

CIRCUUS REPORT



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OUR 11th YEAR

Number 42

October 18, 1982



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ATTENTION

KATHLEEN HERB, former Ringling-Barnum Clown College graduate, who was on the Ringling Red Unit has returned to college to obtain her Master's Degree.

She wants to do her Master's Thesis on Women Clowns and needs any help or information that you might be able to offer her.

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PEOPLE

Acts appearing at the recent Bloomsburg Fair in Penna., were: The Rolling Diamonds Duval & Trina and Little Ben, Jim Stafford, The Lennon Sisters, David Frizzell, Shelly West, Ronnie McDowell, Faron Young, R. C. Bannon, Louise Mandrell, Marty Robbins, Tom T. Hall, Boxcar Willie, Charlie Slavin, Eddie Jaye and John Schneider. The fair dates were: Sept. 27-Oct. 2nd.

In Memoriam

ELIZABETH McLAUGHLIN, mother of Dick McLaughlin, former circus biller and concessionaire, died last month and was buried in Showman's Rest in Hugo, Okla. Her late husband, Tom, was an old-time biller and in his later years he served as an agent and part owner of several shows.

East Coast News

by FRANK D. ROBBIE

One of the highlights of the 1982 World's Fair was the model circus and memorabilia display of Howard Tibbels and Harold Dunn. Everyone that saw it was enchanted. Now being advertised is a 28 page, full-color souvenir book entitled "The Biggest Little Show on Earth". It is slick and beautifully done. The book is sponsored by United Foods, Inc. and Tibbels Floor Co. and sells for \$2.95 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. You will want one of these books for your collection. Write: Circus Book, Hartco, Inc., Oneida, Tenn.

The Big Apple Circus will open its Manhattan tour in December at Lincoln Center again this year. It is reported that the flying trapeze act of the Gaona's, the Spanish Riding act of Katja Schumann and the trampoline act of the Canetrelli's has been booked.

Willow Grove Park, an amusement center of yesteryear, has been converted to a high fashion shopping mall by Federated Stores Realty, Inc. of Cincinnati, Ohio. Abraham & Strauss, Bloomingdale's & B. Altman will be among its 170 stores. This is a joint venture with Prudential Insurance Co.

There are two new features that make this of interest. Five years ago Federated bought, at auction, side show banners which are a part of the mall decor. Authentic merry-go-round animals have been made into a huge mobile which turns periodically to music. Willow Grove Park is just 15 miles north of Philadelphia.

The 1983 CFA Convention will be held in Philadelphia, July 14-17, at the Holiday Inn Center City. Situated at the corner of Market and 18th Street, this 450 room facility, is in the very heart of one of the most historic and exciting cities of the world.

There is more history, more museums, more restaurants and more events than you could cram into a month of Fun-days. The

convention committee reports negotiations are going superbly and recommends that you plan a vacation as well as a fine convention.

Nichols College, Dudley, Mass., in conjunction with the Hanneford Family Circus, will conduct a two day Circus Symposium on Sept. 19-20. Four subjects will be treated during this symposium: (1) History of the Circus - New England as frame of reference; (2) Circus Economics - Management, Finance and Marketing; (3) Circus Psychology - A view of performers and audience; (4) Logistics - The Circus on the move.

Some of the Panel are: Stuart Thayer, Dr. Arthur Saxon, Fred Pfening III, John Mc Connell, Cliff Lenox, Copeland McAllister, Ted Houssman, Robert Kitchen, Joseph McKennon and Jim Hoye.

Four performances of the Hanneford Family Circus will be given. Circusiana will be on display in the college Blue Room (?) and the College Art Gallery. Tentatively scheduled was the South Shore Circus Concert Band. Mr. Al House and Tiny Phillips will be attending.

PEOPLE

SALLY and HENRY PAYNE and The BERTLOFFS visited the TNT Circus when it played in Louisville, Ky. in September.

JENDA SMAHA's elephant "Tanya" is appearing in the Moulin Rouge Show at the Hilton Hotel, in Las Vegas.

DR. GERALD DREW, a veterinary inspector for the USDA, recently inspected the elephants at the zoo in San Antonio, Texas, following complaints by a woman visitor to that city. He reportedly found the zoo's treatment of its five female elephants complies with the minimum standards of the federal animal welfare act.

Show Dates

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

Brickles Wonderland Rev.
Oct 18-19 Timonsville, SC
20 Sumter
21 Windsboro
22 Laurens

Circus Knie
Oct 18-19 Pl. d Glar, Swtz
20-21 Pl. d Compt.
22-24 Les Potences

Hubler Int'l Circus
Oct. 19 Schenectady, NY
21 Amsterdam
23-24 Glens Falls

No Elephant Circus
Oct 23 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Olympic Int'l Circus
Oct 18-23 Montgomery, Ala.

Polack Bros. Circus
Oct 16-17 Charleston, W. Va.

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

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Oct 20-Nov 1 Boston, Mass.

Roberts Bros. Circus
Oct 18 Lake Park, Ga.
- End of Season -

Swan Bros. Circus
Oct 22-23 Redding, Calif

TNT & Royal Olympic
Oct 21-23 Killeen, Tex.

Texas Shrine Circus
Oct 24-31 Dallas, Tex.

Zoppe Circus Italia
Oct 18-23 Lebanon, Pa.

--- OTHER DATES ---

James H. Drew Exposition
Oct 18-24 Athens, Ga.

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

Schlarbaum's Show Band
Oct. 18-23 Montgomery, Ala.

Scott's Medicine Show
Oct 18 Tamaqua, Pa.
19 Bloomsburg
20 Williamsport
21 Mill Hall
22 Clearfield
23 Punxsutawney
24 Knox

--- MAGIC ---

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
Oct 18 Douglas, Wyom.
19 Gillette
21 Craig, Colo.
22 Rawlins, Wyom.
23 Green River

The Peanut Circus
Oct. 2-3 Gay, Ga.
9 Sylvester
12-14 Moultrie
14-16 Goldsboro, NC
23-24 Pine Mtn, Ga.

Circus Vargas
Oct. 18-19 Stockton, Ca.
20-21 Lodi
22-24 Sacramento

People

FROSTY and PAT LITTLE acquired another daughter at this years opening of the Blue Unit of Ringling-Barnum at The Forum in Inglewood, Ca.

Frosty, who is Director of Clowns for Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Circus, was appearing on the TV Special which was filmed at The Forum Club when he put clown makeup on Susan Richardson a starlette from the TV show "Eight Is Enough."

In the remaining weeks the circus was in the Los Angeles area, Frosty, his wife Pat, and Susan were constant companions and before Frosty and Pat left for the RBBB Clown College, where he is a clowning instructor, they adopted Susan as their 3rd daughter.

ON THE COVER

Mario and Carla Wallenda broke the world record by performing at a height of 220 ft. They presented a 12 minute act at the Flemington NJ Fair before a record crowd during the Freddie Fender Show.

Mike Morgan and Richie Burkhardt were in charge of the ground crew, which included the Clinton Township Fire Dept. with man power and lights, the Flemington Fair Maintenance Dept. and the Fair Police.

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Funs-A-Poppin

by VIRGINIA LEE FENTON

Betty Wendany's "Funs-A-Poppin Circus" produced for Bill Ystad (Aladdin Productions), played Palmdale, Calif., on Sept. 16, Riverside, Sept. 17 and Indio Sept. 18th.

The flag was brought in by Fay Snyder on her white stallion "Silverpants" and the performers filled the three rings while the audience rose for our National Anthem.

The circus overture was played by Virginia Lee Fenton, organ; Chuck Gomes, drummer and Stuart Aptekar, trumpet.

The show then opened with three rings of juggling - The Willetys (Ken and Betty Willet), Heidi Wendany and Charlie (Bruce) Johnson; Phil Shear presented his trained giraffe "Jargo"; single trapeze by Wini Mc Kay; Henry and Dolores, comedy trampoline; Clowns Tim Tegge and Cheri; Display with Heidi's dogs and Fay's dogs; Ken Willet, hand balancing; followed by three rings of magic.

After intermission, Heidi opened the show with her ponies; Phil & Co., clowning; Spanish web featured Dolores; Sir Chester Cable, foot juggling; Charlie, clown balancing; High School and Dressage with Heidi riding "Bilby Tin Gun" and Fay Snyder on "Silver-

INJURY FORCES SALE

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pants"; La Croix Duo, cradle act (Chuck Craw and Laurie Polumbo). The show closed with "Katie" the elephant presented by Tex Goetsch.

Ed Russell was the show's ringmaster.

The show also played the Orange County Fair in Costa Mesa, Calif., July 9 thru 18.

Returned Mail

Circus Reports mailed to the following people were returned by the Post Office this past week:

Col. E. T. Bale
Chet Harmes
Joseph Caputo

Tom Bolean
Chuck Kay
Art Grotefent

Shrine Dates

Compiled by **MIKE SPORRER**

Boise, Idaho - El Korah Temple

- 1936 - Oct 26-31 - Polack Bros. Circus
 1937 - 1950 - None
 1951 - June 18-20 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1952 - June 23-25 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1953 - June 18-20 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1954 - June 14-16 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1955 - June 27-29 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1956 - June 19-21 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1957 - June 18-20 - Polack Bros. Eastern
 1958 - June 17-19 - Polack Bros.

- 1959 - June 17-19 - Polack Bros.
 1960 - June 28-30 - Polack Bros.
 1961 - June 13-15 - William Kay
 1962 - June 26-28 - William Kay
 1963 - June 18-20 - William Kay
 1964 - June 16-18 - William Kay
 1965 - June 15-17 - William Kay
 1966 - June 14-16 - William Kay
 1967 - June 20-22 - William Kay
 1968 - June 18-20 - William Kay
 1969 - June 17-19 - William Kay
 1970 - June 16-18 - William Kay
 1971 - June 15-17 - William Kay
 1972 - June 13-15 - William Kay
 1973 - June 12-15 - William Kay
 1974 - June 11-14 - William Kay
 1975 - June 24-27 - William Kay
 1976 - June 22-25 - William Kay
 1977 - June 14-17 - William Kay
 1978 - June 13-16 - William Kay
 1979 - June 11-14 - William Kay
 1980 - June 10-13 - William Kay
 1981 - June 8-12 - William Kay
 1982 - June 8-11 - William Kay

TAKE NOTE

Just purchased a suitcase from an estate with many rare circus items for particular collectors.

BIDS ACCEPTED ON THESE ITEMS

2 trade cards The Great Forepaugh Show
 One shows seal and polar bear, the other a giraffe.

One lists Adam, sole Prop., J. A. and A. Jr. as managers. Lots of copy including line 16 tour. (This card soiled).

2nd card describes giraffes working in harness, lots of press agency copy.

SHEET MUSIC with colorful circus cover and featured by Ned Brill's concert band with Barnum & Bailey. Copyright MCMXIII Forster Music Publisher.

OH YOU Circus Day. Pictorial circus design cover from stage show "Hanky Panky" starring Montgomery & Moore 1912. Authored by Edith Maida Lewing & Jimmie V. Monaco. Will Rossiter Music Pub.

SOUTHERN Pacific RR show scrip book Cole Bros. issued to Jake Newman, 1942. Contains 30 unused script tickets (these are very rare).

ART "Doc" MILLER

(author of the big seller 'Little Ol' Show')

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In:

- 1936 show played High School Auditor.
 1951-1969 - played Bronco Stadium
 1970-1978 - played Meridian Speedway
 1979-1980 - played Snake River Stampede
 1981 - played Meridian Speedway
 1982 - played Snake River Stampede

PEOPLE

FRED MENKE (C Sharp the Clown) was the First Place Winner in the White Face Contest at the Clown Convention held in New Mexico this past April. He placed second in the White Face Competition at the Mid-West Convention in Detroit, Mich.

ATTENTION

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Zoppe's Circus

by BILL WALTERS

Each year that Alberto Zoppe produces the North Little Rock, Ark., Kiwanis Circus, you wonder how he can continue to top the last show - but he does just that. This was his third year to produce an outstanding show, which was held on Sept. 15 at the Arkansas Fairgrounds Coliseum.

Shows were presented at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and due to Sandy Zoppe's publicity the attendance was very good.

Giovanni Zoppe warmed up the audience with his clowning and his new comedy car routine.

The show opened with the singing of the National Anthem by "Camille" who has been appearing on the Kenny Rodgers show.

Tino Wallenda featured a very funny and dangerous routine on the high wire, without a net and over a cage of bengal tigers.

The Great Wallendas also featured Miss Rietta, topping off a chair balance on a bicycle pyramid - without a net.

The show line up: Miss Rietta and Miss Sa Sa on rocket traps; Ring 1, Galombo's low wire, Center, Bertinis rola boa, ring 3 Antonio's unicycle; Frank Mourousi, presenting five Bengal tigers; The Italos Musi-

cal clowns; The Olmedas' Spanish Riding Horse Fantasy; Kris & Kristina, perch; the Mourousi's comedy lion; The Flying Fornarsaris; flying act; Intermission.

The Bennito's, trampoline; The Bertinis, bikes and Antonio's unicycle; The Great Wallendas, high wire; Buckles Woodcock presenting "Anna Mae"; The Galombo's and the Sky Lords in a dual motorcycle trapeze act; Hugo Zacchini, the Human Cannonball.

This was a very high quality show, aided by very strong and capable support from Lee Malone's direction of Marty Rosen's six piece band and the good work of ringmaster Bill Vooren.

PEOPLE

AGNES KING, ANNE BREWER, VIOLET FARMER, GERALD WHITE, ROBERT RICHTER, BERT BLANTON, HELEN BLANTON, ED KNOEBEL, SMILEY BREWER, BILL FARMER and DON SANDMAN visited Carson & Barnes when the show played Richmond, Indiana.

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In Memoriam

JAMES WALTER (Jim) HILTON, Sr. (71) passed away suddenly at his home in Yucapa, Calif. on Sept. 22nd. He was an uncle of former Ringling-Barnum press agent Eddie Howe and was well-known to many circus performers and executives. His son, Jim, Jr. was a timekeeper in the Yellow wagon on Ringling-Barnum in 1948. Survivors include his son, Jim Hilton, Jr., two sisters, a brother and his nephew Eddie Howe.

JAMES ("Diamond Jim" and "Jimmy") RISON (72) died at his home in Bellair (Largo) Fla. on Sept. 6th. He was with the Polack Bros. Circus for 45 years as Chief Executive Promotional Director. He began his career with Polack at its beginning and is credited with helping to make the show "the major shrine circus" of America. He promoted the major Polack dates. Survivors include his wife, Cleo, and a sister.

EARNIE M. TERRY (68), died at a Walnut Ridge, Ark., hospital on Aug. 29th. He served as an usher with Ringling-Barnum for many years and then served in the same capacity at Madison Square Garden for over 30 years. He is survived by three brothers and five sisters. Art Miller, long-time circus general agent and close friend, served as one of the pall bearers.



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Shrine Dates

Compiled by Mike Sporrer

Pocatello, Idaho - South East Idaho Shrine

- 1936 - Nov 12-18 - Polack Bros.
- 1951 - Jun 22-23 - Polack Bros. Eastern
- 1952 - Jun 27-28 - Polack Bros. Eastern
- 1959 - Jun 3-4 - Polack Bros.
- 1960 - Aug. 15-16 - Polack Bros.
- 1962 - June 23 - Polack Bros.

(1936 was at the Dance Gardens, 1951 at the Fairgrounds, 1952, 1959-60 and 1962 at Halliwell Park).

A Mini Circus

by ALMOND KNIGHT

Ken Allen Attractions had the "Mini Circus" in the Sports Arena at the Tennessee State Fair this year, with shows as 2 and 6 p.m.

The acts were as follows: Clown warm up by Eddie the Clown; Capt. Dick and his Dog Pound Revue (9 dogs and a small donkey); Sir Walter, teenager juggling a little bit of everything; Ken Allen, magician and illusionist, with some outstanding illusions and magic acts.

Capt. Dick with a monkey and pony riding act; Eddie the Clown and a balloon gag; Ken Allen & Co., with more magic and illusions; Eddie the Clown and the Photo gag; Jerry Lipko's Comedy Chimps.

The Murphy Bros. EXposition was on the midway.

C & B Circus

by R. J. BRYAN

D. R. Miller's Carson & Barnes Circus is a *gigantic big top circus* for 1982. Moving East from the West, they moved thru Ohio and Penna. in early September, on 70 motorized vehicles. This included 40 house trailers, 30 trucks to carry equipment, men and animals, with over 70 head of stock.

The circus appeared at our hometown of New Castle, Pa., on Sept. 7th, playing at the Lawrence County Fairgrounds.

The show under the big top runs about an hour and 55 minutes and is a very strong performance this year.

Carson & Barnes big circus band of 9 members really plays circus music that keeps the show moving and is directed by Charles Stevenson.

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with HELP! or COMMENTS!

- FLORIDA -

904 - 683 - 9327 Ask for Trish

I have lots of time and love for animals. I am 28 yrs. old Also I will be working hard to achieve the goal!

People seen on the lot at New Castle were: Alice and Jack Tresser, James L. Cole and Jim Banks.

They had 7 clowns working the New Castle date, the four regulars - W. S. Jackson, boss clown, Buckles (from Tex), Tapper, Miss Valentine and three guest clowns - Slim, Ginger and Shansee, and he is only 8 yrs. old. Besides the come-in we did three production numbers, clown band, boxing and clown acrobatics.

The Clown Band and Boxing number were done in Ring 3 and the Acrobatic number was in Ring 1-5 - 3 men in ring 1 and 3 lady clowns in ring 5. We kept the audience laughing with our fun - frolic for children of all ages under the Carson & Barnes Big Top.

TNT Circus

by *DON SANDMAN*

On Sept. 17-19, the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played the Jefferson Mall in Louisville, Ky. Eight performances were given in the Mall center where seating was put up by the mall for those who arrived early, for the seats were filled long before the performances were scheduled. However, there was plenty of standing room, amounting to seven or eight rows deep.

The show as presented here was: Overture, Calliope and Broadway One Step; The Ruwills and their Upside Down plate spinning, with Hans standing on his head throughout the spinning action. He has 15 plates spinning at one time.

The Houcs, juggling sensations with the fastest clubs in the world.

Dee Jay the Clown, Tide, Bigger, Bigger, Bigger, Magic Camera; The Sigrid Duo, Adagio Balancing, beauty supports brawn; The Ringmaster is Col. Earl Tegge, Mr. Circus himself.

Music is provided by Louise (Rasberry) Tegge at the organ. Dee Jay the Clown is Jim Perry, a First of May who does a great job with the kids. Dixie Ruwill is the gofer on the show and does a fine job.

The show is owned and managed by Col. Earl Tegge, who reports the season has been good considering the many changes in the original route. Balloons and coloring books have sold well at most malls this year, indicating that the economy is down, but even so, people will spend their money.

During the engagement in Louisville a Birthday Celebration was held for three members of the TNT contingent - Col. Earl Tegge, Jim Perry and the loveliest of the three, Sigrid Ruwill whose birthday was on the 19th. A German Buffet was set up for the birthday party and their guests by the birthday girl, Sigrid. Circus Fans Bill Rhodes, Bill Lortz, Bob Timmel, Angie Bowman, Grace Sandman and Don Sandman were guests who would like to thank the TNT gang for the party invitation. We had a swell time!

A Free Circus

The Free Circus presented at the Fair in Muscle Shoals, Ala., Sept. 20-25, was produced by Eddie Zacchini, with music by the Keith Killinger band.

Acts appearing in the show were: Mr. Bell, chair balancing; Valla Duo, low wire; Francarros, foot juggling; Walt & Wendy, hand-to-hand from teeterboard; The Bertinis, bicycles; Frank & Estreleta, aerial perch and Billy Borin, singing ringmaster.

Band Parades

Labor Day, 1982, at Randolph, Wisc., dawned cold and rainy, certainly not circus weather at all. However, the annual Firemen's Festival went on as scheduled.

Robert Ludwig, of the Old Mapleton Circus Band, reports that when the band and its circus wagon rolled into town there just

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The exciting circus music, plus Bob Ludwig on the bull horn brought people out and they certainly showed their appreciation of this fine music with their loud and long applause.

Following the concert the band took its place in the parade line-up and brought happiness to all those along the parade route. It should be noted that the majority of the folks watching the parade were of the younger generation and they certainly enjoyed it all.

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Great American

by ALMOND KNIGHT

On Monday, Sept. 6th, Labor Day, the Great American Circus set its tents up in the Austin Peay State University practice football field.

It was sponsored by the Cops for Christ and they did a swell job for the advance. At 5:30 they had almost a full house and a good sized crowd for the late 8 p.m. show, and the concessions, side show and rides did a great business.

Allan Hill reports that business had been good so far this year and was all over the lot and tent making a TV tape.

The show has a big old-fashioned midway with elephant rides, pony sweep, Moon Walk and side show on the right side. On the left is Hill's big bus living quarters, ticket wagon and concession trailer. In the center of the midway there are circus novelties.

Show is traveling on 12 trucks, trailers and semis, plus about the same number of private trailers, vans and mobile homes.

The old-fashioned Circus Side Show has eight big banners. Inside the tent, which is almost as big as the big top, and was set up beside the big top, were three elephants, a camel and a midget pony. The acts featured were Big Foot in his Coffin, Snake Charmer, Fire Eater, Human Pin Cushion and a Blade Box. The side show went for 50c and the big show tickets were \$3.00 and \$4.00 with all seats on a first come basis. Music for the show is furnished by Dave Miller on the organ and his wife on drums.

I did not get many names of the performers. The show opened with a spec with all animals and performers and clowns and they went around the big top area just as in the days of yore.

They use a three ring format, but only the center ring has ring curbs. Show starts with both end rings featuring juggling while on a rola bola in ring one and foot juggling in the other end ring. Both are very good.

Next comes the hair hang that has been a feature of The Great American Circus for several years now. This is a show stopper as the young lady is wearing about 20 silk kimonos, all flying as she makes her way to the top of the tent and then disrobes them one at a time, very colorful.

This was followed by two girls with the coloring book pitch.

The Gardner Family is presented in the center ring with a dog and pony revue, 5 dogs and two ponies.

Clowns were next with the Seeing Stars routine using 3 clowns. They feature the tallest clown in the world, Arnold Sherman.

The next presentation was a show stopper for in one of the end rings was a head balancing on a ball juggling everything you can think of. In the center ring was a young miss of 8 to 10 years old doing a contortion act. She must have a backbone that bends easily as she does some super things.

A Peanut Pitch followed this with balloons as prizes for the lucky winners.

Next was Ja-Ja the clown and her 5 dogs. Another good dog act. This was followed by Miss Ivy on the single trapeze over the center ring and was followed by another show stopper, Kongo the gorilla. This is a great crowd pleaser and the tent went wild with Kongo's antics.

Now it was intermission time with elephant rides in the center ring using two elephants and twice around the ring for your money.

The second part of the show got off with a side show announcement with Capt. Bob going around the arena selling side show tickets.

Back for their second appearance was the Gardner Family with the pony revue. They have 5 ponies, well matched, light tan color and a very excellent act.

The aerial ballet over all three rings with three girls up on swinging ladders. This is another of the old time acts that you don't see much of these days.

Next was Sherman and his clowns with the sharpshooter gag and then came a balloon pitch.

Mr. Gardener made his final appearance with his dressage act, with a very beautiful animal. This was a good act too.

The grand finale of this big 15 act circus was the Great American Circus Elephants, which do an outstanding act and following each trick they go to the back of the ring to pose before doing the next trick.

The lot here at Austin Peay State Campus was a showman's paradise with a level green lot with water right on it and plenty of free on and off street parking there at the campus.

Sharing the Spotlight

By Ed Levitt
Tribune Staff Writer

Animals and clowns prance into view as the spotlight focuses on ringmaster Dinny McGuire of Hayward.

"Ladies and gentlemen and children of all ages," McGuire announces to the Oakland Arena crowd, "introducing the 112th edition of The Greatest Show on Earth — the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus."

Music blares. Elephants rumble. Kids squeal. McGuire, dressed in a rainbow-colored tux with shimmering spangles, breaks out in a song. Soon he is joined by Alice Lynn of Castro Valley, his singing partner and close friend since their teen-age days at a summer camp in Santa Cruz.

Lynn, adorned in sequins, feathers and rhinestones, blends her voice with McGuire's in a rousing ditty called "Jump for Joy for the Circus."

Earlier, in a room next to the arena, the two beamed like a couple of kids eating cotton candy. After all, don't all youngsters dream of someday running off and joining the circus?

Not so with Alice Lynn, 28, and Dinny McGuire, 33.

"I don't remember having that dream," Lynn admitted. "In fact, I never saw a circus until a few years ago. Dinny and I had been free-lancing, trying to get bit parts in small company shows. Then I caught the circus at the Oakland Arena. It was so professional, so entertaining, I was sold on it. I just had to join."

She attended a Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey showgirl audition at the Oakland Arena in 1981 — and was immediately signed to a contract.

Then, during a rehearsal break, Lynn and the circus organist were practicing a few songs "just for fun," she said.

Producer Kenneth Feld happened to pass by and enjoyed what he heard. He turned Lynn into a featured vocalist for the circus — the only woman singer in the show.

McGuire, meanwhile, was working as master of ceremonies and vaudeville director at a theater in Oceano, Calif.

"When I heard there was to be an audition in Oakland for a new ringmaster, I phoned Dinny — and he got the job last December," Lynn happily revealed. Now, besides singing the opening and final numbers in the circus, McGuire acts as master of ceremonies — introducing every act "except the clowns," he quickly explained.

Although they now live on a train, quartered in small compartments with no private bath or shower, Lynn and McGuire enjoy their nomadic life.

Overall, Lynn assured, "it's been incredible fun. We get to see the country. We're on a two-year tour — and we'll cover all but six states."

She confides that it took a lot of adjustment. Having appeared with small companies on stage in "Cabaret," "The Music Man" and "Show Boat," she said it required a different approach to sing in sawdust with elephants thundering by.

"This is a slice of life," Lynn philosophized. "The tigers get bigger billing than we do. But that doesn't bother us. This is the circus. As for the glamour of being a circus performer, forget it. Backstage we walk around in our old robes. And we're always around animals and their messes."

"But you put on the sequines, rhinestones and feathers. You step out in the center ring. Then it all turns glamorous. I feel the excitement even when I'm dead tired. The lights go up — and I know it's the Greatest Show on Earth."

McGuire — tall, trim and flippant — says he has done the same show more than 400 times. "People ask me how I can do the same things 400 times. They don't realize this is live entertainment. There are 500 people and animals involved. That's a lot of variables. Anything can happen."

"Like the other night there was trouble with the trapeze rigging. I looked up and I could see something was wrong. Then the man on the trapeze gave me a sign that the trick was going to be cut out of the show. So I just introduced the next act."

According to Lynn, "Our silver train is like a microcosmic planet. The people in the circus come from all over the world."

"These are not sleazy characters, as some people might think, but highly professional entertainers. We work, socialize, party and learn from them."

The circus performers have their squabbles, McGuire points out, "just like any big family. But in our circus, the communists (from Poland and Hungary) and the capitalists (from England and America) are getting along better than the rest of the world."

The circus continues through Tuesday at the Oakland Arena, then moves to the Cow Palace for a six-day run starting Sept. 2.



CATCHING THE QUAD

By Brenda Lane
Tribune Staff Writer

Miguel Vazquez is a daring young man on a flying trapeze, but when he flies with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus this week at the Oakland Coliseum, it won't be with the greatest of ease.

There's a good reason for that. Seventeen-year-old Miguel is the first aerialist in the 123-year history of trapeze flying to execute a quadruple somersault. It's a feat that sends his slender body hurtling backwards, one heart-stopping revolution after another, 75 miles an hour, 35 feet in the air, ending only when he plants his wrists into the hands of his big brother, Juan.

Obviously, there are dangers involved. A narrow safety net awaits them below. If the distances between each of Miguel's turns are not precise, or if the humidity affects Juan's grip, Miguel might fall, miss the net completely and land on the tanbark. Also, the final somersault is forceful enough to dislocate the catcher's shoulder or strip the skin off the fingers of the aerialist.

"Before I begin the feat," said Miguel, "I prepare myself with a short prayer: 'Our dear Father, please be with me as I go across, and also help my brother.'"

These high-flying siblings are not only united in prayer, they box and play soccer together. Their rhythms must be as one. Miguel's life depends on it.

Last year, one of their sisters, Marguerite Michelle — an aerialist whose specialty is hanging by her hair — fell and broke her neck. She has recovered and has returned to work.

"We are the fifth generation of a circus family," explained Juan. "My great grandfather originated Circo Orrin a century ago."

From Mexico City, seven of the Vazquez children are circus performers. Felipe and Patricia are part of the Ringling Brothers act. Papa Vazquez has retired and is back in Mexico, but their mother flies in several times a year. She sees to it that Miguel gets to bed early, drives his 924 Porsche under the speed limit, and prepares his meals of tacos, enchiladas and sopes.

"On Sunday mornings she makes us go to Mass," says Juan.

Life for a circus performer is a difficult one even under the best of conditions. For a 17-year-old it means giving up school (Miguel dropped out of school when he was 8), living on the circus train (he drives from town to town in his car, while his brothers live in trailers), and working about 49 weeks of the year ... turn after turn after turn.

"I love the circus. I'm never afraid when I'm working," says Miguel.

Instead, the audience is afraid for him. During yesterday afternoon's 2:30 show, the drums rolled while Miguel smiled and reached for the trapeze. In a minute he was swinging high, then higher still.

"During that moment all sound freezes for me," he had said earlier.

The volume turned down, the sufficient

height accomplished, he loosened his grip on the bar and began his turns. There were no ropes, no wings, no motors to keep him afloat. It was 100 percent pure boy. The first turn accomplished he did two more, then tried for another. Then it was time to reach for Juan. Miguel's hands went out. Too late. He slipped from his brother's grip. His



body went crashing downward, mercifully into the net.

The audience, which had mentally fallen with him, released a mass sigh. And the show went on.

Like many teen-age boys, this 130-pound, 5-foot-8½-inch flyer stuffs his "room" on the train with records and tapes, and has a girlfriend. Her name is Theresa. She lives in Florida, and despite all the fan mail and photographs he receives from young girls around the country, Miguel grows misty-eyed when he speaks of her.

An aerialist since the age of 12, Miguel says his desire to perform the quadruple was inspired by the 1956 movie "Trapeze." Starring Burt Lancaster, Tony Curtis and Gina Lollobrigida, it was a fictionalized account of the attempt to achieve the first triple somersault. The trick was actually accomplished by Ernest and Charles Clarke in a performance of the Publiones Circus in Cuba.

Only a dozen performers have been able to do the triple somersault, and two — Ernie Lane and Charles Siergrist — died in an attempt.

Although the quadruple somersault had never been performed in an actual circus performance, before Miguel's accomplishment last month in Tucson, Ariz., there is some controversy about whether the trick had ever been performed in practice.

For the immediate future, Miguel has no plans to increase the number of somersaults he can perform. His ambitions are a little more down to earth.

He's saving his money for a Maserati automobile that he can proudly display to Theresa when he's in Florida again.

Gamal lives, Powder Face only missing



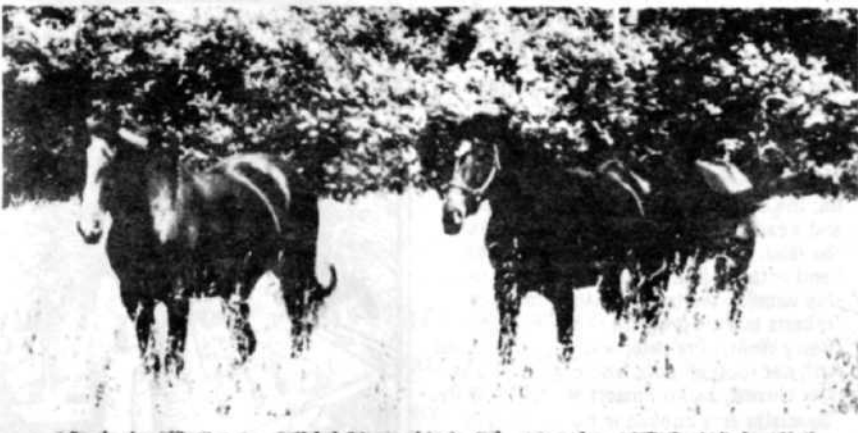
Last year, according to news wire reports, the famous diving horses of Atlantic City's Steel Pier had been "sold for dog food." Since that original report the Fund for Animals has located two of the horses and they are now living on farms, in retirement.

The third horse, "Powder Face" has disappeared and it is believed that this horse was sold for slaughter and shipped to France or Japan for human consumption. Some 85 to 90% of all horses now sold for slaughter end up as food on tables in Europe of the Orient.

The three horses made their final dive at Atlantic City on Labor Day 1978. The act was started in the mid-1920's and a succession of horses preceded the final three. They performed six days a week, usually about four shows a day, jumping from a 60 ft. high platform into a 10 ft. deep pool, with a young woman riding bareback.

Gamal, the 26 yr. old dean of the diving horses was purchased by the Fund for Animals at an auction at Tabernacle, NJ, in May 1980. The horse was placed in retirement on a farm in Flemington, NJ.

Shiloh, a 10 yr. old chestnut mare was obtained by the Fund for Animals in October 1980 and now lives at the organization's Black Beauty Ranch in Tyler, Texas. This is a retirement facility for animals.



Shiloh (left) and Gamal, former Atlantic City Steel Pier Diving horses are now enjoying a life of retirement. In the photo above, Powder Face, the missing Diving horse, is shown making a dive at the Steel Pier.

The Great Yarmouth

by JACK NIBLETT

Great Yarmouth is to the east coast of England what Blackpool is to the northwest. Both big popular seaside resorts have broad promenades, lots of theatres and movie houses, many pubs and big amusement parks - and both possess a fine historical permanent circus building.

Blackpool has rather had the edge on Yarmouth in past years, but since the Hippodrome was acquired by Jack and Peter Jay, impresarios who own several of the amusement houses in the town, there has been little to choose between the quality of the two sumptuous summer shows.

The venerable Hippodrome building, built in 1903, has been completely refurbished in warm traditional circus style, with restored foyer, antique poster display and gas-light inspired light fittings. But most important of all, the devices which lowered the ring surface and enabled it to be filled with water have been over-hauled, or replaced, and the amazing water spectacles which always brought the show to a triumphant finale have been restored.

For the last three years the Jays have booked leading British circuses to form a firm basis for the program, especially with regard to animal acts. Thus there were animal acts from Mary Chipperfield's extensive resources for the first two years, then followed Yasmine Smart's high school and liberty horse acts, together with family acts, while this year the Robert Brothers are furnishing a very strong animal content to the bill. From their ample enterprises are the internationally famous elephant (6) group, the Arabian liberty horses and palomino ponies, the Bengal tigers, the boxing kangaroo and a camel, mostly shown by members of the family. Bobby Roberts, Jr. is also on hand with his fine Circus World Championship winning western act. Also from the Roberts tenting program come 'El Hakim' (Barry Walls), fire-eater and yogi, Pam Enos with her football dogs, and England's premier clowns, Jacko Fossett and Little Willy.

Specialty acts booked in by the Jays include Ken Wood (ventriloquist and compere), the Flying Cherokees (trapeze), Omar Rabati (balancing), Duo Angelos (aerial no-

vely act) and the Rex Gray Showgirls. George Pinder as befits a member of this old circus family is a good traditional ringmaster, while Michael Fontaine's Showband of six musicians contribute a splendid musical backing.

An excellent traditional circus program, but it is the spectacular water show which captures the imagination "Neptune's Kingdom and the Octopus Garden!" with its swimming acqua-maids, Father Neptune with his attendant fishes and a yellow submarine, a water slide and dancing fountains, the whole spectacle resolving itself into a grand Patriotic Finale, "Rule Britannia", sending the customers out in a "happy and glorious" condition, glowing with pride and enthusiasm.

It is good to record that all previous box office records have been broken in this generally uncertain year of 1982. Now, I wonder, how the Jays are going to follow this one in 1983?



PEOPLE

MARK PILGER finished the season at Wisconsin Dells, Wisc., on Sept. 11th with the trapeze-helicopter act at the Tommy Bartlett Show and then on Sept. 12th he joined the Ringling Red Unit to do his cloud swing for the remainder of the year.

LEON PINTER, show organist, is completing his second season with the Roberts Bros. Circus which will close late this month. The occasion marks his 53rd year in show business.

DARRELL WALLEN and his famed horse "Mr. Rythm" recently played a rodeo date in Minot, N. D. They also worked fair dates in Minnesota and Georgia.

HEIDI BOLZ did her Roman ring act with Carson & Barnes Circus when the show was in her hometown of Sheyboygan, Wisc., on Aug. 19th. She had previously played with Franzen Bros. Circus at some Wisconsin engagements.

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THE FLYING VAZQUEZ, with quad-somersaulter MIGUEL, will again be featured in the Ringling Blue Unit program next year. Also joining that show in 1983 will be the Flying Alvarez Troupe, which has been with the Beatty-Cole Circus this season.

THE FLYING ESPANAS will have two flying acts on the Ringling Red Unit for the 1982 season. They were previous seen on Circus Vargas for the past few years.

DOUG HENNING, illusionist, is planning a new TV Special which will be aired in December on NBC.

Wade Burck

by JOHN GAIZICK

Young Wade Burck is a man with positive thoughts concerning all creatures great and small, not to mention the treatment, training and all around care of those animals he personally deals with.

After spending some three hours with Mr. Burck, it is very clear that he is a man who above all else is deeply concerned about the environment and life style provided for animals that are kept in our nation's zoos, shelters and theme parks. He's one who fights for the animals' rights by doing whatever possible to re-educate, re-train and change the general public's way of thinking whose preconceptions about the care of captive animals are often misleading.

While working at the beautiful Mt. Wachusett Animal Forest in Hubbardston, Mass., the 27 year old North Dakota native gave three tiger training demonstrations per day. Working with two Siberian tigers, a five year old male named "Washington" (who is billed as the 'World's Largest Tiger'), and a four year old female named "Sonia". Wade presented an interesting and informative twenty minute session on the techniques and procedures he goes through to teach his two pals to stretch on a log, lay down and do a sit-up. He explained that gaining the animal's trust and respect is the first step and both cats acted very comfortable with their blonde friend. His demonstration is expertly executed leaving his audience completely satisfied. One leaves with a new outlook and respect for training animals as well as a high regard for Mr. Burck.

Since age five, Wade has been in love with all animals, especially tigers. He would visit numerous zoos and didn't like the inactivity that continual confinement causes zoo animals. He believes in giving them the necessary training as well as the activity God meant them to enjoy. He has designed cages for each animal to duplicate their natural environment while providing for all their needs while in captivity.

At age 17, he spent four years with animal trainer Lou Regan, who then was considering retirement. Lou wanted a protege to take over his act and Wade spent his first three years studying tigers, elephants, camels, horses and llamas. His fourth year

was in active performance with these aforementioned animals.

Wade believes in the "reward" system of training - a trick correctly done gets a 'treat meat' (beef on a stick, hold the mayo). Once a trick is started one must always see to it that the trick is fully completed no matter how long it takes or how uncooperative the animal might be. If left undone the animal remembers he got away with it once and could easily decide to renege at anytime. He believes the "reward" training technique works with all types of animals and is not limited to his feline cohorts. Respect and consideration are also key factors in his outlook on animal training.



Television credits include several appearances on "Those Amazing Animals," and "P. M. Magazine." Mr. Burck spent five

(Continued on Next Page)

WADE BURCK (Continued)

years at the Marine Land Park and Game Farm in Niagara Falls, Canada; two years with the Hamid-Morton Shrine Circus and with Circus Vargas during the 1981 season. It was during that season when Wade went through what he considers the most frightening experience of his career - one which made him decide to retire awhile from circus life. He was chewed up and clawed a total of eight times and for the first time during his career he noticed his 19 tigers were not responding to his training. They were doing whatever they pleased, performing only if they were in the mood - a factor he feels is caused by animals being pushed too much, over-worked, over-traveled and not given the necessary time alone they so badly need to cope with captive life. They were becoming too aggressive, taking out their pent-up hostilities on the only one they could - their trainer.

He feels there are many factors which cause such a situation. The economy being what it is, circuses have a tendency to add on more daily performances. People get paid salaries are adjusted, but animals get no compensation, their pay is continual work and declining consideration.

If the circumstances and conditions are favorable, Wade would eventually like to return to that act which is now a part of the Hawthorn Circus. He still loves those 19 cats which he trained since they were cubs and he cares greatly about their welfare.

Wade is most supportive of the work being done by both Robert Redford and Doris Day on behalf of animals. He believes they deserve public support and recognition for their dedication and involvement. "Celebrities can reach millions of people because they are names and this can only help the cause," states Wade.

Each of us has our special dream and Wade is no different. His is to build a safari park with a game reserve atmosphere in the North Dakota area. He would like to specialize in breeding birds of prey, including eagles and owls. Pheasants hold a special meaning for him as well. Of the cat family, he'd like to breed the small types like ocelots and so forth.

With wife, Tracey and the couple's two children, Adam 6, and Eric 11, the Burck's

reside in a mobile home on the Mt. Wachusett Animal Farm. They love New England with its quiet atmosphere and find the people low key and friendly. The tranquil setting where they stayed gave Wade numerous opportunities to think of the future; his plans for the game reserve; the design of cages for specific animal needs and work on the final touches of his book - "Tigers Are Hard To Get, But I can Be Replaced." Described as "reminisces of life on the circus and among wild animals, as he lived it."

I was most impressed with Wade Burck and his direct straight-forward manner - perhaps it was because he talked sense, I'm not sure or perhaps it was, above all else, his respect for animals.

(Special thanks must go not only to Mr. Burck for his generous amount of time and cooperation, but also to Cynthia and Harvey Ellowitz, owners of the Mt. Wachusett Animal Farm. They were equally friendly and cooperative in making this article possible.)

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Miscellaneous

The TV show "Chicago Story" aired on the west coast on July 30th, had an outdoor scene where a circus poster was seen on a brick wall in the background.

The "James A. Haley Veterans Adm. (VA) Hospital in Tampa, Fla., one of the nation's largest VA hospitals, and formerly the Tampa VA Hospital, is named for the late U. S. Congressman and former President of the Ringling-Barnum Circus. He traveled with the circus in the 1940's, first as Executive Vice President and then as its President and Chief Operating Officer in 1947.

The Sept. 17-26, 1982 Barrington Fair featured a number of free entertainers including:

Lady Mud Wrestlers; Petting Zoo; Charles Merrill, magic show; Barrington Fair Family Circus; Horse Draw; Middle Earth Mar-

Video Work

"The No Elephant Circus", New York's newest resident circus, became an AFTRA signator recently. The circus will be producing an industrial video program for the Sony Corp., outlining health, pension and profit-sharing programs for Sony employees.

Robert R. Daraio, artistic director of the No Elephant Circus, will be producing the program, which will feature TNEC members Lenny Wright, Tony Duncan, Steve Bernard, Gaetano Provenzano and Meryl Schaffer.

In addition to his work with The No Elephant Circus, Mr. Daraio has been employed as a videotape technician by various television companies in New York, including Children's Television Workshop, Reeves Teletape, JSL Video and NBC. This will be his first time as a producer.

ionettes; Garden Tractor Pull; Charles Schlarbaum's Band; 8th Avenue Revue (a variety musical group) and the Bob and Marty Show.

Circus/Jazz Date

by *GLENN WELLER*

The Weller family presented a mini-circus for the 1st Annual Dixieland Jazz Festival in Morgan Hill, Ca. It was a three day event over Labor Day weekend. We never imagined that circus would blend so well with a music festival.

The promoter also had good taste, he saw to it that the entertainers were housed in the luxurious Hyatt Hotel each night, which was soothing to the ears after a day of being surrounded by 11 bands - always at least three were playing constantly.

The circus performance included, in addition to the Weller's acro-balancing and rola bola with daughters Kelly (age 8) and Shannon (age 6) made their debut on the still and swinging high trapeze.

Johnny Ryan, from San Francisco, a former 'class' high wire walker, came out of semi-retirement to help with the show. In his younger years, Johnny was a 'total circus' person. Learned in all facets of the circus business, from blacksmithing to clowning.

He was a real crowd pleaser, wearing his personalized clown get-up and developing his character identity. The audience was spellbound by his opening routine of juggling and magical illusions.

Backstage, it was a thrill watching Johnnie regain his talents, doing what he and most all circus people enjoy doing - entertaining.

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PEOPLE

JEFFREY, escape artist, was featured on TV's "Evening Magazine" the night of Oct. 1st. That same evening, CHRIS SHAY-LUND" was featured in an ABC-TV special with his escape act.

Roman Schmitt

Circus World's elephant trainer, Roman Schmitt, grew up in the shadow of the trunks of the mighty mammoths, and he was performing in the center ring of the circus before he knew that was the dream of many would-be stars of the tanbark.

Roman accomplished these feats because of his father, the world-renowned Hugo Schmitt, famed elephant trainer who starred in the center ring of the Ringling-Bar-num Circus for 25 years. Under his tutelage Roman learned about elephants and the circus.

The first time Roman stepped into the center ring to perform, he was the tender age of five. But, his early circus career was short lived and ended when he was seven. At that time his parents decided it would be better for him to stay at home and to go to school in Sarasota, rather than perform on a year-round basis with the traveling circus.

During those years in school Roman found other interests instead of the circus and like

millions of other American boys, he dreamed of becoming another Yogi Berra. After graduating from Riverview High School in Sarasota, Roman turned his back on the circus and joined the New York Mets farm system to become a baseball star.

That dream changed two years later when he scrapped his catcher's mitt and decided to follow in his father's footsteps. At that time he joined his father's act working as an assistant in an outside ring (His father worked the center ring with his two assistants working the remaining two rings).

"At that time he was working 20 elephants but when the circus was still being performed under the big top, he worked 54 elephants at one time," Roman said.

After his father retired, Roman branched out becoming the only animal trainer in the United States to train and use zebras and a rhinoceros in his act. In fact, he had the only performing black rhinoceros in the world.

"She is retired now," Roman said about

(Continued on Next Page)

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Questions

Q: What is the longest circus title ever?

A: As far as we know the longest title ever used was: "Sells Brothers' World Conquering and All Overshadowing 3-Ring Circus, Real Roman Hippodrome, Grand Firemen's Tournament, Indian Village and Museum, Five Continent Menagerie and Pawnee Bill's Famous Original Wild West." This title was used during the 1887 season.

Q: Is there any record of famous firsts in the field of vaulting?

A: On Aug. 24, 1868, George M. Kelley, at Corinth, Miss., vaulted over 17 horses. The best leap on record.

ROMAN SCHMITT (Continued)

the rhinoceros, "but I am training a nine-month-old white rhinoceros to perform in the show."

The unique and astounding characteristic of Roman's show is he manages to use animals never before seen performing in a circus in this country. At this time the zebras pull a chariot driven by him into the center ring. After they leave he puts three elephants through their paces with the assistance of his pretty wife, Jean.

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THE HAPPYTIME CIRCUS

by JOHN E. LENKER

Dave Twomey's Happytime Circus opened its 1982 fair season at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino, Calif. and then moved into Central and Northern California. The Orange show closed with its annual Rodeo on May 9th.

Happytime Circus was staged for the Orange Show as a free attraction with three daily performances. It made a stand out appearance in its brand new red and yellow tent, a 50 ft. round top with a 30 ft. middle. The 120 ft. of seats, five rows high, poles, props, 25 ft. ring curb and other equipment are all painted brightly in red and yellow. The Happytime Circus moves on two trucks and trailers, all painted white with colorful lettering and decorations.

The programs, given at 1, 3 and 6:30 p.m. opened with Dave Twomey as Happy the Clown, presenting his five small dogs in a series of fast numbers, including ball walk, hind leg dance, hoop jump, barrel walk, a baby carriage and concluded with a high wire walk.

The "Whippersnappers" (Barbara and Sylvester Braun) in western costumes presented a fast turn of whip cracking and cutting paper strips and popping balloons to please children and adults alike.

Happy presented his famous balloon animal characture routine with the help of a boy and girl from the audience. The full house crowd overflowed the seats and stood three and four deep around the tent.

Koko (Ken Twomey) presented his trained llama followed by Happy and boy and girl volunteers from the audience in a hilarious balloon breaking contest. It resulted in a tie so Happy gave each a prize - a ticket for a camel ride on the Orange Show midway.

Clown Koko returned with unicycle act for crowd approval. Happy then presented his big spoof with one of his dogs, wearing a "baby elephant" outfit, in a walk around the ring.

The circus ponies Stormy and Frisky were put through a fast routine by Happy, assisted by Judy Twomey for a round of applause.

The western atmosphere returned again with the Brauns rope twirling numbers. Bar-

bara won applause with her rope spins, including the "Texas skip" and Sylvester, spinning 11 loops at once, was enthusiastically received.

The ten-act performance is concluded with Buttons, a small white dog, climbing a tall ladder and jumping off the top into the arms of Happy for a standing ovation.

As the crowd leaves Happy is on hand to thank them all for coming to see his "old fashioned dog and pony circus". He greets youngsters and toddlers with their parents and invites them to return.

Twomey said his performance was held to 30 minutes by the Orange Show authorities. In other spots he prefers to present a performance of 45 minutes to an hour. For this he adds more dogs, ball balance, juggling, a trained pigmy goat and other acts.

When the Brauns leave for another commitment in a few weeks, the performance will be augmented by Wally Bickmore and his family, presenting risley and single trapeze acts.

The Happytime Circus photos, taken by John Lenker, are identified as:

- 1 - Clock announcing next show.
- 2 - Happytime Circus new red and yellow big top (50 x 80).
- 3 - Animal truck and llama
- 4 - Circus truck and trailer
- 5 - Happy and dog rolling on globe
- 6 - Happy and dog rolling barrel
- 7 - Judy Twomey and ponies Stormy and Frisky

PEOPLE

CARLOS FARFAN, of Carlos Designs, has purchased two tents from Canobbio of Italy for use in Las Vegas.

SHAWN PATTERSON (Shanse the clown) has been learning about clowning while doing dates with Bryan's Clowns, Inc.

GARY (Yo-Yo) NOEL, along with RICK LEGG clowned the Zerbini/Castle date at Wichita, Kans., Apr. 15-18 for the Jimmy Douglass Clown Alley. Gary recently visited Carson & Barnes and Scott's Medicine Show.



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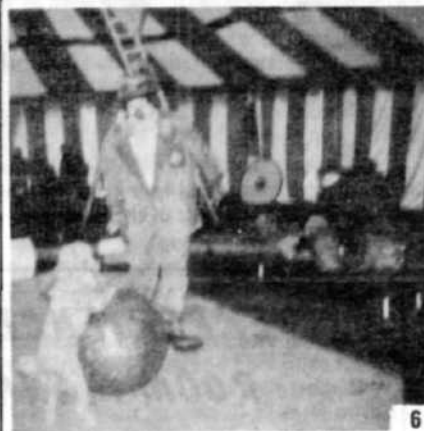
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4



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6



7

PEOPLE

BOBBY YERKES is featured in a full page photo in the US magazine for Oct. 1982. The story is about film stuntmen and a recently completed film. Bobby will be working with the "Circus of the Stars" show which will be filmed soon-in Las Vegas.

HELEN and **GUNNAR AMANDIS** (Amandis Entertainment, Inc.) have acquired the office files and contents of the Eugene C. Lambart Agency.

MAY T. WALKER and her husband **GARNET**, of the Southern Amusements Co., a leading concession operation for fairs with souvenir hat stands at Disney World and Disneyland, are residents of Sarasota, Fla. May served as secretary to Ringling-Barnum presidents James A. Haley and John Ringling North and held down the "Silver Wagon" the private office wagon of the show. Garnet and his brother, Bert, toured with Ringling-Barnum in the 40's and 50's with their "Name on a Hat" concession stand.

Pat White

by BOB STODDARD

Patricia (Pat) White has worked with cats for eight years. The last five of them have been with the circus. Before that she spent three years at Cedar Point, a safari park in Sandusky, Ohio.

I caught this long-haired blonde beauty on Carson & Barnes, just after she re-joined the show in Gainesville, after her son Nicholas Glenn White, was born. Nicholas was six weeks old then and "doing fine" she said. She also apologized for not being able to wear her "super-snazzy wardrobe," because she wasn't "quite down to that size yet."

Here is a circus star with no generations of circus people in her background. Her father is a jeweler and her mother is a nurse.

Born and raised in Michigan, she was convinced that, "there just had to be something more to life than this." At eighteen she was attending Western Michigan University and looking for a summer job. She found one that changed her whole life.

At Cedar Point she started working with the chimps at first and then she became fascinated with the lions. She knew then



what she had been looking for. She knew too, that it was foolish to pay someone to teach you how to do something she really didn't want to do, so she dropped out of college.

Pat's philosophy: "There is so much to do and see, and so many places to go, that it is downright criminal to allow yourself to become bored."

She has found the life she wants and she is happy.

"Circus life is exhilarating and exhausting

- and the extremes of both. Having to deal with pressure and fatigue on a daily basis gets a little tiresome. The hours aren't great. It's too much and too hard work to do if you don't love it," she laughed and added, "Circus people do twice as much work for



half as much pay, so you had better love it."

She feels lucky not to have any exciting stories to tell about her work in the cage. She's happy to say that she has only been "nailed" a couple of times, and isn't too concerned about that because they were her mistakes. "They still have three things that I have to remember: their teeth, their claws and their tempers. If all three of these come at you at once it can be a touchy situation." She thought about it for a moment and then continued, "I don't think I'd like to work with uncaged cats. I prefer the cage where only my life is on the line. I chose to put myself in this situation and I don't want to have to deal with someone besides me getting chewed up."

This is the first year she has worked with horses on a show. She's doing a menage act and has a ring of liberty horses, "They might add a pony drill act for me later on," she said.

She thought of something else, and laughed. "The lions each eat about ten pounds of meat a day. That gives me an advantage for working with horses. If they don't act right, I threaten to feed them to the lions."

The photos on this page were taken by photographer Jimmie Mundell, and were trimmed down to fit the column size.

The Ringmaster

by DAVID L. HAMMARSTROM

They come in all sizes and styles - suave and aloof, bustling with energy, hats on, hats off, in red or blue or gold. Some evoke visions of grandeur that far surpasses the acts immediately at hand; others, seemingly indifferent to the honored shoes they fill, simply fail to make us believe. The only voice we hear at the circus can fill us with a sense of wonder . . . or leave us wanting.

There's a fresh and vital new spirit this year at the American Continental Circus. It's a good show - not a retread or a clone, but a new show, what with a scintillating host of fine acts, the change in personnel being long overdue.

Best of all, the sound of the show has been overhauled for the better: at the bandstand, Bill Reynolds, whose older-fashioned big-top rhythms under the Carson & Barnes banner last year were celebrated by circus fans, has transferred his hurly-burly gusto to the indoor circuit for American Continental. Most of all, at the announcer's mike there's a vital new voice - well, no, a vital new presence, in the affable form of Mike Piel.

Is this Piel's first stint on sawdust? A vague bio sketch in the program magazine fails to list any previous credits in Spangleland. Basically, Piel is a new-commer to the field. Never mind, his presence is fresh and totally believable (a quality that seems in scarce supply these days), and his performance (yes, he is a performer) offers a kind of grand electric retrospective of various ringmastering styles. Once the rough edges are honed, Piel should find his sphere of influence and popularity rapidly expanding. What has he that makes him so promising? A true sense of involvement.

Sitting contentedly in my seat, with Piel as my tour guide while the parade passed in review, I was reminded of something wonderfully dependable about the circus - it is an "ageless delight" (to quote Hemingway) to be rediscovered over and over again. And perhaps no single force in the circus can help revitalize our enthusiasm like a dedicated ringmaster can. Seeing the show through his eyes can bring into greater focus feats of skill long taken for granted. A great ringmaster is a great interpreter of the

action; let him rouse us to the importance of the event.

What I find most intriguing about Piel is the variance of styles contained in his persona. Ballyhooing Kay Rosaire as "The Queen of the Steel Arena!", he conjures up the bombast of days gone by when ringmasters were more like barkers. Hokey, you say? Hold on - Piel, another moment, is stopping the show to elucidate seriously for us some fact of circus history in order to set into perspective the significance of a trick about to be performed. And then, he is more like the grand authority, as when - with a possible sly touch of good-natured bravado - he utters the French words for the passing leap on the flying trapeze, "Double Passe! Double Passe!"

With or without knowing it, and much to my added delight, Piel combines some of the crowning attributes of America's two top ringmasters - Harold Ronk, who presently has left a terrible void in Spangleland by declaring himself - only temporarily we hope, "retired" - and the lovable John Strong, who these days, much to the regret of us all, spends more time behind a promoter's adding machine than at the edge of an enchanted ring. (Quite judiciously, the Circus Fans Association of America has chosen to honor both Strong and Ronk at back-to-back national conventions. Strong was toasted last year, and Ronk enjoyed similar accolades when he addressed the group at their recent Little Rock bash).

Piel can stretch a word to infinity in fair Ronkian style; he can also stretch his warm grin to embrace the multitudes, like John Strong does when he is in high spirits and desires to paint all humanity with one big smile.

About the rough edges: By way of optimism, because Piel represents a more promising talent, I've broached the subject of his potential on a purposely resolute note. In truth, he does possess the attributes of a fine ringmaster. In actuality, he has yet to assemble them all in a completely satisfying manner.

The true art of ringmastering involves the deft sense of knowing when to talk and when to move the action on its way; most prominently, Piel is guilty at moments of repetitious phrasing; of over indulgence in

(Continued on Next Page)

Reno Acts

Acts appearing at the Circus Circus Hotel-Casino in Reno, Nevada, are:

The Stephenson's, dogs, pony, chimps; the Boxing Kangaroo "Boomer"; the Vargas Magic/Illusions; Joachim Krause, 'Wheel of Destiny'; The Flying Del Steeles, featuring Tony Steele; The Flying Ramos; Aerial ballerinas, Celeste Starr, Cindy Schwartz and Suzie Bennett, and Belgian balancers Gilbert and Benita Gilberto.

Circus Acts

Acts featured on the program of the Great American Circus this year are:

Billy Martin, ringmaster; Buck Nolan, the 7 ft. clown; Dave Upton, uncaged cougar; Oscar Macias, one finger stand; Carlos Abraham, head balancing; Elizabeth Macias, foot juggling; Ming Wong, hair hang; Billy Martin with gorilla parody; Bonnie Bonta, dogs; Ian Garden, Jr., dressage horse; Captain Teak, elephants; Billy Martin, rolling globe; Ian Garden, Jr., horses, ponies, dogs; Oscar Macias, cloud swing; Dave Miller, musical director.

Also included in the program are several clown numbers, girls on webs and a swinging ladder display.

The circus is managed and produced by Allan C. Hill, the show owner is L. B. 'Hoxie' Tucker and Jim Raab is the general agent.

PEOPLE

RON and JOY HOLIDAY and their Magical Animals are featured at Aqualand Wild Life Park, Bar Harbor, Maine, from June 25 to Sept. 6th.

VINCE CARMEN and his illusion show is featured at Harrah's Hotel-Casino in Reno in the show "Heat's On" which also features juggler FRANCIS BRUNN.

THE SIX NERVELESS NOCKS were the subjects of an NBC-TV "You Asked For It" taping which is to be aired in Dec. 1982.

THE RINGMASTER (Continued)

hyperbole, as when he reiterates the term "champions of the circus world" far too many times in his build-up of the Porredon perch act, a Monte Carlo Silver Award winner.

Circuses need to be packaged and paced much tighter than most sawdust announcers in this country seem to realize. Mike Piel has yet to master the sense of the ringmaster's potential impact on momentum; one act should flow into the next, and he, like most of his counterparts on other shows, insists on stopping the program after each act to announce the one to follow, rather than allowing the action to flow forward with some of his introductions being made over the music.

Must every ringmaster sing? Of course not. Piel's vocals are amiable enough, if hardly the essence of a seasoned vocalist.

Still in all, Piel is a figure to be enjoyed. Let's hope he stays around long enough to develop a more accurate sense of pacing, to realize himself in contact of the greater flow of action, to mull it all over and find creative ways in which to apply his enthusiasm economically, realizing a more exciting result with fewer words and gestures. In the meantime, he is a personality to be watched and appreciated - whether pushing an index finger towards a particular action, as if to say, John Strong style, "Look folks - you're not catching that great trick!"; or striking a classical stance while he pierces the air with a few reverberating adjectives.

This ringmaster makes you believe he really cares. And, that's a Golden Beginning.



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From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

For the first time ever there was an article on the Tampa Tribune's financial page about the financial conditions of the huge carnival industry, usually the writers leave this kind of news for the trade papers to report, but evidently since it is such a large industry bad news had to seep out to the reading public. Startling news, too is that after 62 years of seeing Royal American train at fairs, that Carl Sedlmayr, Jr. has announced that it will no longer be used! Sedlmayr and Rod Link of Amusement Corp. of America have joined forces for 70 engagements this coming season including no less than six state fairs, just another indications of the times. There will be no name change as of now, which ever carnival booked the date will have their title on top with the other getting second billing. Their first joint engagement will be for Joffa Shrine Temple at Davenport, Iowa, a 16 day stand. Sorry about this, all you railroad fans.

-- + --

Attractive Monika Kelly, daughter of the late clown Emmett Kelly, is currently in rehearsal at the Country Dinner Playhouse, St. Petersburg. The play called "Tribute" is to open June 3rd and stars Elinor Donahue (remember her from "Father Knows Best") and Howard Morris and is directed by Pat Julian.

-- + --

"Funny Farm" is a troupe of young actors who perform in clubs and are currently at The Peanut Gallery, in Tampa. Gregg Hosfeld is a member who is a spectacular juggler-comic, he is also a high diver at Circus World here in Florida.

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Recent deaths:

Alis Irma Rassmussen, of Brandon, formerly of Baraboo, Wisc. She had lived in Brandon for 5 years. Survived by her husband, Karl; son, Soren of Tampa; daughter Lili Kristensen and one grandchild.

Eva Harris, 86 yrs old, of St. Petersburg. Born in West Virginia, she lived in Sarasota where she was a seamstress for Ringling Br. Barnum & Bailey Circus. Survived by two sons, Gus and Jimmie, 3 grandsons and a sister, Thelma Perry of Bradenton.

-- + --

Author and former Clown College dean, Bill Ballantine, is on the "tube" a lot recently promoting his super-book "Clown Alley" I caught him on the "Today Show" from New York recently. Don't pass up the opportunity to buy this book, you will enjoy it very much.

-- + --

Recent surprise visitors were Harris Reynolds and Roger Cooley of Forest Park, Ga. who appeared at our house in their motor home along with Bobby Gordon Hodgson, his wife Caroline Hodgini Hodgson and sister Corrine Dearo Tarrant of Valrico. Harris also had his three pet dogs with him.

They picked up David and me in the motor home and Harris treated all of us to dinner

(Continued on Next Page)

Ind. Fair Circus

Ernie Kerns and Associates produced a circus program which was presented at the Coliseum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, in Indianapolis, Ind. on Sept. 19th.

The program, which was backed by a 15 piece orchestra, featured the following acts:

Wes Harrison, warm-up and MC; Davide Laddie, unsupported ladder act; Band number "Chattanooga Choo Choo"; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Mary Ellen Tanner, vocalist; Intermission.

Harry Dodd, magician; Wes Harrison, Mr. Sound Effects Man; Davide Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue.

Miscellaneous

Butler Bros. Carnival and Circus Vargas both played Oakland, Calif., the weekend of July 9-11. The shows were set up about six blocks apart, with the carnival being sponsored by the Boys Club.

FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

at one of the newest eateries in the area, Baumgardner's Wild West. Unique interior is done up like an old time Western town with western movies running, simulated gun fights etc. A real fun place for (big) and (little) kids

After dinner we drove to Dunedin Beach to see the sun set over St. Joseph's Sound and I let the doggies out for a run. It was a short but pleasant visit and Harris and Roger continued on to Sarasota.

PEOPLE

BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON was the instructor for a series of workshops conducted by the San Geronio Girl Scout Council of Riverside, Calif. Bruce is featured on the cover of a friendship card recently issued by the American Greetings Corp. He also appeared on a birthday card, the first of a series of circus themed cards.

Historical Notes

(The following notes are from the book "Struggles and Triumphs" an autobiography by Phinias T. Barnum. They were submitted by Jack E. Franklin).

Charles S. Stratton, better known as General Tom Thumb, was only 5 years old when P. T. Barnum first contracted to exhibit him at a wage of \$3.00 per week, plus expenses for him and his mother.

Barnum started Jenny Lind's concerts with a 60 piece orchestra, but later increased it to 100 men. She gave 93 concerts for Barnum.

James C. Adams, better known as Grizzly Adams, came from California around the Horn on a clipper ship to New York. He offered to display his collection of animals for Barnum. Barnum set up a tent a few blocks from his museum where Grizzly displayed a half dozen species of California Bears, California Lions, Tigers, Buffalo, Elk and a Great sea lion.

Grizzly's skull had been severely wounded by the giant bears while they were being trained and he did not expect to live even one more year. Actually, he spent 13 weeks with Barnum and then 10 weeks with a small circus touring Connecticut. Too weak to carry on any more he went home to Neponset, Mass., where he died.

Party Time

On Sept. 11th, Circus Vargas was the scene of a gala birthday celebration for George E. Clyatt, hosted by fellow clown, Bruce Warner.

The guests included: Dale Longmire, Ted Polk, Peter Kinosh, Pam and Ron Perry, Dan Buckley, Darlene Dicker, Vanessa Thomas, Greg Pregor, Billy McCabe, Jeffrey Sharp; Simon Aviles-Martinez and former C.V. band leader Stephen Curl.

Well wishers dropping by included Ariz Maccaggi and Darlene Williams.

Entertainment was provided by Longmire-Kinosh Productions and featured the exotic rhythms of Michael "Mr. Beads" Block.

A good time was had by all.

..... Lila Larve



Pictured above is "Bonnie" the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit elephant that "spooked" during the spec at Norfolk, Va., on March 12th. It was a rare reaction by an otherwise docile elephant.

Bonnie had just pulled a stagecoach filled with children around the arena, the children were returning to their seats when she trumpeted, turned and ran out of the arena. A wheel on the coach was torn off, the harness broke and Bonnie ended her wild run in the showgirls dressing room.

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A GIANT TOOTHACHE

By ANA WATS 8-17-82

Special to The Globe and Mail

HAMPTON, N.B. — One night last week at midnight, two dentists, a doctor and a veterinarian hovered over a patient lying in a Little League baseball field.

The patient was Sahib, a 7,000-pound Asian elephant; a star of the Martin and Downs Tent Circus. He was getting his first filling.

The seemingly sinister hour, chosen to accommodate the last performance of the circus and the vet's harness-racing commitment, was only one aspect of the operation that made it so foreign to the dentists.

The cavity was enormous — in the end of a broken tusk. There was no motorized chair to tilt Sahib's head to just the right angle; no shadowless light to illuminate the cavity; no little glass table on which to mix the filling paste. The light came from car head-

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lights, and the filling was mixed on a cardboard grocery box perched on an old oil drum.

But the 12-year-old patient made things as easy as he could, obligingly lying on his side for the first part of the procedure and standing quietly for the rest.

When the circus set up last Wednesday morning in this community of 3,000 about 30 kilometres northeast of Saint John, Sahib's owner immediately called local veterinarian Hugh Baird about a chronic pulp infection in the broken tusk.

Other vets had consistently treated the infection with the classic open-wound procedure, flushing the area with antibiotics and disinfectants and administering antibiotics by injection, but the infection couldn't be beaten.

Dr. Baird at first considered using the same treatment, but the more he thought about it, the more he saw it as a dental problem. So he called Ham-

(Continued on Next Page)

GIANT TOOTHACHE (Continued)

pton dentist William Rector, who last year got a great charge out of implanting a false canine tooth in a trained attack dog.

Dr. Rector was just as fascinated by the problem of the infected tusk. His partner, Dr. Ralph Richards, figured two dentists were better than one when an elephant-sized cavity was involved, and a doctor friend who happened to be in Dr. Rector's chair at the time, Ed Phillips, was also fascinated by the case and offered to join the team.

The three decided that constant reinfection from external sources was the reason previous treatments had failed, so the cavity would have to be sealed off to prevent more bacteria from getting in.

Late that night, the two dentists arrived at the ballfield-circus grounds with a very large bottle of zinc oxide and eugenol paste, the stuff of which

fillings are made, packed with some improvised tools in a cardboard grocery box labelled Elephant Kit. Dr. Phillips arrived with a syringe so big it looked like a prop from a clown's doctor routine, and Dr. Baird brought a hypodermic needle long enough to puncture the pachyderm with antibiotics.

Sahib was waiting for them, and the two dentists noted some familiar waiting-room behavior: pacing as far as the huge chain around his leg allowed, occasionally stopping to rock back and forth. But when owner-trainer "Bones" Craig told Sahib to stand still, he did. When he said "trunk," up it went, exposing the broken tusk.

The dentists peered into the cavity with a flashlight, then poked and prodded it, as dentists will. This obviously hurt Sahib, but luckily he didn't stamp his foot. Instead, he flinched an ele-

(Continued on Next Page)

GIANT TOOTHACHE (Continued)

phant flinch and chirped a delicate trumpet.

Flushing the cavity required that the elephant lie down, so he did. Dr. Baird attached the giant syringe to a plastic hose, inserted it into the cavity and sent the sodium hypochlorite disinfectant into the infected area. Sahib didn't move. He was allowed to stand again while the filling paste was packed in.

When the job was done, he couldn't resist digging at the tusk with the end of his trunk. This too was a reaction familiar to the dentists, although their usual patients worry new fillings with their tongues.

This filling is a temporary one. In about two weeks, when the circus is back in the area playing a town about 30 kilometres away, the dentists will

pick out the filling to check that the infection has indeed been eliminated. If so, they will seal the cavity again with a permanent filling.

Film Special

A special hour-long television show featuring the Carson & Barnes Circus was filmed at Godfrey, Ill., when the show played in that city on Oct. 3rd. The movie is being produced by Midwestern Creative Services, Inc., of St. Louis.

"We are excited to be filming the world's largest tent circus," says Jerry Sindberg, Midwestern's producer. "We're using local talent. Aries Audio & Lighting provided the lighting, and the show was written by Gentry Smith."

The Wood River Volunteer Emergency Corps sponsored the circus for the date, and was said to be thrilled to be a part of the filming.