

# CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY  
OUR 12th YEAR

Number 14

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DANUSKA

# PEOPLE

ELEANOR and KEITH WHITE visited the offices of Circus Report and Don Marcks in late May, while on a tour of the west coast.

THE CYCLONIANS, unicycle act, worked the Walter Child's All Star Circus in May. Charlie Van Buskirk, of the Cyclonians, served as ringmaster for the two hour show.

EDDIE BUSCH and BILLY FORD have been busy visiting Hoxie's Great American Circus, Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus and the new mall in Atlantic City.

## Show plans

John (Gopher) Davenport, of Ford Bros. Circus, credits D. R. Miller, of Carson & Barnes Circus, for his current run of successful business. "Dorey worked hard to convince me that I should use the contract I'm now using. Since the change business has been nothing but fantastic."

This year Gopher is taking his Ford Bros. Circus out of the Rocky Mountains and expanding the route into the east for the first time. Dates will be played in Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and the Chicago area, where he will be the first of the tenters into that city's area. (Carson & Barnes and Circus Vargas also plan to play in and around Chicago).

Ford Bros. is using three marketing and promotional people who recently joined after working on the west coast. They have already proved their worth in Omaha and Denver, according to Davenport.

Davenport's No. 2 unit will open soon and is scheduled to sail from Seattle the middle of July for dates in Alaska. That show's '83 season is all set and will close in late November in the deep south.

## Shrine Circus

by DON SANDMAN

The Syrian Temple Shrine Circus in Cincinnati, Ohio, was held Apr. 19-24 at the Cincinnati Gardens. The Hanneford Circus, Inc. of Sarasota, Fla. with Tommy Hanneford, executive director and John H. McConnell, vice president, produced the show.

Senor Rai was the "Million Dollar Ringmaster" and music was directed by Keith Killinger.

The program opened with a Sawdust and Spangles serenade by the circus band and was followed by an introduction of the "Million Dollar Ringmaster" Senor Rai. The program then started with an African Safari that leads to the arrival of Alan Gold on the back of an elephant. Gold then enters the arena and puts his tigers and lions through their paces.

As they are removing the cage, Senor Rai gives the first of the evening's pitches for the Winky Blinky lights, then follows mo-

torcycle madness with the Star Lords high above the arena floor.

The Syrian Temple Shrine clowns presented "Damsel in Distress", followed by Erik Adams' Dogs, including his motorcycle riding dog, then on trampolines were The Garys in Ring 1 and The Fornasarris in Ring 3. At this time Senor Rai was called upon to give the Magic Wand pitch, after which the Los Gauchos Trio offered their exciting act.

Sisi the clown entertained with his egg balancing trick, then came Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla, then three aerialists, Sasa, Cheyenne and Laurias. Space age magic followed with Mike Phillips and Tricia, finishing with Mike driving thru the tied-down Tricia with a motorcycle.

Sisi the clown was back for his Magic tablecloth, followed by The Italos, European clown number, The Adams' Chimps, La Gilda, uncaged leopards, and the Garzas, living statues, who wound up the first portion of the show.

After intermission the Flying Fornasarris flew up and over with the passing leap crossover of flyers, Jason Starr, presented a swaying pole with a break-away finish, the lovely Karin Cristiani presented the elephants, the spine-tingling act of Douglas MacValley was offered in the Globe of Death, and then Senor Rai introduced the entire company and bid everyone a fond farewell.

Again this year the Syrian Temple Shrine Circus had a nice dinner for the 13 members of the Circus Model Builders, who put on a display throughout Cincinnati for the run of the circus. Model builders and their wives attended a Wednesday performance as a group.

## ATTENTION

ATTENTION, ALL CIRCUS FANS . . .

John "Gopher" Davenport, of Ford Bros. Circus, has asked that all Circus Fans who visit Ford Bros. Circus stop by the circus office and register. He plans to send all of those who do so a 1983 Season Route Book this fall, just as soon as it comes off the press.

## Show Dates

### Beatty-Cole Circus

June 13-14 Torrington, Con  
15-16 Danbury  
17-18 Fishkill, NY  
19 Greenwich, Con

### Big Apple Circus

June 18-22  
Staten Island, NY

### Borger Bros.-Circus Berlin

June 16-19 Wheaton, Ill.

### Carden Int'l Circus

June 19 Coeur d'Alene,  
Idaho

### Carson & Barnes Circus

June 12 Redding, Calif.  
13 Yreka  
14 Grants Pass, Ore.  
15 Roseburg  
16 Cottage Grove  
17 Corvallis  
18 Monmouth

### Circus Vargas

June 14-16 Lincoln, Nebr.  
17-20 Omaha

### Gerry Cottle's Circus

to June 26 Singapore

### Hall & Christ Circus Unique

June 15-19 Brandon,  
Man, Canada

### Hamid-Morton Circus

June 16-19 Norfolk, Va.

### Knights of Columbus Circus

June 11-12  
San Francisco, Calif.

### Pickle Family Circus

June 18-19  
San Anselmo, Calif.

### Ringling-Barnum - Blue

June 14-15 Wheeling, W.Va.  
17-19 Louisville, Ky.

Ringling-Barnum - Red  
to Jun 19 Philadelphia, Pa.

### Roberts Bros. Circus

June 13 Kingwood, W.Va.  
14 Garrett, Pa.  
15 Hyndman  
16 Everett  
17 Lemasters  
18 Gettysburg  
19 Mt. Holly Springs

### Roller Bros. Circus

June 5 Tipton, Mo.  
6 Odessa  
7 Harrisonville  
8 Plattsburgh  
9-12 Lawrence, Kans.

### --- OTHER DATES ---

### Byrons Clowns, Inc.

June 19 Harlensburg, Pa.

### James H. Drew Exposition

June 13-18 Bluefield, W.Va.

### Elliott Amusements

June 14-19 Holt, Mich.

### NY Festival of Clown Theatre

to July 10 New York, NY

### Strip Tease Artist Conven.

June 16-18 Las Vegas, Nev.

### --- MAGIC ---

### Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

June 13 Logansport, Ind.  
15 Brazil

### Felix Snipes

June 17-19 Loganville, Ga.

## Samantha



The boss knows I like to talk so he sends me over here to fill in on the bally platform while the regular talker takes time out to have a little supper.

This is a job that's fun. Even if I brag a bit it is true, I do manage to turn a pretty fair tip for each side show performance.

Hey, did I ever tell you that I really appreciate your stopping by and reading CR? Well, I do, and I hope you'll do it often.

# English Circuses

by JACK NIBLETT

The English tenting season started in March in very rainy weather, and it seems to have been raining ever since. The month of April was the wettest ever recorded, and May has been little better, but our circuses, indomitable as ever, have slithered their way from one soggy lot to another and seem likely to survive.

The "Old Faithful" Sir Robert Fossett's, Roberts Bros. and Austen Bros. are all out as usual, while Chipperfield's are due to open in late May, a delayed spring opening due to Dickie's commitments in Hong Kong with the Cottle-Chipperfield Circus. These four can confidently expect to see a cage act, elephants, horses, ponies, clowns, aerial acts and jugglers among their other features.

The Robert families now field two units, Mr. Bob's family with their Circus Bonanza and Wild West Spectacular and Mr. Tom's with his Spanish Circus, a show which has some flamenco dancing and singing, and Spanish clowns to supplement the usual acts.

Gandey's Circus grows steadily each year, and now has an elephant, lions, bears, and exotic animals among its performers. Somewhat similar in size is Charlie Weight's Circus with most of its artists coming from the family.

Sally Chipperfield's Circus is not tenting this year, but is presenting a full scale circus in theatres and indoor arenas and will have a long summer in a converted ice rink at Bournemouth. There are rumors that this company will also field a tent circus in another seaside resort.

Smaller family circuses, sometimes with only a half dozen or so performers, and a few small animals, such as Jimmy Fossetts, Peter Jolly, and Brassy Searle have all started out, full of optimism, playing the small towns and villages. The Circus Hassani which boasts of having no animals at all, has two units this season, both playing long summer seasons, one at Chessington Zoo and one

at Alton Towers Amusement Park, where they will be among the free attractions.

Despite the weather and economic conditions we have two new circuses on our roads this summer. Circus Galaxy, a small, neat and very well costumed show with good presentations, operated by the Al Verlaire family, who were with the Atayde Circus in Mexico a few years back, and Circus Fiesta presented by a young man, Tony Hopkins, with his own lion act and some good imported artists adding up to a smart professional show. Both circuses are promising new comers and are very welcome.

All these circuses are one ring affairs, in tents, ranging from two to four poles, but the Hoffman brothers who have spent the winter tenting in Ireland have just returned to this country, with their American Three Ring Circus. This is quite a large affair with six poles, which when I saw it last year had two rings and one stage, not always in use at the same time. The size of the show with its terrific outside "flash" seemed to impress the public and it will be interesting to see what impact it will have this year.

One more tenting entertainment - The Las Vegas Review, a new large show run by Circus International, Ltd. (John Robert is one of the directors) and which promised to be a new style circus, but now appears to be more of a modern music show, with dancing and singing by the American Dancing Machine, a group something after the style of "The Kids from Fame". However, the first half of the show promises to have some circus type acts.

The anti-performing animal societies continue to harass our circuses and their wild unfounded statements have undoubtedly taken some effect, but the sturdy British public, by and large, seem to have made up their own minds on this matter.



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## Bridge Walk

On May 17, 1884, the Brooklyn Bridge received its supreme test. It was P. T. Barnum's elephant walk.

Circus lore has it that the huge beasts absolutely refuse to cross any bridge that will not support their weight. Elephant trainers call it a sixth sense, Barnum knew this.

So, on this balmy Saturday evening, having come over from New Jersey by ferry with his menagerie, Phineas Taylor Barnum marched his animals across town to the Manhattan entrance to the year-old bridge.

There the toll taker was stumped as to what to charge. Since there were no tolls posted for elephants, Barnum and his animals crossed for free. In all there were 21 elephants, 7 camels, 10 dromedaries, led by His Royal Sacredness, a gigantic albino pachyderm with the mighty Jumbo bringing up the rear.

The event was true and the facts have been made available through the kindness of the New York Historical Society and David Palmquist of the Bridgeport, Conn., Public Library. To all involved, a deep bow and gratitude.

On May 17, 1983, the Brooklyn Bridge celebrated its 100th year with a big party and fireworks display in New York City. Even the Post Office joined in the ceremo-

nies by issuing a special stamp in honor of the bridge's 100th year.

According to the Barnum Show's route records for 1884, the circus played Jersey City (NJ) on May 17, the next day was a Sunday with no shows, followed by a May 19-24 engagement in Brooklyn.

## In Korea

Novelty acts appearing at the Sheraton Walker Hotel in Seoul, Korea, are: Carol Buckley and Tarra, the roller skating elephant; Ruppert's Bears; Rogana, juggler, Sue Family, Chinese act; Toni, the gymnast puppet and the Honey Bee Revue dancers.

## PEOPLE

JIM WAYNICK writes that he recently visited Lewis Bros. Circus and the show is using an 80 ft. top with two 40 ft. middles. John Lewis is putting the finishing touches on the art work on show equipment.

The front yard has a side show, snake show, pony ride and concession unit and grease joint.

## In Memoriam

VERNA L. LINDEMANN (73) a performer with the Seils-Sterling Circus during its heyday, died May 18th at the Heritage Nursing Home in Sheboygan, Wisc.

Born to Ralph and Nina Johnson Wallace on April 29, 1910, she married Orval Lindemann on Jan. 29, 1928. The couple and their two daughters performed in the circus founded in 1919 by the Lindemann family. Mrs. Lindeman was an aerialist with the Seils Sterling Circus until it was disbanded in 1938 and then worked for a Sheboygan firm for 15 years before retiring. Her late husband, Orval died June 17, 1978.

Survivors include two sons, Peter and William, two daughters Mrs. David (Sonya) Barata and Mrs. Shirley Bentley of Hugo, Okla. There are also several grand children and great grand children.

## Show Visitors

Among the many visitors on the Carson & Barnes Circus lot, during their tour of California have been:

Wayne and Ingrid Regan; Parley and Ernestine Baer; Eddie, Megan and Karen Howe;



GERALD BURNS opened a storefront as The Grape Magic Theatre for the Dallas Mayfest to promote The Grape Restaurant.

Charlie Cox; David Friedman; Valentino; Tommy Bentley; Don Marcks and The Circus Report; Mrs. Lalo Codona; Ed Russell; Vernon Adams; Mrs. Josephine Howe; Phil Escalante; John Strong III; Harry and Alan Graham; Laurie Lucas; Eddie Howe, Jr.; Diane Howe; Tommie and Carole Howe; Doris and Ralph Horton; David Hammarstrom, circus writer; Bill Biggerstaff; Carlos Farfan; staff members from The Forum; George Coluris; Doug Lyon; Clyde Beatty, Jr.; Shelley White, Pat Arieta; Paul Wissler; Russ Tulley and Nell; Cecil Norris, plus dozens of other circus people and circus fans, whose names were not immediately available.

## A Look Back

In a recent report on John F. Kennedy, writer Lloyd Shearer reports the following about one of the girls in Kennedy's life.

The first was Inga Arvad, a tall blonde Danish journalist whom Kennedy met early in World War II, when she was 28 and he was a 24 yr. old ensign stationed in the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington.

Inga was a truly fascinating female. Born in Copenhagen in 1913 and reared in several European countries, she at 19 had married a young Egyptian diplomat. The marriage lasted two years. She then settled in Berlin, where her sexuality attracted the Nazi brass - Hitler, Goering, Goebbels and von Ribbentrop. Inga interviewed these big wigs for the "Berlingske Tidende" a Copenhagen newspaper.

Adolf Hitler was particularly drawn to Inga. Describing her as "the perfect example of Nordic beauty," he escorted her to the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin.

Soon, Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop suggested that she work for him as an undercover agent in Paris. Refusing to be enmeshed in the Nazi spy web, Inga returned to Copenhagen, where she fell in love with and wed Paul Fejos, a Hungarian film director.

When that marriage foundered, Inga became the mistress of Axel Wennergren, a Swedish industrialist with high Nazi connections. She left him in 1939, came to New York and studied journalism at Columbia University. Inga next landed a job on "The Washington Times-Herald," where one of her colleagues was Kathleen Kennedy. It was she who enthusiastically introduced Inga to her witty, good-looking brother.

Smitten by her beauty, impressed by her worldliness and finding her sexually irresistible, Kennedy promptly moved in with the young lady. Tipped off about Inga's background, FBI agents placed her and Kennedy under surveillance, reporting to J. Edgar Hoover. (Hoover kept the Kennedy file in his private office for 20 years).

According to Inga, whom he lovingly called "Inga-Binga" Kennedy sincerely wanted to marry her. His father, Joseph P. Kennedy, however, wouldn't hear of it. The old man conceded that she was a sexy stalk of Scandinavian loveliness (in fact Inga, said

Joseph P. himself tried to seduce her) but pointed out that Inga was a Lutheran and still married; his son was a Catholic. Moreover, she was suspected of being an enemy spy trading sex for secrets.

Joe Kennedy was a man of influence. A few phone calls to Washington, and his son was transferred out of the arms of the temptress and subsequently into a PT boat squadron in the Pacific.

Kennedy wrote to Inga-Binga from the Solomon Islands and at war's end returned to her, this time in Los Angeles. But by then the romance had cooled and Kennedy began seriously courting screen actress Gene Tierney.

In 1946, Inga married cowboy film star Col. Tim McCoy who was 64. The McCoy's moved to a ranch near Nogales, Ariz., where Inga died of cancer in 1973.

Tim McCoy was born at Saginaw, Mich. on April 10, 1891. He was the youngest of three boys and credited his father with inspiring an interest in the west within him. After seeing the 101 Ranch Show in Chicago, where he was attending college, he packed his bags and headed west.

He worked on ranches, later he worked as a cowboy on the Wind River Reservation and became a friend of the Indians, where he learned Indian sign language. He became an expert roper and rider, and purchased a bit of property in Wyoming that eventually became a 5,000 acre ranch.

During World War I he served as an instructor with the Cavalry, later he was Adjutant General of Wyoming. He staged "The Last Great and Historical Spectacle, The Winning of the West" during the 1926 Exposition in Philadelphia, later he served as technical advisor for the film "The Covered Wagon" and then went on to become a major movie star.

In 1936 McCoy became a circus featured performer with the wild west show. Then in 1938 he invested his savings in his own Tim McCoy's Wild West. That show folded after its last performance in Washington, DC on May 4, 1938.

After that he returned to the movies, working for Monogram Pictures, and other studios. In 1942 he ran for U. S. Senator in his home state of Wyoming, but was defeated.

(Continued on Next Page)

## No Elephant Circus

The No Elephant Circus is on the move again! With no trailers and no train, they have managed to cover a lot of territory.

TNEC brought in the New Year with a 4 day engagement at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. This was the premiere performance of their newest show, "The Amazing Accidental Circus." The show was extremely well received and played to standing room only houses, totalling nearly 8,000 children in six shows.

The "Klowns" company took a trip to the Folly Theatre in Kansas City, where the performances netted a first in TNEC history, a genuine rave review actually appeared in print!

TNEC also donned its tails for an evening at William Randolph Hearst, Jr.'s 75th birthday party. The event took place at the Colony Club and five talented TNEC company members performed for about 150 of Mr. Hearst's closest friends, including Lew Lehman, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr., and scores of the rich and famous.

In February, TNEC packed up "The Amazing Accidental Circus" for a 2-week tour in Florida. They performed at the Parker Playhouse in Ft. Lauderdale and the Bob Carr Auditorium in Orlando and had dates in Sun City Center and Ormond Beach. Every-

### A LOOK BACK (Continued)

He then joined the Army receiving his commission as a Lt. Col. He served in Europe, and was discharged with the rank of a full colonel.

In 1945 he married Inga Arvad, who had interviewed him on his return to Hollywood after the war. His ranch in Wyoming was sold and the couple moved to the east. In 1956, he worked in the film "Around the World in 80 Days", then came other film parts. After this he was featured with the Carson & Barnes Circus and for several years was with the Tommy Scott's Wild West Stage Show. He retired in 1974, and moved to a ranch in Arizona. His wife, Inga died there on Dec. 12, 1947

McCoy made only a few public appearances after his wife died, preferring to stay at his ranch. He died Jan. 29, 1978, at the age of 86, following a heart attack, at Nogales.

one loved the show; they did 18 performances and got an incredible response from nearly 20,000 children.

TNEC stopped off in Miami to bring some cheer to the children's ward of Jacksonville Memorial Hospital and received warm thanks for making time for a charity show in the tour schedule. In the meantime, their second company of circus stars were preparing for an appearance with the renowned Cleveland Symphony. Another success, the trip to Cleveland brought in 6,000 cheering audience members for three performances and loads of publicity.

The company also appeared on a TV talk show (Morning Exchange) and were guests at a reception with the Symphony after the shows. TNEC II also made a big splash with the Nassau Symphony the following week, which was highlighted with a notice in the New York Times.

TNEC is proud to announce that in the first quarter of 1983, they have already exceeded their earned income of 1982! They have also tremendously increased their audience attendance. Future events include performances at the Levitt Pavilion, the Kiawah Island Festival, the Fulton Opera House, and symphony shows with the Buffalo Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Detroit Symphony and the Dayton Symphony.

Some of TNEC's most exciting activity is not happening on stage. Their advisory board has welcomed several new members, including Alexandra Leigon, development director for the Clark Center, Steve Dworetzky, development director for the New York Board of Education, Joan Barry, fund raiser and Milton Lounsberry, public relations consultant.

Their stepped-up publicity can be credited to the Public Relations Committee, chaired by Lisa Iervolino, staff writer for the Gannett-Westchester newspapers. The Development Committee is planning a benefit event in Manhattan for late in September. Jack Beebe is currently on leave from the board of directors and Steve Dworetzky has been voted in as President of the Advisory Board for the duration of Jack's absence.

Everyone is working hard to ensure that 1983 is a red-letter year for The No Elephant Circus, Inc.

## Child's All Star

by A. P. SYLVIA

The Walter Childs All-Star Circus has just completed a two week tour of engagements in Massachusetts and Connecticut, sponsored by Jaycess, Special Olympics and Lions Clubs.

The show was presented and booked by Entertainment Productions, of New Haven, Inc.

The brand new royal blue backdrop with pennants draped all over, set off the red and white ring curb to give an all-American and Fourth of July look to the circus.

Opening the 1983 season in Meriden, Conn. circus ringmaster Charlie Van Buskirk, in his grand style, introduced the colorful and lively spec "Parade of Flags" and the traditional National Anthem.

Costancia's uncaged leopards and jaguar got the show off to a rousing start with a bike-riding jaguar and leopards leaping through hoops of fire.

The Drougettes, the Mad Hatters, always a favorite, juggling hats and clubs, kept the audience in stitches with their spectacular two-hat toss.

Two classics of magic were presented by the Childs; Houdini's Metamorphosis and The Temple of Benares, brilliantly executed as Karen disappeared in a puff of smoke.

The fast-paced show continued with the Cyclonians, a three-person family act displaying incredible athletic ability climaxing with the neck spin by daughter Andrea as her father held her high atop his unicycle.

Two marble-like statues came to life on a lighted platform with the Berans, an adagio,

ballet and balance team in a symphony of motion.

Comedy clown capers by Joy the Clown, supplied all the necessary time for prop changes as well as entertaining the audience of well over 3000 people.

The ladder act of Mauricio and Julie had the rapt attention of the audience as he ascended a 20 ft. ladder balancing two tables with trays of glasses and bottles on his chin and repeating the climb balancing flaming torches while juggling others.

Comedy relief was provided by Herman and Digger, a boxing kangaroo who always won the match even with a few low blows.

A perch performed by Teddy and Theres high above the onlookers provided danger and suspense as well as beauty and balance.

The star of the show, Rudolph Delmonte, to quote an old phrase, put more twists and knots in his body than a sailor puts in a piece of rope, just signed a two year contract with Ringling Bros., brought the house to a well deserved standing ovation executing his brilliant contortions while revolving in the spotlight on a mirrored pedestal to the music from Wagner's Tannhauser.

The music, overture and grand finale of the show was under the able direction of the Ed Schott Circus Band.

Walter and Karen Child produced the show.

The stage manager, prop boss and theatrical consultant was Kevin Menard, who ran a tight ship and kept things moving.

## Franzen Bros.

by WAYNE BOLZ

Franzen Bros. Circus special 10th anniversary edition of America's No. 1 family circus is rolling along to good business overall, many towns are providing extra business to warrant a 3rd performance.

The circus is carrying a 3 piece band to back up a strong performance.

Wayne Franzen opens the show with his 8 tigers and lions. Then follows Curtis Kidd Cainan on the wire, Animal Fantasy with llama and camel, Heidi Bolz Casady, roman ring act, juggling with Kurt Cainan, Performing goats and donkey with Brian and Chad Franzen, Aerial Ballet with Amy, Heidi and Sherry on web and trapeze, Aerial ladder act, Okha the elephant, performing better than ever.

Cainan's canine revue, Harry and Amy Muller (the Astro Duo cradle act), Clown acts, all add to the 90 minute performance which closes with Wayne Franzen and his 12 ponies of America (Appaloosa), a center ring act with any show.

Performance director is Paul Niebauer, organist, Heidi Bolz Casady, and drums and trumpet have been added. Dining dept. is headed by Emma Anderson and concessions are handled by Jim and Sandi Windland.

The show is now in its familiar midwest territory and will be following a similar route for the balance of the year with its 10th edition show. New equipment and paint is always being added, to keep the show in top condition and appearance. This is a show well worth seeing when it is in *your area*.

## PEOPLE

MIKE PIKE and his 15 piece orchestra has been signed by the PGA and the Leawood Country Club in Kansas City to provide the entertainment for the Celebrity Pro/Am Charity Golf Tournament this month. In addition to Mike's band there will be circus and variety acts.

## Hamid-Morton

by RICHARD C. ZOLLER

The Hamid-Morton Circus performed four days (May 5-8) at the Big E Coliseum, Eastern States Exposition grounds in West Springfield, Mass., sponsored by Melha Temple Shrine of Springfield, Mass. Attendance reached an all-time high which was attributed to an excellent all around show produced by George Hamid, Jr.

The sixteen Melha uniformed units consisting of 519 Nobles paraded around the arena in one of the most extensive and colorful spectacles that any Shrine Temple has displayed for its circus.

Earl Michaels, ringmaster, announced acts including John Cox and tigers and lions; Senor Vinicio, The Pueyrredon Trio, Wallen's Prancing Ponies, Pat Davidson, The Dieters, King Arthur and Goldie, the Gauchos, The Fabulous Darnells, The Flying Vasquez, Toto and Olga Navarro, Tangier Troupe, Eddy and Jewel Ventura, Darryl Wallens, Ben and Linda DeWayne and son Shawn, with the

Hawthorn elephants and the Great Wirengard as the finale. All this was to the music of Danny Conn with local musicians. Bob Atterbury acted as Stage Director.

Two school shows were scheduled by the Springfield School Department as a field trip for kindergarten thru sixth grade pupils on Thursday and Friday mornings which included about nine thousand children with their teachers.

The circus people favor the Big E grounds over many of the other accommodations because of the fine facilities and the hospitality offered.



## A Letter Shared

### A LETTER FROM MERLE EVANS TO ROGER SMITH

(At Gus Bell's Summertop in Dallas, it was my privilege to be photographed with Maestro Merle Evans. He recently returned these photos to me, specially autographed, along with this letter detailing his incredible activities.)

"Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter and the enclosed photos. I remember that date in the Big Top.

My wife lived in Waco. She passed away last summer, June 24th, so I am living alone.

I am doing a lot of concerts. Got 8 awards this year, and have been all over the country.

Will be in Cleveland, Ohio, July 4th, Naperville, Ill., July 21st, and November 29th, will be at Kansas University. Did a lot of concerts in April and May.

At 90 years old, I think I am doing very good.

Best Wishes,  
Merle Evans

(In a brief footnote, Mr. Evans, may we all be inspired to do half as much, if half of us make it to 90. Maestro, lead on.)

## FOR SALE

### FEMALE AFRICAN ELEPHANT

7 ft. tall at shoulders, 9 yrs. old

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# Hoxie Bros. Circus 1982

by GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

Superintended by his trusty lieutenant John Lewis, Hoxie Tucker brought his Hoxie Bros. Circus to Carroll County's AG in Westminster, Md., on Saturday, July 24th for two strong houses at 4 and 7 p.m.

The mud-ers presented a gutsy performance considering the hasty emergency replacement big top rushed in to follow the destruction of Hoxie's second tent torn to shreds by Mother Nature's violent meteorological temperament in this '82 season. Having given sidewall shows for several days the veteran performers were happy to adjust with numerous changes required by the replacement rigging and relocation of the big cage. The show was strong and the crowds were enthusiastic.

There's no business like mud show business considering the unrelenting challenge of battling the elements and "hanging in there." Fanfares, ruffles and flourishes for a gutsy Hoxie company!

Seeing Hoxie's show each year during this past decade you can appreciate the caliber of the '82 program of displays with its stirring circus band music headed by Charlie Moyer on trumpet, strongly supported by organ, drums, trombone, baritone and tuba. The brass instrumentation this year makes Hoxie's best band! A novel feature was Gary Holveck, triple-hatting as ringmaster, magician and baritonist!

Bill Cramer's lions and tigers was the first of a varied series of fine animal acts. His lively performers offered a fine assortment of jump overs, roll overs, sit-ups and roars which delighted the crowd. The young handler is in charge and at home in the big cage with his alert and active cats.

Doris Smith's comedy mule is great for audience participation challenging the youngsters to "ride the jack." Doris returned after intermission with six (6) marvelous goats, very impressive in group evolutions, knee walks, board walks and barrel runs establishing her candidacy for top "billy-ing".

Martha Gaona's dogs, pony and cat act was delightful. Sugar the pony and Gordo (Fat) sparkled with a cat-walk stirring the "felines" of the kiddies.

Doris' climactic return up on Ya-ta-ha as

Princess Whitefeather was high class high school horning all bedecked in Indian garb for horse and rider - beautiful!

The Albertis, (Mario Gaona, Sr. and Mario Jr.) opened a fine series of acrobatic display features on the bounding trampoline. The Rolls Duo followed with cradle, Lee Merritt with Sharon Ward, filling in for Cathy Merritt doing well after producing a lovely baby daughter a week ago. Now, that's a real cradle act, Cathy!

Sharon returned on the high trapeze doing a marvelous turn despite the make-shift rigging adjustments and their hazards.

The Flying Gaonas (Mario, Sr. and Mario Jr. and Martha) thrilled them all in a big top not suitable for such an act.

Lee Merritt's comedy low wire was delightful buffoonery combined with super skill on the silver strand.

Gary Holveck's magic always pleasing. Effective clowning by Prof. Arthur Stone and Tommy Holveck. A slide for life thriller will be returned with the arrival of the needed replacement rigging.

Great circus, Hoxie!

The program of displays: Overture; Spec; Bill Cramer's lions and tigers; Book pitch; The Alberts, trampoline; Rolls Duo, cradle; Clown gag; Holveck's magic; Clown gag; Martha Gaona's Canines (dogs, pony, cat); Comedy Mule; Doris Smith; Sharon Ward, single trap; Intermission.

Following elephant rides was Doris and Kids (6 goats); Balloon Pitch; Lee Merritt, comedy low wire; Princes Whitefeather, high school horse; Ponderous pachyderms presented by Tim Frisco.

Photos with this story, taken by the writer are:

- 1 - Midway, Hoxie Bros. Circus
- 2 - Doris Smith and Her Kids
- 3 - Ringmaster Gary Holveck
- 4 - Princess Whitefeather and Ya-ta-ha
- 5 - Tim Frisco's Ponderous Ones
- 6 - Lee Merritt and Sharon Ward



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## At Fla. Fair

The Olympic International 3-Ring Circus will be featured under the big top at the 1983 Florida State Fair at Tampa, February 2 to 13th.

Produced by Eddie Zacchini, the show is one of the State Fair's most popular attractions, with an annual attendance of around

80,000 during the twelve-day event. The circus and all other entertainment attractions at the Florida State Fair are free.

Deggeller Attractions, Stuart, Florida, provides the ride midway for the fair and Creative Outlet, Largo, Fla., coordinates marketing, publicity and promotions.

## Murat Temple

by ALTON L. JONES

Indianapolis Murat Temple had its 38th annual circus April 21-24 with Cecil M. Bynes as director, with the show produced by Charles Coronas, Sr. and George and Serge Coronos, assistant producers. The ringmaster and performance director was the well-known Col. Lucky Larabee.

The Murat Marching Units lead the opening walk around of all actors. The opening act with the fantastic white tigers and their gold tiger counterparts and trainer Wade Burck were applauded for their performance. Following was Cucciolo, the world's smallest circus trampoline artist. The Brothers Abulet from Romania were the high wire heroes, with their dancing, hopping and skipping hazards.

Terrific titans of the tanbark, twirling one wheel wizards with springboards and trampolines featured Duo Peters trampoline from Denmark, the Zamperla Bicycle Troupe of Italy, the Roberto Troupe from France, the Vlastek Bertini Troupe, unicycles, from

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Europe and the Stars of Tomorrow trampoline act from Mexico. The group was splendid.

Demon of the dark, Master of Fire, razor sharp swords and thrills by Santini Demon was quite different and well applauded. This was followed by the Unrideable mule Nebraska, presented by the Scott family. Then came a spasm of Murat crazy clown capers with their foolish fantasies.

The next treat was the mixed animal performances, with Miss Maya and her Yorkie troupe from France, Miss Erna and her chimpanzees from Austria, followed by Janies Dazzling Dobermans from Italy and the Williams Animal Revue from USA. From this we were treated by the Brothers Corona and their double gyro wheels - their show on the gyro wheels certainly pleased the audience.

Just prior to intermission there was a performance of Miss Stevana's Rocket Ship, she was listed as being from London.

First act after intermission was the Flying Rodriguez and at the same time the Flying Larrays. Then came the Scotts Football dogs - what a batch of confusion and plea-

(Continued on Next Page)

**MORAT TEMPLE (Continued)**

santry.

Sword balancing followed by Mde. Marie from Paris, the Duo Helenas, perch pole act Sword balancing by Miss Becky, from Denmark, the Amazing Pete Duo, from Denmark the entertaining Armes and Co., from Italy and the Concalves & Natasha from England.

Lord Napoleone and Lady Christina presented a wonderful show of their specialty of horsemanship and equestrian skill. Their performance of Lipizzan and Arabian stallions was superb. This was followed by Cuciollo and his old unpretentious car - another riot.

Getting close to the show's end we were treated to a display of elephants with the Diano elephants presented by Col. Lee Keener, in another ring the Cuneo elephants doing twin one foot stands and triple hind leg walks, all trained by Johnny and Laura Walker. The third ring had the William Morris elephants featuring Charlotte, star of Smokely and the Bear. These elephants were trained by Capt. William Morris.

The Motorcycle Marvels, a race in space in

the sky was presented by Serge and Steve Coronas, then followed the closing act with the Human Cannonball as performed by The Coronas Cannaoon and Capt. Marvel America.

It was a great circus and with the final parade of all the stars, the afternoon performance was concluded.

**PEOPLE**

T. J. HOWELL, juggler, who also performs as Sir Tommy, unicyclist, is presently working with Big John Strong's Indoor Unit.

REV. AUSTIN MILES served as the MC at the Gospel Opey in Pittsburgh, Pa., this past month.

HUNT BUSHNELL has his bird act and his marionettes at Lion Country Safari in Southern California as a special attraction.

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## The program

The new 1983 program book for Circus Vargas lists the following acts and personnel:

Overture, National Anthem; David Polke, tigers; Clowns; Aerial Ballet featuring the Vargettes; Naghtin's Bears; Simon's Chimps; Les Victoria, statue act; Benny Williams and Anna Mae, the elephant; Juggling display with The Hargittas, Wally Eastwood and The Duarte Trio; Dressage by Miss Eva, Miss Darlene, Miss Renee and Miss Lisa; Camels and Llamas, Mr. Williams and Mr. Polk, Liberty Horses, Kathy Batchelor; Aerial display with The Paulas, The Parays and The Alexanders; Festival of Fantasy with Miss Lynn, Atos & Marina, Miss Connie; Intermission.

The Circus Vargas Flyers; Clowns; Display of dogs with Miss Darlene, Ted Polke, Miss Vanessa; High wire, Los Leonels; Clowns; Longmire & Co., illusions; Teeterboard act,

the Csardas Troupe; Elephants with Rex Williams and the Vargettes.

## PEOPLE

BOB MOORE'S Mongrels have been accepted for an appearance in the Monte Carlo International Circus Festival which will be held late this year.

Mr. and Mrs. FRED LOGAN, of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus, have announced the engagement of their daughter Freida to Mr. Jorge Pages, who is currently with the Ringling Blue Unit. The wedding is planned for Dec. 1983.

## USDA Report

Carnivore Evolutionary Research Institute of Pittsboro, NC, has been charged by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture officials with operating as an animal dealer without a valid license, in violation of the Animal Welfare Act. Dr. Billy S. Perryman, veterinarian in charge of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in North Carolina, reports APHIS is asking that the institute be fined \$500 in civil penalties if the charge is upheld and be ordered to cease-and-desist from further such violations.

The institute is registered as a research facility, but is a dealer as defined by the Act, but has never been licensed to deal in animals despite repeated warnings. A number of deficiencies were found on the premises.

Charles Johnson, in business as Johnson's Zoo and Animal Farm of Smithfield, NC,

has been charged with violating housing and sanitation requirements. Seven occasions have been cited wherein Johnson failed to provide humane living conditions for the animals at his facility.

If the charges are upheld, APHIS is asking for a \$2,000 civil penalty fine, revocation of his license and a cease-and-desist order.

The Board of County Commissioners, owners and managers of the Hardee County Pioneer Park Zoo, Wauchula, Fla. have been charged with violating standards of the Animal Welfare Act. The charges have been based on six inspections of the facilities.

If the charges are upheld APHIS is asking that a cease-and-desist order be set down by an administrative law judge.

## C & B opens season

by BOB STODDARD

Dorey Miller broke a record when the Carson & Barnes Circus opened the season in Paris, Texas, on Saturday, March 19, which began D.R.'s 47th continuous years as a show owner. The old record was 46 years, held by John Ringling.

The Red River Shrine Club sponsored the opening for the third successful year and filled the tent with people (the old tent).

Lorraine Jessen, who locks up the office so she can see the show one time a year (on opening day) was there - and ready - so musical director Charles Stephenson launched his 9 piece circus band into the overture, "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Barry Brazell, the equestrian director welcomes the fans to 'America's Premier Circus' and blows the whistle on four rings and two stages of aerial artistry aloft. It included Irene Bautista, single trap; Diana Yoxall, rings; The Murrays, aerial cradle; Rafael Marques, head balancing trap; Lucy Loyal, single trap.

Display 3 - Lions and tigers with the lovely and talented Patricia White.

Display 4 - A mixed display of Juan Garcia, foot juggler; Les Duvans, rolling globes; The Caballeros, teeterboard; Osario, trampoline.

Display 5 - The Spec "The Golden Age of Chivalry" where knights and knaves seek adventure and fame to win fife and wife. Beautiful new elephant blankets are the best yet.

Display 6 - Three rings of menage horses: Holly Richardson, McLennan, Pat White.

Display 7 - Web - Aerial ballet - Head balancing expertise of Miss Gloria Marquez.

Display 8 - Bareback riding by Lucy Loyal

Display 9 - Five rings of liberty horses.

Display 10 - The Carson & Barnes clowns: Maudie 'Flip' Bayless, Scott Paras, C. J. Saff, Mariah Skinner, Robert 'Bob' Burns.

Display 11 - Five rings and two stages full of 'Balance and Contortion' by: Juan Garcia, Sara Patricia, Nancy Vargas, Fernando and Irene Bautista, Alejandro Rodogel, Carlos Caballero, Eira and Alejandro Vargas.

Display 12 - Elephants, Men, Maids and Mammoths in "Lullaby on Broadway."

Display 13 - Two rings of perch pole by

Los Ramos-Lara and The Caballeros.

Display 14 - Five rings of animals: Camels, Bobby Gibbs; Mary Craig, dogs; Pat White, llamas; Holly Richardson, mules; Lucy Loyal, llamas; McLennan's dogs; Tim's camels.

Display 15 - Mindless madcap comedy by the clowns.

Display 16 - Five rings of juggling: Carlos Caballero, Juan Mendiola, Fernando and Irene Bautista, Enrique Macias, The Marquez Family.

Display 17 - Nineteen elephants under the direction of Donnie Carr.

Display 18 - Clowns

Display 19 - The Osorio's high wire act

Display 20 - Three flying acts: The Flying Vargas, The Flying Randalls, and The Flying Rodogel.

It was a lot of show for the money. It always is!

They are planning to use the new tent when they get to California. The old tent appears to be in excellent condition and still looks good. The new one will be 35 ft. longer than the old one, because it will have 42 ft. middles, instead of the 35 footers.

Visitors on the lot included: Hazel Frazier, Bill Backstein, Merle Pepper, Mike Rawls, and his sister Margie, Doug Terranova, Joanne and Pee Wee Pinson and daughter Kim Wong, Tommy Randolph, Bruno, the tent maker.

The photos with this article were taken by John F. Manning and include:

1 - Tim Liles, Glenn Shouley, ring stock, Matt Ross, electrical department.

2, 3, 4 - The Flying Randalls

5 - The Vargas Flying Trapeze troupe: Maricela, Alejandro, 10 yr. old Bruno and Claudia

6 - Claudia Vargas dismounts from the flying trapeze

7 - Circus Kids: Kristin Byrd (age 7), her mom designs wardrobe, her dad works on trucks. She's in spec. Her grandfather owns the show.

Sasha Rawls (age 10), her dad is in concessions. She works ladder and is in spec.

Kim Wong (age 11), her mom is Joanne Pinson, who works everything! She has a dog act that she will do on Roller Bros. Circus after she gets out of school in May.

(Continued on Next Page)



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Mona Rosales (age 10), her mom does trap, bareback riding and elephants. Mona is in the spec.

Tracy Byrd (age 10), she's Kristin's big sister. She does web and is in spec. Her grand father D. R. owns the show.

## On the tube

by Circus Joe Valenciano

On Monday, May 2, the ABC-TV show of "That's Incredible" featured Hugo Zacchini for the opener, as the man who gets shot out of a cannon at 90 miles an hour. The show was taped at Yonkers Speedway, in Yonkers, NY. He appeared on the infield.

Directly following this program, on the same station, "The ABC Monday Night Movie" showed "Legs," a fairly good film about the Rockettes of the famed Radio City Music Hall in New York City. The story line was about 3 girls who were part of the famous chorus line. During the movie there were scenes inside and out and a lot of dancing with production numbers.

May 6 and 7 was a Magic Double-Header on the tube. On NBC there was Doug Hanning's "Magic on Broadway", a rerun of an earlier show. They had a lot of fantastic and unique illusions.

The next day, Harry Blackstone, Jr. also had a good show on the PBS network. This was the first time that I have seen Blackstone and his entire show. I enjoyed every minute of it. At the start he talked about vaudeville and showed old time pictures and posters. This program was taped in an old theatre, the Orpheum in Minneapolis. He makes an elephant disappear and then his final production is with a circus theme.

TV's 'Entertainment Tonight' is featuring a month-long salute to Ed Sullivan, who aired many circus and magic acts during his 23 yr. run (1948-1971) and there were times when he had an entire circus program on his show.

Sebastian the Human Target has done his bullet catch in his teeth at numerous sports shows across the country in recent years and has appeared at Circus Circus in Las Vegas. He was with King Bros., and Famous Hunt Circus, and just recently he finished some sports show dates booked by D. William

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## PEOPLE

SYLVESTER and BARBARA BRAUN, western act performers, have been working spot dates for John Strong, Tim Tegge, Funs-A-Poppin and for Kenny Sexton's Silver Dollar Rodeo Co. All dates have been in Southern California.

# Carson & Barnes Circus - 1983



Lucy Loyal



Pat White



Pancho Osorio Mini Tramp



Lois and Pancho Osorio



Mattie Lou Flippen  
daughter of "Flip  
the Clown"



Bautista Family Act



Esqueda Cruz