was cold, the second day was rained out, with straw and sawdust brought in for the third day to cover the still muddy lot.

AVAILABLE

Due to schedule disappointment, I have open time thru Sept. 30th.

MIKE PIKE

Organist/Ringmaster
Conductor/Arranger

Phone:

816 - 756 - 1515

WANTED

CAGE MAN — Permanent Job
Also: Red Hartman Contact

DAVE HOOVER

Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus
P. O. Box 1570, Winter Park, Fla. 32790

King Kong Zoo

ROUTE 1 BOX 567-Z -20 MASARYKTOWN, FLORIDA 33512

Office Phone: 1-904-796-8253

Yard Phone: 1-904-796-6696

The King Kong Zoo of Florida now has the following species of animals available for sale.

Please call for further information.

WESTERN MOUNTAIN LION

CLOUDED LEOPARD

JAGUAR BRAZILIAN SPOTTED

JAGUAR BRAZILIAN BLACK

LEPJAGS:

SPOTTED

BLACK

BLACK LEOPARD

SPOTTED LEOPARD

BLACK MANE LION

YELLOW MANE LION

SIBERIAN TIGER

SUMATRAN TIGER

BENGAL TIGER

BOB CAT

POLAR BEAR CUBS

Also we have the following animals available for T.V. commercials and promotions of all types, including movie work.

All of our animals are leash broken and are completely tame and trained. Available are full grown adults as well as cubs.

TIGER

SPOTTED LEOPARD

BLACK LEOPARD

LION, male and female

JAGUAR

MOUNTAIN LION

CHIMPANZEE

Also we custom build any kind of portable cages of wood or steel construction to meet your specifications.

The offer for sale of Endangered Species is contingent upon the receipt by the purchaser of a U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit.

All animals F.O.B. King Kong Zoo, Masaryktown, Florida. Individual crating arrangements can be made at time of purchase.

NEW BOOK

"BEHIND THE BIG TOP" by David Lewis Hammarstrom - Published by A. S. Barnes, of San Diego, Calif. - \$17.50

Reviewed by Harry L. Graham

Author Hammarstrom goes beyond the razzle dazzle of the spot-lighted circus acts to tell the reader what's back there in the wings. The 243 page book includes 284 black-and-white and 14 color photos, many of which the author says have never before been published.

Although Hammarstrom is primarily a fan, he has worked as a circus clown, press agent and puppeteer. He tells about the circuses of the past 50 years, putting the magnifying glass on the operators of many of the big shows.

He makes it appear that flyer Arthur Concello was as great a behind-the-scenes manager of the Ringling-Barnum Circus as was James Anthony Bailey, of the Greatest Show on Earth, more than half a century earlier. It was Concello, says Hammarstrom, who made John Ringling North look like a genius as a manager. Without Concello running the show and cutting corners, the Ringling Circus would have been spent into oblivion by John North long before it did finally fold its big top in 1956.

North was a showman, but without Concello he was lost. Later, when Concello was back in charge, the circus toured the country, booked into the big arenas by Irvin and Israel Feld. The Felds bought the circus in 1967.

Irvin Feld takes his lumps from Hammarstrom. He has fewer solid acts in his Red and Blue Units, and more of the Las Vegas-type production numbers. And today many of the perch pole, teeterboard and single trapeze performers are hooked up to safety "mechanics", nearly eliminating the element of danger from their acts.

Karl Wallenda pooh-poohed the mechanic. He died in a fall in 1978 during a performance in Puerto Rico. He was not wearing a mechanic. Hammarstrom scores Feld's Clown College, saying the clowns leave the Ringling show before they can develop identifiable personalities.

Clifford Vargas gets a going-over too. He is long on cliches and pomposity. You get the idea that Vargas and Feld are as much in love with promoting themselves as they are in putting together an innovative show. Their egos are at least as big as Barnum's. Like Barnum they manage to persuade the public to pay to see their circuses.

Hammarstrom quotes singing ringmaster Harold Ronk liberally and focuses on Codona, Leitzel, Colleano, Beatty, Gebel-Williams, Tito Gaona and Elvin Bale.

When you finish the last chapter, you'll probably think Hammarstrom has indeed taken you "Behind the Big Top."

in the NEWS

PLEADS GUILTY TO MURDER

Paul Anthony Kelly, grandson of the late circus clown Emmett Kelly, has pleaded guilty to two counts of murder in a Southern California Court.

Kelly pleaded guilty to a second-degree murder charge in connection with the slaying of a Los Angeles antique dealer. He also pleaded guilty to a first-degree murder charge in connection with the slaying of a retired professor.

Both slayings occurred last November.

MAILBAG

FROM CARIN FRENCH

The Monte Carlo International Circus Festival opened its 17 week tour of Tokyo on May 16 to a full house of selected dignitaries and patrons, including the Princess and Prince of Japan.

After a devastating set-back, involving the blowdown and complete destruction of the original 6 pole tent, from a sudden unreported wind storm, with 90 m.p.h. winds, a second tent was immediately flown in from Australia (tent furnished by the Bullen Co.) and completely assembled and erected for the opening, in an incredible short time. As of this date business has been favorable and the response of the Japanese circus-goers has been terrific. Afternoon shows have picked up to near full houses, with evening shows half to three-quarter houses, with seating for about 6,200 people.

The format of the show is favorable to all acts, with a raised 42 ft. ring with elevated

AVAILABLE

Due to response of a book I offered a few years back (sold 1,200 copies) this book is no longer available. However, I still get inquiries about it.

As a result I have put together a folio on animal training as good or better than the book, as it covers more types of animals, and includes one of the funniest acts I've seen in 30 years of touring and observing.

People love it and it can be an audience participation number, worked on stage or in a ring. Can even be used with the burros they are taking out of the Grand Canyon. It will garner you reams of free publicity. Have trained animals do everything in the folio, all conditions are humane.

The printer gave me a good price on 1,000 copies. The power of Circus Report is such that I will not advertise this in rodeo or horsemen's magazines until I think all orders from Circus Report are in.

Price: \$25.00

Funny animal act worth more than that alone!

JACK BENNETT

Box 975 Pauls Valley, Okla. 73075

entrance runway and more than ample lighting. It would be hard for people who have not experienced this type of date, to fully appreciate the complete satisfaction that one receives, from being a part of the Monte Carlo unit here in Japan.

I feel safe in saying that never before have the performers and staff of any show been treated with more warmth, respect, and accommodations, than what has been granted to us here in Tokyo. What a great pleasure it would be to experience this kind of reception and treatment from some of the U. S. circus dates. Every request, within reason, has been granted to each and every individual.

After 17 years in the circus business, the entire staff and personnel of the Monte Carlo Circus, along with the sponsor and it's entire staff, has made this date one that we will remember for a lifetime.

However, I must add that no matter how great this experience has been for us, that we are looking forward to coming home, to the good Ole U.S.A.

The staff of the Monte Carlo Circus unit in Japan consist of: General Manager, Baker Brown; Circus Director, Michael C. Gorman; Ringmaster, Sergio; Band leader, Robert Franklin, and Prop Boss, Joseph Burt.

The show line-up includes: Circus Overture; Charley Bauman, tigers (13); Albaracine's Aerial Cradle; Luis Munoz, tightwire; Eotvos, musical clowns; Elvin Bale, trapeze; Prince Film; Wee Gets, balancing; Philip Anthony, liberty horses; Zoo Film; Eotvos, bar act; Elvin Bale and Jeanette Bale, wheel; Intermission.

The second half includes: The Flying Gaonas; Disco Film; Clown Ballet; Dobritch, perch; Cristiani Elephants presented by Capt. Larry and Carin French; Clown Film; Silagis, teeterboard; Farrell Bros., high wire; Elvin Bale, Rocket Space Shuttle; Finale with all performers.

The show runs 2½ hours.

PEOPLE

PATRICK BURDEN, of Independence, Kans. who holds the title of Kansas Bozo, won first place in the recent Chautauqua County Fair Clown Competition. His sister, **MELISSA**, who assisted him won 2nd place as his assistant.



by
DON MARCKS

We're going to start using photos of current acts, people and shows on the front page of Circus Report. This plan will get underway as soon as we use up a few pictures which were already prepared for this use.

You are invited to submit photos for use on the front page, which will be used on a 'first come' basis. The pictures will be identified with a few lines on Page 2, but they aren't to be used as an advertisement.

We would prefer sharp black-and-white photos as opposed to color pictures. It will also be better if the photos are in a vertical layout as opposed to a horizontal position.

Because of scheduling it may be necessary to place old-time pictures on the front page occasionally to keep things moving smoothly. But our primary purpose at this time is to obtain current photos.

REPORT

The Norman Brooks Side Show, the Strange People Show is with Burr's Fun-O-Rama for the season. Featured acts include: Brian the magician and ringmaster; Wayne, sword swallower and announcer; Floyd Block, Human Blockhead sticking pins in his nose; Doreen Provencher Block, the Electric Lady taking 220 volts thru her body; Patrice, the Rubber Girl; Ed Miller, Human Pin Cushion; Duke the ticket taker and show mechanic, and Norman Brooks, owner and father of the strange group.

This group will play Fryeburg, Me., Sept. 28 thru Oct. 5th.

PEOPLE

ADEN and VELMA LOWRY attended the Kansas State Clown Meet and election of officers at Emporia, on Aug. 2nd. REX TRAW was elected president of the group.

AUGUST A. BUSCH, Jr. has acquired 12 of the wild burros being removed from the Grand Canyon. They will be displayed at Grants Farm.

FOR SALE

Chimpanzee - Female - 4 year old - Tame, Leash Broken, and Trick Trained.

Cougar - Female - 3 year old - Leash Trained.

Falabella - Papered Imported Miniature Horse - Pinto Stallion.

3 Large Cat Cages on Wheels - 3½ ft. x 6 ft.

Sterling Silver Parade Saddle with Bridle and Breast Plate, Mint Condition.

— BEST OFFER —

213 - 896 - 3859

ANIMAL TRAINERS UNLIMITED

12617 Foothill Blvd. Fillmore, Calif. - 91342

NOW BOOKING

for 1981

Melody and Jay Bruno

DOUBLE BREAKAWAY SWAY POLES

Also

PRINCE COCHRANE INCREDIBLE SKYWALK

Gorgeous Wardrobe — Fireworks Finish

Bruno Attractions

3410 LIVINGSTON STREET, NEW ORLEANS, LA. - 70118

Phone: 504 - 482 - 0477

REPORT


BY KAYE SCHEIMAN

CLOWN CAPADES - presented by Holloway Productions - South Bend, Ind., Aug. 7th.

This was a most delightful show presenting one performance in the Civic Auditorium. It took the place of the summer circus usually presented at this time of year by the Big John Strong Tent Circus.

Featured were: Kim Dixon, ringmaster; Neil Armstrong, organist and Rick Jones, drummer.

The program included: Introduction of the clowns: Don Young and Jo (Poco and Slo-poke), Paul Niebauer (Paulo) and Phil Shear (Philippe). Followed by: Kim Dixon, magic with Marsha Griep; Comedy Kitchen by Poco and Slo-poke; The Patricks (Pat and Gwen Davison) rola bola; the Rolltinos Sisters (The Waltens) rola bola; Paulo and Philippe and their Garden of Laughs; Poco and Slo-poke, comedy car; Kim Dixon, illusions; Roulette (Marsha Griep) trapeze; Paulo and Philippe, magic; Pat Davison, juggling; Pco and Slo-poke, with Wonder Dog Blue; the Walten Family, balancing; Rolick Montblanc

In Memoriam 

BOB WEIGEL who was known as "Candy Bob" died at his home in Los Angeles last month. He was a friend to all show people and was especially popular with people on both units of the Ringling Circus. He had been attending circuses all his life and never missed seeing them all.

(Leo Griep), fire eating, sword swallowing.

CIRCUS CONTINENTAL produced by Klein Attractions - Berrien Springs, Mich., Aug. 12th - 3 shows at the Youth Fair.

Featured on the show program were: Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Bill Golden, tigers; Freddie Kursawe, roly boly; the Clowns and Tooth Extraction; Bill and Kim Golden, dressage riding; The Kursawe Bike Act; Clowns and weight lifting; Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Act; Chase & Park, trampoline; Bill and Carol Golden, elephants

The Zoppe Unsupported Ladder Act was used as the feature act for the two evening show programs presented by Bob Hope.

AVAILABLE

FOR SPOT DATES

AFTER November 1, 1980

BONES CRAIG'S**PACHYDERM POWER****2 LARGE ELEPHANT ACT**

AVAILABLE FOR CIRCUSES, PARKS, FAIRS.

MOVIES & PROMOTIONS

Now completing our third successful season
with WILDS' ANIMALS

Bones Craig 100 SW 195th • 191 Beaverton, Or. 97006

503 - 645 - 8163

REPORT

BASEBALL VS CIRCUS

The Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit wound up its Aug. 19-26 engagement at Oakland, Calif., by competing against the local ball club for parking space. Business at the circus seemed to be good with crowds varying from good to excellent for the annual engagement.

If there is any problem at all with the Oakland date it must be that the circus always arrives just in time to compete against some major ball games. Each year the circus and the Oakland A's play at the same time, causing confusion and congestion in the parking area which is used by both buildings.

This year was no exception and in fact might have brought on more congestion than usual. Several ball games were scheduled at the same time as the circus performances, and parking lot operators must have made a bundle as a result.

On Monday Aug. 25th, the Oakland A's and New York Yankees played to a crowd of some 49,300. In addition to the popular teams playing against each other, it was half price night, so that helped to swell the crowds. The score at the end of the evening was 9-1 with the A's winning.

Cars started pulling into the parking lot early in the afternoon and by dinner time there were long lines of patrons waiting to get in, and the lots became jammed and filled by the 8 p.m. ball game time.

Especially noticeable were the late arrivals at the circus. When the performance got started the crowd was slim and one concessionaire expressed dismay at what he called would be a poor night. However, well before intermission the crowd had swelled to a good attendance, with the majority of people coming in late, due to the parking lot problems.

Since both the ball game and the circus ended at the same time the exits became jammed and many folks just sat there and waited until the place cleared, which was several hours later.

On Tuesday, Aug. 26th, another major ball game was scheduled and this too drew an almost jam-packed crowd. The parking lot was again filled with patrons wanting to see either the circus or the ball game and congestion was much the same as the night before.

Again the circus and the ball game were over at about the same time, causing the exits to

Big Free Show

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

CARVER'S

**IDORA
PARK**
OAKLAND
Take
Key System
Ferries

**DIVING
HORSES**
45-FOOT PLUNGES
ON HORSEBACK
LAMONACA
AND HIS BAND
IN THE NEW
Canopied Theater

(The above advertisement appeared in the San Francisco, Calif., papers on April 11, 1913.)

become clogged with cars carrying people who wanted to get home. Added to this was the fact that circus animals and wagons were being prepared for their run to the train.

While the circus teardown itself went smoothly and efficiently, the move towards the train, just a few blocks away, was not so smooth. Wagons and animals could only get into line and slowly move along with the exiting cars, as a result the loading of the circus train was slow and sometimes it had stopped completely as trainmen waited for other wagons to come in from the building.

It wasn't until the wee small hours of the morning that the railroad was finally given the go ahead signal to "take it away". Luckily there was a short run into San Francisco, but there the train had to be spotted early or else it would have to wait until after the busy morning commute run of trains that race through the yards near the Cow Palace.

It's a shame that some sort of better schedule can't be worked out - like bringing the circus in when the ball club is away, or scheduling out of town games during the circus run. It would certainly make it easier on everyone if some such arrangement was worked out.

Needless to say there was a lot of visiting in the afternoon, between circus folks and their friends who were with the Yankees. Several of the ball players were seen giving autographs to both circus people and youngsters around the facilities. Circus people were also being asked for their autographs and many a youngster was able to go home with a treasured circus program filled with autographs from the performers and clowns.

Everyone's Talking About:

CHECKERS & PATCHES

"To them, CLOWNING is serious business."

ROCKFORD MORNING NEWS,
Rockford, Illinois

"BAKER and RAY create characters so vivid and complete,
that their stage names will someday be household words."

DALLAS MORNING NEWS
Dallas, Texas

".....these (CHECKERS & PATCHES) two energetic young
men come across with the quality of DISNEY, the
glitter and glamour of LAS VEGAS, and the family
excitement of RINGLING BROS., all rolled into one!"

THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Chicago, Illinois

CHECKERS & PATCHES *provide the best in:* **SHOW BUSINESS**

- ★ Picture perfect make-up
- ★ Beautiful wardrobe
- ★ Juggling
- ★ Magic
- ★ Performing circus dogs
- ★ Traditional clown routines
- ★ Master of ceremonies

- ★ All bookings issued a contract
- ★ Complete liability insurance
- ★ Federal animal exhibitors license
- ★ Self-contained
- ★ Promotional Packages

★ *BAKER & RAY PRODUCTIONS*

P.O. Box 6166 Arlington, Texas • 76010

(817) 640-3250

PEOPLE

FRANK and SONIA (Zoppe) LOUDERMILK are the parents of a son, John Franklin, born on July 15th at Logansport, Indiana.

PAUL and DOT KELLY visited with the **DON PHILLIPS** Family recently in North Aurora, Ill., where the Kelly's had their elephant ride.

GERALD BURNS, magician/artist, presented the **VAN NOYS**, bicycle act, with an original oil painting depicting their act, while at the Wyandotte, Mich., Kiwanis Circus.

BETTY ESCALANTE has been working concessions in Boulder and Denver (Colo) for **ROLAND KAISER**.

AUSTIN MILES has been signed to be ring-master for the Alberto Zoppe produced 'Circus Europa' at Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 6th.

LOU JACOBS, FROSTY LITTLE and PEGGY WILLIAMS will be teaching at the **RBBB** Clown College during its coming fall session.

WAYNE NEWTON is wrapping up a deal that will make him owner of Las Vegas' Aladdin Hotel for just \$105 million.

EVEL KNEIVEL'S home has been sold to a Butte, Montana, man for \$214,460 at a mortgage foreclosure sale.

HARRY ANDERSON, comic magician, was featured on the John Davidson TV Show the afternoon of Aug. 29th.

BETTY WENDANY'S FUNS-A-POPPIN

PACKAGE SHOWS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

Box 391, Sunland, Calif. - 91040

213-352-4277

213-352-2454

BUCKY STEELE'S new African elephant, 8 yr. old female, works in harness, gives rides and works in the show, like a real trouper.

PEPPY the Chimp worked a fair at Iron Mt., Mich., Aug. 30-Sept. 1. **FLORENCE** and **ERV LANGE** have been limiting their appearances this year in the mid-west due to the illness of Mrs. Lange's father.

Their son **BOB**, wife **JANE** and family have a teeterboard act on the Great American Circus. Erv built them all new props this spring and they are carrying on the family act.

TOBY STYLES, curator at the Toronto Metroplex Zoo has been visiting **BUCKY STEELE** at Parc Safari Park.

FELIX SPEILMAN, clown, was a guest on TV's "Real People" show this past March.

BILLY EARL and "Henrietta" made the cover of "This Week" magazine in Canada last month.

PAUL BUTLER visited Hoxie Bros. Circus at

Albion, Mich., while enroute home from the Abbott's Get-together in Colon.

DOROTHY and ARTHUR GROTEFENT are managing a 426 apartment complex at Westland, Mich., where some 1,000 people live.

PAUL and DOTTIE KELLY have been working their elephant rides in Indiana where they have been assisted by KAYE and GERRY SCHEIMAN.

RUSS MANNING, comic strip illustrator for the "Tarzan" and "Star Wars" stories, is recovering at home in Southern California after a recent operation. He plans to drop the comic strips and work solely in conjunction with comic books.

CAROL BUCKLEY and Tarra the roller skating elephant were featured on a re-run of "Real People" early this month.

BARBARA TATA's new baboon act is said to be a real scream - it's comedy all the way.

MAILBAG

FROM WAYNE SIDLEY - RBBB Blue Unit

What a good time we've had in L.A. Lots of sun and fun (typical tourist things). The main highlight was a trip 45 of us took on July 21 to Agua Pulce, Calif., and Montie Montana's ranch.

Montie chartered a bus to pick us up from

HELEN WILSON - Show Organist (Own Equipment) 704 - 786 - 4563. - Write: Box 1167, Concord, N. C. 28025

the train at 10 a.m. The bus was jammed with clowns and performers like Frosty and Pat Little, and daughter, Axel and Donna Gautier and sons, Wayne and Linda Sidley, Ronnie and Beverly Drumm, Tom and Tammy Parish, with Montie and his wife Elly meeting us as we got off the bus with a real cowboy welcome.

We looked around the ranch as Montie, Elly and some friends prepared an old-fashioned breakfast. It was great watching Montie cook eggs in a huge frying pan over a wood fire (the real cowboy way).

After breakfast we all enjoyed a stagecoach ride around the ranch after which Montie presented a real wild west show with his 19 yr. old grandson Jess and his horse Rex. Montie and Jess did some great trick roping, then Jess did some trick riding.

Montie remembered that the writer had been working on his trick roping and so all three of us worked together, then posed for pictures.

By then it was getting time to go and so after a tour of their beautiful home we left for the circus building. The next week Montie and Elly and several friends came to the circus, which they really enjoyed.





TOM MIX CIRCUS



TOM MIX CIRCUS



PERSONNEL OF THE TOM MIX CIRCUS

SEASON OF 1937



MAILBAG

FROM WILLIAM WOTSCH

The Cole Bros. Circus played Cleveland three times as far as I can remember.

The first time was June 10-11, 1935. They set up the tents at the foot of East 9th Street at the Lake Front. They had lots of room and a spur track ran down there, which was really handy for them.

The second appearance was May 28, 1937 and due to the Great Lakes Exposition on the lake front they set up at 9th and Lakeside Ave. The parade went up 9th Street and Emmett Kelly was riding a bike in his clown make-up as a tramp.

The third time was June 2-4, 1950, playing outdoors in the Cleveland Stadium, home of the Cleveland Indians. The rings were at 3rd base, home plate and 1st base. Dynamite Dan had his big blowing up a casket act and his dog would run out to greet him after the explosion. Bill Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy) was with the show and rode his big white horse out from left field and was a real hit with the kids. My seat was upstairs, behind home plate.

In 1936 and 1937, the Great Lakes Exposition was on Cleveland's Lake Front. The midway was just east of 9th Street and they had side shows, an ice show, and Faith Bacon, the fan dancer worked on a ship docked nearby as a night club.

In 1937, Billy Rose's Auquade performed on a large stage and water pool in front of it. The Tarzan star Johnny Weismuller was there as was Eleanor Holmes.

In 1936-1937-1938 no big circus played on the Lake Front. But in 1939, Ringling Bros. set up at the corner of 9th and Lakeside, the same site that Cole Bros. had played. Their runs were at 14th and Davenport Ave.

Before the Exposition all of the big tenters had played the Lake Front. The 9th Street street car ran right down to the circus grounds, with a little sign on their front end saying "To The Circus Grounds."

PEOPLE

BUDDY HACKETT is looking for people who have strange and unusual hobbies and occupations that can be featured in the new TV program "You Bet Your Life." If interested call Lee at: 213-980-8822.

Circus Book Sale

Mc GINN'S BOOKS & GIFTS

121 North Mt. Vernon Street
Prescott, Arizona 86301

- Coplan - "Pink Lemonade" 1945, dj/vg
..... \$50.00
- Eder, Boris - "Jungle Acrobats of the Russian Circus" 1958, 1es ed, dj/vg \$18.50
- Edwards, F. - "Strange People" 1961, 2nd ed. dj/vg - \$15.00
- Fawcett, C., - "We Fell In Love With The Circus" 1st ed, dj/vg - \$15.00
- Hoagland, E. - "Cat Man" 1965, 1st ed, dj/vg - \$22.50
- Hopper, DeWolf - "Once A Clown, Always A Clown", 1927 - good - \$18.50
- Kern, Alfred - "The Clown" 1960, dj, small tears, owg - \$15.00
- Lewis, G. - "Elephant Tramp" 1955, 2nd ed, dj/Mint - \$18.50
- Lloyd, J - "My Circus Life" 1925, 1st ed., interesting book on English Circus \$12.00
- Marcosson, I. F. - "The Autobiography of A Clown" Story of Jules Turnour, 1910, 1st ed - good - \$18.50
- May, E. C. - "The Circus, from Rome to Ringling" 1932, 1st ed, gilt on cover purple, good - \$22.50
- May - same as above, gold, slight foxing on few pages, owg - \$18.50
- North, H. R. - "The Circus Kings" 1960, dj ex-lib - good - \$15.00
- Proske, R. - "Lions, Tigers and Me" 1956, dj/vg - \$22.50
- Reichmann, W. D. - "Arthur Konyot, The White Rider" 1961, 1st ed, dj/torn, slightly, signed, vg - \$28.50
- Sherwood, "Uncle Bob" (last of Barnum's clowns) "Hold Yer Hosses" 1932, covers a bit worn, 1/4 front pages cut out, one with picture, good - \$15.00
- Sanders, J. - "Freak Show" 1954, 1st ed., dj/vg - \$15.00
- Wood, C. - "Drawing At The Circus" 1953, 1st ed, dj/worn slightly - \$12.50
- Same as above no dj - \$10.00

FRANK DEAN's new book "Cowboy Fun" is out and selling well. Autographed copies can be purchased direct from Frank for \$9.95 including postage. Write him at: P. O. Box 369, Palmdale, Calif. 93550.

REPORT

DONDI, THE ELEPHANT

BY RICHARD C. JOHNSON

Dondi, the baby elephant, played the Metrocenter Mall in Jackson, Miss., Aug. 12-16. Although Dondi has only been in the U.S. five years, the 2,500 pound entertainer has left lasting impressions on audiences around the country.

In addition to her television appearances (the Johnny Carson's Tonight Show, the Merv Griffin Show and Circus of the Stars), Dondi has showcased her act in nearly every major circus.

Her "trunkful of tricks" including over 60 behaviors including walking on a rolling globe, doing a one foot press on the globe, standing on her head, disco dancing and playing top banana in a comedy routine with her "adopted" parents, Phil and Francine Schacht. Phil and Francine added Dondi to their family after deciding to abandon a six year career as trapeze artists.

Phil, Francine and Dondi travel in a 45 foot trailer where the couple has separated 25 ft. for themselves and allocated 11 feet to Dondi. Separating the elephant from the living quarters is a 4 x 7 foot picture window which gives Dondi the security of watching her family and vice versa.

Dondi played three shows a day. It was well received by the large audience that attended the performances. Dondi, Phil and Francine are one happy family and a pleasure to watch.

PEOPLE

TERRY PARSONS has a clever comedy dog number that is presented in the Clown Time just before the RBBB Blue Unit program gets underway.

LIPKO'S COMEDY CHIMPS have been ehld over at Japan's Safari Park through October.

CIRCUS BOOK - "The Circus Life and Adventures of Adam Bardy" - A truly interesting life story for old-timers especially. Only \$7.95 a copy - Order from: Adam Bardy, Thompson, Conn. 06277

ATTENTION PROMOTERS

LOOKING FOR A
FUND RAISING PROJECT

that will bring your
sponsors back again

Individual Dates
available
Nationwide



Philip
Morris
World of
Fantasy
Players

TOURING
FAMILY
STAGE
SHOWS

14th
annual
tour

PLEASE WRITE NOW
FOR COMPLETE DETAILS

**GREATER AMERICAN
ENTERTAINMENT
CORP.**

77 COCONUT AVE.
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 33577
Phone (813) 365-3336

WILLIAM J ENGLISH, PRES.

FOR SALE

4106 G.M.C. Bus Conversion - 8V71 Detroit Diesel 12 m.p.g. Air Ride, Engine Air plus Two Electric Air Conditioners, Michelin Tires, 12.5 KW Kohler Diesel Gen. All Electric Built-in Ice Maker, 4 Slice Toaster, Can Opener, Refrig.-Freezer, Micro-Wave Oven, Compactor, 3 Burner Stove and Central Vacuum Cleaner. Sleeps Four, Seats 8. Clean Inside and Out. Oil Furnace plus Electric Heat.

Phone: 507 - 243 - 3826

ALL TYPES OF ACTS

WANTED

J & M VARIETY ATTRACTIONS

P. O. Box S-353

South Attleboro, Mass. 02703

— WILL REPLY TO ALL —

Fully Licensed and Bonded

REPORT

RINGLING BLUE NOTES

BY HARRY L. GRAHAM

The Flying Padillas, who recently joined the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit have some popular rebounding tricks in their act. They also feature a smooth triple by Tuli, caught by Humberto, while brother Julio does a swan dive into the net.

The King Charles unicycle troupe is practicing their act for work on ice. This winter the troupe will be split into two groups with one group going to an ice show, while the other group continues with RBBB Blue Unit. The ice show unit will feature a comical hockey game and perhaps a basketball game.

Carlos Farfan, former catcher with the Flying Farfans, and brother of Armando Farfan, who is with the RBBB Red Unit, visited the Blue Unit in Anaheim where he was taking measurements of the Flying Segreras' rigging as he will be building extensions to the frame work which will permit a lower catch bar for special tricks.

In Memoriam

ELMER E. HARRISON (Jack) (85) Died on July 13th, at Dallas, Texas. He had been a circus trouper for over 50 years, working as a white-faced clown with such shows as Gil Gray, Clyde Bros., M & M Productions, Orrin Davenport, Dailey Bros. (Ben Davenport) and many other shows.

Survivors include his wife, Velma, daughters Peggy Zoppe and Helen Smith and 5 grand children including: Roger and Dennis Zoppe, and Denise Olmeda, there are also 4 great grandchildren.

Shrine Dates

COMPILED BY MIKE SPORRER

Medford, Oregon - Jackson County Shrine

- 1952 - Sept. 17-18 - Polack Bros. Western *
- 1953 - Sept. 16-17 - Polack Bros. Western *
- 1954 - Sept. 22-23 - Polack Bros. Western *
- 1955 - Sept. 20-21 - Polack Bros. Western *
- 1956 - Aug. 1-2 - Tom Packs Western *
- 1957 - Aug. 2-3 - Tom Packs Western *
- 1958 - 1959 - 1960 - None
- 1961 - Aug. 10-11 - Rudy Bros. *
- 1962 - Aug. 9-10 - Rudy Bros. *
- 1963 - 1964 - None
- 1965 - May 8-9 - Polack Bros. - Armory
- 1966 - July 30-31 - Polack Bros. *
- 1967 - Sept. 9-10 - Polack Bros. - Armory
- 1968 - May 4-5 - Gatti-Charles - Armory
- 1969 - Apr. 26-27 - Gatti-Charles - Armory
- 1970 - Apr. 26-27 - Gatti-Charles - Armory
- 1971 - 1978 - None

(Note above dates marked * were played at the High School Stadium).



MAILBAG

The Post Office has returned Circus Reports going to the following people, stating that they are unable to deliver them as addressed:

Joan A. Stern	Lloyd Steier
Michael Baldrige	Eric Griffin
Tomi Liebel	Kenneth Banfield
Rod MacKenzie	James Zoppe

AVAILABLE

PEPPY

COMEDY CHIMP

Wherever there is a need for
visual entertainment

Phone:

A/C 414-452-6567 or 414-452-6963

FOR SALE

Custom Built 35 ft. Motor Home, especially built for animal act, 5000 w Onan generator, separate animal quarters, plenty of wardrobe space, totally self-contained, with many extras, plus living quarters, lots of prop storage space in belly boxes underneath.

Phone: 813 - 920 - 6734

PEOPLE

KEVIN MENARD and the Great American Magic Machine, traveling with Burr's Fun-O-Rama in Lewiston, Me., just 5 minutes before the show was hit by a strong wind which blew props and table off the stage and smashed all. The show went on with undamaged props and an assist from BOBBY HENNEQUINN despite the continuing wind.

SABU, elephant historian, has his half-inch model circus on display at Circus World, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada. He also has exhibits of route books, programs and circus books.

LINDA STAMMER, with the Flying Robins at Circus World, Orlando, Fla., made a TV commercial for "Ship & Shore" blouses which is being shown on the "Good Morning America" show.

JOEY JORDAN, skating juggler, recently played the Michigan State Fair date.

MARY LINDEN, widow of CFA's Herm Linden (1504 W. Galena Blvd., Aurora, Ill. 60506) is ill and would appreciate cards.

FRAN OLSON, widow of CFA's Mel Olson (4931 Rosslyn Ave., Indianapolis, Ind. 46205) is also ill and would appreciate cards.

WARD THOMAS, magician, is working cruise ships that sail out of New York.

JEFF McBRIDE, magician, is appearing at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal this month where he is featured in a special revue.

WANTED

NELSON'S "HELLSTROMISM"
J. G. THOMPSON'S "TELASTROPHY"

- JACK BENNETT -

Box 975

Pauls Valley, Okla. 73075

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

WANTS FOR 1981

GOOD ACTS THAT DOUBLE

- Check Our Reputation -

CONTACT AT ONCE

WITH PHOTOS AND PRICE

- 20 WEEKS PLUS -

ALL PRESTIGE ENGAGEMENTS

P. O. Box 39

Garden Grove, California - 92642

714 - 636 - 5608

REPORT

THE GRIFFIN SHOW

BY KRIS D. EDWARDS

(Seen at Springlake Park, Oklahoma City)

The Griffin Show opens with a tape recording of the Houdini seance begging, "we are trying to contact the spirit of Houdini, are you there Houdini, Houdini."

Directly on cue out walks Griffin's manager introducing Griffin and the fact that many people believe him to be Houdini re-incarnated and that Griffin will soon be on stage. One minute passes and Griffin slowly walks out on stage holding back within him the force of a charging bull, it seems.

He opens with the phrase "if anyone has brought any handcuffs which might hold me prisoner please come down to the stage." Half a dozen men come forward to inspect everything, one is a cop, he has a very old rusty pair of cuffs.

Griffin explains to us, the audience, that they are not in good working order, but he will accept them as a test provided he is allowed a little extra time. The audience cheers Griffin as he extends his wrists, but no, the cop insists on locking the cuffs on behind his back. Griffin explains he will be out in a minute, he enters his cabinet where he does his handcuff trick and emerges two minutes later, he "cannot work the cuffs behind my back" he yells and without any further ado he bends over and slowly inches the cuffs down and over his buttocks then brings his feet through the loop his manacled arms make. The cuffs are in front, he darts back into his cabinet, 30 seconds more and he's free!

Griffin now lets us know that he's ready for the big test, the committee of men then each select two pairs of cuffs from a huge table loaded down with irons, they encase his arms with nine pairs of cuffs and his legs with two pair, then force him down to connect another pair between his legs and arms. He slowly turns to walk hunched over to his cabinet, his assistants help him into it. He explains to us "I will try my best to get out but can't promise anything." The cabinet is closed, his manager raises his watch and gives us the time by every 10 seconds.

Three intense minutes pass and then the cabinet shakes, Griffin comes out, "he's free" yell some children, but no he needs water

CIRCUS QUIPS

BY KARL J. BISCHOFF

INFLATION is a cruel state of affairs that **DEPRIVES** a lot of show people the things they are **BETTER OFF WITHOUT**.

ENTHUSIASM in show business is the greatest asset in the world . . . for it is nothing more or less than **FAITH IN ACTION**.

SUCCESSFUL SHOWMEN talk about **IDEAS** . . . **MEDIOCRE** showmen talk about **THINGS** . . . **AVERAGE** showmen talk about **PEOPLE**.

SOME SHOW PEOPLE find it hard to live within their **INCOME** but are finding it harder today to live within their **CREDIT**.

SOMETIMES the only difference between **CHEFS** on some shows . . . is one with a big enough vocabulary to **GIVE THE SAME SOUP A DIFFERENT NAME EVERY DAY**.

and the perspiration wiped from his face, he then turns back into the cabinet and yells "I'm not going to give up," the crowd cheers. Another two minutes and 15 seconds and he leaps free from the cabinet holding in his out stretched arm a chain of a dozen handcuffs all intricately locked upon each other. Don't ask me how he does it, he just does, he kneels and poses with the cuffs, flashbulbs go off and you are attracted to his inborn charisma or whatever you may call it, but he's got something!

Griffin announces his last escape will be from a straight-jacket. He claims he is the first to break out of the Posey jacket and you can't help but believe him. He explains every detail so thoroughly that you sense not even he could get out, but he will, that's the wonder of the man!

The strapping complete, the gentlemen step away, then Griffin slowly sways back and forth, his eyes catching your's like the hypnotic embrace of a cobra, the tempo picks up, he is thrashing now, his body is surely made of elastic. He drops and rolls on the stage inching his arm over his head they're over! He sits up and hooks the sleeves on his feet pulling like the devil, writhing like a snake shedding its old skin, suddenly he jumps up, throws the jacket down and gives us one proud pose like a victorious gladiator, we rise and cheer. Griffin holds his hand up and thanks us for coming and gives that wicked come hither look of his as if he knows we'll all come back and I know it too.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

Braves to entrance spectators with an act that justifiably earns the blurb "poetry in motion" . . . **CYNDY MIGLEY** is expecting her second baby Dec. 24th. . . **RON & JOY HOLLIDAY**, who open in the fall in Atlantic City in "Hello Broadway" were profiled in their home by TV's PM Magazine to be aired this month. . . **LOU ANN JACOBS** made an appearance at **BALLINGER's Night Club**, went from there to the TV show **CIRCUS!**. . . **MIKE CHIR-RICK** will go to Monte Carlo this winter. . . **LOTTIE BRUNN** has a two months' schedule of cruise ships to juggle her way through . . . Also headed for Atlantic City I understand is **DAVE McMILLAN** and his Fabulous Flying Tigers. My report has it that the cage will rise on a circular stage. . . **PIRATES of the SKY** taped a Mike Douglas show and then flew to Puyallup. . . **ERIK ADAMS** and **BOBBI** are back in Garden's 'Showtime Follies'. . . **QUASSARS** played the 'Big E' for **WAYNE Mc CAREY**, ditto the **GUTIS**. . . **RICCARDO CANESTRELLI**, doing a very nice tight wire act, has added flashy lights to the wire jacks and **RUDY SILS** (Cimse) has added still more lighting effects to his dog act. Now, at the end of the act, ALL the props light up, and the space-wheel is done in the dark.

BOBBY DAVIS clowned the Detroit Fair for **JIMMY DOUGLASS**. . . **CAROL WAINWRIGHT** reports that **PAUL KAYE's** Circus in Hawaii was excellent but the show opening night ran three hours and had to be cut by a half hour. . . On the date were: **Veno Venito**, **Loreli**, **Gerard Soules**, **Gene Mendez**, the **Rodriquez Troupe**, **Eddie** and **Roman Schmitt**, and the **Flying Volares** with **Billy Woods**. . . **MILONGA CLINE** flew to California to visit **BETTY** and **PHIL ESCALANTE**. **Milonga** was recuperating from an operation but is well and back teaching school now in Florida. . . **DARREL WALLEN** played a string of

Canadian Fairs, ditto the **GUTIS** who were on the bill with **THE PLUNKETTS** and **CHRIS-TOPHER JAMES**. . . **RON MORRIS** reports a great season with **Martin & Downs** in Canada. . . He and **ARLENE** ran the concessions and their son **ISAAC** was Donald Duck in Spec and daughter **CERES** (aged 9) worked in a unicycle act . . . **Actress MAGGIE RILEY** sold her "old Kentucky home". . . **BILLY RODGERS** has been having a busy season with his cotime house in Florida but took time off to visit Ohio, the CFA convention, to hobnob at a few dinners and parties with **KENNY DODD**, **SHEILA SLOANE** and **JUDY BAKER** and trekked to Kentucky to visit **BERNIE** and **KEN**. . . To the new King Bros. Circus are headed **The Young Troupe**, **Scott's Unrideable Mule**, the **Bertloffs** and **Frank and Doris Galambo** who will stay only a few weeks as that team is due in Texas. . . Visiting **Bentley Bros. Circus** in Philly were: **Jimmy Hand**, **Earl Michaels**, **Mack Eshleman**, **Donni Stambaugh**, **Lottie Brunn**, **Ted Chirrick**, **Frank Robie**, **Tiny Phillips** and **Ed and Cyndy Migley**. . . Acts with **Bentley Bros.** included: the **Winn Troupe** (**Hans and Roverta**), the **Ramos Troupe**, the **Young Troupe**, **Hans Klaus**, **Aer-ialetta**, the **Zamperlas** (only briefly and then replaced by **James Zoppe**), **Paul Kaye's** elephants, **Don Anderson's** White Horses, **Galambos** and some of the clowns were **Bruce Warner**, **Diamond Jim Parker**, **John McKay** and several others whose names I didn't get. **Paul Cirilus** (**Drifty**) was drumming the show and having his first outing as band director. The **Manuel Ramos** family presented a mixed cat act, flying act, risley, two hand balancing acts and a foot-revolve number. . . The **YOUNG TROUPE** continues to be an excellent teeter-board act with a fine and sure four-man-high closer. They are also doing their juggling act. . . **HANS WINN** did the cross-over wire walk

(Continued on Page 25)

Keeping in touch with show people
and their needs

FATHER DAVID TETRAULT
Episcopal Chaplain to the Circus

110 Richards Road
Williamsburg, Va. - 23185
Phone: 804 - 253 - 0797

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

along with the motorcycle and Roverta's slide for life. . . FRANK and DORIS GALAMBO added their youngest son to the cradle act and Doris made a terrific stooge for ADELE and GLORY's gorilla parody. . . TOMMY BENTLEY is the ringmaster. He and CHUCK report that all their dates have been good and the weather held for all the outdoor spots. They have re-signed Erie (Pa) which was played indoors.

While Hans Winn was trouping with Bentley his sons, Mike and John, were playing Kennywood Park. Debuting with Bentley Bros. was the amazing DEL MONTE, an OUTSTANDING contortion balancing act. This is Pinky, the son of ANNA DEL MONTE, only 19, who already has the class and polish of a veteran. The act is performed on a high revolving lighted pedestal and within a short time is bound to be a sensation in Las Vegas. The act has already been signed for Circus Odyssey and will be show-cased, center ring, alone, on Shrine dates this coming spring. I predict this young man will be a BIG STAR. His closing trick, balancing and supported only by his teeth is incredible and his one arm handstands are smoothly executed.

The Cape Cod Coliseum is only 25 ft. to the girders. It was amusing to see everyone become entangled in the Quassar's Rocket Ship. Pancho found his whips ensnared, the leopards and lions stared at the ship in chagrin, the

These are the greatest! They're...

Bruno Attractions

The World's Finest
Entertainment for

- FAIRS
- PARKS
- CIRCUSES
- SPORT SHOWS
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- NIGHT CLUBS

Perfectly Suited to
Your Needs

BRUNO
ATTRACTIONS

(504) 482-0477

3410 Livingston St.,
New Orleans, La. 70118

Canestrellis in a 3-high ended up in its boom and, one day, during finale, LOU ANN JACOBS (riding in the 'circus train') caught the tip of the American flag on a rocket fin! But with the blacked-out building and great lighting - the act still looked great which proves that BIG riggings can work in low buildings if properly staged.

Those of you who want to get a good look at the new Circus Odyssey ask JORGE BARRERA to show you the video-tape he made of the show. Jorge is doing a fine job of taping all the shows in which he appears but Joselito had best take a few lessons as an "interviewer". A Geraldo Rivera he ain't - not yet, at any rate, but what the hell, it's all in fun, and he's great to look at on camera even if he is at a loss for words!

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

Miscellaneous

Holiday On Ice-Ice Follies combined shows is nearing its completion of a premiere engagement at the Nassau Coliseum in New York. The show is using a special plastic imitation ice floor for the first time.

Introducing

"THE ADVENTURES OF CHECKERS AND PATCHES" by Steve Baker and Gary Ray

Reviewed by Bob Stoddard

Wisconsin can brag about many things concerning the circus, and people is one of them. One of the people that they can be proud of is a Green Bay clown by the name of Steve Baker, who is far better known in the circus world as "Checkers."

When you say "Checkers", dear hearts, you are only saying half of it however, because Steve Baker needed some help to become someone in the circus world. He found his help when he met a Tucson, Ariz., clown named Gary Ray, and they decided to combine their talents. So now, when you say "Checkers and Patches" you've said it all.

A credit list longer than your arm, including more than a dozen circuses, topped by Ringling Bros. and Circus Vargas; dozens of malls from New York to Oxnard, Calif.; and Galveston, Texas to Manitowac, Wis.; motion pictures and all three TV networks; fairs and celebrations from the Canadian National Exposition to the Gasparilla Invasion at Tampa, and Circus World in Florida, to the State Fair of Texas, thru the California fairs, to the Roseburg fair in Oregon; and many points in between. Several TV commercials, Shrine circuses and theme parks, too, the pair have wound up with a book. What about? What else? The Adventures of Checkers and Patches!

The book was conceived and designed by the pair and reflects the enthusiasm and zeal with which they tackled the project over the past two years. Much loyalty and devotion went

into each page and the labor of love will definitely become a collector's item.

This is not a 'cheapie' book with a 'flash' cover, that might be expected in a color book pitch in a circus. It is a high quality book featuring 'children's fun and games', with real art work that can stand inspection before purchase, over the counter, in a book store. It is more like a program book.

Six Flags Over Texas, the theme park where the clowns are in their third season, will be the major purchaser of the first printing of 5,000 books. These books will be sold over the counter in the park.

The first copy of the book is being sold to friends, Bob and Lou "Flowers" Stoddard, who are members of the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85, in Dallas. An early second printing is assured by Six Flags personnel.

You will want a copy of this book for your children (or for yourself) and can do so by sending in the coupon from the ad in this issue of Circus Report.

It isn't too early to think about Christmas presents and this would make a fine gift.

REPORT

INTERNATIONAL FAIR TIME CIRCUS at the Rockingham County Fair, Harrisonburg, Va., Aug. 13 - Show produced by Variety Attractions and program ran 90 minutes.

The acts included: Dorian Blake, ringmaster; Los Latinos, wire act; The O'Briens, unicycle; Arwood's Acro-pups; Prof. Hardy, clown; Dorian Blake, illusions; Terry O'Brien, juggling/low wire; Freddy's Funny Ford; The Kelleys, rola bola; The Great Huberto, slide for life; Michael & Michelle Clark, lions.

REPORT**EMMETT KELLY, JR. CIRCUS**

BY HARRY J. JENKINS

I caught the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at the San Diego Zoo on Aug. 21st, where the show was being presented on a small stage which had a partial moat in front, in a steeply inclined amphitheatre. Although the show (4 p.m.) was near dinner time it was well attended.

Virginia Lee Fenton opened the show with a rousing circus overture on her Hammond organ. It was snappy and with good volume and set things up for the show that was to come.

The performance opened with foot juggling by Chester Cable. His presentation was flawless, well received and was well costumed. I have seen Chester's act before and feel he has improved its presentation a great deal.

Emmett Kelly, Jr. was then presented to the crowd and it could be seen that he was the man they had come to see. The applause was spontaneous and prolonged. Emmett did a tight rope walking bit in pantomime, that was good, with laughs and realism. One almost had the impression he was really up in the air. After a couple more bits he left the stage receiving a big hand for his act.

Another act was a young lady, introduced as from Spain, who did a balancing act with a one finger stand. Her performance was well received, but I was unable to get her name because of the poor P.A. system.

Miss Yvette then appeared with her Canine act. I have witnessed Miss Yvette's various animal acts over the last ten years and have always found them to be well presented and with well trained animals. These dogs were no exception and Yvette's gracefulness in presenting them was pleasing.

Another appearance by Emmett Kelly, Jr. was followed by Wini McKay doing her aerial ring act. Her costuming was excellent, her stage presentation was tops and her performance exceedingly good, bringing gasps of surprise from time to time from the audience. Chester Cable assisted her in the act. Wini's act is a good aerial-single trap type act and again I was able to see an improvement over the act she used to present five years ago. No wonder Wini and Chester are going places with their acts.

After Emmett Kelly bid farewell to the audience, Virginia Lee Fenton closed the show

Show Report**P & G CIRCUS**

BY RICH STRELAK

For the second year, the Lyons Township Regular Democratic Organization's annual family picnic has been highlighted with a circus. Phil Granger, of the newly formed P & G Circus, Inc., was the producer and director.

Although it had rained for two days and there was more threatened, there was a large turnout on Sunday, Aug. 10th, to enjoy the picnic and fine show.

The program was as follows: Circus clowns in a warm-up; Opening Parade; The Bertinis, aerial perch; The Kolmedys, head balancing; circus clowns with the Western Sharpshooter; The Great Wizbine, comedy low wire; Clown fashion show; The Olmedas, bicycles; Al and his Lemon-zine, comedy car; The Rolls Duo, aerial cradle; Erna's Performing Chimps; the Fight of the Century by the clowns; Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball.

Ringmaster Ernie McLean was filling in for Al Dawley; Al Vernon was music director; Gary Maximina, prop boss; Mike Finck, producing clown with Nick Pinto, Rick Masino, Dave Mysliwicz, Jeff Konicek, Paul Zillman, Steve Priedel, Al King and Greg Dimpfl, the clowns. The show girls were: Rose Lewis, Sandy Sullivan, Mary Franco, Carol Schleck and Marianne Nikodem.

The show was well executed, despite the two or three "words from our sponsor" introducing several political big-wigs that visited the picnic grounds that day.

BETTY HUTTON who starred in the film of "The Greatest Show on Earth" will return to the New York stage on Sept. 17th, when she substitutes for ALICE GHOSTLY, who will be taking a vacation from the show "Annie."

with a typical circus-type exit piece. Her music for the show was very good and she never "over-rod" the show, but fit the action on stage.

In all, this presentation of the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at the San Diego Zoo was a short, but well presented, rapidly moving program that pleased the audience in every way. Reportedly their appearance at the zoo increased attendance there for the 16 days they were showing there.