

CIRCUUS REPORT

Number 4

March 15, 1983

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUUS WEEKLY

OUR 12th YEAR



DANNY CHAPMAN

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus

Mar 26 Ft. Lauderdale,
28-29 Vero Bch, Fla
30 De Land
31 Gainesville

Carson & Barnes Circus

Mar 19 Paris, Texas
21 Tyler

Castle/Zerbini Circus

Mar 14-15 Missoula, Mont.
18-20 Spokane, Wash.
21-22 Eugene, Ore.
23-24 Salem
25-27 Portland
31-Apr. 3
Seattle, Wash.

Chipperfield/Cottle Circus to Apr. 10 Hongkong

Circus Vargas

Mar 15-17 Carson, Calif.
18-21 Burbank
22-24 La Mirada
25-27 Pico Rivera
28-30 Costa Mesa
31-Apr. 4 Alhambra

Easter Circus

Mar 26-Apr 3
Santa Clara, Calif.

Ford Bros. Circus

Mar 15 Uvalde, Texas
16 Carizzo Springs
17 Alice
18 Laredo
19 Eagle Pass
20 Del Rio
21 Alpine
22 Ft. Stockton
23 Pecos
24 Van Horn
25 Fabens
26 Las Cruces, NM

Franzen Bros. Circus

Mar 16 Mt. Dora, Fla.

Hamid-Morton Circus

Mar 24-27 Oklahoma
City, Okla.

Hoxie Great American Cir.

Mar 18-19 Key Largo, Fla.
20 Key West
21 Marathon
22-23 Key Biscayne
24 Miami Shores
25 Pt. St. Lucie

Hubler Int'l Circus

Mar 15-20 Youngstown,
Ohio

Olympic Int'l Circus

to Mar 20 Chicago, Ill.

PBA Circus

Mar 25 Sebring, Fla.
26 Brookville
27 New Pt. Richie

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Mar 15-27 Cincinnati, Oh.
29-Apr 10 Washington,
DC

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Mar 15-27 Baltimore, Md
29-June 5 New York, NY

Robert Bros. Circus

Mar 21 Key West, Fla.

Royal Hanneford Circus

Mar 11-27 Detroit, Mich
14-20 Dayton, Ohio

Shrine Circus

Mar 18-20 Spokane, Wash.

TNT & Royal Olympic

Mar 18-20 Reno, Nev.
23-27 Ogden, Utah
31-Apr. 2 San Bernar-
dino, Calif.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disney's Ice Odyssey

Mar 15-20 Pittsburgh, Pa
23-Apr 3 Minneapo-
lis, Minn.

Disney World on Ice

Mar 15-20 Memphis, Tenn
22-27 Houston, Tex.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Mar 15 Ft. Valley, Ga.
16 Cordele
19 Covington
21 Abington, Va.
22 Princeton, W.Va.
23 Buena Vista
24 Front Royal
26 Leesburg, Va.
28 Charleston, W.Va.
30 Greencastle, Pa.
31 Martinsburg, W.Va.

Felix Snipes

Mar 25-27 Laurel, Miss.

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Windjammers Meet

by ROBERT L. BARNES

Windjammers, Unlimited, 11th annual convention, Sarasota, Fla., Jan. 27-30.

Members from 21 states gathered at Holiday Inn North, Thurs. Jan. 27th. Rehearsal and recording sessions commenced at 1 p.m. 71 performing musicians participated that afternoon and evening.

Friday we held sessions morning, noon and night. Saturday in the morning and afternoon.

Saturday evening members and guests enjoyed the annual banquet and paid tribute to Merle Evans in a belated celebration of his 90th birthday.

John Hurdle gave a slide presentation on Merle's life as a child, his youth as a musician on various troupes and finally his life on the RBBB big show. Merle narrated the slides and was a delight with his quips, etc. He is in excellent health and going strong, as attested by the fact that he attended every session and conducted several tunes during the sessions.

The finale of the convention was a pre-show "Center Ring" concert by the full band, with conducting duties split between Ron Keller, of Naperville, Ill., and Prof. Keith House, Fayette, Mo. This took place in the Sarasota Sailor Circus big top before a crowd of 2,500. Following the Center

Ring Concert, 28 selected musicians, under the direction of Bandmaster Evans, accompanied 8 acts of the Sailor Circus. They gave an excellent account of themselves and at the conclusion of the performance, a standing ovation was given Merle, the musicians and the circus performers.

At the Sunday morning business session, it was unanimously voted to return to Sarasota for the 12th annual convention in '84.

Good news is hard to find these days but I will impart a little for you circus fans.

The Windjammers have struggled through the early years but we are finally coming to the front. The level of musicianship is rising.

To name-drop a bit . . . a few of the more celebrated musicians in attendance, in addition to Merle; Buster Bailey, percussionist with the New York Philharmonic; Boyd Conway, a retired percussionist with the U. S. Marine Band; Harry Brabec, formerly percussionist with the Chicago Symphony; Doug MacLeod, percussionist with the Detroit Concert Band; Ken Slater, retired cornet soloist with the U. S. Army Field Band; Warren Wilson, trombonist with the Allentown Band; Andy Glover, euphoniumist with the Detroit Concert Band; Merrill Erler, retired trombonist with the U. S. Navy Band and many more currently performing with good bands throughout the U. S.

(Continued on Page 10)

Book Review

"CIRCUS BUFFOON" by Danny Chapman. Published in 1982 by Circus Buffoon, P. O. Box 3684, Sarasota, Fla. 33578.

Reviewed by George C. Bingaman

Danny Chapman's novel "Circus Buffoon" has made its tournament before the American literary public and presents book circus that captures the reader's undivided attention through its suspenseful finale.

Towners such as myself may approach the appearance of circus-theme novels written by tanbark celebrities with no established writing expertise with askance. Danny proves his versatility with this delightful fictional journey within circus life.

Read "Circus Buffoon" if you enjoy a good story with a spread substantial character types, real human people who with their foibles are loveable, recognizable and tolerable. "Circus Buffoon" excels in the delineating of the labyrinth of man's complex emotions and sets this forth with great dialogue in a well-written script.

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Read "Circus Buffoon" if you are a fan of everything and everybody that is circus. You will come face to face with all those who move and appear in the circus. Chapman's informal glossary of expressions mixed in the text are worth the price of the book especially his definition of the circus (page 128) and circus people (page 171). "Circus Buffoon" will serve well as orientation to towners and First-of-Mayers desiring to understand the stance of these show people. Danny (page 134) offers a classic literary portrait of the clown in both Amos' comic speech to the Rotary Club and his differentiation between a clown and a comedian winding up:

"A comedian operates on only one emotion - laughter, and by voice. A clown seeks all emotions, laughter, sorrow, grief, pity and so on. He must be adept at all these, and to evoke them must use voice, gestures and facial expressions."

Read "Circus Buffoon" if you enjoy excitement and romance. The finale has your heart in a twitter and the action scenes grip you. When Bruto escapes his cage wagon the confusion that follows is breath-taking and hilarious in a Chaplin-esque style! But how else would a clown write? The suspenseful end to Amos' romantic dilemma is a precious display of Chapman's skill as a fictional writer.

May I have your attention, please! Step right up and see everything you've wanted to see and hear about the sirr-cass! The woman at the door will be glad to sell you a ticket, a small price for the breath-taking excitement and dazzling display of the sawdust life about a "Circus Buffoon."



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Party Time

by HERBERT UECKERT

On Sunday evening, Feb. 20th, over 150 performers, staff, friends and guests enjoyed a *lavish and elegant party in the beautiful Hollywood hillside home of circus owner Clifford E. Vargas.* The occasion marked the *successful four-day Hollywood Bowl debut of "America's Big Top Giant."* The circus is in the midst of its annual Southern California tour, and it is *radiant with superb talent and sparkling new wardrobe.*

Mr. Vargas greeted arriving guests, and each lady was presented with a corsage. A bar was set up on the patio adjacent to the swimming pool and *tasty and tantalizing food delicacies were provided generously on various tables.* Fresh fruits and vegetables, meats and cheeses and *unique hot hors d'oeuvres* tempted the party goers.

The mild weather enabled guests to mingle freely around the pool outdoors, as well as *throughout the handsomely decorated home.* A five-piece combo provided music for dancing and listening pleasure, for those who

were not spending all their time visiting.

Because of the next day's three-show schedule, the guests departed reluctantly, and as they did so everyone expressed his or her appreciation to Mr. Vargas for the gala party and his warm hospitality.

An Easter Show

Tim Tegge will be producing a circus for Marriott's Great America park in Santa Clara, Calif., for their Easter promotion. The show will be at the park from March 26th to April 3rd, with three performances daily in the park's "Grandstand Pavilion" arena.

Some of the acts already set for the engagement are: Wayne Ragen's wild animals, Carter Brown and Co., juggling, Ron and Chris (Sugar & Spice), aerial cradle and perch, plus Tegge & Sicard, clowns. Serving as ringmaster for the circus will be Chip Burnes, son of former RBBB clown, Chuck Burnes, Elephants will also be included in the circus

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Agreement signed

An agreement was recently signed between Fox Licensing Corp. and Circus Vargas with Fox Licensing named as the official licensing agent for the circus.

A variety of T-Shirts, hats, silk garments and miniature stuffed animals will be sold at the circus. In addition, Fox Licensing says, "there is also the possibility of getting companies to become official sponsors of Circus Vargas (i.e. the official soft drink of the circus), and allowing them to use the circus as a background for their commercials."

In Memoriam

THEO R. JETT, Alzafar Temple Shrine Circus Director General for 1983, of San Antonio, Texas, died on Feb. 13th.

Miscellaneous

In the past three months some 441 elephants have reportedly been slaughtered by poachers in Kenya.

WINDJAMMERS (Continued)

CBS-TV, New York, filmed Friday and Saturday's sessions, the banquet Saturday night and the performance with the Sailor Circus on Sunday. This will be edited and aired on the new series "On The Road" with Charles Karault in early summer.

In addition to Windjammers, we were happy to see members of the CFA, CHS and CMB attending our sessions. Veteran trouper, John Herriott was ringmaster for our Sunday performance and did a super job. Another veteran, Windjammer Charles Schlarbaum, made the sessions blowing cornet "straight ahead." Last, but not least, Merle's nephew, John Shideler, was there blowing clarinet and alto sax. Many of you are acquainted with John since he travels with and conducts bands for leading rodeos throughout the country.

Everyone left Sarasota looking forward to our mid-year session at Sioux Falls, S. D.

The circus is the only ageless delight that you can buy for money. Everything else is supposed to be bad for you but the circus is good for you. It is the only spectacle I know that, while you watch it, gives the quality of a truly happy dream.

... Ernest Hemingway

Show visits

by Circus Joe Valenciano

My family and I recently visited at the Dubsky's home, where we had a nice long visit. I especially enjoyed watching the video tapes Johnny showed of their acts and other circus shows. Also visiting there was Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Damon, of Entertainment Unlimited, of Merrimack, NH.

From there we went on to visit the Eugene Nock family. When we got there the boys were just in a practice session doing the big Gyro Wheel and low wire.

After this we went to the Coronas Circus in Sarasota. This was a very nice show for the Shrine Club, produced by the Coronas, with ringmaster Col. Lucky Larabee and William Pryun, musical director.

The show gives a nice appearance with three big red and white rings. Royal red carpeting all around the track and a large colorful backdrop for the performer's entrance and bandstand.

The show was held at Roberts Arena, on

Jan. 7-9. It had plenty of ground acts and a number of three ring displays, plus there were times when they even had acts working on the track.

Among the acts appearing at this date we saw the Harry Dubsky Family, the Zamperla Family, Alan Gold, the Bertinis, the Dialka Sisters, Sir Harry James, the George Hanneford Family, the Fkying Cortez Family and a very good two man high-wire act. The Morris, Christiani and Hanneford elephants worked in all three rings for a big display.

The only Coronas acts playing at this date were George Coronas performing on his Gyro Wheel and Janie Coronas working with her Dobermans.

HOTLINE

Feb. 13 - Port Richey, Fla. - A strong gust of wind blew the Oscanian Bros. Circus big top down and tipped over several cat cages. No injuries were reported.

Fine imposed

John Wayne Berra, who operated an animal act out of Savannah, was fined \$150 for violating safety regulations of the Animal Welfare Act., a USDA official reports.

Dr. Ralph W. Bennett, veterinarian in charge for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in Georgia, said the penalty was part of a settlement of charges that arose from a 1981 incident. During a performance at Discount City Shopping Center in Blount County, Tenn., on Apr. 4, 1981, a tiger in the show lunged at a little girl and mauled a little boy. The tiger was then subdued with a wrench by the viewing public.

The following day, APHIS cited Berra for neglecting to maintain a safe distance between one of the tigers and the viewers, Bennett said. Furthermore, Berra was charged with operating his act without an exhibitor's license from USDA, another violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

Berra, who now lives in Woodbridge, Va., consented to settle the APHIS charge by accepting the penalty and a cease-and-desist order by a federal administrative law judge. The order, a type of permanent injunction, forbids him from buying or transporting any animals without an exhibitor's license. Berra does not currently operate an animal act. Failure to obey the order can result in

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additional fines of up to \$500 for each day a violation occurs.

The Animal Welfare Act requires all animal exhibitors to be licensed and follow federal standards of animal care and treatment.

In Memoriam

CHARLES HOWARD FOGLE (78), died at Tampa, Fla., on Feb. 14th. He was a wild animal exhibitor and a member of the Greater Tampa Showman's Assoc. He was the owner of a large giant sea turtle which is an attraction at the Oldmar flea market on the Racetrack Road, between Tampa and the gulf coast.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Clover Wilson Fogle, a daughter Mrs. Dorothy Headon, a son Cliff Brewer and 3 grandchildren.

OLGA ZACCHINI MANGI'AVACCHI (75) died at Miami, Fla. on Feb. 1st. She was born in Italy and was the daughter of the originator and inventor of the world famous Zacchini Cannon Act. She had been a performer with the Ringling-Barnum Circus for many years.

Survivors include her husband, Vittorio who also worked in the cannon act, a daughter Maddalena Vivona, a son-in-law Dominic Vivona, co-owners of Amusements of Amer-

ica, 4 grandchildren and four brothers Bruno, Mario, Teo and Emanuel, all from the famous cannon act.

RUBY L. WOOLRICH (77), a resident of Gibsonton, Fla., for 50 years, died in that city on Feb. 13th. She was a retired circus performer and is survived by her husband, Carlos, a brother and a sister.

Date Announced

The Miami Shores (Fla.) Scouts will sponsor two performances of the Hoxie Great American Circus in their city on March 24, with shows at 6 and 8 p.m. The circus will set up at the Biscayne Dog Track.

Mayor Lodge, of Miami Shoes, has declared March 24th as 'Circus Day' in the city.

According to Karl Larsson, a circus parade is to be presented as part of the special 'Circus Day' activities. This will be the first circus parade the area has seen in 75 years, he said.

Another feature of this special day will be the calliope owned by Dr. Payne, which will take part in the parade and then be at the circus grounds throughout the day.

Acts named

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus will be playing at the Inland Center in San Bernardino, Calif., March 31-April 2 and will feature such acts as:

Henry and Dolores Crowell, trampoline; Ken and Betty Willer, rola bola/juggling and hand balancing; and Bruce "Charlie" Johnson, clown.

A Circus Theme

A number of circus acts, including lions, dogs, ponies, acrobats, elephants and circus clowns, were featured at an industrial show in Cleveland, Ohio (Feb. 22-23). Peanuts, popcorn and balloons were passed out to those attending the show and thus helped to create a circus atmosphere.

The show was put on by Gradall of New Philadelphia, a division of the Bendix Industrial Group. Company officials used the circus promotion as a means of introducing some new products to potential buyers.

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The circus band

by ROBERT L. BARNES

Several of us concluded the performance in Sarasota with the Windjammers and the Sarasota Sailor Circus and high-tailed it to Venice on Sun. evening, Jan. 30th, to catch the closing performance of the RBBB Blue Unit before it hit the rails on Monday.

I don't feel qualified to comment on the various acts performing, but will give the Circus Fans a brief report on the music accompanying same.

Under the direction of Jim Gibson, the 15 piece band is dynamite. As a veteran bandsman, I found the book and their performance to be very tasteful.

As many of you know, we Windjammers have been critical of most of the shows on the road today for their use of junk music

to accompany acts. We have felt it was inappropriate for those particular acts, but not so with Maestro Gibson's crew.

True, it resembles a dance band more than a *circus band* (with the absence of tuba and euphonium) but the repertoire is good and includes many standard circus tunes. Six of us listened with critical ears and we have to give the band high marks.

There were a few spots where some soft rock was used but it was done in good taste. Waltzes were used (in part) for the flyers, a lot of "Razz-ma-tazz" for clowns, up-tempo Spanish numbers (in part) for teeterboard acts, etc. All-in-all, the show is worth the price just for the performance of the band.

To the Felds and Maestro Gibson, we have to say, "A job well done."

Talking Elephant

The Soviet Union's talking elephant is said to be in better voice than ever, and even picking up new words from its visitors.

Batyr, a 13 year old Indian elephant at the Karaganda Zoo in central Asia, was said to have given up its circus tricks, according to a Moscow paper, but still "talks" by putting it's trunk in it's mouth and trumpeting.

The newspaper quoted Nikolai Yepifanovsky, the zoo director, as insisting that Batyr was "in good voice and talking whenever he feels like it."

Yepifanovsky said the Russian-speaking elephant especially liked to pronounce his own name, and often says "Batyr is beautiful."

The elephant's other favorite words include, "drink" and "give me."

"This elephant's vocabulary is definitely on the increase," the director said, "and he talks a lot clearer than before and likes to imitate people. He's good at it, too. It's a great game to him."

They're Married

HEIDI LYNN BOLZ and **KURT MICHAEL CASADY** were married recently at Sheboygan, Wisc., at the Zion United Church of Christ. Heidi is the daughter of circus fan **WAYNE BOLZ** and has worked as an aerialist with both Franzen Bros. and Carson & Barnes Circus. The couple will be joining Franzen Bros. Circus where Heidi will play the organ, as well as working on web and Roman rings. Kurt will work in the prop depart., and concessions.

STEVE McPEAK, high wire daredevil and **CARLY BLISS** were married on the cables of the Hoover Dam, near Las Vegas, some 750 ft. above the Colorado River, on Feb. 24th. When the couple came down from the cables they were arrested for investigation of trespassing and disorderly conduct. The **REV. JIM HAMILTON** conducted the five-minute ceremony from the ground.

At Pine Bluff

The program produced by Sam T. Polack for the Pine Bluff, Ark., Shrine Circus, Feb. 18th and 19th included:

National Anthem, Introductions, Overture; Frank & Estreleta, aerial perch; Clark's wild animals; Light Pitch; Shrine Clown Walk Around; Brickle's Poodle Fantasy; The Lucky Brothers, comedy; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Clowns; Edwardo's Bears; The Waltons, balancing; The Zerbini's Riding act; Intermission.

Miss Fossett, foot juggling, The Droguets, balancing, Francarro, foot juggling; Clowns; Miss Maya, single trapeze; Ari, rola bola and The Watens, rola bola; Christine's Chimps; The Zerbini's, teeterboard and The Lancheros, teeterboard; The Mad Hatters (Droguets) juggling; George Carden's elephants; The Fossetts, gorilla parody; Clowns; The Flying Lantonys, flying act.

The show's staff included: Sam T. Polack, producer; Al Dawley, ringmaster; Bill Brickle, producing clown; Lee Reynolds, music director; Carl Medaris, prop boss, and George Carden, lights and sound.

Santa's Circus on Ice

by JOHN GAIZICK

Combining circus and ice show acts with a holiday Christmas theme proves to be an interesting concept which works well in James Nordmark's production of "Santa's Circus on Ice." The show has something for everyone of all ages and could be classed as a holiday variety show since talents range from not only circus and ice acts, but also include a pop vocalist in the likes of Candance Azotea, who did fine versions of "Let Me Be There" and "Have Yourself A Very Merry Christmas." With only a mike in hand, she has the complete control associated with polished nightclub performers. Miss Azotea has a strong, pleasing voice and is a pleasure to both the eye and ear.

Two outstanding circus acts were audience pleasers and each received their just share of applause. Lilliana - whose first rate foot juggling showed the audience to what extremes one can take the bottom of their feet if they work at it long enough. Kris & Kristina did a lovely adagio act with a certain amount of

contortion involved. Beautifully executed by this Polish couple, their act has style, grace and sophistication which adds still another dimension to this holiday program. They have worked the MGM Hotel in Las Vegas where capacity crowds have enjoyed this gifted couple's talents.

Skating medal winner Gina Cornellier is a very pretty eye full who skates with ease and style. The French beauty made many of the gentlemen in the audience sit up and take notice. Michael Mikalonis and David Batlin do a funny "sailors" comedy routine on ice which is also a diversive and unusual segment. The two are not only fast and funny, but have excellent timing - a very important factor in making such a routine work well.

There was plenty of Christmas spirit thrown in via costumes, decorations and special appearances by Frosty the Snowman and of course Santa Claus. Even though I missed the opportunity to tell Santa what I wanted for Christmas (as well as what would happen to him if he didn't bring it) I enjoyed this show very much.

The combination of circus and ice show acts were nicely staged and held audience attention throughout. Lighting and sound were first rate and everyone connected with the show, performers, as well as the important backstage people can feel proud of their combined efforts.

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Now you don't see it. In mid-June you will The Great Foodini plans to serve up a full menu with magic and video games on the side. Food serves will perform minor tricks as they deliver fish, beef and pork. But the meal is only the beginning. Live or filmed magic shows on a stage in each restaurant will be a prime part of the experience. A separate game room will offer the latest in video entertainment.

Tico Bonomo, president of the video game room chain Time-Out Family Amusement Centers, Inc., announced the formation of The Great Foodini, Inc., with Donald A. Karas, president of Restaurant Business, Inc. which publishes two restaurant trade magazines. They hope to have five or more outlets in the metropolitan Washington, DC area within the next 18 months.



MOST IMPORTANT SHOW NEWS IS SURVIVAL of Circus Report as a medium of communication between those who work to keep the independent spirit of American show business alive.

The editor and publisher has been down for the count in a bout with various afflictions. Now Don Marcks has recovered sufficiently to carry on with CR again. Apparently publication format will be the same, but only on a twice a month basis. Hopefully, costs will be low enough so that advertising and subscription rates will be anti-inflationary.

As I write this, I'm performing with TOMMY SCOTT's Old Time Medicine Show, now on the road with 300 different towns ahead. For the record: This is a 5½ double unit stage show with the following entertainers: Tommy Scott, Gaines Blevins, David Everett, Texas Jim Knight and Donna, John Grove, John Palmstrom, Darrell Say, er and Hal Haviland.

R. W. (Jim) Moore is General Agent and Lona Blevins travels with the unit as business manager.

Show is just Great! However, how can I be

impartial in a review of the show?? I am sure others along the way will see fit to report on this production more impartially. We've had lots of "show people" visitors with personnel from Circus World, Beatty-Cole, Roberts Bros., Lewis Bros. and many independents.

Pre-season circus news was plentiful. I'll need more as the season progresses. Tommy Scott is letting me use his address for mail: Hal Haviland, c/o Tommy Scott, P. O. Box 100, Toccoa, Georgia 30577.

A sleeper in the circus sweepstakes: Roller Bros. Circus will be new this season. Address is Jim Roller, P. O. Box 130, Lake Hamilton, Ark. 71913 (near Hot Springs).

In my mail: Barbara Autry and Joslyn with Mickey Gilley, also Eddie Arnold doing some rope spinning at the Casinos in Atlantic City

I'm learning Dept.: A med. show doctor like "Doc" Tommy Scott is called "Doc," while dentists, pharmacists, physicians and veterinarians are just Doc, for short. The quotation marks apparently make some sort of technical difference - so quotes "Doc" Tommy Scott, who is really a great in American country music.

PEOPLE

JESSE AMONETT, who will celebrate his 82nd birthday in April, writes that he is probably the oldest Circus Fan still living. He saw his first circus in May 1905 when he was just 4 yrs. old.

Show sets record

The 1983 Harrisburg Sports Show broke attendance records again this year despite the Great Blizzard of '83.

The stage show was again produced by Wm Shilling and acts included: Mike Pike, musical director; Johnny Matson, master of ceremonies and comedy musical act; Sven Johnson's lumberjack act; Tom Docking's Dogs;

and a huge tank show presented by Hank Peters.

Opening day attendance was 85,000 and by the weeks end, even with 25 in. of snow blanketing Harrisburg, the show recorded more than half a million paid attendance.

Correction

In issue No. 1 of CR (1983) there was a report that in a series of Schmidt Beer Cans commemorating Philadelphia's 1st, there was no mention of Philadelphia as having the first circus.

In CR last year it was reported that the 3rd can in the series "Phila Firsts 1781-1793" (among other firsts in this period) it was reported "First U. S. Circus held in 1793."

PEOPLE

MERLE EVANS was honored for his 90th birthday when he attended the American Bandmasters Association's 49th convention in Kansas City, Mo., March 2-5. As part of the special acknowledgements, Missouri Governor Christopher Bond proclaimed March 5th as "Merle Evans Day."

Show Notes

BY BOBBY COX

I have just recently returned home after making a tour of Alaska with Ford Bros. Kodiak Circus. The show drew very good crowds, sometimes four shows a day, but it was very expensive up there.

It was the first show up there in about five years and it was also the same show five years ago. Owner, John Davenport.

First stop was Fairbanks for a four day stand, then Palmer for one day, Anchorage for 5 days, Kenai for a day, Ft. Richardson for a day. Then an 800 mile jump through the Yukon Territory to Haines, where we arrived too late because of hassles with the Canadian and American Customs and had to blow the spot because of strict schedules on the Alaskan Marine Highway Ferry System. Then it was ferry boat rides every night through the southernly islands of Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg and Ketchikan, then the

show went into Canada at Prince Rupert and I had to fly to Dallas to get ready for the State Fair.

Turtle Benson was MC, also filled in as a juggler and sometimes rope spinner. The Luna Family did the flying act and single traps. Clowns were "Skippy" and "Kadee"

The show had three elephants - Tommy and Boo and a baby elephant which was flown in to Anchorage, an African as yet unnamed. When she arrived on the lot from the airport she immediately tried to whack Gopher and Harry Locker (bear act).

You will excuse me if I can't recall the exact layout of the performance because it was different every day due to the long jumps, mechanical failure (due to the Al-Can Highway) and Custom officials snatching Canadian workmen, etc. Also being a candy butcher I don't have time to watch the show, I'm too busy selling oriental trinkets to the girls and boys.

(Continued on Next Page)

SHOW NOTES (Continued)

Beth Boatman did a low wire act, worked in the web and ladder act. Harry Locker did the lion act and bear act.

FRONTEND:

Kenny Tiegels, big top boss, snow and floss joint; Termite Davenport, novelties mgr for the Alaskan run, novelties and balloons; Bobby Cox and Scott Kidder; Jean Gobbles, popcorn, floss and hot dogs on midway; Jack Gobbles, snake show; Harry Locker, elephant rides; Whitey Black, office and pony ride; Dixie Loter, balloon pitch; Gus Loter, mechanic; Jack Gobbles, electrician; Gigi Davenport, cookhouse.

The big top was red and white striped and supplied by Bruno of Dallas. The first Sun-

day in Anchorage the top was rented by an evangelist for a service at 8 o'clock and he had a straw house, most of whom stayed over and caught the circus performance.

PEOPLE

THE MARQUIS CHIMPS and a flea circus were featured on TV's "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" show on Feb. 20th.

JIM PARKER clowned with the Oscanian Bros. Circus at Port Richey, Fla., on Feb. 11-13, where the show opened under canvas.

Magic Show

The 1982-83 edition of Rick and Sharon Legg's production of "Kelmar & Co.'s Old Time Touring Magic Show" began its mid-west tour in early September and will run thru the Xmas season, when there will be a brief break before revamping the show for spring and summer dates.

Based out of Fostoria, Ohio, the show plays mainly the midwest, but due to business being up in 1982, plans are being discussed for extending the tour into the Eastern states.

The show, when seen in early September, ran as follows: 15 minute pre-show warm-up by 'Whizzer the Clown' (Don Bridwell) followed by overture (all music and cues are on tape on an elaborate sound system, with show announcing handled by Don Bridwell). After the overture, Space music begins and an ET-type robot enters the stage, in the midst of flashing lights, circles the stage (remote control) and immediately upon exiting, Kelmer makes his visible appearance in the middle of the stage in a large puff of smoke.

Kelmar then does about 10 minutes of fast and silent magic to musical background after which he does the Nest of Boxes from the old McDonald Birch show. This is an excellent piece of apparatus and effect and was featured for years by Birch. Kelmar then goes onto the apron, while stage is being reset, to do his comedy Kid Act, with a cut and restored rope and lots of audience participation.

After the Kid Act, curtains are opened and Kelmar presents the Haunted House Illusion, followed by the Spirit Dancing Hanchief. After this, again in one, a pitch is

made for the Kelmar Magic Kits. Then Whizzer the clown is featured with his comedy cooking school demonstration. After, which Kelmar returns, to perform his unique version of the Floating Princess. Whizzer again returns for his Balloon Holiday act, after which he does a pitch for hand-made animal balloons.

After a 15 minute intermission, Kelmar presents his illusion "Cutting in Sixths", followed by Whizzer's Chalk Talk "A Salute to Emmett Kelly." Kelmar then performs his frte, the Straight Jacket Escape. For a young man in his twenties, Kelmar is an outstanding escape artist and at times alternates various escapes in this portion of the show. After a sponsor Thank You, the finale is presented in complete Oriental wardrobe and setting, ending with a huge silk and livestock production. Kelmar makes ample use of dogs in his livestock productions, which always gets a favorable response from the audience.

There are numerous costume and scene changes in the show, with much of the special costuming the work of veteran costumer Jimmy Douglass. All lighting and electrical work, as well as a unique portable stage unit was designed so the show can play just about any situation, and was developed by Kelmar.

Personnel and staff include: Rick and Sharon Legg, producers/directors; Stage Manager, David Shoub; Tour Direction, Shartell, Inc.; Advance telephone crew, Dave Shoub, Sharon Taylor and Jim Nelson; Promotion and advance publicity, Don Bridwell; Settings by Kelmar Studios; Electrical Consultant, Terry Lee Miller; Illusions and Magic, Abbott Magic Co.; Mandrake Magic Shop and Kelmar Studios; Show announcer, Don Bridwell; Concessions, Terry Miller and Fran Bridwell.

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Variety Acts

Variety acts on tour with the Harlem Globetrotters include: Vincent Bruce, English rope spinner; Martin Lamberti, balancing act; Barrett Felker, juggler and Michael Chirrick and Karen, juggling duo.

All acts are booked through Simone Finer Enterprises, the Hollywood-based theatrical agency specializing in novelty acts.

Kosair Shrine Circus

by Henry and Sally Payne

Louisville's Kosair Temple presented it's 58th Shrine Circus at the Louisville Gardens Feb. 2-6. It was produced by Ron J. Kelroy & Associates, for the first time.

The weather was favorable, not severely cold. Saturday night's 3" snow came in the middle of the night and by Sunday afternoon had begun to melt some.

The much touted recession and unemployment picture, via TV news, seemed to have no effect on the "crowds" as the Shriners tickets were over sold, and they did play to turn-a-way crowds at each performance, except Sunday's closing show, and that was a good full house, which was an exception, as a rule all other years Sunday night usually runs to a light or good half house.

Ron had new white ring mats with a red star in the middle, ring curbs were freshly painted, his own 12 quartz lights, four at each ring, iron railing around the rings as a safety measure (keep children out), new celotex mats and he used his own spotlights.

Just inside the main entrance were a section of grand stand chairs (Ron's) on risers in front of ring No. 1, for groups of Senior Citizens, and in front of those was a flat section for wheel chairs.

The news media in Louisville was stronger this year. Newspapers had several photo spreads and a story on the Rodriguez family, also coverage by TV stations, they were there before the opening matinee.

Additional equipment brought in by Ron was a large hand-held vacuum cleaner to keep the rings cleaned up. He also carries his own props for the clown gags, he wants the clowns to use.

Ron spent quite a bit of time conferring with the committees of other Shrine Tem-

ples during this stand, who visited to see the type of program he produces. On Friday night he was made an Honorary Member of Kosair Temple, and he has the contract for the 1984 Louisville date.

Hans and Sigrid Ruwill's 19 yr. old son, Earl (Dixie) made his debut here, billed as The Great Deitrich. His act is a sword balancing feat on a rolling globe and balancing several other objects, a good act which went over fine with the audiences.

The program ran 2 hrs. 15 min., opening matinee and closer to 2½ hrs. the rest of the time.

The Diano elephants did a walk-around before the "Spec" wearing banners, with ten ads, different one on each side of the elephant, then the banners were removed and the bulls re-entered to lead the Grand Entry.

There was a spot light on a large mirrored globe, hung high in the darkened building, creating the effect of "Fireflies". The spec was in the three rings, as the lights were turned on, as the Hippodrome track was filled with patrons still coming in.

The program ran as follows: Grand Entry; Spec in the rings; Web over track; The Rodriguez Duo, cradle, The Pablo Duo, cradle; Debbie Winn, slide-for-life; Hand balancing by Hans & Sigrid Ruwill and The Gonzalves on rola bola, Francisco, juggling; Clown production number "A Hunting We Will Go"; Rudolph Cimse's Wolfhounds and Pomeranians; The Rodriguez Sisters, hair hang; The Great Alian, sword balancing; The Great Dietrich, sword balancing; The Karinas, comedy trampoline; Clowns and balloons; Les Blocks, high wire; Alan Gold's wild animals; Intermission.

The Dielkas Sisters, rolling globes; Les Gasperys, comedy table act; Hans and Sigrid

(Continued on Next Page)

KOSAIR SHRINE (Continued)

Ruwill, plate spinning; The Horwath chimps; Clowns and slapsticks; Sir Chadwick Chase & His Rolls Rotten; Tony Diano's elephants presented by Lee, Jeanette and Tanya Keener (Big Tommy is the tusker and only male Indian elephant working before the public and is 38 yrs. old); Clowns and "The Telescope gag"; The Flying Volantes, a double wide flying act; Motorcycles over each side of the track, The Hans Winn Family; Grand Finale with entire cast, flags dropped from center ring with two tall showers of sparklers on each side of flag.

Show staff: R. J. Kelroy, executive producer; Dianne S. Shapiro, gen. mgr.; Happy Davis, asst. mgr.; Ivy Kelroy, prod. coordinator; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster; Nick Hamp, electrical supt.; Steve Lazrovitch, floor supt.; Bill Slater, prop supt.; Art Barrett, promotion/concessions.

Clown alley included: Gene Randow, producing clown; Earl "Toe Toe" Michaels, John "Yo Ho" McKay and Jeff "Dinky" Konicek.

Visitors seen at the show included: Tibor Alexander, "Fox Fire" an exotic dancer; Bob Timmel, Bill Lortz, Bill Rhodes and of course Sally and Henry Payne.

They're Married

PATRICIA RUCKER and **CHRISTOPHER BRYANT** were married in De Land, Fla., on Jan. 3rd. Both parties are employed by the *International All-Star Circus*.

PEOPLE

EMMETT J. KELLY, who was recently featured on TV's "Good Morning America" show, was also the subject of a recent UPI photo story release to national papers.

MAGGIE and **ANDY ROBIN**, of Newhall, Calif., were featured in a photo story released by AP, showing them and their pet grizzly bear "Hercules."

HARRY BLACKSTONE, magician and illusionist, recently completed some show dates in Hongkong and Japan.

ANDRE KOLE, illusionist, played a series of College dates in Montana last month.

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MARK DAVID

BY JOHN GAIZICK

His Cloud Swing act and stage presence can be compared to a thunderstorm. Descending on to the arena like a bolt of lightning, Mark David electrifies the audience with his forward heel catch, half twisted heel catch, back ankles out, swing routine and impressive break-away closing. The 21 year old Baraboo, Wisc., native is currently appearing on the Ringling Red Unit, but the '83 season will find him a part of the show's Blue Unit.

He is the son of Margaret J. Pilger, a veteran vaudeville performer, tumbler and acrobat. His mother was responsible for his early training, starting at age 4; at age 6 he was riding a unicycle and training on the rings; at age 11 Bobby and Rosa Gibbs took him under their wing to teach Mark trapeze work. He toured with Bobby and Rosa on Canadian Shrine show dates and lived with them for six years. During that time he not only continued his trapeze training, but Bobby taught him a great deal about working with performing animals.

Mark continued training on the trapeze with Melinda Cline. He then toured Mexico, following which he returned to Baraboo to attend acrobatic school at the Circus World Museum. While there he developed his skills in low wire, perch, tumbling, teeterboard, balancing and cloud swing. At age 15, Mark worked professionally for almost a year with the Franzen Bros. Circus, where he performed his Cloud Swing and trapeze act. He then toured for two seasons with Carson & Barnes and with the Garden International Canadian Show tour; a three year tour with Donny Johnson; and worked more Shrine dates for Larry Carden.

"Bob Top & Edna," whose roller skating act in the sky is well known to many, were a big help to Mark in teaching him the aspects of props and rigging. Edna is like a mother to him and he visits them when possible in Pearson, Fla.

The summer of '82 was spent working the Tommy Bartlett Show at Wisconsin Dells, Wisc., with Jim and Heidi Gutis Grogan on their "Star Ship 3" helicopter trapeze aerial act. Mark selected and performed the single trapeze maneuvers for "Star Ship 3." Heidi is responsible for making all the cos-

tumes which he currently wears and Mark still maintains a close friendship with the Grogans.

His current Cloud Swing act is of his own design and it's his first year doing the break away segment. The back balance is the only part of the helicopter trapeze act that he's carried over to his current performance. After doing the helicopter act for two years the current cloud swing routines are more difficult for him to perform. He feels there are still numerous bruises and callosus to endure before he's satisfied with his performance.



Mark auditioned for Kenneth Feld in early September in Milwaukee and was immediately signed on to do his Cloud Swing performance starting with the Toledo engagement. He thinks the Red Unit is great and the fellow performers are just super to work and associate with. He praises the professionalism of everyone connected with the show including the Felds, Antoinette Concello, and a long list of performers including Dolly Jacobs, Gunther Gebel-Williams, Wally Naghtin, Mickey Antalek, Pedro Carrillo, Lenny Roll and Kit Haskett.

Rehearsals are a big thing with the Red Unit performers and because of their performance schedule there is ample time to work your craft. Mark's typical day when two shows prevail would be to get up around 10 or 11; have coffee; go to the

(Continued on Next Page)

MARK DAVID (Continued)

arena and rehearse for about an hour working on any problem areas; do exercises, pull ups, push ups, etc.; shower; then get ready for the first show.

Mark says he will miss the people on the Red Unit and it will be a whole new experience when he joins the Blue Unit. He refers to Elvin Bale as his long time idol and feels he's been an incentive to his work. Mark looks forward to the opportunity to be a part of the unit which Mr. Bale stars.

When free time allows he enjoys swimming, water - jet and snow skiing, biking and the outdoors. His only future goal is to be as good an aerialist as he can be. Judging from performance and audience reaction he's well on his way to achieving his goal.

From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

On Thursday, Nov. 18th, we headed over to New Orleans, La., returning to our home in Florida on Wednesday, Nov. 24th. Took a leisurely two days to drive over but peddled back (630 miles) in one day as we were invited out for Thanksgiving dinner the following day. Main reason for the jaunt was to see the Jerusalem Shrine Circus which is produced by Tommy Hanneford and company. In case any of you do not connect colored leaves in the fall with Florida, it ain't so, the colors as we headed North and West rivaled any that I've seen up in the Northern states, also it is hilly, beautiful, country.

Our last jaunt to New Orleans was 4 years ago and there were many changes, lots of new tall buildings (just like in Tampa) and a general "slicking up" of the French Quarters. They are planning an exposition in 1984. The Louis Armstrong Park next to the civic center is gorgeous. While there we enjoyed the pre-view day at Fair Grounds race track and the harbor cruise of the Mississippi on the stern-wheeler "Natchez," saw the Delta Queen tied up at the docks, good old boat that travels the entire length of the river up to St. Paul, Minn., each September, strange to think this huge river starts as a mere trickle of water up in Itasca County, Minn., where one can step over it! We were surrounded by Indians on our cruise from every tribe in the U.S. as the American Indian Education Assoc. was meeting in New Orleans, lots of braids and those were on the men!

We also viewed the circus parade which started and ended at Jerusalem Temple's building, while visiting with a group of Shrine families from Houma, La., all of whom were connected in one way or another with oil, and some of whom were just back from living in Saudi Arabia and China. Enjoyed backyard visits with Tommy and Struppi and Nellie Hanneford and an especially enjoyable visit with 90 plus year old Nana. I had brought along an album of original Nelson Family photos which brought back memories from earlier days to this lovely lady who like the original Nelsons came from England. Other visitors were John McConnell, CFA member

Richard Johnson from Miss., and Divan members from several temples thru out the states, including those from Detroit, Michigan's Moslem, celebrating 75 years of Shrine Circus this coming March. Jimmy Ile (musician) who lives in New Orleans also visited.

The Royal Hanneford Circus:

Music by Kay and Bob Parker, augmented with local musicians; Senor Rai, announcer.

Fantastic Jungle opening; Jorge Barreda's cats; Dynasty Duo; Warren Adams Duo; the Tangiers (first big Arab tumbling act we've seen in some time); Shrine Clowns; Christopher James, low wire; Danuta and web girls; Olmedas, bikes; Plunketts, trampoline; Francisco, teeterboard; Garzas; Spec; Intermission.

Flying Gaonas with the sensational Julio; Nellie Hanneford on "Midnite"; Carmen Hall's Baboons; Zoppe's Tiny Horses; Hanneford Elephants; Abulet's high wire; Finale.

Caught an old Hawaii Five-O show on the tube and it was filmed on the E. K. Fernandez show in Hawaii and we saw "Blinko and Maran" (Ernie Burch and wife), Gene Randow, clown and Gerard Soule's Poodles among others.

NEWS OF CIRCUS FOLKS: Past and present from this area concerns the Franzini family's presentation of "Math with a Circus Theme" in 93 Hillsborough County Schools. News from former high act, Bill Kourmpates concerning the broken wrist suffered by Blanche Balzer (Balzer Sisters, adagio and balancing act) causing her to be in a cast much of the month of December. Blanche lives in St. Petersburg. Bill also told of the appearance of the 'Galaghers' (Paul McCausland and wife Barara) at the Tampa Dog Track on Dec. 7th.

Saturday, Dec. 5th, found us driving to Sarasota for one of our favorite shows of the year, the Annual Showfolks of Saraaota Circus at Roberts Arena. We enjoyed dinner at the Elwood Talley's in company with circus fans Millicent and Jim Dunwoody who have moved from New Jersey to the Sarasota area.

This show as I have mentioned in other years is the most fun show of the year because it is a benefit for Showfolks Scholar-

(Continued on Next Page)

FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

ship Fund, the acts are donated as is all the help and where else can you see a famous circus performer acting as a "prop" and to aid our club? Or a show where the audience is often more spectacular than the show . . . it is a chattering, happy group of performers, ex-performers; circus fans; producers; agents; newspaper and TV reporters and just audience. It is usually a show that introduces a new generation of performers when the children and grandchildren of acts do their thing and this year's show was no exception.

Johnny Herriott in his capacity as President of Showfolks put this show together and did a fine job, but then he always does and presents the acts, along with the little personal anecdotes about the families in the circus world. At this show he also introduced folks from the audience who did similar acts as those on the program. It can be fun as well as educational for fans of all ages.

Visited with Alvah Johnson in the lobby and found out he was returning to the circus run by the Stebbings family in time for the religious festivals starting at San Cristobel, Venezuela, S.A. Wife, Bianca, former Ringling show girl was on crutches suffering from bone spurs, sad to say. I remember her as a very sexy looking dancer in the elephant acts in past years.

Music was directed by Charlie Schlarbaum assisted by Kay and Bob Parker. Johnny Herriott did the announcing. The overture was followed by the beautiful Lilli-ana with her leopards and black panthers. Always beautiful, Lilli and cats.

Rolls Duo, fast neat turn; Volcan, fire eating, a refreshing change of pace for a circus; Herriott's daughters with high school horses, wearing western garb and working to the theme from "Dallas". A stunning number; Shappies, the musical knock-a-bout clowns, truly funny; Cloud swing, Cindy Herriott, pretty and so graceful; Tabaks, vaulting act done by these skilled gymnast father and sons team; Rudolph Del Monte, young, handsome contortionist assisted by his mom, Anna; Intermission.

Two aerial numbers, contortion trap by 11 year old Tony Bartok Perez; Cradle act by 17 and 13 year old bother and sister, Jon

Paul and Mirelle Arnosi; Bertinis with three chimps; Derek Rosaire and Tony, the Wonder Horse, assisted by his daughter; Clowns; Wally Eastwood, juggling; Gee Gee Engesser's 3 elephants worked by Roy and Elaine Wells; Clowns (Danny Chapman, Mustafa and Brent Kwenski); Tino Wallenda, high wire (any Wallenda Hi-wire is good).

Everybody went to Showfolks after visiting in the arena . . . and by the time you read this you will know that Cristine (Weiner) Herriott became the bride of Marshall Eckelman on Dec. 10th at Peace Lutheran Church, Sarasota and that on Jan. 8th, Cindy Herriott married Chris Price in the same church in Sarasota. In attendance at Showfolks' Circus was Laura Herriott Walker with children John-John, Jason and Jennifer.

P. S. Johnny H. said he hoped daughter Heidi did not catch one of the boquets, enough weddings for now!

A New Book

"CIRCUS RINGS AROUND RUSSIA" by David Lewis Hammarstrom. Published by Archon Books, an imprint of The Shoe String Press, Inc., Hamden, Conn. 06514.

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NEW CIRCUS BOOK (Continued)

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