

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 41

October 11, 1982



Mike Phillips and Tricia

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PEOPLE

EUGENE A. NOCK, Jr. of the Six Nerveless Nocks, and KEITH ABRAMS, of the Tommy Bartlett Water Circus have combined Aviation and Financial interests and have formed "The Aerostars Aviation Corp." The corporation will be based at the Sevier County Airport and will offer Ait Taxi, Air Ambulance, Air Cargo and Flight Instruction. Eugene Nock, Jr. will act as President and Chief Pilot, Keith Abrams will act as Chairman of the board and Pilot.

Shrine Dates

Moscow, Idaho Shrine Club

1953 - July 6-7 - Gil Gray

1981 - June 26 - Carden Int'l

1982 - July 9 - Carden Int'l

In 1953 show played University of Idaho Stadium. 1981-82 show played High School Football Field.

(May not be complete)

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HOTLINE

Sept. 22 - Pres. Reagan signed a bill that directed America's railroad engineers to return to work, along with other railroad employees. It was expected that it would take about a week to get the railroads all back to normal operation.

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Show Title Purchased

Following varied rumors, word was released this past week of the purchase of the original Downie Bros. Circus title(s) by DA-NA Productions of Crescent City, Fla. Also included in the sale were several original drawings made by the late circus artist, Roland Butler, several of which are believed to be the last drawn by the noted artist.

Bradd Frank, co-owner of Da-NA, didn't release the exact details of the purchase, but, stated the purchase was the result of over a year and a half of negotiations between DA-NA and lawyers of the estate and heirs of the late Lawrence Higgins, the last owner of the Downie title and Butler drawings.

Frank said the search for the titles began in earnest after reading a series of articles published in the late 1970's in Bandwagon by circus historian Joe Bradbury, which he told the history of the famed show from its inception in 1926 by Andrew Downie.

Bradbury himself played an important part in helping to track down the last known owner and his heirs, who once resided in New Jersey. The on and off again search led to numerous dead ends over a 3 year period, until two other CFA members entered the picture. By chance, Frank wrote to Frank Mara, who lives only a few miles from the last known Higgins address. Mara, who knew the late Higgins, suggested he contact mutual friend, John "Tiny" Phillips who knew the whereabouts of the heirs. Phone calls were made and Phillips brought the parties together, then bowed out of any further dealings. Then, after finalizing a deal, both parties, thru the Higgins lawyer, signed letters of intent with a closing date set for May 30th, 1982. DA-NA also obtained permission to use the Higgins Downie Bros. holding company name, Circus Corporation of America.

One reason for the long negotiation period was that according to the Bradbury story in Bandwagon, Higgins had Butler draw the new logos for his Downie Bros. Circus, which was supposed to be the last done by him. But, continuing correspondence with the attorney and Mrs. Higgins revealed that he purchased the logo design from James L. Winters about 1959, who was then booking director for the Carson & Barnes Circus.

Most of Higgins' important business papers are no longer available for reference. But, there seemed to be a large sum of money involved in obtaining the logo. Frank declined to reveal the sum involved, and also stated that it wasn't known how much of the sum went to obtain the logo and any other items or equipment at the time. It is known that about several years later he did purchase equipment from the old Mills and Hunt circuses.

Frank declined to disclose his immediate intentions as to the use of the titles, but, did state that a show is forth-coming sometime in the near future bearing the Downie title. DA-NA also has copywritten "Frontier Circus" as well as "Wild West America" both of which have been used periodically in spot bookings by DA-NA.

The Downie Bros. Circus was founded by famed showman Andrew Downie in 1926. At that time in circus history, shows either moved by rail or were still moving by horse and wagon, although a few shows were experimenting with trucks to move equipment. Downie himself is credited as the first showman to officially motorize a circus. Being able to move heavier loads longer distances in a shorter period of time, the new Downie show quickly became a major competitor to both wagon and rail shows, and quickly grew in size and stature.

Due to failing health, Downie sold his circus in 1928 to Charles Sparks, another innovated show owner of the time and founder of the Sparks Circus. Sparks had recently sold his railer to a man who turned out to be acting as a secret agent and buyer for his long-time rival, The American Circus Corporation. Within their newest purchase, the A.C.C. now owned and operated such noted shows as Al G. Barnes, John Robinson, Sells Floto, and others, and now set out to virtually monopolize the industry and purchase their long-time rival, Ringling Bros.

Sparks moved Downie from its Harve de Grace, Md., winterquarters to Central City Park in Macon, Ga., the longtime home of his Sparks Circus. He brought forth many innovated ideas for a motorized show, including the use of larger semis. Under his ownership, Downie grew to railroad size and held the record for the largest truck show,

(Continued on Page 26)

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct. 15-18 New Orleans, La.

Brickle's Wonderland Revue
Oct. 11 Walterboro, SC
12 Summerton
13 Greeleyville
14-15 Manning

Castle Int'l Circus
Oct. 12-13 Kalamazoo,
Mich.

Circus Knie
Oct. 14-17
Place du Marche, Switz.

Franzen Bros. Circus
Oct. 14-15 Jonesboro, Ark

Hubler Int'l Circus
Oct. 16-17 Plattsburgh, NY

Liebel Family Circus
Oct. 12-16
Greenville, SC

No Elephant Circus
Oct. 11 Manancheck, NY
16 Madison, NJ

Olympic Int'l Circus
Oct. 7-16
Birmingham, Ala.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Oct. 14-31 Rosemont, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Oct. 12-17 Detroit, Mich.

Sahib Shrine Circus
Oct. 15-16 Sarasota, Fla.

Swan Bros. Circus
Oct. 15-16 Susanville, Ca.

Texas Shrine Circus
Oct. 12-17 San Antonio,
Texas

TNT & Royal Olympic
Oct. 14-17 Columbus, Oh.

Zoppe Circus Italia
Oct. 11-16
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Black Cowboy Parade
Oct. 16 Oakland, Calif.

Bryans Clowns, Inc.
Oct. 12 Butler, Pa.

Clown & Circus Days
Oct. 16-17
Grand Prairie, Tex.

James H. Drew Exposition
Oct. 11-16 Monroe, Ga.

Lilli-Ana and her Leopards
Oct. 16-17
Charleston, W. Va.

Scott's Medicine Show
Oct. 11 Brattleboro, Vt.
12 No. Adams, Mass

--- MAGIC ---

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
Oct. 11 Lamas, Colo.
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14 Monte Vista

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A Party Invitation

by BOB STODDARD

The nation's character might well be judged by the heroes it applauds. This may be a sad commentary on our life today, but there are a few sterling examples to encourage the hope that "springs eternal."

One of these heroes is a character that is a clown (or vice-versa) that I first encountered in the late 1920's when my grandfather took me to see "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Subsequent visits with my mother and father, my wife and children, our grandchildren, and soon possibly a sixth, will add another to the long line of generations that have laughed at and loved this perennial star whose gift of laughter has bestowed upon millions of Americans one of life's greatest gifts, and made him the hero of the good example.



On Jan. 1st, Lou Jacobs, the master clown will be 80 years old. There are plans in the works to insure that he won't be celebrating this event alone.

The Lou Jacobs Family Tent No. 139 is planning the biggest birthday party of 1983. Or possibly the biggest birthday party of all time.

All circus fans and co-workers from the

past 60 years (or more) are invited to attend the party in Sarasota, Fla. This is your personal invitation to honor this man who was honored by the U. S. government when they put the most famous clown face ever, on the 5c stamp.

You can be part of this gigantic party and help to make it a success.

What can you do to help?

For one thing, they want 25,000 birthday cards from all over the country, from school children, fans and friends, from everywhere. You can help with this.

If you want to attend the party you can write to: John Cooper, P. O. Box 1386, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30086.

Tell him how many will be in your party and he'll give you all of the information.

If you can't go, and you can't get people to send cards, you can still help by helping to finance the party. Send your donation to John (see address above) and make your check payable to: The Lou Jacobs Family Tent No. 139.

Lou has given joy and happiness all of his life. This is your chance to show him that you've noticed that.

Get those cards going today!

Banquet Date

The Rudynoff Tent No. 127, CFA, and Rudynoff Ring No. 60, CMB, will present their Fifth annual Combined Banquet on Saturday, Oct. 9th, at the Reese Fire Hall on Route 140, three miles south of Westminster, Md. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and a family-style dinner featuring roast beef and chicken will be served at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Richard W. Flint, current National President of the Circus Historical Society and Specialist in American Popular Entertainment at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. His presentation will be: "Circus: The Mighty Monarch of All Amusements."

Tickets for the full evening of circus fun are priced at \$9.50 for adults and \$7.00 for children, twelve and under. For reservations please telephone (301) 730-3572 or (301) 484-4520.

Circus Concert

The Sioux Falls (S. D.) 7th annual Circus Concert at Terrace Park was held on July 25th. Dr. Leland Lillehaug was the Musical Director, Ray Loftness served as master of ceremonies, Roma Prindle was the soprano soloist and the program format was arranged by Paul Hoy.

The musical numbers as presented were: Star Spangled Banner; Ringling Bros. Grand Entry (Sweet); Poet and Peasant Overture (Von Suppe); Lady of Spain (Evans); High and Mighty March (Jewell); Peter Pan Medley (Beeler) with Roma Prindle, soprano soloist.

Grand Entry (King); Father of Victory March (Ganne/Roberts); Broadway One Step (King); Royal Decree (English); The Old Circus Band (Jewell); Trombone Blues (Jewell); The Trombone King (King); Georgia Girl (King); Trouping Days (King); Circus Echoes (Hughes); Alpine Sunset (King).

Finale: The Greatest Show on Earth (Young) or optional The Purple Carnival (Alford).

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Members of the band are:
 Flute - Pam Hansen, Pat Masek, Pat Penn
 Piccolo - Martha Barnett
 Oboe - Melissa May
 Bassoon - Carol Buckwalter, Lori Wuanbeck
 Clarinet - Carole Ahlers, Deb Aning, Mary Avery, Charlotte Hedeem, Donna Hoogendoorn, Mark Isackson, Delight Jensen, Jackie Larsen, Steve Lillehaug, Nancy Negstad and Tera Wells,

Bass Clarinet - Jill Gibson
 Alto Saxophone - Eddie Johnson, Terry Walter

Tenor Saxophone - Martha Nelson
 Baritone Saxophone - Gail Bachand
 Trumpet - Janet Burns, Gary Holman, Doug Lehrer, Mark Levens, Rolf Olson, Jim Perkins, Steve Sommers

Horn - Jeanette Duerksen, Scott Faragher, Curt Hammond, Sandra Weikel, Michelle Youngquist

Trombone - Paul Bankson, Faye Fossum, Bill Glenski, Paul Weikel, Brad Widness, Rich Woolworth

Baritone - Vince Aughenbaugh, David Joyce

Tuba - Stan Eitreim, Dave King, Toby Schmuck

Percussion - Dan Hatfield, Paul Hoy, Eric LeVan, Cathy Huether.

PEOPLE

CAROL BUCKLEY and TARRA, the roller skating elephant are performing in a series of Roller Skating Rinks in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma this month. Enroute to the dates they spent a few days at BUCKY STEELE's Ranch in Seagoville, Texas.

Miscellaneous

The No Elephant Circus, New York's newest resident circus company, recently made an appearance on ABC-TV's award-winning soap opera "One Life to Live."

Circus performers Robert Daraio, Lenny Wright, Tony Duncan and Steve Bernard were seen juggling, eating fire, unicycling, tightrope walking and clowning.

East Coast News

by FRANK D. ROBIE

CFA President Al House and wife, Maxine, journeyed to Monmouth, Ill., to participate in the newest Circus Fans Tent named in honor of the Ringling Bros. performance director, Tim Holst. The tent raising took place on Sept. 2nd. The following day they went to Peoria to catch the Ringling Red Show and were the guest of Mr. Holst.

Mr. Francis Brunn, juggler, is currently working at Harrah's in Reno, Nev., in a revue called "Heat's On."

Doug Holwadel, financial partner on the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus stated he has ordered a new tent from Leaf for next season. Only seven semis have been painted white, but the show will no longer be red and yellow. Look for an all new show next year. One of the most charming features this year was the aerial ballet, which reportedly will get the axe.

One interesting thing on the Beatty show was an elephant harness tripod which Fred Logan says was exactly like those used on the Ringling show during the canvas days. Mr. Logan was for three seasons with the Big One in the late 40's. He also spent 20 years on Kelly-Miller and for the past 12 years has been with Beatty-Cole.

John Pugh was described by one New Jersey newspaper as "a wealthy Englishman" which drew quite a laugh on the show.

The Bergen Times devoted a full page to juggling superstar Lottie Brunn with pictures and story. Lottie still finds this exciting as she says "for years I was billed as my brother's sister."

How does a Townie rate the dubious dis-



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inction of a circus monicker; like "High Grass" or "Gypsy Red" or "Mahwah"? A tag like that must be earned on the show. In the case of "Mahwah" two dropped dates appeared on the Beatty route and thru much effort a circus fan found a sponsor in Mahwah, NJ, at Ramapo College, in the middle of nowhere.

Hoxie Bros. had played the same lot not two weeks before to a middling crowd and so the "Largest Tent Show in America" came on for a two day stand. Short on pa-

(Continued on Page 18)

BEATTY-COLE CIRCUS

by ROLF RYKKEN

Audrey Margerum was five years old when her father took her to her first circus in Hot Springs, Va., picked her up, and put her on the shoulders of an elephant.

The experience was unforgettable.

Margerum, now of New Castle, strolled under the big top at Hares Corner and remembered that hometown circus 45 years ago.

"It's equally as exciting now," she said.

The excitement of circuses past and present has a lot to do with attracting people like Margerum to the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus - which finishes a two day visit to the Wilmington area this evening.

"That's the good feeling, actually, being old-fashioned," said Beatty-Cole spokesman Gail Tregoe, after the huge - and slightly worn - tent was put up by men and elephant power.

"People ask us if we want to move up to Ringling Bros., that's not how we look at it. We don't consider it a circus unless it's under a tent."

Some supposedly modern circuses have scrapped the tent concept and now set up performance rings in large municipal stadiums.



Sandy Koziq

But the Beatty-Cole Circus has been under the tent for more than 50 years, following the merger of Beatty's wild animal act with the Cole Bros. show.

Nowadays, as it has for years, it promotes

itself as the largest tent circus in America. It is one of the last of its size, although there are a few smaller ones.

"We're the last traditional form of entertainment," said Tregoe. "Only theatre has been around, like us, for more than 100 years. When older people come to see us, they say, 'that's just how it used to be.'"



Jimmy James

Preserving a tradition can also mean fighting extinction.

"It almost seems as if the odds are against us," Tregoe said. "We almost folded up last year. Florida State University (the previous owners) was thinking of going indoors - using no tent - but the current owners (John Pugh and others) put us back on the road. "We're making money this year (and) things look real bright (so) we'll try to continue the tradition."

Keeping the big top involved reducing the costs: There is no longer a side show, or some other extras.

The circus also switched to fewer diesel powered trucks - used to transport the mobile community of 300 humans, 11 elephants, 18 lions and tigers, and all the equipment for 40 weeks of two-to-four night stands.

About \$17,000 was shaved from the budget, although it still costs as much as

(Continued on Page 18)

FOR SALE

COMPLETE CIRCUS EQUIPMENT

Note: All canvas good to excellent shape.

Big Top - 90 ft. x 210 ft. (90 ends with three 40 ft. middles), 4 aluminum center poles, aluminum quarter poles, steel side poles (bale ring top with all new rigging), wood and iron stakes, marquee with poles and stakes.

Menagerie Top - 70 ft. x 110 ft. (70 end with a 40 ft. middle), Bale ring (new rigging), aluminum center poles, thin wall steel tubing quarter poles and side poles.

14 High Circus Seating for 2000, new seat planks, steel jacks and stringers, will fit all safety codes.

Lighting includes chandeliers, spotlights, etc. All extra good cables, one hundred thirty-five kilowatt Allis-Chalmers diesel generator on 40 ft. Strick semi.

Side Show - 120 ft. bannerline with new vinyl banners, 40 x 80 top, stages, ticket boxes, etc.

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Water System with thousand feet of new fire hose.

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40 ft. semi racked with winches for big top and poles.

Semi for seats and menagerie canvas
1970 Mercedes van truck for props.

Tractors: 1970 - 1971 - 1972 diesel Freightliners, 1973 White diesel, 1973 Peterbuilt diesel, 1973 Chev. gas, 1972 Chev. gas with 12 volt winch and circus style stake driver with power take-off from tractor, 1978 Lincoln Town Car.

Pit (Grind) Shows - Museum of Oddities (with exhibit) on 1981 40 ft. semi with living quarters and office - 60 ft. front.

Wax Museum with current figures on 40 ft. semi with living quarters, 50 ft. front.

34 ft. Southern Body Trailer show suitable for Snakes, Midget Horse, or? 50 ft. front, living quarters.

Snake Girl Illusion Show with new canvas.

Headless Girl Illusion Show, complete.

European style walk-thru front for circus on 40 ft. semi with two living quarters, 60 ft. front, or could be used for a Pit Show.

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Tribute to a pony

by *BOBBY GIBBS*

Lots of show people that die get a nice write-up. I feel that some mention should be made of some of the fellow animal performers that pass on.

Everyone has heard of John Herriott's poem about showman's heaven, well, there has to be animals up there too.

"Jackie" a 38 yr. old Shetland pony went to showman's heaven on Aug. 30th, in Gibson City, Ill, while on the road with Carson & Barnes Circus.

Jackie's career started in 1954 with Obert Miller's Fairyland Circus, went to Kelly-Miller, was sold to Bobby Gibbs and Rosa and for 16 years appeared with major Shrine and indoor shows across America, plus 7 years at Baraboo's Circus World Museum.

Later he was with Carden-Johnson and for the last two years he was with Carson & Barnes. He appeared daily in the spec and in pony liberty acts throughout his life, he was never off the road at any time.

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He will be sadly missed by all who knew this game little performer.

A Horse's Prayer - -

To thee O master, I offer my prayer. Feed me, water and care for me and when the day's work is done provide me with shelter, a dry bed and a place to lie down in comfort

And finally, my master, when my useful strength is gone, do not sell me to a cruel owner or turn me out to starve, or be slowly tortured, but do take my life in the kindest way.

Your God will reward you, hereafter.

Please do not consider me irreverent if I ask this in his name, who was also born in a stable.

A New Book

by *BOB STODDARD*

CATS, CHOCOLATES, CLOWNS (and other amusing and useful subjects covered by newsletters).

Edited by Greg Mitchell, published by Dembner Books, 1841 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10110.

Greg Mitchell says, "Pick a subject, any subject, and chances are that somewhere in America, someone is publishing a newsletter, journal or bulletin about it."

Then, through the cooperation of hundreds of authors, illustrators, editors and publishers, he goes through 189 pages covering subjects gleaned from hundreds of these publications (out of a possible 100,000 or more) that all have one thing in common. Each explores a subject generally ignored by the mass media and the other special interest periodicals as well.

Because of this fact, this should be an important book for a library in the same way that the Almanac or the Guinness Book of Records covers the needs for special interest material.

The book includes articles about clowns, jugglers, circus people, circus history, circus stories, animals, etc., which amounts to a small percentage of the wide variety of subjects.

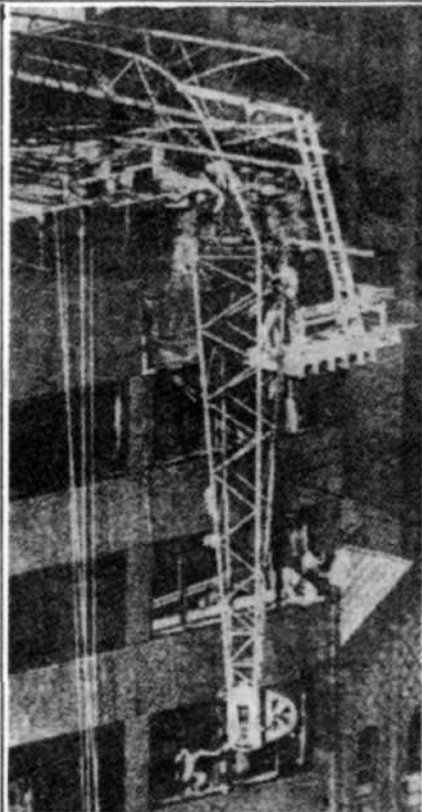
Don't buy it as a circus or clown publication, but I believe that you will enjoy it for what it is.

It is the first book that I have read all the way through in years and, I believe that the two days I did it in is an all-time record for me.

I am proud and happy to say that my article "Mr. Clown" (Lou Jacobs) from the Calliope Magazine is included in the book in the chapter on "Famous People." (The article also ran in Circus Report). Also listed in this chapter are 13 "Circus Greats."

Greg Mitchell is an award-winning newspaper reporter and magazine editor, writing for the New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post Magazine, The Nation, and many other publications. He is also the author of "Truth . . . And Consequences: seven who would not be silenced."

The \$7.95 price tag for the soft cover book



HIGHLY DANGEROUS — Workmen are seen building a scaffold around a construction crane that fell from the top of a new 44 story high-rise on Madison Ave. at 53rd in mid-town New York City, in mid-July.

When the crane fell, debris rained on pedestrians below, killing Warren Levenberg, controller for the Ringling-Barnum Circus. Other pedestrians were injured in the mishap.

After encasing the crane in the scaffold, workers cut it into pieces and brought it into the building through the windows.

JERRY KAYE, promoter, is in Alaska recovering from an operation, which was very successful.

seems low for the amount of pleasure I derived from reading it, plus a valuable reference book for future use.

Mattel Report

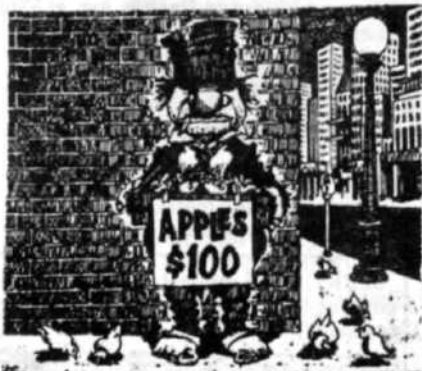
(The following information is picked at random from the Mattel Report to Shareholders for the six months ending on July 31, 1982. To completely understand the Mattel position one should read the full report carefully).

"... Although Circus World theme park attendance has been adversely affected by the current weakness in central Florida tourism, revenues began to stabilize in the second quarter."

"... In March 1982, the Company sold Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. (Ringling) and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Ice Follies and Holiday on Ice, Inc., for \$22,800,000 cash to a company organized by former senior management of Ringling. The sale price approximated book value including intangible assets of \$11,300,000. The Company used \$12,400,000 of the proceeds to reduce long-term bank debt and the balance was used for working capital."

"... The Entertainment segment's revenue was lower by \$13.5 million due principally to the sale of Ringling circuses and ice shows at the beginning of the current fiscal year."

"... The fiscal 1983 provision for income taxes was further reduced by a tax benefit of \$1.5 million realized upon the sale of Ringling recorded in the first quarter."



"If I can just sell two more apples I'll have enough to buy myself a cup of coffee."

BETTY-COLE (Continued)

\$15,000 a day to operate.

While Betty-Cole tries to preserve tradition, it is also being bedeviled by audience sophistication.

"It's very difficult to get big laughs with knock-about comedy today," said ringmaster Jimmy James. He switched to his new position three years ago, after 15 years of clowning.

"You drop your pants, you take a pie in the face and the laughs aren't there like they were 20 years ago," he said. "I don't think television can be blamed for this, there is no blame to be made. It is just the way the world turns."

None of this was on the mind of Marilyn Warrington, who like Audrey Margerum, has her childhood memories - and a special enthusiasm for the circus.

After prodding her children, Todd 5 and Tracey 7, out of a deep sleep early on Monday, she rushed them over to the traditional raising of the big top.

"My dad used to take me," said Warrington. "I remember seeing the elephants putting up the tent. This morning brought back memories. It was my idea (to come)."

"Tracey Warrington even volunteered to list the names of the elephants, they saw: "Uh, Pete, Sue . . . and, I don't know."

"Helen," offered her mother.

Children like these give the traditional tent circus a future, ringmaster James believes.

But it's also mothers like Marilyn Warrington and grandmothers like Audrey Margerum who ensure that the show will go on.

"I think there's a little bit of circus in all of us," said Margerum.

EAST COAST NEWS (Continued)

per, short on advance, short on publicity and short on crowds - John Pugh was heard to say as he cleared the lot "where is the guy who booked this date?"

Doug Holwadel drove in from Columbia, SC, and said "where is Mahwah?" and the tag was fixed. Al House became "Mahwah" to all his friends and associates and particularly to the showfolks on Beatty-Cole.

June Dewsbury made a visit to the Beatty show and was greeted royally by old friends and had her picture taken being pushed by an elephant.

King Kong Circo

by JIM CONLEY

(King Kong Circo was seen in Tijuana,).

A plastic four-tower European style tent with a round dome consisting of a tubular frame covered with plastic suspended from the four towers houses the King Kong Circo. The tent belongs to Johnny Lam and is said to be the only one of its kind. It was built by Poloto Mantva in Italy and is mighty impressive to see, either from the outside or the interior. This show has one ring with an elevated stage behind the ring. At the rear of the tent is a draped area over forty feet high which will be of much interest later.

The show opens with a trampoline act of the Cabballero family headed by Alfredo Morales. They do a fast moving routine. The single trapeze act of Jesus Oracio followed. It appealed to the Mexican audience.

Tito Fuentes presented a horse on a long lead. The horse was well trained and followed the cues well. Tito makes a fine, poised appearance that pleases the ladies.

Marly and Gabby Ruelas did a juggling routine with balls, rings and clubs. One girl juggled seven balls and they passed eight clubs. They do a number of difficult tricks, presented in a pleasing manner.

Clowns Paselito and Hueso appeared on the stage in a talking routine that was well received with much laughter by the audience.

Sandra Esmeralda was on next with her single trapeze act. Rosi and Roni Engelky did an act with two chimps that rode a bicycle and a rolling globe, among other things.

Tito Fuentes appeared on the stage with a crystal box production of a dog followed by the appearance of a girl. The girl was placed in an onion shaped open-topped container with a lid. A cover was placed on the

container and swords were stuck into the container ala' sword basket. The swords were removed, the girl reappeared unharmed, followed by a second girl. A large cage was wheeled into the ring and he did the Two Girls to Lion Illusion.

Marabell did a very entertaining hair hang routine involving juggling, production of a long metallic colored ribbon from her mouth and finished with the manipulation of long colored ribbons on sticks.

Seven members of the Cabballero family did a teeterboard act with two teeterboards. They did a three high, over a two-high to shoulders of the under-mounter behind, and a somersault to a chair on a perch among other things. Intermission followed.

During intermission you could have your photo taken with one of the chimps. It is worth reporting that cardboard cutouts of circus animals and tent were vended at this time as well as clown dolls, King Kong replicas and other souvenirs. At the beginning of the performance candid snaps of the audience were taken by roving photographers. During the fourth act, salesmen were out selling the color transparencies in plastic viewers to the people who had been photographed.

Opening the second half, was the flying act of the Cabballeros, with Alfredo Morales as catcher. The act was well received by the audience.

This was followed by Alexix, who presented a most unusual handstand act. He has an aluminum replica of the Eiffel Tower about 12 ft. high. A narrow ramp runs from the arena floor to the top of the tower. Alexix does a handstand on the ramp at the arena level and is propelled to the top of the Eiffel Tower where he does his act, balanced by one hand on a cane, juggling hoops and finally balancing on his hands atop two stacks of blocks. It is a very flashy act and was formerly with the Tihany show.

(Continued on Page 20)

A Clown Cried

by WILLIAM WOTSCH

In reading about the recent death of clown Frankie Saluto (July 30) it reminded me of another clown's death at Buffalo, NY.

Quite a few years ago I was in Buffalo to see the Ringling-Barnum Circus which was playing at the auditorium. I met Bob Dover at the door and we talked about the circus' upcoming date in Cleveland.

When I met Frankie Saluto in Clown Alley he was in tears. He told me about Billy Ward's death and how they had found him in the hotel where he was staying.

Frankie and the other clowns performed as always that afternoon, even though their hearts were sad. It reminded me of the song "Laugh, Clown, Laugh."

Frankie was a clown for 43 years and during that time he made a lot of folks laugh. Now he is gone. I had the pleasure of talking to him many times, whenever I would visit the Ringling Circus.

Yes, clowns cry too.



KING KONG CIRCO (Continued)

Tito Fuentes returned again with his uncaged lion act. The lion walked the rolling globe among other tricks. Tito takes the full-grown lion on his shoulders for his finish.

The final act of the show is most impressive. The announcer narrates a story about King Kong. Six girls appear with lighted torches and dance in the darkened tent. Strobe lights flash, and the 40 ft. high drape at the back of the stage was gradually low-

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ered to reveal King Kong. A young girl climbed a long rope to the animated Kong's outstretched hand. He took her up in his hand, where she makes friends with him. He raised her to his mouth to show his friendship. White hunters with guns entered from the front of the tent and fired at Kong. The girl protested and lowered herself by the rope to the stage, where she fought with one of the hunters and flipped him to the floor. Kong appears to die and the drape was raised in front of him. The lights came up and the show was over.

The circus was well attended and enthusiastically received by both the Mexicans and Americans in the audience.

THE CIRCUS LADY

By TRICIA WATERS

Grand Island Independent

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. (AP) — Early in her life, Grace Rooney learned the lessons of the circus — constant practice, polishing and invention of acts.

As a child, she learned that the Europeans called circus performers "artists." They treated performers with great respect.

She knew that her family was considered part of an elite group among circus acts because they worked with horses. As horse trainers and bareback riders, they enjoyed subtle privileges. Their trunks were always the first in line when unloaded.

Through her contact with circus workers and their diversity of character, the young Grace Rooney also absorbed some insight into working with people. She learned the value of good acts and loyal workers.

Today, Grace Rooney is Grace McIntosh. She has moved from Grace Rooney, bareback rider and trapeze artist to Grace McIntosh, circus owner and producer. She said she knows of no other woman in the United States who owns and manages a circus without a husband's help.

THE TRIM, PETITE, white-haired woman from Troy, Mich., represents the third generation of a circus family. Nearly 60, her physical stature gives away her past athletic accomplishments but hides her age.

"My people were bareback riders but I chose the trapeze," she said. "I didn't want to take care of the horses."

She has worked with just about every performer in the circus. "When you're raised on a circus, you do a little bit of everything," Mrs. McIntosh said.

She worked on the trapeze for 22 years, doing all sorts of stunts and circuses. She played backup with other performers and did an act for Betty Hutton in the 1952 movie, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Mrs. McIntosh married a circus super-

intendent, David McIntosh, and later was widowed. She gradually decided to become a producer and started M and M Productions with Charles Marine, who died a few years ago. Now, Mrs. McIntosh is assisted by James Douglass, the circus ringmaster.

Mrs. McIntosh talked about the economics of the circus and said as many circuses exist today as were touring in the earlier part of the century.

The circus is still vital, she believes, and their days have not yet numbered. The shows still draw the crowds but inflated costs have hurt, Mrs. McIntosh said.

"People are looking for entertainment at home," she said. "They're not going on vacations. Every show is up gross-wise, but they're costing so much net-wise."

For example, motel costs run \$26 a day, when they used to be that much weekly, she said. Mrs. McIntosh said she hates to pay that much for a place to sleep for a few hours.

Mrs. McIntosh pays her acts an amount the performers have estimated will cover all expenses, such as animal feed, food, motels, gasoline, truck maintenance, costumes and props. The acts then manage their money themselves.

They get paid whenever sponsors pay Mrs. McIntosh.

Probably the worst problem she encountered came last year when some sponsors didn't pay off in Michigan and Montreal.

"I've put all my money in the show," she said. "Once in a while, you get a sponsor that doesn't pay off. I was broke when I had to pay off that show."

Rather than make the performers suffer through the financial crisis, she said as long as she had the money in her savings the performers would get paid.

THE PERFORMERS have short-term contracts with the circus. Her circus changes acts and performers every year, Mrs. McIntosh said, because she wants to give the public a new show. The circus's recent stop in Grand Island was

(Continued on Page 22)

THE CIRCUS LADY (Continued)

its second in two years. Mrs. McIntosh's circus criss-crosses Nebraska each season.

Circuses have changed over the years, and people's attitudes toward performers are changing also, she said. In Europe, performers have always been treated with much respect, as "artists," similar to the way Americans treat movie stars.



Grace McIntosh

Some Americans are very skeptical of circus performers' skills, she said, but many people have begun to recognize the hard work involved.

"People are becoming more knowledgeable that the acts take skill," Mrs. McIntosh said. "They have more respect for the artists."

Despite working behind the scenes now, Mrs. McIntosh still has much of the performer left in her. She has maintained her arm strength and agility by working out in a health spa and playing racquetball. She has a chin-up bar in her Michigan home.

The performer emerged again when Mrs. McIntosh climbed the trapeze during an April show in Lincoln. Laugh-

ing, she said her act surprised some of the circus people.

Although her daughter, Ronna, has chosen a life away from the circus, Mrs. McIntosh said she still has hopes that one of her granddaughters might continue the family tradition. Granddaughters Pamela and Lori have always been interested in their grandmother's circus, and have traveled with her.

Holiday Show

More than 100,000 people were entertained at the Woodstock County Fair over Labor Day weekend by the Royal Danish Circus, which is produced by Albert Sahlstrom.

The show opened with the well-known rolling globe/unicycle act of Ken Sherburne, which was followed by Burke's Barking Baffoons, next came the internationally known team of Mike Phillips & Tricia, with several of their well-known illusions.

Ken Sherburne then juggled torches, double-bladed axes and rode his high unicycle on a platform ten foot high. Vidbel's Performing Chimps followed, after which Mike Phillips & Tricia presented their Motorcycle Illusion Doorway of Doom, as seen on the TV show 'Circus of the Stars'.

Closing the show was the exciting Tangier Troupe. Albert Sahlstrom served as the circus ringmaster.

PEOPLE

BILL ANDERSON, head trainer for the Circus City Festival at Peru, Ind., who was trained by the famed Aerial Solts, is looking for information, dimensions and facts so he can create a horizontal bar act for the 1983 show. Anyone who can help Bill is asked to contact him. Write: Bill Anderson, P. O. Box 482, Peru, Ind. 46970. His phone number is: (317) 472-3918.

STEVE BAKER (Checkers) is still clowning, while selling optical eyewear. He often appears at Trade Fairs, Spurt Shows and a number of Flea Market programs.

Franzen Bros.

by *GEORGE BIRD*

The Franzen Bros. Circus appeared in Ypsilanti, Mich., at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival (Aug. 27-29) for the third successive year.

One of your correspondents in an earlier issue of Circus Report called Franzen Bros. "the finest small mud show of the century." He did not overstate the fact. It is all of that and getting better and looking better each and every year.

In my close to fifty years of circus-going, I have never seen a better one-ring show. Those of us who have been conditioned to the idea that size makes greatness need to remind ourselves that quality is the yardstick which should always be used to measure a show's worth. This show is small, but it is quality all the way from the front door to the backyard. Even the Windland's popcorn is first rate, and that's important to me!

The show has already been reviewed and I won't attempt that, but I would like to mention Paul Niebauer's top-notch contributions to the show as ring announcer and trumpet player. Thanks to him, the show is

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smooth, smartly paced, and has variety.

Two young performers, Amy and Harry Muller, who appear as the Astros, do a beautiful cradle act. These attractive young people are going to be heard from. David Gerard handled clowning at this stand and he, too, is excellent. His camera routine with an audience "volunteer" is hysterical. The "volunteer" is none other than Emma Anderson, who also runs the cookhouse.

Wayne Franzen's animal acts are excellent, of course, and the Ponies of America, with a couple of new wrinkles, are better than ever.

Mention must also be made of Margie Jones' and Paul Niebauer's costuming, which is colorful and eye catching.

This year the circus added nine units to the Heritage Festival parade, including eight magnificent cats. As the parade made its way through the city, it brought back many memories of the old time circus parade which many of us remember fondly. Two local calliopes added to the circus atmosphere. The 100,000 spectators who lined the two mile parade route responded loudly to Okha's bag of tricks!

Sponsors looking for a sure-fire fund-raising attraction need look no further. With their excellent promotional team of Bill Knox and Jeff Chalmers and David Niklasson and their preview performances, Wayne and Kathy Franzen make it difficult for a sponsor to miss with this show.

Wayne and Kathy, center ring, take a bow! It will be interesting to see if they can top this with next year's tenth anniversary show Franzen Bros. Circus is truly becoming America's Favorite Show, of any size!

Shrine Dates

Compiled by *MICHAEL SPORRER*

Moses Lake, Wash. - Big Bend Shrine Club

1957 - June 21-22 - Polack Bros. Western

1959 - 1960 - None

1961 - June 13 - Rudy Bros.

1962 - Aug. 20 - Ken Jensen

1963 - July 14-15 - Ken Jensen

1964 - July 18 - Ken Jensen

*All dates were played at the fair grounds -
May not be complete.*

Shrine Circus

by CHRISTINA L ENGLISH

Ron Kelroy recently closed the Rockford, Tebala Temple Shrine Circus, giving them a show not soon to be forgotten.

Overture led by musical director Keith Kilinger, Grand Entry Parade, Lucky Larabee, ringmaster, the overture featured the Albullet Skycycle, leading into three aerial cradle acts; new clown number created by Ron Kelroy called "Stargazing" which totally brought down the house; the Olmedas Spanish Horses (three beautiful rings worth of it); Billy Barton's cloudswing; two rings of collies, pomeranians and Russian Wolfhounds by Rudolf Cimse and Eric and Angela Wilnow; The Dielkas Sisters, rolling globes; The Albullet Bros., high wire; The Karinas, comedy trampoline; and closing the first half with Wayne Ragen's tigers; Intermission.

The Kai-Din-El Sisters, hair hang; Sir Chadwick Chase and his Rolls Rotten (comedy car); Clowns; Denise Olmeda, single horse; Donny Johnson's elephants; The Flying Volantes, double trapeze act, and The Great Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball.

The Finale was just beautiful, everybody paraded out with American flags, a large flag popped down just behind center ring, and six showers of gorgeous fireworks flew up in a stunning display. Of course I may have omitted an act or two, but I was so taken in by everything that it got to my head, incredible!

Visitors to the show included Dorey Miller, Jim Howle, John Goodall and many members of the CFA, as well as representatives of several Shrine Temples who were all

impressed with the size of the operation and the first class quality of all the acts.

The houses in Woodstock, Rock Falls and Pecatonica were filled in spite of the fact the area is virtually in a depression at this time. Yet, the strength of the show itself, created an immense draw in the media and the show was getting front page coverage daily, as well as TV coverage. Kelroy had sent them videotape of some of the acts that he filmed to use for commercial spots (with acts permission, of course). He videotapes all of his shows. This assembly of acts was about the strongest show many of the visitors had seen in a long, long time.

On a sad note, the Circus Chairman, Ralph Jones is terminally ill at Rockford Memorial Hospital, and has been bed-ridden for nearly a year. He was shown the videotape of the show, and was so moved by it. Although he could not physically be there, he did, at least, get to see the show. We're all praying for him. He's a truly good human being who deserves a better hand than the one dealt him. Although he is expected to be released soon, the prognosis is not good.

We are glad for one thing, though, Ron by virtue of the fact that he has changed the show completely annually, treating each year as a completely new one, has held this date now for seven years. It is sincerely doubted by the consensus that anyone is willing to devote as much of the budget toward quality of act, maintenance of equipment and innovative additions such as exquisite aerial ballets, fireworks finales, mirrored balls and so forth.

I spoke briefly with Mr. Kelroy's Public Relations Director, Miss Dianne Shapiro,

(Continued on Page 25)

PEOPLE

GARY RAY, clown, has his own sign shop and graphic art shop in Colleyville, Texas. He also continues to work as a clown and just recently worked dates for a country club in Ft. Worth. He'll soon be making his sixth annual appearance at the Dr. Pepper Circus at the State Fair of Texas. Also appearing at the State Fair will be ROGER and PAM ZOPPE.

SHRINE CIRCUS (Continued)

who informed me that already preparations are being made to further enlarge the company's stock of equipment, and a deal is in the works to bring the show to an undisclosed foreign country.

Currently the Festival Circus is booking in to 1984 (November, I am fairly sure) and many new innovations are being considered for next year.

Myself and fellow circus fans are looking forward to many fine years of Kelroy circuses. The future dates will be announced quite soon.

God, Where Are the Showmen?

- The ones that help one another,
- The ones that don't hide when someone needs help.
- The ones that use to help young men and women out of jail to find a new profession and a good life.
- The ones that made jobs for old timers and those that were down on their luck, so they could keep their dignity.
- The ones that would think twice before they would send someone to do a job, always remembering that it could be one of their own family.
- The ones that would not let a man go around a lot and beg for money, for his wife who was driving in an old car.
- If I had one wish God, it would be that all the old timers would come back and teach us the art of true showmanship and love and compassion.

Signed,
Norma Cristiani

Dedicated to the Memory of my mother and father, Eva and Ben Davenport.

SHOW TITLE PURCHASED (Continued)

at 73 pieces of equipment, for years until King Bros. Circus topped that by two in the mid-1950's. Although persistent rumors prevailed, Sparks never did put his circus on rails, an idea he nurtured all during his ownership. During the Great Depression of the 1930's, when many shows failed, he always brought Downie Bros. back to the Macon winter quarters in the black.

Sparks sold his show briefly to his manager but took possession several months later, and ran it until he later sold it in 1939 to the Moore brothers of Texas. They moved it to their home state, unfamiliar territory for the show, and with 1939 being the bleakest year in circus history, the show fell on financial hard-times and went under by fall.

All equipment and animals were sold at auction. Historians argue today that if Sparks had still owned the show in 1939 or had the Moore's financial stability been more sound or even perhaps if they had left the show in its familiar territory, Downie Bros. Circus would be alive and well even today, having made it into the prosperous money years of World War II. Although Downie was off the road, it was still a favorite with spectators and fans alike and therefore not soon forgotten.

Noted CFA member Lawrence Higgins also thought so and bought the title from the Moores in 1965, and set out to frame a medium sized tent. He operated an elephant act about this time under the title of Downie Bros. Circus Elephants, trained and presented by noted animal man Bert Pettus. Although not financially successful, it nonetheless served to reacquire the public with the once familiar Downie title. But, Higgins passed away in 1967 and with that went the chance for the Downie logo to appear once again on circus rigs. All equipment was disposed of and Mrs. Higgins eventually moved to Long Island.

Then, during the 70's, Bradbury penned the Downie history in the *Bandwagon* series, which prompted Frank to begin the search for the heirs and title. During this period, he stated that in tracing down leads he discovered that many people either remembered seeing the show or remembered their parents talking about the show. Dow-

PEOPLE

TOM DONOHO reports that contrary to recent rumors he is not planning to go to Sparks, Nev. He plans, instead, to remain with the American Continental Circus.

FRANCIS BRUNN, juggler is working in the "Heat's On" show at Harrah's Casino in Reno, Nev. Appearing as a guest star in that same show is illusionist VINCE CARMEN.

SHARON WARD wants to thank all of the people on Hoxie Bros. Circus who helped her survive the season as a "Mud Show First of May." A special thanks go to both CHARLIE and JESSIE MOYER, who she says are "truly unsung heroes".

NORM NIELSEN and his famous floating violin is the opening act for country singer MEL TILLIS at the Nugget Casino in Sparks (Nev).

VINCE CARMEN, illusionist, just signed an indefinite contract to move with the "Heat's On" show to Lake Tahoe, where the show will open at Harrah's Casino Tahoe on Nov. 5th. The booking was handled by the Gilbert Miller Agency.

nie used such logos as Downie Bros. Circus and Wild West, Downie Bros. Wild Animal Circus, along others, and used a top as large as 150 ft. with three 50 ft. centers, plus a side show and menagerie tops, larger than what most shows use today as big tops.

Many noted circus performers appeared on the show over the years, as well as a number of top movie stars of the day who headed the after show or concert.

To put out a show today, Frank said, the size it once was would be a financial unfeasible venture, due to the high operating costs. The size he has in mind would be concurrent with the times and framed in the same manner as previous owners operated it - innovated and compact to make a yearly profit. He said that future plans will be announced concerning the Downie title.

July 4th Circus

The Circus Arts Center, of Hoboken, NJ, held its first annual 4th of July Circus over that holiday weekend with three performances. The center has some 135 students enrolled, ranging in age from 5 to the 20's and the program offered a look at what the school is accomplishing in its goal of training professional circus artists.

The Center's directors, Gregory Fedin and Nina Krasavina, emphasized that none of the acts presented were "complete" but a number of them seemed well on the way. Performances were held in the Center's big gym in a comfortable and informal manner and even had a "home-style" concessions operation.

The program included:

One Wheel Wizards - the company on unicycles.

Bicycle Trio - Jessica Hentoff, Kathy Hoyer and clown Roy Lavitt

Wire - Meret Ryhiner - routine includes toe work in ballet shoes with no balance aid

Lilli the Doll - Jakob Bentsen and Joan Friedman, mechanical doll and comedy acrobatics

Adagio Trio - Anna Looser, Meret Ryhiner and Kathy Hoyer, acro and balance

Acro-Juggling - Marie and Colette Winters and Mary Mott

Trapeze - Little Mary Mott in a nice routine.

Intermission -

Juggling Review - Juggling by the company

Juggling - Arthur Straley, nice routine and well presented

Spanish Web - Jessica Hentoff

Foot Balancing Ladders - Anna Looser, Meret Ryhoner, aided by Lawrence Foucher and Joan Friedman

Double Trapeze - The Winters sisters

Finale - by the company

Music for the program was provided by taped recordings. Reprise clowning was by Roy Lavitt and Kathy Hoyer.