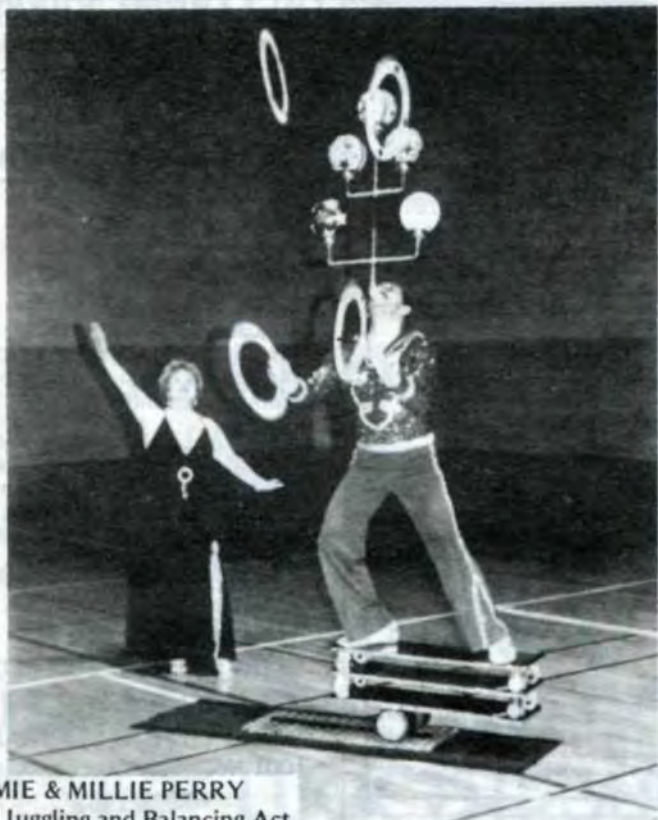


CIRCUS REPORT

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OUR 12th YEAR

Number 9

May 9, 1983



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— S.A.S.E. For New Catalog of Items —

PEOPLE

ALVA JOHNSON is reportedly going to join the Stebbing Circus at Valancia, Venezuela, this month. The show has a 3 month engagement in that city.

STEVE WALLEDA recently made a record walk of 4,166 yards, which was reported incorrectly in Circus Report. On May 14th he'll attempt to make a highwire walk attached to two moving cars.

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Show Dates

Bentley Bros. Circus
May 12-14 Richmond, Calif

Big John Strong Circus
May 8-9 Vacaville, Calif.

Carson & Barnes Circus
May 8 Edwards AFB, Calif
9 Tehachapi
10 Arvin
12 Ojai
13 Solevang
14 Grover City

Walter Child's All-Star Cir.
May 13 Danbury, Conn.
14 Stratford

Circus Coronas
May 13-15
Shreveport, La.

Circus Vargas
May 10-12 San Rafael, Calif
13-15 Oakland

Gerry Cottle's Circus
to June 26
Kallang Park, Singapore

Ford Bros. Circus
May 8 Rossville, Kans.
9 Marysville
10 Auburn, Nebr.
11 Nebraska City
12 Wahoo
13 West Point
14 Norfolk
15 Columbus

Great Y Circus
May 13-15 Redlands, Calif.

Hamid-Morton Circus
May 13-15
White Plains, NY

Liebel Family Circus
May 12-14 Fairmont, W.Va.

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit
May 10-15 New Haven, Conn

Ringling-Barnum Red Unit
to June 5 New York, NY

Roller Bros. Circus
May 1 Burns Flat, Okla.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney's Great Ice Odyssey
to May 15
Miami Beach, Fla.

James H. Drew Exposition
May 9-14 Charlotte, NC

Elliott Amusements
May 9-15 Brighton, Mich.

Peking Nat'l Acrobats
Apr 28-May 1
Vancouver, BC, Canada

World Figure Skating Stars
May 15 Oakland, Calif.

--- MAGIC ---

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
May 11 Phillipsburg, NY
13 Grove City, Ind.
14 Fairport Harbor, Oh

Felix Snipes
May 13-15 Norfolk, Va.

SAMANTHA



This is one of my favorite acts - riding the rearing and leaping horses on the track. The audience also likes it because they sure applaud this number.

By the way, I heard that many of you CR readers have not renewed your CR subscription. Please help keep it afloat by renewing promptly, we can visit frequently if you do.

See you soon!

Show has new hope

The Sole Bros. Circus, which suffered the loss of two of its elephants in a disastrous road accident, is receiving a sympathetic hearing from the Australian Government, in its bid to import elephants.

Elephants are a prohibited import into Australia and it had been thought that it would be impossible to import them.

However, Ben Humphries, a government official told the circus that his talks with the Home Affairs and the Environment Minister may have uncovered a way that would allow the circus to bring in some elephants.

Film star dies

by EDDIE HOWE

Circus performers and troupers lost a great friend and admirer with the death on April 11th of one of the all-time top movie stars, when Dolores Del Rio died at her home in Newport Beach, Calif., at the age of 73.

Miss Del Rio who starred in scores of film hits during the 1920's, 30's and 40's and as recently as 1979, was considered to be among the top ten all-time film stars and her closest friend was Greta Garbo.

A native of Mexico, the beautiful Miss Del Rio visited many circuses and made friends with many on shows in both the U. S. and Mexico. She made her final circus visit to Circus Vargas two years ago and in 1978 she made a visit to some close friends who were then with Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit at the Anaheim Convention Center, they were The Flying Gaonas. She was an avid fan of Tito Gaona and her visit with that famous star netted a considerable amount of newspaper space.

Miss Del Rio became a circus lover in the 1930's when she and other movie stars annually appeared at the gala opening night premieres of the Al G. Barnes Circus, each spring on the Washington and Hill lot in Los Angeles. She was married to Orson Welles at that time, another well-known circus fan.

Proud Parents

by BOB STODDARD

Toni Vanessa Hyde ("T.V.") was born to mother Sue Hyde (age 33) and "One Man Band" Vaudeville start Vic Hyde (age 70) on April 13th, at 12:30 a.m. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 20 in. long.

"She has long fingers," Vic said. "She'll be a good piano player."



Vic Hyde - One Man Band

Their next booking is a convention at a Holiday Inn at Benton Harbor, Mich., on June 8th (a riverboat theme). Then through June 11th in South Bend, Ind., for the Zoological Society. After that it will be back to their ten acre spread with 1,800 ft. of waterfront at Hawthorne, Fla. until July 2-3-4, in Zion (Chicago), Ill.

"The baby is perfect," the father exclaims. "I was a celebrity at the hospital. I am recorded as their oldest father (at 70) . . . Even made the press!"

Dates resigned

The Coronas family reports their circus played to straw houses at Marietta (Atlanta), Ga. and Monroe, La. Both dates have been resigned for 1984, with the Marietta date set for April 13-22, while the Monroe date has not yet been announced, but it is expected that it will be in early April.

The Coronas have also signed some additional major Shrine dates for next year, to increase their tour season. They have also signed to produce the Shrine date at Macon, Ga., for 1984.

Ropers Convention

by SYLVESTER BRAUN

Circus and wild west was well represented at the first convention of the International Trick and Fancy Ropers Association, April 16-17, at Montie Montana's Rodeo Ranch in Agua Dulce, Calif. The convention and show was produced by Frank Dean and Montie Montana.

Frank Dean is a veteran of 21 or more circuses and a half dozen wild west shows. Montie Montana, probably the world's best known trick roper, had the wild west concerts on several circuses, including the Al G. Barnes Circus in 1934.

Other participants and visitors included: Billy Hammond, who had concerts on the Clyde Beatty railroad circus, also Mills Bros. Circus; Red and Janie Russell, on Clyde Beatty, King-Cristiani and others; Fay Snyder, on many shows and now with her own unit; Lani Ironberg, who had Kay Bros. Circus; 'Texas Eddie' Roscoe of McKinley and mid-west and east coast wild wests; Buck McLean of eastern wild wests and fair units;

Ray Lem, of Canada's Tom Bishop Rodeo and Wild West; Mark Smith, well known horse trainer and a feature on the major circuses; Skeeter Vaughn, knife thrower, spot dating circuses; Carl Pitti, movie stunt man, son of the late Ben Pitti of movies, circuses and wild west shows; animal trainer Bill Rivers; Tex Hill, John and Vi Brady, Jeff Montana and Montie Montana, Jr. of the Montie Montana Jr. Buffalo Bill Wild West; and Barbara and Sylvester Braun, of Clyde Beatty Circus, Buck Steeles Frontier Days and lately of Happytime, TNT and John Strong Circus.

PEOPLE

ART "Doc" MILLER wants to thank all of those who have sent cards and letters since his hospitalization. He enjoys hearing from folks and would appreciate additional mail.

USDA Report

John Aynes, who previously operated Animal Actors of Oklahoma, in Choctaw, Okla. has agreed to have his federal animal exhibitor's license revoked to settle a charge by the USDA that he violated the federal Animal Welfare Act.

According to Dr. L. D. Konyha, veterinarian in charge of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Oklahoma, Aynes was charged last year with buying and selling a variety of wild animals in 1980 without obtaining the required exhibitor's license. However, he did secure this license in May of 1981, Konyha said.

Aynes was also charged with maintaining substandard facilities for tigers, lions and a jaguar. Konyha said Aynes also neglected to provide adequate shelter, space, sanitation or veterinary care for his animals.

Further, he said, on three occasions Aynes failed to exercise necessary safety precautions, which resulted in life threatening situations - a 2 yr. old girl suffered injury when a tiger bit her during a photo-taking session;

a jaguar was shot by local police after it escaped from its holding facility; and a zebra died after it developed pneumonia from exposure to inclement weather.

Aynes, who currently lives in Honolulu, consented to a penalty in lieu of a formal hearing, without admitting or denying the charge. The license revocation was imposed by a federal administrative law judge on March 25th. Aynes is not eligible to re-apply for a license until March 1987. The judge also imposed a permanent order to cease-and-desist from further violations. The order covers any future businesses Aynes may operate involving animals regulated by the Act.

PEOPLE

RICK GLASSEY, animal trainer, owns a black panther named "Kaboe" which is used in the magical stage show "Merlin" now playing in New York City.

Acts at Nashville

The program presented by the Olympic International Circus Corp., for the Al Menah Shrine Circus at Nashville, Tenn. (Apr. 14-17) includes the following:

Overture; The Al Menah Temple Units on Parade; National Anthem; Princess Costancia's Royal Leopards; The Teresa Duo, suspended cradle; Clowns; The Plunkett Troupe on trampoline; Balancing display with El Manolette, Mr. Bell and The Great Ramos; Dondi, the Elephant presented by Phil and Francine Schacht; The Crazy Teddys, comedy number; The Pirates of the Sky, aerial feature; Intermission.

The Flying Aztecas, flying act; Clowns; Vidbel's Hollywood Chimps; Sir Lancelot's Chimps; Wendy and Walt, voltage; Mr. Christopher James, tight wire; Rosaire and Tony the Wonder Horse; The Al Menah Temple Clowns; The Vozniak Troupe, teeterboard; The Sensational Leighs, Giant Space Wheel; Exit March.

In Memoriam

EARL "Fatha" HINES (77), legendary jazz pianist, died April 22 at Oakland, Calif. He started his musical career as a high school student in Pittsburgh, Pa. His piano style is credited with changing the course of jazz music. Survivors include his wife, Janie and a grand-daughter.

CLARENCE LINDEN (Buster) CRABBE, (75) died at his Scottsdale, Ariz., home on April 23rd of a heart attack. During the 30's

and 40's he was the king of the adventure serials and is probably best known for his role as Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers. He also Tarzan at one time and appeared in a number of films. In 1933 he starred in the Paramount movie "King of the Jungle" a movie that was made on the Al G. Barnes Circus.

HARRY ALBACKER celebrated his birthday on April 19th, when clown **LARRY RICH** stopped by with a birthday cake. Also attending the event were **PAUL HOSKINSON** (Animals of Distinction) and several other circus people.

Show visitors

by EDDIE HOWE

Among a record number of visitors to Circus Vargas in Southern California the past three months have been:

Smokey Jones, Eddie Howe, Bill Biggerstaff (who produced a fine new souvenir program for the show), Carlos Farfan, the Farfan family members, Henry Shroer, Bill Rice, Judy Jacobs Kaye, members of the John Strong Circus, members of the Redlands All-American Youth Circus, Chester Cable, Wini McKay, advance PR folks from Ringling-Barnum, Harry Graham, Diane Howe, Valentino, members of the American Cont'l Circus, Ivan Henry, Charlie Jones (retired and a long-time sleeping car porter on the old Cole Bros. Circus), management staffers from The Forum, Gerard Soules, editorial writers from the Chicago Tribune syndicate, Laurie Lucas, a newspaper feature writer, Chuck Burnes and family, Disney World on Ice performers, Clyde Beatty, Jr., and scores of other show folks, plus numerous movie and TV personalities. Star Kim Novak was planning to visit the show at Santa Maria, Calif.

Acts at Monroe

The program presented by the Coronas Circus for their engagement at Monroe, La., April 15-17, lists the following features.

Circus Overture, with William Pruy, musical director; Introduction of sponsors; Le-

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gion of Honor; National Anthem and Spec.

Strazan/Bertini Duo, aerial perch; Doug Tarranova, the Johnson tigers (9); Jason Star, breakaway pole; Cucciolo, comedy; the Zamperla Family, unicycles; Tramp - Peters (2), trampoline; The 3 Bertinis, unicycles; Scott's Unrideable Mule "Nebraska"; Serge Corona's Gyro Wheel and George Corona's Gyro Wheel; Satani Demon, fire act; Erna's chimps (3); Les Blocks (3), high wire; Napoleon's Roman Riders (6); Intermission.

Scott's Royal Boxers; The Flying Carrolls (4); the Helena Duo, perch pole; Amazing Alain, sword balancing; Ermes, juggling; the Zamperla's Dressage Horses (Arabian and Lipizzan); The Gasperrys, comedy table; William Morris' elephants (2); Stevie and Serge's Aerial Motorcycle; Capt. Corona's Space Rocket; Exit March.

The circus staff included: Charles Coronas, Sr., executive producer/owner; George Coronas, co-producer/director; Serge S. Coronas, co-producer/manager; Charles Landkas, Jr., General manager on tour; Jon Friday, ringmaster/announcer; William Pruy, musical director/conductor; Cucci Rizzi, lighting director; S. S. Landkas Transport Co., property and transportation and Coronas of Hollywood, Inc., talent directors.

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Sports Show

by BOB STODDARD

The 35th annual Sports and Vacation Show sponsored by the Dallas Morning News; produced and MC'd by Bill Brown, was presented again on three levels of the big Convention Center complex for five days, March 16 to 20th.

This year's production featured more circus acts than in previous years.

You might recall that last year's advertising promised "a variety of circus type acts to please all ages," and then presented no circus acts at all. The closest they came to it was Karl Wahrmond and the Dr. Pepper Circus Band - and they weren't playing circus music.

This year Karl's five piece band played circus music to acts that gave the Sports Show a whole new complexion.

Just before the first act Bill Brown introduced Hubert and Mary Castle, who had come to see Hubert's protege, Christopher James (Plunkett), the drunk act on the tight-wire.

Hubert made the act famous when he did it for years on Ringling-Barnum and several other shows until he broke his neck a time or two, or once in two places and decided that it was time to pass the act on to a younger man. He wisely chose Christopher James Plunkett.

"I haven't seen Jim do the act for more than five years," Hubert said. "So, I came today to check up on him."

Chris said afterward that he was a lot more nervous because Hubert was watching but he did the act and did it well, so Hubert must have been proud of him.

After doing the hilarious drunk part of the act, Chris pulled off the top hat, white tie and tails for the serious part. He jumped over the sword, forward and backward; then missed on his first attempt at the forward somersault, flipping quickly off the wire and slamming into the hard floor.

He got up again, apologized (mostly to Hubert) and climbed back up onto the wire. This time he made it. The audience loved it. With much fanfare he accomplished the backward somersault through the hoop.

Vic Hyde, the perennial One Man Band, who has been doing the same vaudeville act

for 50 years did it one more time. He plays three part harmony on three trumpets at the same time and four bugles simultaneously. He plays a dozen odd instruments, that he made mostly by himself, plus the organ and the calliope. Not really a circus act - but then who else is left from the vaudeville days, except maybe George Burns? So, loosely speaking - we'll call it a circus act.

Kastle's Bears with Jimmy and Tepa (Luvvas) Hall added to the circus flavored part of the program.

The final circus act was the Plunkett family trampoline act with Corky and June, sons Jeffrey and Chris, and Chris' wife Debbie. The highlights of this act include Chris doing the triple somersault and vaulting to the three man high. June plays the hilarious part of the hapless volunteer

The rest of the show included: Julie and Jenny, twin Canadian log-rolling champions; Hank Peters, a fisherman who lands a canoe loaded with these beautiful twin girls in spite of the fact that they paddled very hard to prevent just that.

The final act was Garrison Addie, an Indian dancer from the Alabama Coushattas reservation, with one Indian drummer and singer, manipulating up to 24 hoops into complicated patterns interlocking with his body and each other.

After a long visit with the Castles, I asked Chris how many times he has missed the wire on the somersaults.

"Only three times when I couldn't get up," he said, "but more than a hundred where I was able to get up and try again."

It was a good year again for this show, and it was the best stage show that they have had since I have been going to it, and I've made the show quite a few times.

This year, for the first time, they took the show to the Convention Center in Ft. Worth for five days.

A smaller budget resulted in the band being cut. For the shows there, Vic Hyde furnished the music with his organ, after opening the show with a calliope concert.

Let's hope that the show did well enough there this year so it will become an annual affair in that city, too.

Other visitors were: Jim Howell and son T. J.; Winston Sparks; John Schmitz and Bruce Sidlinger, the Dallas Trampoline manufacturer.

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TOMAS BROOKS

has completed a two year engagement with Gran Circo Rolex de Mexico, as trainer of its tigers, owned by Jesus Fuentes.

We wish to thank him and to say that we wish he could stay with us, but he has other engagements.

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cub and he has just obtained a 3 week old female Bengal-Siberian tiger for his act.

JON FRIDAY was recently made an Honorable Noble of Yaarab Shrine Temple's "Red Devils" unit and has also been awarded the title of a full Georgia Colonel.

GARY RAY (Patches the Clown), his wife Brenda and daughter Michelle, along with the Wonder Dogs, provided the entertainment at a party for Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85.

SAMMY DAVIS, Jr., ROBIN WILLIAMS, JAMES WAINWRIGHT (all actors), plus magicians DAI VERNON, SHIMADA and LANCE BURTON recently visited with magician VINCE CARMEN at Harrahs Tahoe.

PEOPLE

TONY HERNANDEZ, 7 yr. old member of the Hernandez Teeterboard Troupe, was featured on the "Captain Kangaroo" show on Feb. 5th. He also appeared with his family on the TV show "On the Go" on Apr. 13th.

VINCE CARMEN, magician and illusionist, reports his contract for appearances in Fred Aparcar's "Heat's On" show at Harrah's - Tahoe has been extended for several months. He recently added a high level custom-made trunk for the appearance of a girl and tiger

PEOPLE

KATHY BATCHELOR is with Circus Vargas again this season where she is working the liberty horses and serving as assistant supt., of the line stock.

SABU, Elephant Historian, reports that acts wishing to stay over in Niagara Falls, NY, should contact him at: 1807 - 7th St.,

Niagara Falls, NY 14305 or call 1-716-284-0284 and he will make arrangements with the zoo.

BONES CRAIG and Elephants, JOHNNY WELDE and bears and JOHN COOK stayed over at the Oppenheim Zoo in Niagara Falls, NY, for a few days while enroute to join the Garden Bros. Circus at Kitchener, Ont.

Hanneford Circus

by JIM PARKER

The Egypt Temple presented their 18th annual Shrine Circus in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Apr. 15-16 and in Tampa on Apr. 16-17.

Hanneford Circus, Inc. of Sarasota, Fla., produced a star-studded show. President and Executive Producer Tommy Hanneford was on hand for all performances and always supervises each and every show to ensure maximum quality. Staff includes John McConnell, vice president; Struppi Hanneford, treasurer; Jimmy Santos, transportation; Hans Zimmerman, animal supt.; Wally Jones, concessions; Kay Parker, musical director; Warren Adams, supt. of props; Production designer, Ray Orszak; Production Director, Cheryl Jones; Michael Wright, wardrobe master, and Cheryl Jones, wardrobe mistress.

The Hanneford Circus band consisted of Kay Parker at the organ, Bob Parker on the drums and Rick Percy on trumpet. Music was very good and the band sounded like a much larger group. John Addington was lighting director and did a superb job with a multitude of cues.

The program for the two city engagement ran as follows:

The National Anthem with colors presented by the Egypt Temple color guard.

The circus overture under the direction of Kay Parker.

The introduction of the Million Dollar Ringmaster, Senor Rai. This was the first time I had ever witnessed Senor Rai and he truly lives up to his title as his wardrobe is impeccable and he truly is the Liberace of the Circus World. Not only is his appearance outstanding but his command of the English language, with the appropriate emphasis and tone is crystal clear, and he keeps the entire performance on an upbeat just by his presence. Thank goodness, for a change here is one who does not try to sing every other act and Senor Rai truly is one of the great ringmasters of our time.

With an appropriate jungle theme entrance complete with witch doctors, gorilla and jungle maidens, one of the finest young cat trainers of all time, George Barreda, enters the steel arena to work his six African lions. George works fast and the cats do tricks and

it is a very strong, clean and crowd pleasing cat act.

Immediately after the lion act comes clown Michael Wright zooming around the track with the lion chase.

High in the air are two hanging perch acts over Rings 1 and 3. The Adams Duo and the Eduardo Duo, present a nice two ring display with colorful wardrobe.

A three ring display comes next with Julio Garza in Ring 1 with hand balancing, the Franciscos in Ring 2 with their teeterboard and Ricardo (Rick Hawkinson) in Ring 3 with juggling. Ricardo appears new to the scene and has excellent wardrobe and does a fine job of juggling on the rola bola. The Franciscos (Gaonas) have plenty of action in the center ring and Julio holds his own with the hand balancing blocks.

Super Clown featuring the show's two jokers - Cheryl Jones and Michael Wright are ably assisted by Senor Rai on the mike for the tug of war with audience participation gag.

The next three ring display features Hans Zimmerman in Ring 1 with his uncaged leopard, Sabu in Ring 3 has the funny Kurt Szymarski chimps. However, the center ring which is listed as "surprise" in the printed program, far overshadows Rings 1 and 3.

When was the last time you have ever seen a six boa constrictor liberty act? This is perhaps the most unique act in the entire show, if not the circus business. Toni Nagansa enters in elaborate and wild oriental wardrobe and proceeds to work six boas "at liberty". The largest and last snake he takes out of his wildly painted snake box is 30 ft. long and weighs 120 lbs. This gentleman is a master at showmanship and captures everyone's attention, both showfolks and towners alike. Believe it or not, years ago he and his sister were with Circus Bartok. The presentation is done so well that Gee Gee Engesser claims she is going to sell her elephants and do a snake act!

Next comes a three part presentation that is done with style and class. Michael Wright does a brief bull fight number (Cheryl Jones and Rick Hawkinson in the bull), which brings on the Spanish theme aerial web production, which in turn introduces the stunning single trapeze act of Belinda Maynard. Many of us have seen Belinda work

(Continued on Next Page)

HANNEFORD CIRCUS (Continued)

on her nifty portable rigging but this time she is high in the air on regular trap rigging and has perfected her act a hundred times fold. She truly surprised everyone with her arduous and difficult maneuvers and received a good hand. She rates among the top aerialists in our country.

Big show funster Michael Wright returns to the track with the egg balancing gag.

And what we have all been waiting for - the Sensational Hanneford-Karoly Riding act, featuring Mark Karoly and Nellie Hanneford in glittering gold wardrobe. Ninety-four year young Mrs. George Hanneford, Sr. was ring-mistress and Tommy took over the whips himself. Riders included Mark and Kim Karoly, Nellie Hanneford, Gary and Terry Bostleman and Betsy Golden. After a novel "Chorus Line" entrance Mark quickly took command of the ring and it was great to see one of the finest riding acts of all time. There was just the right amount of comedy to break the seriousness of the riders and of course, the horses were beautiful and well groomed.

Billed as the most sensational act in the circus world today, the living statues by The Garzas (three men from Mexico) was the show stopper. Words cannot adequately describe the professionalism and class presentation. Also the exceptional lighting made this act. From a verbal or written description you would think this act would be too slow for the American public, but it held them spellbound.

There is only one thing that could possibly follow such an act as this and that is Gaylord Maynard with his famous Chief Bearpaw, appy horse. As usual, he brought the house down and got the audience ready for the following presentation.

Aladdin (Mark Karoly) and His Wonderful Lamp was the title for spec in which almost everyone of the cast participated. It was done very cleverly, yet did not drag on and on and was the perfect place to end the first half of such a strong show.

— Intermission Time —

Opening the second half was the Flying Gaonas featuring the triple somersaulting Julio Gaona. The three men and one woman presented a crowd pleasing flying trapeze act.

Volcon, the God of Fire, presented fire

manipulation and eating in the center ring. Working fast and with style, Bruce Gutilla did a unique act, with flashy wardrobe.

Clown Michael Wright returns with a bit of magic, assisted by Senor Rai - vanishing table cloth.

Once again the spotlight shines on Mark Karoly as he presents the Hanneford herd of elephants (Shandra, Myna and Tina). Working fast and in a gold loincloth he is obviously the superstar of the Hanneford show. Personality plue and showmanship shine through and he has the audience in the palm of his hand. He completes the bull number with the teeterboard to the back of the elephant, and makes it look so darn easy.

The final act in the show is the fabulous Abulet Bros. on the high wire, doing their usual sensational job, holding the audience spellbound. Their orange wardrobe is really outstanding.

And here comes the part where everyone hates, but the audience - the darn finale - however, despite the three shows on Saturday, the gang put some zip into the flag waving finale, with a unique blown up world in the center ring with the United States red, white and blue. Senor Rai told everyone Goodnight and it was!

Some of Saturday's visitors in Tampa included Milonga Cline, Fay and Rose Alexander, Gee Gee Engesser, Dolly Reagan, Don Philips, Bonnie Bonta, Mike La Torres, Billy Rodgers, Ken Brewster, Bernard Berwin, Vi Hofmeister, Don and Jo Ann Anderson, Corine Dearo, Debbie Chapman and Marjorie Hackett. Everyone was saddened to learn of the death of Larry French that morning in Atlanta, and concerned about the serious injury of Roman Schmitt

This is Tommy Hanneford's 2nd year for the Egypt Temple date and last year's show was a very strong one, and now he brought in an equally, if not stronger show - no wonder he is one of America's leading producers of Shrine dates.

He told me five major Shrine dates have already approached him for next year - all new for his route. And, come this June he will be personally producing an under canvas circus bearing the Royal Sanger Circus title. Tommy is truly one of a kind - now if he would only hire more professional circus clowns I would think he was greater than he is.

A Perfect Show

by JUDE CANOVA

While traveling to the early openings of our American circuses in Feb. I traveled to Buffalo, NY, to catch the Grand Opening of Alberto Zoppe's "Circus Europa". No words could express my impression of this truly great show. Alberto and Sandra Zoppe certainly opened with a big smash hit and I join many others who are wishing them many long years of continued success producing Shrine Circuses.

I was so thrilled over this wonderful new circus, that the following week I continued my journey to Rochester, NY, "just couldn't get enough."

From the opening of the circus, the incredible artistic talents of Lee Maloney, Circus Europa show conductor, conducting a 21 piece orchestra, with every musician totally under his control, and playing everything from Merle Evans to the most difficult and complex modern show scores. "Fantastic."

I saw the show four times in Buffalo and three times in Rochester and never once did the show lack the electricity and excitement of an opening night on Broadway. Believe me I have attended plenty of Broadway opening nights.

The enthusiasm of producers Alberto and Sandra Zoppe cannot be topped. It's obvious to see they love what they are doing and this love reflects strongly on the audience. Is this not what it is all about? During their opening of Circus Festival in Rochester, I was seated front and center and could not

overlook the stream of tears on the producers, but they were not the only ones that were misty eyed over the wonderful production. Their 16 yr. old son, Giovanni, was the feature artist for the opening spectacular. He is no doubt a star and a veteran artist at an early age.

The Zoppes have two daughters, Tosca, a bouncy, bubbly 9 yr. old, quite active in the show, and 19 yr. old Carla, who is now married and traveling with her husband, show drummer, Scott Emerson. Carla has been performing since the age of 2 and is equally as beautiful as her mother. Carla was visiting her parents in Rochester and is a great complement to the family.

Tino and Delilah and their families were also on hand and part of the great success. Tino and Delilah are Alberto's children from a previous marriage to Jenny Wallenda. They each have their own high wire act. However, the two acts were combined for a spine tingling performance.

The show was just perfect, with fantasy lighting, beautifully lit marquee for performers entrance, ring curbs that dance with fluttering lights and simulations of big tops over each ring. It seemed to say "this is the nostalgia and excitement of the circus." The show had the prettiest floor covering I've ever seen and every act was perfection.

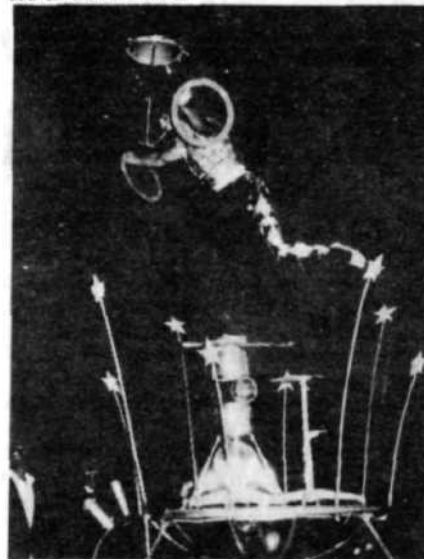
Alberto, a modern day Errol Flynn-type of person, told me that he had only one dream "to live long enough to see circus become one of the most respected fine art forms." I believe that he and his beautiful wife, Sandra, are making that possible. Sandra is a

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Space Age Rola Bola

by BOB STODDARD

Even though he is already nineteen years old, and is the only American who has ever performed on seven cylinders stacked one on top of another, and all moving in different directions, Tino Ferreira still has not fulfilled the agreement made with his father "Moses" six years ago when he wanted to do rola bola.



"If you are going to work rola bola, you have got to perfect the backward somersault." (I translated this for you because Moses said it in Portugese.). Anyway, that's how Moses put it to his thirteen year old, sixth generation circus performing son.

When the boy assured his father that he would do it, but, "it might take a while," the father consented and Tino started working on his Space-Age version of the old circus act.

About his 7 cylinder feat, Tino says, "A few have done it in other countries, but no one else has done it here," and then added, "unless they did it while practicing." It isn't that Tino isn't trying. He keeps practicing the back flip and trying to land on the board across the cylinder, but so far he hasn't succeeded.

He hasn't broken his neck yet either, and

in some round about way that might be considered as progress.

Rola Bola is more dangerous than it looks. Falls during the act have resulted in heads split from the forehead to the back of the neck, and probably worse.

His father doesn't have to hang his head in shame because it's been six long years. Tino has perfected an act that is excellent and, after all, he did say that, "it might take a while."

He told me, "No one has ever done a backward somersault from a table to the rola bola and I want to be first."

Fully convinced that travel broadens one, he loves the different places and the people you meet on the road.

"The circus is show business and that has to be the greatest job on earth. It's a great feeling that the people are applauding because they are enjoying what I am doing. They like it, and that makes me happy."

Not many things keep the life from being perfect. Two of these are the rain and the mud. "Unfortunately, you have to have bad days," he said.



Tino's father started performing when he was eight years old, as a tumbler and a hand balancing act with his father in a circus in Portugal. At sixteen Moses started working on the tightwire and did that for thirty-six years which included seventeen years since the family moved to the United States in

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Looking Back

Seth B. Howes was the first showman to order a billboard made to paste paper on the outside. Previous to this all bills were hung up with tacks.

W. C. Coup ordered the first three sheet lithograph ever made and also the first ten sheet lithograph. The latter was considered a piece of foolishness; but when Coup ordered a 100 sheet bill and first used it in Brooklyn, it was considered such a curiosity that show people visited the city just to look at his advertising marvel.

from the Newport Dailey News, May 7, 1879

The mammoth bill of Barnum's "greatest

ROLA BOLA (Continued)

1960. He quit the wire in 1977, when his eyesight started to fail. The comedy balancing act he is doing right now is five years old.

Tino's younger brother, Mario, is sixteen years old and is a juggler. He started performing sporadically four years ago but this is his first complete season as he is working with the family on the Carson & Barnes 5 Ringer.

I asked Tino what his worst experience was on the circus.

"That would have to be the time when I was waiting to go on, and was standing near the pedestal of an uncaged leopard act . . . and a little girl stepped between me and the leopard. He jumped on her and mauled her so badly that she died soon after she got to the hospital. I was shook up and scared. I did my act but I was in a very nervous state."

Tino is a soccer fan and is looking forward to getting home to Sarasota, Fla., where he gets to play the game.

"In the winter we have a team and we play the Ringling shows and some of the Sarasota teams."

I asked him how they made out.

"Sometimes we win," he said, "and sometimes we lose."

(The photos with this story were taken by photographer Jimmie Mundell, and were cropped to fit into the column space.)

show on earth" on Commercial wharf is probably the largest one of its kind ever displayed in this city. It covers the entire south side of the coal shed on Commercial wharf and is made of 70 sheets of paper, printed in color, requiring over 400 printing blocks, taking three months of steady labor for several men and costing \$3,000.

Mr. Barnum, in giving the order for the bill wrote, "Print me the biggest and best show bill in the world." He probably got it.

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PERFECT SHOW (Continued)

great Elizabeth Taylor double. She says, "you've heard of the house that Jack built. This is the circus that love built." Incidentally, Sandra wrote a most artistic circus program and in fact, it was the first circus program that was ever printed in poem and rhyme. The talents of this great circus family never ceases to amaze me.

After the Friday performance, Sandra hosted a banquet. Comparable to a Hollywood cast party. I asked Sandra how she did it and still managed to perform in the evening performance and extend welcoming hospitality to the numerous committees that were in attendance. She replied, "I had a lot of help from my daughter Carla, Katy Zamperla, my stepdaughter, Delilah and daughter-in-law Olinka." And then she said, "I prayed a lot."

The Ringmasters - In Buffalo, a stately tall gentleman, Charlie Van Buskirk, a dynamic voice of today's world of circus kept the show moving at a perfect pace. . . . Billed as America's number one ringmaster, Austin Miles lived up to his great circus reputation in Rochester.

Never in my years of visiting circuses have I seen the floor attendants wearing white tuxedos, and they were "immaculate white tuxedos." A class show all the way.

Zoppe's Circus Europa, I salute you and wish you many years of continued success in bringing quality entertainment to a well deserving and long waiting public. Thank you Alberto and Sandra Zoppe, I have now seen perfection!