

# CIRCUUS REPORT

Number 20

May 18, 1981

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year



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# Show Dates

Bentley Bros. Circus  
May 21 Richmond, Calif.

Carden Int'l Circus  
May 19-24 Toronto, Ont.

Carson & Barnes Circus  
May 18 Woodward, Okla  
19 Watonga  
20 Purcell  
21 Wewoka  
22 Yukon  
23 Stillwater

Hubert Castle Circus  
May 11-22 Calgary, Albta

Coronas Circus  
May 23 Jackson, Miss.

Hamid-Morton Circus  
May 22-25 Trenton, NJ

Ringling-Barnum - Blue  
May 19-24 New Haven, Conn

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

Roberts Bros. Circus  
May 18 Bishop, Va.  
19 Bluefield  
20 Narrows  
21 Alderson  
22 White Sulphur  
Springs, W. Va.  
23 Circleville

Royal Crown Circus  
May 20-21 Abilene, Texas  
24-30 Fort Worth

Royal Imperial Circus  
May 18-19 El Cajon, Calif.  
22-25 Tucson, Ariz.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
May 18 Davis, Calif.  
19 Santa Clara  
20 Bakersfield  
22 Santa Barbara  
- End of Tour -

TNT & Royal Olympic  
May 20-24 Quincy, Ill.

---- MAGIC ----

Krystali's Kavalcade  
May 18 Rawlings, Wym.  
19-20 Casper  
21 Laramie  
22-24 Cheyenne

Magic Jeweler  
May 18 Hamburg  
20 Amsterdam  
22 Zurich  
24 Munich

Pf. Miller Magic Time USA  
May 18 Corraopolis, Pa.  
19 Athens, Ohio  
20 Sugargrove  
22 Barnesville, Pa.  
24 Milton

Starfire  
May 18 Waco, Texas  
19 Austin  
20-21 San Antonio  
22-24 Houston

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama  
May 18-25 Gloucester, Mass

James H. Drew Exposition  
May 21-30 Marmet, W. Va.

Los Latinos  
May 22-25 Trenton, NJ

Trudy's Dalmatians  
May 18-22 Calgary, Albta

Circus Vargas  
May 15-18 Sacramento, Ca.

# TODAY IS CIRCUS DAY IN \_\_\_?

A WEEKLY CONSOLIDATED ROUTE SHEET of Leading Circuses. - Circus Fans, Why Wonder where they are, keep up with them daily. Remember there was one in your State last Season that you missed. WHY? be disappointed this year. Watch the routes weekly as they near your state and city.

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**The Rocket Car - The One and Only**

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**Katinka's Poodles**

**The Wee Gets - Balancing**

**The Jupiter Trio - Triple Trapeze**

**The Albulet Bros. - High Wire**

**The Albarracine - Aerial Duo**

**Julian & Co. - Skycycle**

**Kay Rosaire - Mixed Animal Cage Act**

**Contact Amandis Entertainment, Inc., for availabilities of the above acts**

# CIRCUS

## ROYAL LICHTENSTEIN CIRCUS

BY GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

The Royal Lichtenstein 1/4 Ring Sidewalk Circus came to Lehigh University's Chapel Green in Bethlehem, Pa., on Apr. 23rd for a one hour performance at noon, which was moved inside to Packer Chapel when the rain came.

A crowded house of children and students greeted the five-man company headed by the Rev. Nick Weber, a Jesuit priest dedicated to super circusmanship in the Continental Medieval classical style which ignited an explosion of hearty appreciation from the enthusiastic spectators jamming the chapel seats and sardined while sitting on the nearby floor area.

I was delighted by the old-world air of presentation with classic wit, dialogue and student-level humor, sneaky magic, fast moving pace. Royal Lichtenstein was classic circus with a sublime touch of evangelism with a fine, gentle impact. Father Weber, you have added the mind, the conscience and the soul to contemporary circus. Your Ring Boss must be proud up there! Special indication of the 1/4 Ring Sidewalk performance was the unique format of narrated fable such as "Neighbors" recounting the adventures of a rodent odd couple as they practice the Golden Rule.

The children enjoyed the menagerie performances by a dog, cat, monkey, pony and a bear.

Nick Weber excelled in his knife-walking ascent, fire-eating and magic. Acrobatic and juggling were entrusted to Steve Vacha from Lincoln, Nebr., Rola bola and single trapeze were featured by Stephen Desaulniers from Albuquerque. Chris French of Sacramento and Stephen Coyle round out the performing cast, all appearing in continental clown attire, a very pleasing effect.

What Royal Lichtenstein lacks in size and quantity - after all RL is a 1/4 Ring show - it makes up in charm and class, adding a new dimension to modern American circuses, the desperately needed appeal to man's mind, conscience and spirit! Bravo, Lichtenstein!

The order of displays were: Come-in magic; (Vacha, Weber); Welcome, opening by all;

## Notice

### TAKE NOTE . . .

Some story material and advertisements are being delayed until next week's issue in order to maintain the regular weekly mailing schedule.

## PEOPLE

JOHNNY "Ace" PALMER and BILL CORNELIUS, both magicians, recently were working in Pittsburgh, Pa.

BRUCE ANDERSON, high act aerialist, was featured in the April 1981 issue of "The Hollywood Scene" a local paper.

JERRY BOOKER had his red and white big top set up in Foster City, Calif., for a Chamber of Commerce party there at the end of April.

PHILLIP "Ramek" KEMARR is the M.C. and road manager for the show Krystal's Kavalcade of Mystery Show.

KENT GHIRARD, DICK VIA and RICH BRISLIN provided circus items for a display about the circus at the University of Hawaii last month.

GARY HENRY and family are touring with The Great American Circus this season.

WOODY WOODRUFF and ELENA GATES visited Carden Int'l Circus in Muskogee, Ok. where they spent time chatting with friends. Later ELENA GATES and ZELDA CHANDLER visited the same circus in Oklahoma City where RED GATES was handling snow and floss with ALEX DUNCAN.

Rola bola (Vacha, DeSaulniers); Dog (Weber); Fable (Coyle, DeSaulniers, Vacha); Juggling (Vacha); Knife walk (Weber); Flea Gag (French, Vacha); Egg Drop Gag (Coyle, DeSaul); Monkey (Weber); Juggling Ensemble (French, Vacha, DeSaulniers); Cat (Weber, DeSaulniers); Fire Juggling (Vacha); Card Trick (French, Vacha); Bear (Weber); Nite Clack (Vacha, DeSaulniers); Fire Eating (Weber); Trapeze (DeSaulniers); Escape (Weber); Horn (Weber); Finale (Entire company).

Watch for Royal Lichtenstein. Don't miss this marvelous 1/4 Ring Delight!

# Report

## CIRCUS TIVOLI

BY DEBBIE GOETSCHI

Many people in North America have never had the opportunity to see the beauty and class of the European one-ring circus. They cannot understand why some of us are so committed in believing that this is the true way a circus should be presented. Now North America will have the chance to view circus at its very best with Circus Tivoli.

Founder, J. Serhei Sawchyn, made his circus dream a reality when the show opened in downtown Toronto in early April.

Never before has there been a circus like this in North America. At first you are greeted by an extravagant marquee with over 10,000 flashing lights. Then enter into the lobby with its fabulous concession wagon which is hard to match in the finest theatres.

Once under the beautiful tent you are greeted by ushers, all dressed in red and gold braided outfits, who seat you in one of the 2700 seats; all with an excellent view of the one ring.

The circus performance is outstanding, and was well received by the audience. The one ring gives you the true feeling of the circus - like you are almost a part, not a spectator trying to take in 3 rings. You can appreciate each act, who are given the best working conditions, including theatrical lighting and four spot lights fantastic music by a 6 piece band, beautiful ring curb, 2 ring mats and stage, thus making every act appear at its best.

There is so much more to Circus Tivoli, especially the fine treatment and respect the performers receive from the entire management. There's also the beautiful painted equip-

# Report

## BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

BY TOM CARROLL

The Big John Strong Circus played Auburn and Grass Valley (Calif) on Apr. 24 and 25, for the Calif. Dept. of Forestry Employees Association.

Attendance was very good at both locations. The show garnered excellent publicity layouts in both the Grass Valley Union and the Auburn Journal. The Journal also did a photo spread on women's lib featuring a 14 year old young lady named Neena, who raised the big top. Neena is the show's elephant.

## Miscellaneous

On April 25th, the Pacific Film Archive in Berkeley, Calif., held a "Visit to the Circus" evening which featured special circus films. Films shown were: Little Big Top, Serrina and Madeline and the Gypsy.

ment, laundry, showers, living quarters, wardrobe trailers, pie car . . . everything is first class.

Circus Tivoli is a must for everyone to see, I'm sure it will leave you awestruck as it did me

The line-up includes: The Hassani Moroccan tumblers; La Mafalda, sword balancing; Isabelle Enoch, single trapeze; Teddy and Theresa, hand balancing; Phillip Anthony's Famous Hollywood Horses; Remo & Jenny, head balancing; Dieter, 7 Helga Kraml's bears; Flying Condors; The Berans, perch; James Zoppe's Rosinback Riders; Decio, Kiko & Marianito, musical clowns; Los Castros, high wire.

Clowning was handled by Tiv (Kevin Brookling) who was actually given time for clowning, not for hurry up prop changes . . . very refreshing.



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# Report

## AMERICAN CONTINENTAL CIRCUS

BY MIKE SPORRER

The 36th annual Afifi Temple Shrine Circus at Tacoma, Wash., drew good crowds during their 4 day run at the U.P.S. Fieldhouse, Apr. 16-19. American Continental Circus, a Gatti Production produced the show this year for the fourth year in a row.

An extra day was added to the run because of Easter weekend. A very small crowd was on hand for the Thursday, Apr. 16 performance, but good crowds were there for the Saturday matinee, in what has to be a cramped building for the show

The most outstanding presentation in the program was the Porredon Perch, a winner in last fall's Monte Carlo Circus Festival. I've seen a lot of perch acts, but their poise, presentation and style make this one a sure fire hit.

The program ran as follows: Come in clown work; Overture with Herb Miller directing the

band; Shrine Color Guard; John Miller, ringmaster; Dieter Wichert, lions and tigers (12); Clowns and dogs; The Alexanders, The Rosamonds and The Paulas, cradle; Les Rogers; revolving ladder; Doug Ashton and Sally, musical review; Duo Ramon, rola bola; Miss Martha, contortionist; Myoshi Amoto, hair hang; The Vasquez Chimps; The Lemke Family of Chimps; Carnaval de Argetina, aerial ballet with 8 web girls and featuring Sally Ashton on the single trapeze; Los Gauchos, bola number; Intermission with color book sale.

The Flying Lunas; Rafael's Poodles; Mr. Fred & Co., comedy acrobatics; The Porredon Perch; The Riques, top spinning; The Farkas, Juggling; Dario, juggling; Clowns and magic; The Suarez Riding Troupe; Shrine Clown Birthday Party; The Tanger Troupe, acrobats; Dieter Wichert, elephants (3) and the Exit Marches.

## Notice

The phone number in the recently printed advertisements for Stanley Book was in error. The number shown in the ad below is the correct number.

# Report

## CIRCO SUAREZ

BY GORDON TAYLOR

Acapulco Bay was dazzling with the reflections of the hundreds of white lights outlining the big top of venerable Circo Suarez this winter season. Situated only one block from the beach next to Acapulco's new Park Central, Circo Suarez presented a colorful and highly professional program fulfilling the promise of its stunning appearance and fashionable location.

Not unlike the "Owners Carriage" in our old street parades, a gleaming Cadillac is displayed between the midnight blue big top and the open-walled menagerie tent. Three elephants, two llamas, a miniature water buffalo, two camels and several horses can be seen. U. S. visitors might be surprised to find a nun in a white habit greeting patrons. As a spiritual companion she has traveled with Circus Suarez for several years.

A semi-trailer ticket wagon is parallel to the sidewalk. Price scales are about \$2.72 (actually 60 pasos) and \$1.36 for children's general admission. Reserved seats are \$3.65 and \$4.55; a four-seat box is \$23.73. Ushers direct reserve seat patrons to metal chairs and offer rental cushions for 45c. The interior of the top is decorated with gold stars and has unusually high sidewalls and equally high bleachers. Seating capacity is approximately 4700. Circo Suarez uses a two-ring format.

A ringmaster in black tie and white gloves brings on female dancers in blue and white feathers for a very contemporary disco opening number. A traditional parade follows with elephants, horses, camels and ponies in glittering gold blankets. Bringing up the rear of the parade, two clowns stumble into ring one for a knock-about swinging ladder turn.

In a country where TV is every bit as pervasive and strident as in the U. S., the enthusiasm and applause of the Mexican people is impressive.

Four boys and one woman in green lame, are next with a well-executed trampoline turn that includes double somersaults and a three high on the shoulders. Next, two attractive young women, "Marilyn and Judy", offer a fast moving juggling turn.

At this point a photographer is rapidly snapping shots of each party in box seats. During

intermission, the color photographs mounted in key chain viewers will be offered for \$2.27 - most are sold.

For the fourth display, "Professor Robert" (Raymon) walks through the audience pointing and asking questions while blindfolded son Ulyses, gives a lightning fast identification: paper, keys, purse, it's green paisley, ticket stub numbers, etc. After a short but what must have been a very persuasive pitch they each did brisk business selling 45c horoscope folders.

The next display introduced young Mexican superstar, Joel Christi. Almost what Gunther has been to RBBB Red all these years, Joel is to Circo Suarez. Apparently having the time of their lives, Christi and four chimps laughed and mugged their way through a truly funny routine. Again, the audience was generous with applause, and Christi's happy smile flashed across the tent.

"Glan Alesis" (Jesus Oracio) offered a head stand act atop a twelve foot Eiffle Tower replica. A second clown turn followed.

Dancing to what sounded like Meco's "Wizard of Oz" album, ten trim, great looking women dancers disco in glittering space-age outfits as a lead in for Wonder-Woman look alike "Marvilla (Deyana LaMarjer). An arrestingly beautiful woman - an easy ten - LaMarjer performs a single trap routine from a fireworks-spouting rocket ship revolving above ring one.

Intermission. In addition to the traditional food associated with circus vendors sold (and apparently sold out of) half-pint cartons of frozen strawberries. Workmen in starched red jump suits erected the cage for Joel Christi's remarkable cat act.

U. S. fans, accustomed to the professionalism and obvious intelligence of trainers like Struppi Hanneford, Wayne Franzen and Charlie Bauman and others would not be disappointed to see Christi. Two spotlights pick him out in the darkened cage. Muscular and agile, he leads in the first tiger. Working very closely to the animal, he has the cat do a sit up. The picture of the tiger towering over the trainer is awesome and breath-taking. Golds and blacks of the enormous beast contrast to the shimmering white of Christi's glittering costume. That "greater metaphorical symbolism" of the circus, at this moment, is clear to all; everyone in the tent can identify with the brave guy in the white suit about to match his wits with Great Wild Po-

(Continued on Page 13)

**CIRCO SUAREZ (Continued)**

wer. Someone at Circo Suarez clearly knows very well how to stage this sort of thing and make it work.

The lights come up as one-by-one Christi seats all six tigers, three lions and, finally, one lioness. They begin a mixed pyramid. Curiously - something I've never seen - a lion and one of the tigers muzzle up to each other. Another lion seems hostile and restless - down off his pedestal, his head low, snarling . . . the trainer corrects both situations. The pyramid looks beautiful. Tension and release, Christi does an elaborate Latin bow. Again, working very closely to the cats, Christi has two tigers do sit-ups side-by-side. The lioness now mounts a pedestal close by and the two species eye each other menacingly. On cue, the lioness leaps only inches over the heads of both tigers. Still upright, the tigers paw after the lioness who now turns and does a second leap over the barely contained tigers. There is a mild vacuum as 4000 people resume breathing.

Christi now lights two flaming looks (unlike in the U. S., flames circle all 360 degrees). House lights dim as lions and tigers, one after the other, are leaping - almost flying through the flames; the cage is a whirlwind of leaping power. A lined-up lay-down follows, alternating tiger, lion, tiger, lion. The affectionate pair are rubbing necks again and Christi intercedes. The line-up tight and complete, the cats return first to their pedestals, then, one-by-one, leap over a barrier and out of the arena. Finally, in the manner of showman since long before his birth, Christi kneels and shouts "Por Favor!" and the last reluctant tiger leaves the cage. "The Pride of the Mexican Circus," the ringmaster shouts, "Joel Christi!"

Eyes now follow the "La Calicoa" troupe up the silver strand for their high wire turn. They work without mechanics or back-ups. At one point, the Circo Suarez top is plunged into total darkness. After several seconds spectators were audibly relieved to find the blindfolded Ykayro Calicoa still "safely" balanced on the cable he has continued to walk during the blackout.

The next display finds the rings filled with fluffy animal - suited figures with large cartoon heads. The characters parade and dance, color and motion, then darkness . . . Drums roll as the spotlights now pick out swirling sequined capes and Acapulco-tanned skin. The ringmaster announces "The Flying As-

tros" (Hugo Alberto, Martin and Louis Enrique and Ulysses Raymond) who do a single, one and a half, double and double with a twist somersaults and a cross-over as well.

Jesus Oracio returns for a head stand on the single trapeze turn and then Joel Christi is back with the Circo Suarez elephants.

The music is very contemporary again as a sleek "human projectile" thunders through the red crushed velvet drapes. Astride it all, Ulises Raymon in a "superhero" costume. As he lands in the net the ringmaster shouts in English "Suuper Mann."

Finale costumes are in the Ledo-RBBB-Vargas class. It's a circus salute to the people of the world. A gorgeous young lady and a smiling caballero astride a white stallion are carrying a large flag of Mexico. The audience knows the music; they clap and sing along. "Argentina!" cries the ringmaster as another pair of costumed figures appear. Brazil, China, Iceland . . . and on. Finally, the ring is full of color and flags, "The United States." An incredible bespectacled Uncle and Ms. Sam appear. Their costumes are an explosion in a patriotic sequin factory. The rings clear now and only the representatives of Mexico and the United States remain. Slowly the couples face and in very measured, almost majestic gestures salute one another. The ovation of the Mexican audience is spine-tingling.

Rolling stock is painted to match the midnight blue of the big top and carries the gold and white lettering "Fundado en 1872."

Behind the abundant dazzle of this exciting richly-mounted show is clearly a high sense of professionalism, taste and dedication to excellence. Showmanship is not a dead language in Mexico.

## Shrine Dates

### SHRINE CIRCUS DATES

COMPILED BY MIKE SPORRER

For the Eugene, Oregon, Shrine Club.

1940 - Apr. 25-28 - Polack Bros. - Armory

1941 - Apr. 19-22 - Polack Bros. - Armory

1942 - 1951 - None

1952 - See Circus Report, July 9, 1980

## In Memoriam

**RICHARD BARSTOW** (73) former director and choreographer for the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus, died in New York on May 2nd. He worked with the circus under the big top for 29 years.

**JEAN LeROY** (71) a former Detroit craftsman who spent most of his life building an authentic miniature circus, died in Tucson, Ariz., on April 26th. He clowned with Hagenbeck-Wallace and Cole Bros. circuses, and later started building his circus which contained some 60,000 hand-carved items. In 1978 he moved to Tucson where he opened a 'World in Miniature' museum and workshop.

## PEOPLE

**MILO SMITH**, well known 1 inch model builder of Herkimer, N. Y., is a patient in the Herkimer hospital, where he is reportedly in critical condition. In the early years of the CMB he served as that organization's secretary.

**THE O'BRIEN FAMILY, THE FORNASARI FAMILY** and **JOHN HERRIOTT** participated in the circus program presented May 1-3 by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. Also taking part in the program was **JAY MARSHALL**, of Chicago, who presented his Punch & Judy Show, rag pictures, smoke paintings and other features.

**TIM TEGGE** recently completed a special 16 page program/coloring book for the Happy-time Circus. The book was printed by **WALTER HOHENADEL**, of Rochelle, Ill.

**AMY CARTER**, daughter of former President **JIMMY CARTER**, visited Hoxie Bros. Circus at Americus, Ga., last month.

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BY LLOYD E. JONES

**Harry Blackstone, Jr.**, one of the famed late great magicians, is starting plans for a Centennial Celebration of the birth of his father, on Sept. 27th, 1985. He is asking friends, collectors and anyone in possession of memorabilia to either sell or loan the material to him for a gigantic display. The collection is intended to be shown nationwide, possibly through magic clubs, conventions and other sites. Currently Blackstone, Jr. is busy with TV commercials and promoting a magic set offered by Proctor & Gamble. He can be contacted by General Delivery, Redlands, Ca. 92373.

**J. B. Bobo**, author of magic's best book on coin magic and a busy children's show performer, playing some 300 to 400 shows yearly, fell and broke his hip on March 23rd. In three days he not only had a new socket inserted, but was up and walking about. He left the hospital a week later and in a month was back performing. They grow them tough in Texas!

**Bill Bixby** and *The Adventures of a Young Magician*, starring Greg Wilson, is a CBS Special set for May 5th. Perhaps you caught the show?

*The Floating Lightbulb*, a play by **Woody Allen** is scheduled for a May opening on Broadway. It will star **Beatrice Arthur** and **Jack Weston** and is built around a 17 year old magician whose trick gives the play its title.

**Doug Henning's** new Broadway show 'Merlin' is supposed to open in September. Meanwhile his movie of 'The Magic Show' has not yet been released.

In Las Vegas besides **Siegfried & Roy** at the Frontier, **Mike Skinner** is at the Golden Nugget, **Daniel Cross** at the Desert Inn, **Bob Higa** at the Tropicana Lounge and **Jan Grippo** is at Circus Circus. **Johnny Paul** is working in the downtown area. If one wants to find magicians in Las Vegas all you have to do is attend the Wednesday night meetings which start at midnight and run until the wee hours of the morning. Some two dozen professionals participate in the weekly meetings.

# Show Report

## CIRCUS IN CINCINNATI

BY DON SANDMAN

The 60th annual Shrine Circus of the Syrian Temple, Cincinnati, Ohio, was presented April 20-26 at the Cincinnati Gardens.

Tommy Hanneford's Royal Hanneford Circus played the date this year. The staff for the Hanneford Circus is as follows: Tommy Hanneford, executive director, Glenn Parkins, executive producer, Keith Killinger, musical director, Ray Orzak, costume designer, Al Leonard, vocalist, Senor Rai, ringmaster and announcer, Dwight Hanson, prop boss, Gertrude Hanneford, aerial director, David Jones, lighting, Phillip Morris, spec designer and director, Sandra Smith, assistant spec director, Glenn Parkins, color scheme and layout, Wally Jones, producing clown.

Costuming was by Orzak Studios of Osprey, Fla., Eaves of New York, Don Post Studios, Glendale, Calif., Morris Costumes, Charlotte, NC and Western Costumes, of Hollywood, Calif. Cheryl Jones was wardrobe mistress. Harold Katzu was in charge of the animals, Ed Kenyon, transportation, Dr. Charles Mays, physician, Geri Krell, secretary and floor coverings were by Homosote, West Trenton, NJ.

For Syrian Temple, Noble William Welsh is circus chairman, Noble Hamilton R. Gast, Potentate, Noble James W. Zimpher, general chairman and Noble George Smith, musical director.

The performance opened with an overture by Keith Killinger and the band.

Senor Rai, who is billed as the Million Dollar Ringmaster with his fabulous wardrobe, opens the show by introducing "A Spectacule of Festive Frolickers" and the spotlight hits on the Lisner Duo aerial perch who are doing the Helicopter spin, which is immediately followed by a double slide for life down the wires of the Winn Troupe and the Astros Troupe.

The opening spec leads into the arrival of Bill Golden who comes in via a Roman chariot to present his Golden Tigers. Bill winds up his act by leading on a leash a tiger, around the hippodrome track.

Double Motorcycles on the inclined wire up each side of the area by The Winn Troupe and the Astros kept the audience in suspense.

Wally and Dolly present "The Washerwoman"

All three rings are filled as Packy Dilly spins plates in Ring 1, Eugene and Aurelia on the low wire in Ring 3, and in the center ring are the Teeterboard Spartens of 'Le Franciscos.'

Show maidens abound on the webs (8) as the beautiful Miss Danuska performs on the swinging trapeze (head stands).

The Original Riding Hannefords with Tommy the Riding Fool and featuring Mark Karoly and Dennis Zoppe with Nellie Hanneford and the ever young 92 year old Katherine Hanneford. They feature the backward somersault from the shoulders of the rider to the back of the second horse.

Unequaled equilibristic chair balancing in all three rings with Sir Sladick, Mr. Winn and Sir John.

The children's favorite act of the evening was Gerard Soules and his Poodles of Paris Revue.

The Garza Brothers present their astonishing feats of strength, balancing and contortion as "The Living Statues."

The spec "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" presents some of the most beautiful of acts, which are a part of the spec. Things such as a fire eater, The story features Prince Charming who arrives in the personage of Mark Karoly, with a beautiful display of dressage and horsemanship. Then a magical disappearance from her plastic box in which she was placed, Snow White returns on the hand thrown kiss of Prince Charming. Even the adults enjoyed this presentation.

Intermission had a Clown Picture Taking Pitch, Clown Face painting and, of course, the Color Book Pitch.

The Flying Gaonas featuring the triple somersaulting of 8 year old Julio, opened the second half.

The Winn Troupe on the inclined aerial wire presenting the Pass-over as the man waking up the wire crosses over the man coming down the wire.

In three rings of animals we have the contrasts of Carol and her Doves, Sabu and his uncaged leopard and the Zoppe Miniature Horse troupe.

Elephants in all three rings with Steele's elephants in ring 1, and three, while the Hanneford elephants are presented in the center ring by Mark Hanneford Karoly, who is on horseback. The act ends with Mark being

(Continued on Page 16)

# Show Report

## CIRCUS ODYSSEY

BY GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

Irem Temple presented its 1981 Shrine Circus Odyssey in the Kingston Armory, April 19-25, to large and enthusiastic audiences for both afternoon and evening performances, with three shows on Saturday.

Producer Ed Migley brought a classy assemblage of new and veteran acts to the annual Wilkes-Barre (Pa) circus Shrine festival, accompanied by nine windjammers directed by William Fischer, playing an assortment of traditional marches, established favorites and contemporary tunes.

"Eye-catching" is the word for the show's neat, colorful and circusy prop (visual) appeal. Migley's opening spec parading all the performers included a circus train of artists and costumed personalities unloading its Cornucopia of wonders in a splendid procession of fantasy and enchantment. It was the best Shrine circus spec procession I have seen in a number of years.

Jorge Barrera's seven black maned lions, fast-skilled movement, presented the spirited king-of-the-beasts including group sit ups, jumps and ring circling with jumps by the entire pride over ring barricades in a roaring magnificent finale. Barrera's lions are superior to most of today's circus circuits.

Joselito's single on the high silver strand ascending backwards on the incline wire opens an amazing succession of lofty skills some unique and the others equal to the best in the trade.

Rudolph Delmonte had the crowd gasping at his contortions performed with graceful delays and unbelievable situations on the 10 foot high platform climaxing with one hand stands and an iron jaw only mounted statuary with revolving rings on the limbs!

Two displays featured cavorting canines and rolling globes in each of the three rings, the first Alberti Poodles Parade, Cimse Russian Wolfhounds and Liberty Golden Retrievers, and the second rolling globes by Les Duvan and the Alberts and rola bola by Les Blanc.

Aerial aristocrats, Pirates of the Sky opened the show. Princess Imba's trained Baboons are tops in Simian entertainment. The Ashton Family Risley, great in winning the audience

applause. Excitement aloft via Geraldo's Revolving Wheel, an aerial ballet featuring the fantastic Miss Lorelei, the Flying Margays and the closing Albanis Motorcycle performed on a high circular platform with two beautiful women acrobats in a cradle type act attached to the cycle circling and spinning aloft.

Mike Naughton as Kosco headed the clowning contingent, offering a Duck Hunt featuring the parachuting fowl and a Firehouse buffoonery as a bunch of squirts hosing around.

Charles Gutis Jungle Fantasy of four funsters present gorilla, kangaroo, bull and zebra comic acrobatics in a terrific crowd pleaser.

Rex Young's comedy car is super funny clowning with great mechanical comic gadgetry.

Roy Wells three ponderous pachyderms performed briskly with sparkling agility. Very impressive!

I saw the show in the afternoon with daylight streaming through the skylights of the Kingston Armory. Many persons suggested that "you ought to see the show at night." This implied that the colorful decor and the illuminated areas added class.

My congratulations to Circus Odyssey and Irem Temple for a nifty circus.

## PEOPLE

STACY KEACH, star of the Show "Barnum" was pictured in a recent issue of Time magazine. He reportedly will marry JILL DONOHUE sometime this month.

## HANNEFORD CIRCUS (Continued)

teeterboarded to the back of an elephant, thanks to the aid of another elephant. Wardrobe for this act surpasses anything ever seen by this writer.

The four Nerveless Nocks close the show with their high pole wizardry way up in the higher areas of the arena.

A farewell is said by the entire company as they parade around the track, with a final wave to all.

The prop men are all clothed in uniforms with Royal Hanneford Circus on the back.

The concession dept., for this year's circus was in the capable hands of George Hubler and Harry Mills.

# TALENT

## MANCHESTER, N. H. SHRINE CIRCUS

Acts appearing with the Manchester, N.H. Shrine Circus, April 9-12, were:

Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy; Mike Monroe, juggler; The Marcelli's and Don Loupo, clowns Alan Gold, mixed wild animals; Chapman Sisters, aerial revolving ladder; Gaylord Maynard and his horse Chief Bear Paw; Vidbel's ponies; Zamperla's unicycles; Marcelli, wire; Hal Haviland's pony; The Amazing Huston, illusions; Zamperla's Arabian stallion; Miss Tina, menage; Miss Aerialetta, single trapeze; Terrini, paper tearing artistry (Haviland); Al and Joyce Vidbel, elephants; the Wazzan Troupe, trampoline; Mike Monroe, trampoline; Napoleone's Bareback Riders.

The circus was produced by Robert Snowden, concessions were managed by Lucy Snowden and the band was directed by Chuck Schlarbaum. Bill Brickle was the ringmaster.

## HAMID-MORTON CIRCUS

Acts listed on the program of the Hamid-Morton Circus, playing for the Osman Temple Shrine Club in St. Paul, Minn. were:

Chipperfield's lions; Re'Jeannine Duo; The Venturas; Clown Boxing; Great Huberto, slide for life; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Doady, risley; Los Latinos, wire; Dondi the baby elephant; The Flying Lar-Rays; Fornasari, trampoline; The Frabkies; The Ferrara; Laddie's Unsupported Ladder; Italo Clown Band; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue; Billy Barton, cloud swing; Cristian, elephants; Hugo Zacchini, Human Cannonball.

## M & M CIRCUS

The M & M Circus, playing for the Abu Bekr Shrine Temple at Sioux City, Apr. 7-12 lists the following acts:

Harry Thomas, tigers; Billy Barton, cloud swing; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Walt & Wendy, teeterboard; Christine's Chimps; Victor Julian's Little Stars presented by Leo Coffey; Miss Victoria, Lantony, Christina, Patterson, Anadelia and Ellen in aerial ballet featuring Lou Ann Jacobs; The Flying Lantonys; Mr. Bell, balancing; The Kents, balancing; Don Philips, unicycle; Laddie's Unsupported Ladder; The Obandos; The Claytons, ropes; Pancho Magana, ropes; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Review; Jean and Roman Schmitt, elephants/zebras.

# Notice

## CORRECTIONS

BILL BRICKLE writes that his dog act was incorrectly identified in a recent report. His act is called "Brickle's Poodle Fantasy." Gerard Soules, currently with the Hanneford Circus calls his act "Poodles of Paris."

MIKE SPORRER writes that RBBB did not play Columbus, Ohio, as was recently reported in CR. The Hubert Castle Circus played Columbus, Ohio, April 2-11.

## Miscellaneous

### VARIETY ACTS

Variety acts currently on tour with the Harlem Globetrotters in Europe include: Barrett Felker, American juggler; Vincent Bruce, English rope spinner; The Biasini Duo, Italian bicycle act; The Flying Rollers, French roller skating trio; Mark Robertson, English juggler, and Serge Gambi, French hand balancer. All acts are booked through Simone Finner Enterprises, the west coast based theatrical agency specializing in novelty acts.

## PEOPLE

FRANK DEAN, western performer, did his whip act at the Golden Bears Hobby City 4th anniversary in Anaheim, Calif., on Apr. 25.

### M & M CIRCUS

The M & M Circus playing for the Tangier Shrine Club at Omaha, Nebr. Apr. 21-26 lists the following acts:

Harry Thomas, tigers; Billy Barton, cloud swing; Killer Willard, boxing Kangaroo; Don Phillips & Co.; The Laddies; The Obandos; Walt & Wendy, teeterboard; Christina's chimp act; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Lou Ann Jacobs in aerial ballet with 6 girls; The Flying Lantonys; Mr. Bell, balancing; The Kents, balancing; Irene, Tonga & Co., gorilla parody; The Claytons, whips; Pancho Magana, whips; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Review; Johnny Luxem, Wheel of Death; Jean and Roman Schmitt, elephants/zebras.

# SPECIAL

## BENSON'S ANIMAL PARK

BY LARRY RECORDS

Benson's Animal Park, Hudson, N.H., opened April 4th for what is sure to be another big season. The park is alive with activity as construction of many new projects is underway. Owner, Arthur Provencher, is making great progress in his efforts to improve and expand at the same time maintaining the natural beauty of one of America's oldest parks.

A major addition is the creation of a new area called "Circus City." Among the attractions therein will be a circus museum housing Mr. Provencher's priceless hand-carved model circus and a bumper car ride which will be free in keeping with the park's one-price admission policy.

Also new this season is a Firefly Roller Coaster. Imported directly from Germany the coaster is to arrive in Boston harbor in a couple of weeks and should be in operation by Memorial Day. This is Benson's first brand new "spectacular" ride and with a capacity of 1,400 people per hour, should prove to be a very popular attraction. In all, ten new rides have been purchased many of which will be incorporated into a new section called "Sky-line County Fair." They will be located along the top of a hill with a view of the park. Ot-

her attractions include a "Cinema 2000" and a train exhibit.

There is plenty happening in the animal department as well. A pure white female camel was born this winter. A group of Humboldt penguins arrived recently and are doing well. The Vachon six pony hitch has been acquired along with a hitch wagon and circus wagon which shall be utilized in the daily parade.

Jackie, Benson's new African elephant calf, has proved to be a fast learner. She arrived here as a fresh import in Aug. 1980 and her formal training began in January, just after the close of Benson's new Christmas season, (which was highly successful). She was in the act by opening day and both opens and closes the show and is very popular with the crowds. She also is in the daily parade. In just a few weeks, Jackie will be able to join her larger Asian elephant friends in their daily swim in Benson's lake.

The line-up for 1981 includes: Carmen Hall with Baboons; Lili-Anna with leopards; Larry Records, elephant act, plus elephant and camel rides; Billy Good, sea lions; Jim Leach, magician, educational live animal presentations and wildlife films.

# Report

## RINGLING BLUE IN WASHINGTON

BY GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

On its second cross-country circuit Ringling's Blue 110th edition played Washington, DC in the District Armory, Apr. 15-29 to large throngs. Having enjoyed many performances of this unit in 1980 at St. Petersburg and Philadelphia, I travelled to the Nation's Capitol to see again this sparkling edition of the GSOE.

Returning from Japan and Australia were Charlie Bauman and his tigers extraordinaire. Also back was the Phantom of Balance Elvin Bale, whose brilliant bombastic blast-off in the human space shuttle caps the show.

New to the show this second time around is Bonnie Bale whose cloud swing finally receives the national exposure she has deserved. Bonnie replaces Jeanette Bale who is staying home in Sarasota with her daughter and helping to get the new family business underway. Bonnie does a nifty baton swirl while circl-

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ing the Wheel of Death and rides the bulls in ring three in standout fashion.

The altitudinal hazards of the sky-high silver strand were mastered by the Guerrero Troupe who stole the show. Arturo, a thirty year veteran of high wire heroics featuring Jenny and her brother, Werner, in their roll overs and jump overs. Jenny walks the entire length of the wire with Werner standing on her shoulders. Not indicated in the program was the fantastic descent from the wire by Werner with Jenny standing on his shoulders! A terrific first!

Zdravko Dobritch brings Duo Dobritch to Ring Two after winning the Silver Clown at the 1978 Monte Carlo Festival. My eye was captured by the fantastic cyclist on top of the high perch pole circling vertically up and down.

Ursula Bottcher's Beauty and the Polar Bears make their last cross-country swing before returning to East Germany. Don't miss them.

Frosty Little's Blue clowns get better and better. Tommy Parish (boss clown) and wife Tammy, team with a great bunch of new buffoons among whom are Peter Pitofsky, Joe Wesson, Tuba Heatherton, Peggy King, Rich-

(Continued on Page 20)

**RINGLING BLUE (Continued)**

ard Fick, Wayne Sidley, Andrea Waller, Dennis Struve, Tom Dougherty and Mike Goudreau stand out.

Clown Charivari's goofy gymnastics over the brick wall is group buffoonery at its best. Frosty has added a new strong arm gag at the opening of the second half mixing up arm wrestling between a massive men's limb and a delicate thin female arm. Also the revision of the bank robber gag putting the culprits in a surprise prison at the climax revolutionizes the gag.

It is appropriate at this point to discuss the new gag Frosty has inserted, as Boss of both units of clowns, into the Red Unit's 111th edition. With the assistance of Duane Tharpe they choreographed a Western Bar Room Brawl with so many super clowning fireworks that my numerous attempts to film the hilariously funny stuff failed to capture a number of the antics which also included a head knock off among other finesses.

Back this year are those Blue stalwarts the Oblockis, the Bilagis, the Kehaiovi on the teeterboard, the Grantcharovi in the air, the

**Miscellaneous**

New York Clown Alley No. 98, COA, participated in the Campers Reunion New York City, McBurney YMCA, Apr. 25th.

Mr. Lollipops (Norman Abrahams) was producing clown, assisted by BoBo (Ben Wittman) Lovey (Toni Arden); Shortstop (Susan Anzone); Deede the Lady Clown (Deede Pe Monte); Arsen (Arsen Goshkaria) and Budso the Great (Bud Sobin).

Flying Segreras and Padillas, the one and only King Charles Troupe on their unicycles and the Polonia and the Georgiev Troupe on the perch pole.

The Zoppe Family travels space again with that unique spec "The Circus Galaxy."

Axel Gautier's ponderous pachyderms provide "peanut-eater hay burners" entertainment at its best.

Bravo to the Blues in '81.

# Report

## INT'L ALL STAR CIRCUS

BY BOB TOMER

Jim Nordmark's International All Star Circus presented two performances (3 and 7 p.m.) on Wednesday, April 15th at the Buckley High School Gym in Hartford, Conn.

The well-balanced program: Overture with vocal by Bonnie Earl; Dr. Yano's Chimp and Dogs (John Dubskeys); Glass Casket Illusion (Hines and Patti Rucker, and Phil Sadler); Dusty the Clown, magic (Phil Sadler); Rucker's *Uncaged Leopard* (Hine and Patti Rucker); Single Trapeze, La Yanna (Zsa Zsa Dubskey); Low Wire, Dynamic DeMille (Emile and Debbie Goetschi); Ventriloquism (Billy Earl and Henrietta the Chicken); Intermission.

Mis-made Girl Illusion, Dusty and Miss Patti (Phil Sadler and Patti Rucker); Birds, Cinderella and the Birds of Paradise (Zsa Zsa Dubskey); Juggling, The Zackerys (Emile and Debbie Goetschi); Foot Juggling, Miss Patti, (Patti Rucker); Dogs, Las Vegas Poodle Fashion Review, Christina La Deon (Dubskey);

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and the Nashville Music Stars Bonnie & Clyde (Billy and Bonnie Earl).

Show manager and performance director is Hines Rucker. Props are handled by Sloan Damon. The show is backed by a five piece band. The Connecticut J.C.'s were the sponsor and the date was promoted by Jerry La Blanc.

## Miscellaneous

### WORLD'S FAIR PLANS

The Bureau of International Expositions has given its unanimous approval to a 1984 World Fair in New Orleans, the city's first such exposition in a century.

The international bureau's approval came after President Reagan gave his formal endorsement to the fair following assurances by the organizers that they would have \$37.5 million in support pledges by May 15th. They reportedly already have \$31 million in guarantees.

# The Flying Lar Rays

3189 Espanola Drive, Sarasota, Florida 33580

April 30, 1981

Dear Circus Report,

This letter is written in response to Ed Migley/Circus Odyssey's letter in the April 27, 1981, Circus Report, concerning the Mexico City date, and his attack upon Billy Barton. Having been one of the unfortunate acts that went to Mexico City with Circus Odyssey, I must answer Mr. Migley's letter out of sense of duty to myself, Billy Barton, and to inform unsuspecting fellow performers, as I once was, about my mis-adventure with Circus Odyssey.

In regard to the minor delay at the border, the show spent 5 days at the Brownsville, Texas, KOA. Each day we were told we were leaving that day and not to leave the campground. It felt like being under house arrest by Circus Odyssey. Finally we did cross the border, only to find the papers were still not in order, so the show was parked in a muddy field for a day and a half without electric or water. The trip to Mexico City took 2-3 days, was 800 miles of very bad roads and suicidal drivers. Mr. Migley had told me personally that there would be electric and water hook-ups waiting for us upon our arrival. As it turned out the electric was not hooked-up for almost a full day after arriving and the water turned out to be a beat-up water truck with a pump that did not work 3/4's of the time. The only way to fill your trailers up with water was to siphon it out of the truck or use buckets. The water truck did not arrive for two days after our arrival, making 5 full days without water.

As for receiving 50% of our salaries upon arrival in Mexico City, Mr. Migley left out all the facts leading up to that pay-off. First, all acts had contracts with clauses that each would receive a certain percentage of their salary upon either crossing the border or arriving in Mexico City. After being in Mexico four days and in Mexico City one full day, still no money was paid, was going to be paid, or was scheduled to be paid. The performers got together and asked for a meeting with Mr. Migley to discuss our problems. Mr. Migley refused to meet with us, and said he "had nothing to talk to us about." The president of Tele-visa, the sponsor, was there and consented to meet with the acts. The performers made their demands for their advance money, the first week's salary that we missed and was due, and because we could no longer trust Circus Odyssey, our last week's salary in advance. Tele-visa agreed to these demands and seemed surprised our needs were so simple and that Mr. Migley could not handle the situation. It was after this meeting that the acts received their money. This just goes to show that acts can and sometimes must stick together.

The extreme embarrassment Mr. Migley wrote of could have been avoided had Mr. Migley talked to the acts personally and did his job as producer and act as performer-sponsor go between, and simply lived up to the contractual agreements he wrote and signed.

I can not agree with Mr. Migley's comment that the people were kind, courteous and polite, unless he was writing about the general public and not the Mexican sponsors.

The fact about Mr. Barton's sudden change in reporting on Circus Odyssey would be directly related to Mr. Migley's sudden change. Having never worked for Mr. Migley before Mexico City, I cannot comment on what Circus Odyssey used to be like. I can say that when I read Billy Barton's column on Mexico, I thought it was truthful, to the point, and very kind to Mr. Migley as it did not go into all the little things that truly made the date miserable.

Mr. Migley's defense to the comments and reports about his Mexico City date was that everyone was paid in full. That was true. But that, by any measure, does not even begin to account for the un-professional, discourteous and un-respectful manner in which the acts were treated by Mr. Migley, his staff and his Mexican associates. There were even vague threats and innuendo that individuals and/or their equipment would not get out of Mexico.

I would like to finish by saying, I will never trust Mr. Migley again, I will never believe Mr. Migley again, I support Mr. Barton's report on Mr. Migley and Mexico, and if Mr. Barton prints the truth about hardships and misfortunes other acts suffered through ignorance and deception . . . Please learn from them!

Larry Gill  
*Larry Gill*  
 The Flying Larreys

## MAILBAG

FROM WILLIAM WOTSCH

When Miller Bros. 101 Ranch played Cleveland's Lake Front in 1928, you could stand in back of the city hall and look down on the set up of those who made up this famous wild west show.

This location was also a good spot for the other large tents who came here. You could also go down East 9th Street and turn left, and wander around the lot.

The New York Central ran through here in those days and the Pennsy Line was on the other side. It gradually ran up a slope and cut in towards the inner city.

When the parade formed it was by a dirt road that led up to East 9th Street. Being on the buff a person had a large view of all that was going on. Coming into East 9th St. the parade had to cross the bridge over the railroad tracks on 9th Street.

One time my brothers and I watched the parade from this bridge. You could see it coming off the lot and crossing the bridge head-

## PEOPLE

THE GREAT SWAMI visited with FRANK DEAN in Palmdale, Calif., while enroute to a Funs-A-Poppin Circus date in Southern California.

REV. AUSTIN MILES, the Show Business Chaplain, was a special guest lecturer at the Princeton Theological Seminary on May 2.

ANGELA WILNOW and Her Braves (Collie act) have been working dates in the Chicago area.

MR. LOLLI POPS the Clown (Norman Abrahams) worked advance for the Mecca Temple Shrine Circus, the unit's 3rd annual circus.

ing up East 9th Street. Then on the way back you saw it again. After which we could follow it to the lot like the other people.

In 1938, I helped on the first rodeo in our new Cleveland Arena. The J. E. Ranch Rodeo, headed by Col. Jim Eskin.

# LIVE FROM

BY JIM PARKER

Judy Baker is back from five weeks on Circo Gasca in Colombia and is looking fantastic with a new hair style and has shed some pounds. She reports Billy has been keeping busy breaking in five two-year old African elephants for Circo Gasca, which is owned by Realto and Martin Fuentes. Circo Gasca is a huge three ring circus playing big cities in Colombia, with two to three week stands with business you would not believe.

The five African punks are broke to the standard elephant act plus liberty routines. In addition to the punks, Billy also works the show's five big bulls (2 African, 3 Indian) and is part of a three ring high school horse display with two rings worked by Realto Fuentes, Mrs Realto Fuentes and Billy.

Judy showed me pictures taken of Billy and her in beautiful Santa Marta and both of 'em sure looked great. Sir William was never one to sit back and take it easy and he loves his work. Judy will be stateside for a few weeks and then will be buzzing off to Europe and South America.

The Fuentes have two shows in Colombia and one in Venezuela in addition to their circuses in Mexico. Victor Gaona is managing Circo Gasca for the Fuentes and is doing an outstanding job of making it "bigger and better". Their son, Tommy, remains in Hollywood (Calif) where he keeps busy and movie and commercial work, and so far has not yet yielded to the temptation of returning to the circus world.

I understand that Mike Gorman, former Circus Vargas announcer/ringmaster and Ringling performance director, has remained in the Los Angeles area and is now working at one of the studios in Hollywood and doing well.

There was lots of jackpotting going on recently at Gee Gee Engesser's winterquarters as she had Maudie Adams from Whiteland, Ind., down for a week. Maudie and Gee Gee were old dressing room pals from the 1945-1946 Cole Bros. Circus. Maudie worked high jumping horses in those days. Busch Gardens Circus World and Sarasota were just some of the stops Gee Gee took Maudie to. Needless to say, numerous stories and incidents were told about "the good old days" under the big top - stuff you certainly don't read in the circus books!

Congratulations to Lucy and Lacy Toth, of-fice dept., on Circus Vargas, who recently became U.S. citizens. All of your friends are happy for you!

Gee Gee's elephant truck blew a motor en-route from Gibsonton to Wilkesboro, Pa., but other than that all is well with her fantastic elephant act, under the direction of Roy Wells.

During one of Wally Naghtin's weekly phone calls, he reported that Clifford Vargas and Tim Stinson were guests on the Ringling Red Show at Madison Square Garden. Business started out slow in the Garden but rapidly picked up and is expected to surpass the record of two years ago, when it was at its all time high. Be sure and catch the April issue of Life magazine which carries a nice story on the children of the circus (Ringling Red). Reviews by Rex Reed and Variety on the Red Unit were full of praise and lavish compliments. Let's face it, Big Bertha is still "Big Bertha" no matter how you cut it. And a belated Happy Birthday to Ruth Naghtin (Wally's mother) who recently became 70 years young and is just as sharp as ever. Ruth is gifted with ESP and shares her talents in a positive way.

On the Ringling Red Unit I understand that Peggy Williams is now Assistant Performance Director. It has been a number of seasons now since Peggy has donned the grease paint, but she was one of the very top women clowns of our time. We wish her luck in her new responsibility and I know she will be a big help to Charlie Bauman, and the show as her cheerful attitude will keep morale up.

Friends will be happy to know that veteran prankster Bobby Kay recently received a clean bill of health from his doctor, and except for his habit of eating sweets he is fine - he does love his ice cream. Bobby remains in Long Beach and helps out on the Big One from time to time, and also at the Clown College.

Former clown Robert Locke Lorraine, who lives in Riverside, Calif., has returned to the modeling field after an absence of several years and recently was on location in Nevada and Southern California, modeling western wear for commercials. I am green with envy of those who keep themselves so slim and trim, as I never was one of Singer's midgets.

Ward Hall is a man on the go as he recently completed a trip to the west coast which included a visit to Circus Vargas and the Circus of Americas. He reports Circus Vargas is just gorgeous this year and that a new light plant

(Continued on Page 26)

# Report

## ROYAL IMPERIAL CIRCUS

The Royal Imperial Circus has secured the services of Miss Rikieo "Ricki" Kajimia, of British Hongkong, as a performer and First Assistant Head Choreographer and Director of Aerial Ballet. She will work directly with Jack Halloran, director of choreography who will remain on the Royal Crown Circus unit.

The petite 5'1" Niesi (Japanese/American) beauty, originally born in Santa Monica, Ca. brings with her a vast background in the entertainment industry, primarily in the Far East and Oriental countries of Japan, Malaya, Cambodia, the Philippines and Hongkong.

A former actress and dance choreographer, she has appeared in numerous Chanbara (Samurai) films, which are the equivalent to the American horse operas, Yakuza (Gambler) eiga and jidai-geki type films and has scripted many of the choreographic movements used in these movie and television film productions. She has worked for Toho Films, Toei Films, Katsu Productions and Shochiku Films, of

Japan, plus Solar Films, and Lu Wei Motion Pictures Co., Ltd., of British Hong Kong.

The 27 year old "Ricki" is a martial arts master in Bojitsu, Iaido, Judo, Shorinjikenpo, Karate, Jeet Kune Do and Samurai. Other activities in the entertainment field have been with the Chinese Acrobats of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Ballet Co., and former Director of the Bali Dance Troupe.

Prior to returning to the U. S. in late February, she was aerial performance director for the Brinkman Bros. Family Circus of Australia (a joint venture of the Brinkman Family and Royal Crown Circus, USA).

Miss Kajimia's talents in the circus world will without doubt, amaze circus fans and performers alike with her dance movements and her fantastic aerial acrobatics, mainly on the web. A veritable 'Flying Jane', she performs back-roll-ups like a snapped 'curtain shade', the only thing missing is the 'Tarzan yell'. "She scared the hell out of me," says the show's producer, Krystali.

Accompanying Miss Kajimia is her 24 year

(Continued on Page 26)

## LIVE FROM . . . (Continued)

and concession stock semi have been added to the show. While he was on the show, Mr. Vargas was in New York City, so they missed each other.

Business was terrific for the Vargas show and zilch for Circus of Americas which was playing in Los Angeles.

This week Ward will be working the Smithsonian date with his side show kinkers and enroute hopes to catch a number of shows - Roberts Bros., Great American, Hoxie and Beatty.

Ward will attend a meeting of the OBA in Chicago so will stay for the CHS Convention and then goes to Toronto to catch another circus, then back home to Gib Town where he will put together an authentic Indian Village and water show. Talk about being generally useful - Ward never stops.

And last but not least, Charlie Cox is down Santa Domingo way promoting for a circus from Colombia.

## ROYAL IMPERIAL CIRCUS (Continued)

old sister, Antoku, who also performs amazing aerial artistry with her fantastic hair hang which climaxes with an incredible series of hair-phlanges. "Coco," as he prefers to be called by her friends, works above center ring while her 'adopted sisters' Danielle and Shalimar Brinton also perform hair-hang aerobic maneuvers above the adjoining rings.

During the present upcoming tour and off-season periods, these four young ladies will be making Korean, Japanese and Cantonese language TV ads produced by Fantasy-Video Engineering Services, of Riverside, Calif., and "Riki" can currently be seen on TV in the Cantonese Shogun serial, "The Adventures of Yoshimune."