

Debutante Circus

Bobby Yerkes produced the "Debutante Circus" in Del Mar, Calif., Apr. 24-25. The high society affair was held at Winner's Circle Lodge, with the entire show being set up in a tennis court. The audience sat under an opened parachute suggesting a big top and the colorful circus motif along with 'midway games' gave a festive atmosphere to the unusual debutante ball which ended with the debs being dunked in a water tank by their escorts via throwing the ball.

Austin Miles was ringmaster for the first day and Chris Bricker handled the announcing chores the second day for the public show, while Miles fulfilled two church speaking engagements.

The circus line-up included: Entrance of the Ringmaster (Austin Miles), Web Karen Price and Allison, Bobby Moore's Mongrels,



Rafiki, watches over her newborn calf at Lion Country Safari, in Southern California where the young African elephant was born at 11:45 a.m. on April 6th. The new arrival weighed 200 lbs and stands 3 ft. tall.

Clowns, Chris Bricker and son, Tony (Blaszczyk) & Darrel (Ferges), trampoline, the Clowns, Grey Otter (Skeeter Vaughn) knife and tomahawk throwing, assisted by Karen Price, High Dive by Allison, Howard Johnson's elephant 'Katie' worked by Tex Goestch, assisted by Karen Price, Clowns, The Flying Artons (Bobby Yerkes, Rusty and Patty Rock and Allison).

Bobby Yerkes drove in from Yuma, Ariz, where he is working in the film "Revenge of The Jedi" and returned to the movie set immediately after the date.

Suit Filed

A former employee of the Ringling-Barnum Circus who said a tiger bit off two of his fingers has filed a \$500,000 negligence suit against the circus at Charleston, W. Va.

The Charleston man, Mark Showen, was reportedly injured at Raleigh, NC, in 1981 but waited to file the suit until the circus came into this city, his attorney, Nelson Bickley said,

Bickley said the Kanawha County Circuit Court suit seeks \$300,000 in compensatory damages and \$200,000 in punitive damages.

Showen joined the circus in Feb. 1981 as a "snow cone" salesman and was offered a job on Mar. 31, 1981, as a tiger groom, Bickley said.

Three hours after Showen started his new job, "he was attacked by a tiger named "Ronnie," the suit charges. "The said tiger . . . chewed the middle and left finger off the left hand of the plaintiff."

In Memoriam

MARIN B. MIHOU (32), an acrobat and bareback rider with the Ringling-Barnum Circus, died April 24th in a boating accident while fishing with a friend, at Collinswood, NJ. He had been working for United Rent-All since leaving the circus in Nov. '81. Survivors include his wife, Monica, a 3 week old son, Boris, and his mother and a brother who live in Bulgaria.

Show Dates**Beatty-Cole Circus**

May 17-20 Philadelphia,
21-23 Lansdale Pa.

Dunn Buggy's Suitcase Cir.

May 22 Chipley, Fla.

Carson & Barnes Circus

May 9 Hugo, Okla.
10 Talihina
11 Poteau
12 Sallisaw
13 Eufaula
14 Tahlequah
15 Cushing

Circus Vargas

May 18-20 Huntington
Beach, Calif.

Franzen Bros. Circus

May 22 Coal Valley, Ill.

Great American Circus

May 17 Pearl River, NJ
18 Old Bridge
19 Sayerville

Hamid-Morton Circus

May 20-23 Trenton, NJ

Holiday Hippodrome

May 12 Sheboygan, Wisc.

M & M Circus

May 22-23 Grandisland,
Nebr.

Pickle Family Circus

May 22-23 Stanford, Ca.

The Big Apple Circus

May 19-31 Brooklyn, NY

**Happy Birthday
to
Yvette Bates
May 17th**

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
to May 31 New York, NY

Ringling-Barnum - Red
May 18-23 New Haven,
Conn.

Roberts Bros. Circus

May 17 Logan, Ohio
18 Marrow
19 W. Jefferson
20 Washington C.H.
21 Lima
22 Kenton
23 Celina

Wondercade

May 18-19 Palatka, Fla.
21-23 Tallahassee

Zerbini/Castle Circus

May 18-19 Red Deer, Alberta
20-22 Edmonton

--- OTHER DATES ---**James H. Drew Exposition**

May 17-23 Charleston,
W. Va.

Elliott Amusement Co.

May 18-23 Detroit, Mich.

Tip Top Shows - Blue

May 19-23 Beaver Dam,
Wisc.

--- MAGIC ---**Abbott's Magic Exhibit**

May 21-23 Palm Beach
Shores, Fla.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

May 17 Johnsonburg, Pa.
19 Lancaster
20 Shippensburg
21 State College
22 Everett
23 Central City

Beatty-Cole

by JIM MIGHELLS

Caught the 1982 edition of the Beatty-Cole Circus at Burlington, NC, on April 21. Since I arrived after the 4 p.m. matinee had started, I waited until the 8 p.m. performance. Rain and cold weather kept much of the crowd away and the lot was a second choice with the fairgrounds partially under water.

Cold winds made the snow cones seem a poor choice to while away the time, but the concession help said the coffee was only for the help. With temperatures in the '40s the butchers could have sold barrels of coffee. *Cie la vie.*

The front end looked good with new paint jobs on the ticket and concession wagons. Two other trailers were pulled up to lead the crowd into the front with small concession and souvenir stand, moon walk and elephant rides to occupy the crowd that waited. It was interesting to watch the elephant ride, the cow doing it seemed the only one interested, numerous times she walked the kids around on her own with the two 'attendants' never even looking at her or the kids, to see if they ended the ride with as many as started. Thankfully, one of the three at least knew her job.

Several new tractors were in evidence with new paint jobs on the others to give a nice overall appearance and impression as you come in. The show is framed, fresh, clean and neat.

Russel Darr leads a strong brassy band that backs the show up all the way, the program says eight man but from where I sat I could only count six, whatever, they sounded good, from start to end.

The show was good, cold windy weather or no, the audience stayed for the whole show, teeth clicking and knees a knocking and loved it.

Overture by the band, followed by The Circus on Parade with all artists, ringstock and elephants, followed by Capt. Dave Hoover and the cats, lions and tigers. Eduardo Duo next with a good aerial perch that couldn't be appreciated as much with distractions of knocking down the area.

Vashek on inclined wire followed, then three rings of juggling lovely ladies. Clowns

followed with the safe cracking bit. A strong clown alley with the venerable Mike Kaye and several good bits including one with a clown singing for the spec.

Oscarin Brothers presented good comedy trampoline routine with lots of class and timing. Two ring perch routines followed by the spec 'Clown Fantasy Spectacular' with artists, clowns and kids from the audience and the singing clown, a nice number that left you feeling good.

Aerial ballet with 10 ladders, traps in end rings and cloud swing in center ring with one, very gorgeous group of girls, Intermission.

With the cold, the donnicker got more business than the elephant rides pitched in intermission. A nice touch was the clowns giving autographs during the color book pitch, a lotta little kids came back to their seats with shining eyes for that.

Show started again with the rolling globes then Flying Alvarez on flying trapeze with the younger one doing the triple. Welde's Russian Bears still have the best dancing bear I have ever seen in this country.

Forgot, in first half was also Christine Herriott with dogs and pony routine, dog part is good but the pony resinback poodles are very good. After the bears the Herriotts present two high school horses in a nice routine, separately and coming together in the center ring. Classy.

Three ring teeterboards with Ayalas, Estradas and Martins, again quick, classy routines. Capt. Fred Logan and Family present eight bulls - 5 in one ring, 3 in another ending with long mount. Good presentation of a good act. Finale.

Costuming was super, prop crew works quiet and clean in new red coveralls and generally the show is smooth and well put together.

Jimmy James ties things together and does several songs with different acts. All in all, I thought it was a fine show worth the price. . . but I'd have enjoyed it more with a cup of coffee.

PEOPLE

BILL BURGER has left Kay Bros. Circus and is visiting his grandchildren in the Tulsa, Okla. area. He can be reached by phoning: (918) 369-3181.

Carson & Barnes

by CHARLES BELLATTI

Carson & Barnes Circus had three days of dusty lots and three days of unseasonably cold weather, all with high winds, in West Texas and New Mexico in mid-Apr. but still racked up the largest weekly gross in D. R. Miller's 46 year career as a circus owner. Snow fell during the set up at Carlsbad, NM, Apr. 22. In appreciation, Miller hosted a T-bone steak dinner for all personnel following tear-down in the winter quarters town of Hugo, Okla., May 9th.

Joining since opening were Mohamed and Cheryl Rahhali, high hand balancing and high perch. They were with Carson & Barnes in the fall.

Band personnel for 1982: Charles Stevenson, director and baritone; Robert Gardiner, drums; Bill Doyle, Matthew Dickey and Willard Roop, trumpets; William Burnett and Tim Davis, trombones, and Moses Smith, tuba.

In Clown Alley are: Jack Jackson, pro-

ducing; Richard (Buckles) Perales; Needham Parrish III (Chipper), Maudie Lou Bayless (Flip), Brian Davis and Barry Brazell, Also working in the final clown display are Rickie Marcias, Jr. and Moises Ferreira, who holds center ring with his clown balancing.

When "Tiny" Marafiot left the number one press assignment after three weeks, former Vargas and Beatty-Cole staffer Tom Inabinette came on to help out temporarily.

PEOPLE

HOPE and MIKE KENT, The Stardusters, visited Circus Circus Casino recently and caught the afternoon show. Acts included Johnny Jordan's Upside Down Unicycle aerial number and his 'Globe of Death', also appearing in the program was a poodle dog act, trampoline by The Christianis and a juggling act.

BC Festival

The first "Festival of Fools" was held at the Granville Island Public Market in Vancouver, BC, Apr. 1-4. Over 27 professional clowns, mimes, jugglers and fools, and as many non-professionals helped to make the festival a success. In all 13, one hour shows were presented and all groups working in the area were represented. In addition to the indoor shows, free 'busking' was held in the open part of the market, throughout the four days.

Advance publicity was helped by the cooperation of many city merchants, with a downtown tower giving a breakfast for the clowns on the open roof 24 floors above the downtown core.

Large gas balloons were released and a donated fleet of 5 ships helped the clowns arrive at dockside at the market.

Benny the Clown picked up the deputy mayor in a Rent-a-wreck from city hall and drove her to the official unopening ceremonies. She extended greetings to the clowns from city hall and the mayor, and

was made an Honorary Fool for a Day, after which she sped back to city hall in the wreck.

Organizers of the event, clowns Stringbean and Looney, are now preparing for next year and hope to have more national acts, they have designated 1986 as the 'International Fools Festival' in Vancouver, BC. All clowns and fools interested in attending please write: Fools Festival, 246 West 13th Ave., Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Miscellaneous

The Seils Sterling Tent No. 79, CFA, will hold its semi-annual dinner meeting on May 19th, at the Hoffbrau Restaurant in downtown Sheboygan, Wisc., at 7 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Mr. Jesse A. Jensen, general agent for Carson & Barnes Circus, who will talk about the current edition of the circus, its past history and future plans.

CHS Convention

by CHRIS AUDIBERT

The 1982 CHS Convention was the first one I'd ever been able to attend, although I am a charter member holding Card No. 14.

I'd planned to drive down to Washington from New York, but old Nellie acted up and I had to put it into a garage. Therefore I took the Greyhound South on I-95 and it was nice that I went that way, as I was able to spot the Olympic Amusements (carnival) trucks and equipment on its way North from Baltimore to it's next stand at Shea Stadium.

Arriving in Washington, I checked into the hotel and registered in with Richard Flint. Then started the beautiful time, meeting and talking with people I'd corresponded with but had never had the good fortune to meet. Stuart Thayer and his lovely bride Joe McKennan and so many, many others. Of course, Jim Hassan, the Schmidts and some others I already knew from elsewhere but a new friend I made was George C. Bingham, to whom I was able to make my room shower and bed available to refresh himself before going downstairs for the evening festivities.

To those who for one reason or another were unable to attend, you missed out on a lot of fun.

The steam calliope from Miamisburg, Oh. was taped recorded by several members and brought back memories of Crazy Ray and others from my earlier days.

The circus under John Herriott was first rate with the wild west after show with Jonny Rivers and Frank Dean, was much like the old days and a treat for us back door fans.

John Herriott and his candy pitch on Saturday afternoon provided one huge laugh to several of us when a mother and her kid pushed thru the exciting crowd to try to get that huge box of K & C Candy for only 25c and a prize inside. When we explained to her that this was just an example of the candy pitch of years ago and that there was no candy, she was a disappointed woman.

The air calliope in the top provided a good background of music for the various

acts.

Now, inside the museum was more fun and pleasure. Miller up from Sarasota with his model of the Hemisphere wagon and hitch and the scroll carving of his two buddies, showed how Sebastian and other wagon carvers worked. Down in the locomotive room Gordon Carver was carving figures and had part of his Barnum show train with wagons and bulls.

There was also the Clown Make-up Booth with Danny Chapman and Bill Ballantine. Also clown wig and nose make-up booth. The clown shoe making booth, the side show panel painting booth, the wardrobe booth, on the top floor, where you could try on the clothes, and last but not least, the side show under Ward Hall was pure pleasure. All the acts were first rate and meeting Loratta Fulkerson, the Tattooed Lady, the lady I'd like to marry so that when I got bored with life I could always ask her to disrobe so I could attend the moving pictures.

The films were something else again. We were presented with wild west films that one seldom sees, also a film of the Barnum & Bailey parade of 1903-04, and 15 or so other films. And how about the poster tour at the library and the circus exhibit at the corcoran.

The banquet was first class with the members of the various circus and side show acts as guests. Since Richard Flint had made this convention one of the best if not the best, as many members said, I called for a standing ovation and it was the pleasure of every person in the hall to stand.

After a fine speech and several poems by John Herriott the banquet broke up into an informal meeting. I was just sorry that I wasn't able to stay for the band concert on Sunday, but many of us had to leave for home.

It was "all out and over" and a beautiful time was had by all. The weather co-operated by being perfect.

Betty Leonard, where were you?

Looking forward to next year. But one thing I think we should start to talk up with the other fan organizations is to get Congress to take circus people out of the

(Continued on Page 10)

Show Acts

The Shrine Circus at Toledo, Ohio, Apr. 29-May 2nd, was produced by Sam T. Polack, with Al Dawley, ringmaster, Ron Kelroy, prop boss, Wm. Boom Boom Browning, musical director and Earl Michaels, vocalist.

The program included: Shrine Introductions; Spec; Overture; Rix Bears; Frank & Estreleta, aerial perch; Rosamonds, cradle; Light Pitch; The Kursawes, bikes; Clowns; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Lou Ann Jacobs, aerialist; Ethel's Greyhounds; the Clowns; Pancho, whips and ropes; Rex Young's comedy car; The Kents, whips and ropes; The Flying Lunas; Intermission.

The Framcarros, foot juggling; Ethel's Sword Balancing; Clowns; The Kents, balancing act; Smaha's Horses; Clowns; Gorilla Parody; Elephants presented by Johnny and Laura Walker; Finale.

PEOPLE

MIKE NAUGHTON & CO. (circus clowns) were booked by Bauer-Hall for Kid's Day at Liberty Bell Race Track in Philadelphia on April 24th. Mike did some of his magic act as well as handling announcing chores for the festivities.

SONNY MOORE came out of retirement after ten years to open the Fort of the Osage Park, Osage Beach, Mo. on April 24th, with a comedy act of six dogs and one

THE COSTUMER

By Philip Morris

SORRY...THE LAST PERSON TO RENT THIS TUXEDO WAS A MAGICIAN.



CHS CONVENTION (Continued)

migratory workers category and put them under the rest of the working people's law.

And, a final note, the Data Computer demonstration by Jim Stegall was a revelation as to what this thing can do for researchers in the future.

black cat named "Bucky" and he is performing with them until their new trainer **DON GOODMAN** can take over.



by LLOYD E. JONES

The Society for the Preservation of Variety Arts (S.P.V.A.) a freres Larsen enterprise started a series of specials this month for a total of 14 shows in all.

On May 1st, they offered a tribute to Bojangles with Gene Bell and members of the Hoofers Club; On May 8th, Linda Hopkins was featured; on May 15th Raveen was the feature star and on May 22, Songwriters were honored with Jay Livingston, Ray Evans, Richard Sherman, Henry Tobias and Bobby Troup.

On May 29th, W. C. Fields will be honored with Karrel Fox acting as Fields. The Magic Castle Junior Magicians will offer a full evening show on June 5th, while June 12th will be "An Evening with Rudy Vallee."

On June 19th, the Barbershoppers (Int'l winners) will be featured; while Barbara Perry (Passionate Ladies) will be featured on June 26th, along with George M. Cohan with Rob Barron and Ginny D'Auria with Mark Fitch, musical director.

Ragtime will be featured on July 10th, while the program for July 17th will have Buddy Ebsenand, his daughter Bonnie and the Wiere Brothers. Then on July 24th Kra-mien & Co. will present a full evening of magic, and on July 31st 'The Golden Days of Radio' will be featured with Bill Baldwin.

Complete details are available from the Variety Arts Center, 940 So. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90015. An attractive series and part series price is offered and the individual shows can be seen for as low as \$5.00 to \$8.00.

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PEOPLE

JOE SCHMITT, Jr., is currently touring as producing clown with the Ford Bros. Circus.

JIM RIDENOUR (Happy the Clown) has completed his school shows and will now be painting signs until fall. He works a little rubber on the weekends.

BEV BERGERON is taking his two hour show to Texas for a college performance, then heads out for a two week ship cruise.

Busy Weekend

by DON SANDMAN

This reporter had a wild but wonderful circus weekend, April 16, 17, 18, with 3 circuses playing at the same time in Cincinnati, Lexington and Columbus.

On Friday, Apr. 16, this writer and the eight CMB's who had set up displays in the Cincinnati area for the Syrian Temple Shrine run of the Royal Hanneford Circus were invited to dinner and to see the circus performance as guests of Syrian Temple.

The CMB's enjoyed a delicious buffet and then attended the circus. The show ran from Apr. 13 to 18th. The 61st annual Red Carpet Circus of Syrian Shrine Temple was presented at Cincinnati Gardens and was produced by Tommy Hanneford, John Mc Connell and Glenn Parkins, of the Royal Hanneford Circus.

The staff included: Keith Killinger, musical director; Senor Rai, ringmaster/Announcer, Al Leonard, vocalist; Philip Morris, spec designer and director; Wayne Kikala, prop boss; Gertrude Hanneford, aerial director, George da Deppo, art director; David Jones, lighting; Wally Jones, producing clown; Ray Orszak, wardrobe master; Cheryl Jones, wardrobe mistress; Ed Kenyon, transportation and Dr. Charles Mays, company physician.

The program included: Overture of Light; Introduction of Million Dollar Ringmaster, Senor Rai; A Circus Cavalcade; George Barreda, lions; The Warrenians, The Nocks, the Dynasty Duo, aerialists; Shrine Clowns; Balancing Chairs of Ricardi; Teeterboard by The Franciscos; The Sanger Riding Academy, featuring Nellie Hanneford and Tommy Hanneford assisted by Katherine Hanneford (93 yrs young). A Nautical display with aerial lovelies featuring Lou Ann Ja-

cobs; Katinka's Canines; Anita Zoppe and her miniature horses; Jackie Althoff's chimps; Nellie Hanneford and Midnight; The Guereros, high wire; Alphonzo, rope tricks; the Karoly-Zoppe Riders with Mark Karoly, Dennis Zoppe, Nellie Hanneford, Kim Loyal; Fairytale favorite with Pinocchio and Christmas Toy Time; Intermission.

Color Book Pitch; Flying Trapeze with The Flying Gaonas and the Flying Lantons; Shrine Clowns; The Altoff Bears; The Hanneford elephants presented by Mark Hanneford Karoly; The Swiss Family Nock, sway poles; Finale with entire company and exit marches.

The 330 page program included a full page thanking the CMB's for installing displays around town. They were Albert Conover, Wendell Cultice, Art Dicken, Stan Dillon, Roger Harris, Ed Knoebel, Robert Meifert, Belford South and Don Sandman.

Saturday, Apr. 17th found us in Lexington, Ky. for the 34th annual Oleika Shrine Circus produced by George Hubler's Int'l Circus. This is an 11 day event in 8 cities in Kentucky. The show opened in Lexington at Rupp Arena (Apr. 15-16-17), then went on to Prestonberg, Hazard, Harlan, Middlesboro, Somerset, Corbin, Frankfort and Flemingsburg, ending Apr. 25th.

Austin Miles was the ringmaster/announcer with George Hubler doing the Winky Blinky pitches. Larry Keenan is the musical director.

Show opens with a warm-up for the Winky Blinky Man who really gets audience participation to a high pitch.

The program: Overture; Mike Clark's wild animals (usually 6 lions, but on this date one of the lionesses gave birth to three cubs, so she was excused from the act); Rocket to the Moon Artistry of Miss Riet-

(Continued on Page 13)

BUSY WEEKEND (Continued)

ta (Wallenda); Trampoline by Los Karinos; Winky Blinky Man; David Rosaire's Perky Pokes (during the dog act electrician Jake Conover had to repair the lights, someone had pulled the plug); Winky Blinky Man again; The Spider Lady, Danuta; Lady Abigail on Sundance; The Wallendas, high wire act; Intermission.

Color Book Pitch and Floating Satellite Balloon Pitch; Clown Petey and the Dog-catcher; Sir Chadwick Chase and His Rolls Rotten, comedy car; Winky Blinky Man; The Bill Morris Elephants; The Great Wir-engard, swaypole; Douglas MacValley's big Globe of Death; Musical Farewell.

A 238 page program is given to all who enter the arena. The Winky Blinky pitch had the arena well lighted at the conclusion of the pitches.

On Sunday, Apr. 18th, we motored to Columbus to join the Tony Diano Tent CFA's on their visit to the 32nd annual Aladdin Shrine Circus, produced and staged by the Hubert Castle Int'l Circus with Tarzan Zerbini.

The staff: Hubert Castle and Tarzan Zerbini, producers; Col. Lucky Larabee, ring-master/announcer; Gregory Toca, musical director; Rick Aldrich, prop boss; Jerry Staiger, clown director; J. Albert Smith, electrician.

The Aladdin Shrine Band was under the direction of Tom Dale and played prior to the start of the show.

A dramatic opening with double slides for life by Miss Roverta and Miss Michele; Circus Overture; Twin motorcycles on the

high wire with Les Astros Trio; Tarzan Zerbini, wild animals (he arrives in the auditorium atop an elephant); Jorge and his Unpredictable Car; Aerial Ballet with Miss Sylvia, Michele, Roverta, Tami and Tracy; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Mike and Carl doing chair balancing in ring 1 and 3 while the Franchee Acrobatic Act is in the center ring; Three rings of baby elephants, Baby Bunny, Tony and Marie; Shrine Clowns; Christopher James, wire act; Aerial production featuring Miss Susie; Juggling in three rings with Los Navahos, Los Apaches, Los Commanches; Los Gauchos, Argentine act; Intermission.

Color Book Pitch, Winky Blinky Light Pitch and Balloon Pitch.

Marie France's Yorkshire dogs; Burger's Dogs and Pony Revue; The Flying Ibarras on the Flying Trapeze; Uncle Frank's Ham & Eggs Revue; The Plunketts in fun on the trampoline; The Jurgins, sword balancing in ring 1, while in ring 3 Les Castros present a perch act; Display of animals with the Mahah Camels and Llamas, Burger's Chimps and Tricia's Arabian stallion; Scott's Royal Boxer Dogs play football; Elephants in two rings with the Diano elephants and Tarzan's elephants, with a long mount on the track to close, followed by Johnny Luxem's Wheel of Destiny.

Tommy Hanneford reported that he has resigned to produce the circus for Antioch Temple in Dayton, and Syrian Temple in Cincinnati next year. He also said that he will be at the Columbus (Ohio) Zoo Park over Memorial Day weekend.

Ford Bros.

by RALPH HARTMAN

On Sunday, Apr. 25th, we visited Gopher Davenport's Ford Bros. Circus near Gibolo, Texas, and then we attended the show at Boerne, Texas on Apr. 26th.

It had been mentioned how the show had been painted and lettered. Trucks were all newly painted, but there was no lettering on any of them.

The new big top, a foreign type from Bruno, is truly beautiful in red and white. It is hard to describe, but it appears to be based on a 60 ft. round top with three 30 ft middles, all sewed together. Then there is a long additional piece, appearing to be 3 more square 30 ft. middles, sewn together. This long piece inserts between the halves of the basic tent, with center poles on each side, a total of 8 aluminum center poles. The tent is high enough to rig a Mexican style flying rigging.

There are three sets of ring curb, and the arena stays up at the far end of the tent.



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The entrance is through the office semi, like Carson & Barnes Circus.

The midway has a snake show and numerous carnival type games. There is also a 'Moon Bounce'. The four elephants are on the midway along with some llamas. Elephant rides go for \$2.00. There is also a pony ride.

General admission tickets are \$6.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Reserves are sold inside for \$1.00.

There is a sound system and records are used for music. There is one clown. (When we caught the show the sound system was such that it could scarcely be heard).

The performance is good and offers the following: Low wire acts in Ring 2 and 3, with Roping on the track by Turtle Benson; Five female lions worked by Harry Locker in the arena; Two girls on trapeze over Ring 1 and 3; Wally Eastwood and a girl partner, juggling (he is great); Dressage horse in Ring 3; Three black bears worked by Harry Locker in Ring 2; Clown who did a lot of talking; Aerial Ballet with two

(Continued on Page 15)

FORD BROS. (Continued)

webs and a swinging ladder; Balloon Pitch; Dogs and Pony in Ring 3; Performing goats in Ring 2; Clown with illusion (sword thru kid's neck); Two elephants in Ring 2 and two in Ring 3 (the four end with a long mount in Ring 3); Flying Act, two girl flyers and a child flyer, feature the passing leap.

Everyone was very nice and hospitable. Jack Gobble, supt. and Gopher Davenport, extended every courtesy.

Harry Locker is a most pleasant young man, formerly with Carson & Barnes. He is in charge of the elephants and also is working the cats and bears.

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In Memoriam

by BOB STODDARD

Addie Netti Stubblefield Carlson, age 89, was buried at Hillcrest Memorial Park, in Dallas, Texas, on April 12th.

She was born in San Antonio, Texas, in 1892, to George and Annie Stubblefield. At the age of 5 her father died and four years later her mother married a circus acrobat named George Lowe.

Addie became a performer at the age of ten, as the Lowe family travelled throughout Illinois with a Medicine Show until they created a new act and played many small circuses as The Stubblefield Trio. By the time Addie was 14, the trio had made it to the top and were featured performers on the biggest circus of them all - Ringling Bros. They travelled and lived in a suite on the 85 car train and swung from trapezes as much as 75 ft. in the air.

It was a hard and demanding life, but a wonderful life full of great and romantic memories that Addie never forgot.

Hoxie Bros.

by JIM RIDENOUR

The writer visited Hoxie's big tent at Dayton, Tenn., Apr. 21 and in Crossville, Tenn., on Apr. 24th. The Dayton date was a sell out and a repeat for the American Legion.

Crossville started out bad as the stakes hit rock about 8 in. in the ground. After about 2 hours of effort John Lewis was about to pack it up when a local clown did some coordination with the Baptist Church to obtain a decent lot.

The more than adequate crew finally got it up by 4 p.m. They are to be commended for their "the show must go on" attitude. And it did go on.

The program was reviewed earlier, so I will cover the staff, as my opinion is "if you can't move it, you can't show it." My friend Jimmy Silverlake is the supt., keeping 14 plus pieces of show owned rolling stock moving. John Lewis as general manager and Billy Griffin in the wagon were real nice as is always the case. Mrs. Moyer is on the front door and is always nice to us fans.

After three years of hard work, Mike Miller has moved up to concession manager. This young man, along with his wife, are hard workers and will no doubt do a great job. The Dykes Bros. have the garbage.

Oh, yes, Hoxie has real clowns this year and they do a real fine job. Arthur and Bee Stone, of Louisiana, look and act like clowns and they made my day.

The 6 piece band (earlier reported as 5 pieces) do a bang up job. I loved them. Charles Moyer is in charge and on trumpet, Danny Reynolds, tuba, Wayne Reynolds,

trombone with Faye Reynolds, organ. The sixth member is the singing ringmaster Gary Holveck who fills in on baritone. This guy Holveck is pro all the way with excellent announcing skills, works illusions and works them with class. He projects a lot of person ality with zim and vigor, I like him.

I missed Roger Boyd, Jr.'s side show as the only thing on the midway was a giant snake show, owned by John Lewis.

I must mention young, wild Bill Kramer with the cat act. He does a nice job. What really turned me on was the revamped bull act. Joe Frisco has really earned his salt in a short period of time. In my 8 years of visits I have never seen Hoxie's bull act move faster or look better.

The tall blonde on traps is Sharon Ward. She looks good and knows her stuff. The dog act with the wire walking tom cat deserves mentioning. It is cute.

That drunk sailor, Lee Merriott, on the tight wire has it all together. He has a good turn. Was glad to see a flying act this season and th Flying Gaonas add a lot.

Doris and her Kids (goats) got a good hand and well deserved. I didn't get the name of the nice lady with the dressage. I am indeed sorry as she deserves to be mentioned. The Indian wardrobe is first class all the way.

Gene Mall is chief mechanic, keeping it all rolling. Thanks Gene, for fixing my bad battery cable. I guess you wanted to get me off the lot.

Old timer Jim Waynick is one of the electricians, Stach Quinn is back as boss canvas man and his wife has the pie car.

I know I must have missed someone and

(Continued on Page 18)

Circus America

by *GEORGE C. BINGAMAN*

Ed Migley's Circus America (formerly Circus Odyssey) reached Wilkes-Barre when Irem Temple sponsored the international show for their opening American season at Kingston Armory, Apr. 12-18. Migley's route card includes dates in Mexico and in Puerto Rico with negotiations presently underway for dates at several Japanese and Philippine locations later in the season.

Circus America sparkles with good music, boisterous joeys, a grand mix of top animal acts and other great thrills and skills in a three ring extravaganza. A circus train of car-wagons steams in the opener featuring the great representative freaks of the side shows as the performers parade their talents, embellished spectacular lighting and telescoping decor giving the festive entry a wonderland atmosphere. Migley replaces his props annually, maintaining the fresh new appearance. Bill Fischer martial ten musicians peppering the effective underscoring of the acts a-la- Merle Evans, Stan Freeburg is the organist. Don Williams, former Ringling clown ringmasters the show in crisp style.

A great number of types of performing animals were displayed in the 1982 edition. Harry Thomas' 12 Bengal and Siberian tigers explode the action in the big cage. Jeouvans Baboons - five of them - are agile, clever and highly entertaining as Nini Hall adds her stunning beauty to a sparkling exhibition of apery. Arias performing bears, four bouncing bruins, offer an assortment of hind leg stands and tricks, walking on a rotating cylinder, swinging from an aerial swing, doing a group band number, forming a 'Hello Dolly' chorus line. The high point was reached in the 11th display, three rings of dog acts, the best combo I've seen in twelve years. What a beautiful sight! Golden Retrievers in one ring, black Dobermans in ring two, black and white Dalmations with spotted horse in ring three - they captured my top award. Trudy's Dalmations (great liberty evolutions, turn arounds, situps). Albertis Pinchers and Arias' Golden Retrievers make an outstanding trio of performing canines. I was mesmerized by Albertis entrance via the magic box when opened produced

those dandy Dobermans.

Gee Gee's Performing Elephants whipped into a fast paced pachydermic maneuver by Roy Wells and Elaine delighted the crowd as their three bulls were dressed to thrill with blue and white head harnesses and ankle bands set off by the white toes.

Aerial wizardry abounded in two rings of cradle by The Dianas and the Cavanaughs, low wire artistry by the Ricardo Troupe, the dynamic Pirates of the Sky, the Flying Valentines, the aerial web ballet of six beauties centered by Ilone Lucia and finally the indomitable Quassars and their rocket ship space thriller.

Two comedy routines, the doctor-nurse-patient gimmick and the markmanship farce by Migley's four joeys, Rick Nash, Irving Hall, Cary Griffin and Eugene Pigeon provided the guffaws. Prof. Schappe's comedy piano is a one-of-its-kind rib tickler. The large and small grand pianos, self-propelled, squirt water, detonate explosions fire shots and run Herr Professor out of the ring. Great comic gimmicry!

Rudolphe Delmonte is a golden-haired heart stealer, spell-bounding with unbelievable contortion, a series of one hand stands and iron jaw mouth-based mount while whirling discs with arms and legs. The young Dutchman follows in the train of his famous teacher-mother who assists. Anna Delmonte was an RBBB star in the '40s establishing her fame in Europe as a contortionist, acrobat and chimpanzee trainer.

The Pietro Cannestrelli Family provided my top thrill because I have been able to see them for nine years in succession on various circuses as children and parents, each year different acts, each year the children maturing, growing and improving. Pietro and Joyce bring their tribe from Italy and now offer a low wire wizardry via The Ricardo Troupe, aerial stardome above the ballet via Ilona Lucia and finally the great Cannestrelli Troupe teeterboard climaxing with a four-high mount. The marvel to me here is the family story - six children and their parents happy together, growing into manhood and womanhood as they are devoted to each other and their craft.

The Cannestrelli's are but one of count-

(Continued on Page 18)

CIRCUS AMERICA (Continued)

less happy, healthy, high-class circus families who put average America to shame in their strong family unity. Away with this nonsense that circus life is injurious to the children. Those who preach this baloney are not acquainted with what's going on in the American circus society.

There was another surpiser in the Cannestrelli camp as I watched those six lovely young aerialists on the web. I was awed by their beauty, youth and grace until "Eureka" - there I discovered young Joyce, the forever young mother of the six Cannestrelli's, performing with her young daughters and other damozels, blending in as another young aerialist! My dear Joyce, I've seen you perform many times but never better as a young teenie-bopper on Migley's '82 web. You are my Circus Mother of the Year! Keep flying.

Flying flags, sparklers surrounding the stilt-walker and the short clown - Migley's show sparkled to its close. Keep it up, Ed.

A special acknowledgement for Migley's prop staff, Rocky and Wilbur Rebideau.

PEOPLE

JULIE MOORE, daughter of SYD MOORE, and SCOTT HILLMAN, formerly with the FLYING VALENTINES, will be married on May 22nd, and then plan to reside in New Jersey.

DU VAL and TRINA, One Finger Stand (without a glove) and LITTLE BEN, hand balancing, will be taping their acts for the television program "CIRCUS" on May 14th, in Toronto, Canada.

HOXIE BROS. (Continued)

I am sorry. If most of you fans are like me you enjoy reading about the entire staff to get their names, plus those of the clowns, etc.

Well, I have to finish up my school shows and then it is all over until Sept. 15th. In conclusion I really enjoyed my annual visit to the Hoxie show.

I've been told that Wayne Franzen will be in Tennessee, so if anyone has any of the route please send it to Don, as I do so want to see this show. From everything I've heard about it, this show must be the finest small mud show of the century.

JOHN CALVERT, recently returned to the U.S. and is presently visiting with PHIL MORRIS in Charlotte, NC. John will be a guest star on the Southeastern Magician's Convention Show at Charlotte, May 28-29.

DAVE KNODERER and his horse "Sir Bingo" will be with Bentley Bros. Circus this summer and will also appear at the 'State Fair of Texas' this fall. Dave has been painting equipment for Elliott Amusement Co., Skerbeck Bros. Shows and the Schmidt Amusements.



The photos on this page were taken by George C. Bingaman on the Circus America at Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

- 1 - Harry Thomas, the Tiger Man
- 2 - Rudolphe Delmonte
- 3 - The Ricardo Troupe - Ilona, Ricky and Judy
- 4 - The Choo Choo Opener
- 5 - Professor Schappe, Comedy Piano
- 6 - Elaine Ponders Pachydermics

Big John's Show

by RAY BRETHER/Sho' Artist

For the past 5 years I've come out of retirement to refurbish Big John Strong's Circus equipment.

Some may say "What's a Sho' Artist?" - he is a signpainter - with an 'artistic flare' for the show - it may be Circus, Theatre or Legitimate Stage and scenic drops. He knows a 3 sheet from a 24 sheet, even a one sheet. Rarely in the business is he called a sign painter, and he is not ashamed of the title.

Statistics, I leave to others better qualified, on how many tent shows remain today, but I am well aware of the disappearing touch of "Americana" - that its no effort on my part - God willing, to help preserve it.

Big John Strong has a new show this year and even the tent is bigger. My job was to direct artistic embellishments wherever. Camouflaging a bus was one ordeal. John's mid way is bigger, but what pleased me this

year was the general attitude of all these new talents - doubling at whatever they jumped into to do. I could not have done it without them. Their hired talents were displayed at "dress rehearsal" which left me spellbound. I never once asked a person to do the job given a second time - their talents amazed me.

Sugar and Spice are with John again this year - an outstanding performance in every phase. J. J. Evans, the cowboy who excels in hatches and rope twirling did an outstanding performance. Watch this lad in the future, I feel we have another Charlie Russell in our midst. He is a master at what he tackles. It is easy to write about J. J. Evans as he has toiled with me for several years.

Jim Zajiccek was an ardent art helper - his talents really surprised me, with his balancing act in the center ring. Curtis Cainain, master of many of the applied arts has a unique dog act, supported by Sherrie Pfau. Darvk Gass and Marion Serns performed their share with the rest.

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BIG JOHN'S SHOW (Continued)

Red Johnson did a superb job as Master of Ceremonies. I saw the show in its entirety in Hemet to two full houses. Don't miss it, this is John's best yet.

As the show pulled out for the '82 season, John said, "Ray - tough to get old." "Yes," I muttered, but you have a lot of Americana on that show that won't die in a hurry, what spirit!

Personnel with the show includes:

Brian Grieser, supt., Tina Grieser, works ponies, trapeze, illusions with Bob Seaton and has her bear, Bongo; Curtis Cainian, assistant to Brian, plus dog act, juggling, low wire and three people revolving ladder with Sherry Pfau, Brian, Curtis.

Jimmy Zajicceh, juggling, rola bola; Marian Sern, "Sam the Clown"; Tom Strasser, marketing director; Jamie Small and James Herbert work advance.

Carmen Loter is in charge of concessions and Carlos Riveria is assistant, with Robert Dunderdale.

Ron Pace and Chris Kennington (Sugar &

Spice) present a cradle act, perch act and the elephant number. J. J. Evans is the western performer doing roping, trick riding, etc., Sandy Strong works as a clown on the swinging ladder and also does a dance on broken glass. Bob Seaton is an escape artist and presents magic illusions.

Robert (Red) Johnson is show manager; Curtis and Terry Erickson have the office and pie car.

PEOPLE

MARIO A. DEMARCO, author of several photo books on cowboy movie stars, is preparing a book about Buck Jones. He is looking for unusual photos and items of interest about the famous film star and especially about Jones' ill-fated Wild West show. Anyone having information or material about Jones should contact Mario DeMarco at 152 Maple St., West Boylston, Mass. 01583.

Show Party

by *DON BRIDWELL*

The cast and crew of the M&M Circus presented their annual "Townie Terror" Circus at a party for show personnel and Shrine circus staff, at the Lincoln, Nebr., engagement of the M&M Circus on April 23rd.

The show, in which various acts parody their fellow performers, was co-ordinated by Don and Carol Phillips and announced by Don Phillips. "Music director" was Don Bridwell as Willie "Wham-Bam" Whiting (Boom Boom Browning).

Some of the acts were: Pat Davison as Gerald Walnut with "Mr. Out-of-Rythm" the unicycle horse; Pamela Obando as "Miss Gonzull, sweetheart of the wire"; Sabrina Perry and Diana Phillips as the Laughin' at Death Abalone Bros; 3 members of the prop crew with Clown-Wrestling; Pinky Sachs as Missy Lidia on the web, along with a real surprise, show producer Mrs. Grace McIntosh as Miss Gracie-Ann, proving on the web that in her later 60's the former aerialist is as super as she always was; Wayne and Chi-

co of the Woodcock's Leopard-Elephant act along with two dog "leopards" as Barby and Bucky; Little Carlos Obando II as cat trainer Irving Gold, with Carlos, Sr. as the lovely assistant; and Athena Phillips and Pamela Obando as the "fearsome cats"; Alan Gold as "The Demonic Terror" with a sword and knife act that literally was the hit of the evening; and closed with Julien Albullet and Lydia Burkett as the "Julies" motorcycle wire act.

The show and party was attended by over 75 show personnel and staff members.

Do You Remember?

by *Ted LaVelda*

Burling Bros. Circus was framed in New Martinsville, W. Va., the winter of 1949 by E. C. Burlingame. The show was presented in an 80 ft. round end top with one 40 ft. middle piece.

The performance consisted of dogs, ponies and monkeys.

Princess Ann Nelson did three aerial turns, Buck Leahy did a hand balancing act and clown numbers. Dick Leonard worked dogs and ponies, and I presented a four pony drill as well as a posing pony act and a performing burro.

J. C. Admire was the agent, but he left after the first week and he was replaced by Bill Owens. Dolph Jagers had the side show which housed caged animals. Jagers also did Punch & Judy, ventriloquism and small magic.

The show opened in New Martinsville, W. Va., where the show had wintered. It played towns in Penna., West Virginia and Ohio.

The show was small, but seemed to please the people. I closed in mid-season to play contracted fair dates.

Mail Returned

Circus Reports addressed to the following people were recently returned by the Post Office who states they can not be delivered as addressed.

W. H. McGrath Jana D. Coleman
Ricky Hargrove James Decker
Marvin's Marvelous Magic Shop

HOLLYWOOD LIBERTY HORSES

Now appearing on the Maine Dates
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This beautiful 6 horse Black and White Liberty Act will be available for booking after July 4th.

I'm always interested in bringing this act to new and different places so I would like to hear from new and different producers, as well as the ones I have worked with in the past.

For Booking Information Contact:

PHILIP ANTHONY
2431 South Sheridan Street
Philadelphia, Penna. - 19148
Phone: 215 - 462 - 4825

PEOPLE

JOEY JORDAN, juggler, RICKI DUNN, pickpocket and KEN NOYLE, magician, along with TINY TIM, finished their cruise tour prematurely due to a fire in the ship's engine room.

LARRY CHARTIER, of Manhattan, Kans., and RON SANFORD, of Beatrice, Nebra. caught the opening of Carson & Barnes Circus and were breakfast guests at the Lowrys.

Mr. and Mrs. ADEN LOWRY visited the Circus Vargas show in Lancaster, Calif., during the time they visited with their daughter and family, who live in that city.