

# THE CIRCUS REPORT

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OUR 11th YEAR

Number 16

April 19, 1982



NELLIE HANNEFORD

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## Ford Bros.

Ford Bros. Circus, which opened on April 12th at Conrad, Texas, is planning a western tour this season that will include a series of dates in Alaska. After playing the Seattle area the complete circus will be put aboard a special boat for the trip to Alaska.

The circus is managed by Gopher Davenport. Other staff officials include Joe Mc Mahon, general agent, Jack Goble, supt., Gus Walker, mechanical supt., Jean Goble,

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A brand new 4 ring tent, European-style was built for the show by Bruno Tents of Texas. It is red and white and all rolling equipment has been painted and lettered to match this color scheme.

An expanded program will be offered including such performers as The Flying Lunas, Harry Locker, bears/lions, Patti Antalek, Joe Schmidt, Ken Benson and many others. A feature of the program will be the show's four ring elephant display.

## RICK JONES

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# Detroit Show

by CLARENCE HASTINGS

Forty members of the Robert S. Nelson Tent No. 21 CFA, of Detroit, Mich., attended the 74th annual Moslem Temple Shrine Circus, produced by Tarzan Zerbini, which ran from Mar. 19th thru Apr. 4th.

Every performance has been packed to capacity and it was a very good show. Musical director was Clement Toca and the ringmaster was Ernie McLain.

The program opened with the National Anthem and was followed by a double slide for life by Miss Roverta and Miss Michelle. Then came the circus overture with Captain Circus and the Space Cannon.

Twin aerial motorcycle acts featured Les Astros and The Meteors; Tarzan Zerbini, lions and tigers; Clowns; Johnny Luxem's Wheel of Destiny; Mike and John in a wire walk; Los Commancheros, Los Navahos, Los Cherokees; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Lenz Chimpanzees; Burger's Chimpanzees; Jorges

comedy car; Young elephants, Miss Bunny, Mr. Tony, Miss Marie; Mike, Little John and Carl, masters of balance; Marie France, dogs; Vivian's Football Dogs; Burger's dogs; Balancing display with Les Michell and Dos Enriques; Miss Jacqueline, trapeze artist; Los Gauchos; Intermission.

The Plunketts, trampoline; The Los Ibaras, flying act; Clowns; Uncle Frank's Pork Chop Revue; Marshall's camels and llamas; Jurgins sword balance; Dionnes, perch act; Low wire act; Christopher James, wire act; Elephants; The Fearless Bauers and the Nerveless Nocks, sway pole artists; Aux Reservoir, entire cast.

## PEOPLE

DANISE WILSON, BERNIE SPENCER and KATHY HURB, clowns with the Ringling-Barnum Circus were photographed by a UPI photographer, and were pictured in papers throughout the country.

# Show Dates

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Apr. 4 Deland, Fla.

5-6 Gainesville

7-9 Albany, Ga.

10-11 Columbus

12-13 Athens

14-15 Greenville, SC

16-18 Spartanburg

19-20 Hickory, NC

21-22 Burlington

23-24 Danville, Va.

25-26 Lynchburg

## Larry Carden Circus

Apr 23-25 Duluth, Minn

## Circus Vargas

Apr 19-20 Indio, Calif.

21-22 Victorville

23-26 Huntington Pk

## Coronas Circus

Apr 23 Little Rock, Ark

## Ford Bros. Circus

Apr 12 Conrad, Texas

13 Houston

14 League City

15 Alvin

16 Stratford

17 Wharton

18 Clute

19 Houston

20 Luling

## Great American Circus

Apr 21 Park Coast, Fla.

22 St. Augustine

23 Folkston, Ga.

24 St. Marys

## Hamid-Morton Circus

Apr 20-25 Morristown, NJ

## Hamid-Morton Circus

Apr 20-25 Norristown, NJ

## Holiday Hippodrome

Apr 3 Parkersburg, W. Va.

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

Apr 12 Griffin, Ga.

13 Carrollton

14 Centre, Ala.

15 Gunthersville

16 Jasper, Tenn.

17 Trenton, Ga.

18 Ft. Ogelthorpe

19 Cleveland, Tenn.

20 Athens

21 Dayton

22 Crossville

23 McMinnville

24 Murfreesburg

25 Gallatin

## McCary's Shrine Circus

Apr 23-24 Augusta, Me.

## Olympic Int'l Circus

Apr 22-25 Terre Haute, Ind

## PBA Circus

Apr 16 Brooksville, Fla

17 Newport Ritchie

18 Lakeland

19 Sebring

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

## Ringling-Barnum - Red

Apr 21-22 Huntington,  
W. Va.

## Roberts Bros. Circus

Apr 19 Sebring, Fla.

20 Dade City

22 Alachua

23 Nashville, Ga.

24 Sylvester

## Sarasota Sailor Circus

Apr 14-17 Sarasota, Fla.

## Swan Bros. Circus

Apr 23-25 Rancho  
Cordova, Calif.

## Zerbini/Castle Circus

to May 2 Indianapolis,  
Ind.

## --- OTHER DATES ---

### CHS Convention

Apr 22-25 Washington, DC

### Disney on Ice

Apr 20-25 St. Petersburg  
Fla

### James H. Drew Exposition

Apr 20-25 Greensboro, NC

### Scott's Medicine Show

Apr 19 Laredo, Texas

20 Kerrville

21 San Angelo

22 Sweetwater

23 Lamesa

24 Colorado City

25 Odessa

### Great Wallendas

Apr 22-25 Terre Haute,  
Ind.

## --- MAGIC ---

### Fechter's Frolic

Apr 22-24 Canton, NY

### Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

Apr 24 Langhorne, Pa.  
25 Doylestown

## Speaking of . . .

by JIM PARKER

The 1982 Egypt Temple's 17th Annual Shrine Circus produced by the Hanneford Circus, Inc., of Sarasota, Fla., was held at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg on Mar. 25-26 and at the Curtis Hixon Hall in Tampa on Mar. 27-28.

Executive producer Tommy Hanneford brought in a strong show with some of the greatest names in circusdom. His staff includes Glenn Parkins, executive director; Kay Parker, musical director; Philip Morris, ringmaster; Tony Curbelo, vocalist; Davis Jones, lighting; Dwight Hansen, supt.; Ray Orzak, costume designer; Wally Jones, producing clown; Keith Killinger, musical arrangements and Philip Morris, spec design and director.

Line up of acts for Tampa included: Circus Overture by Kay Parker; Opening spec "Everything Is A Circus"; Ada Smieya's Bengal tigers and African lions; Princess Morning Star (Dianne Hanneford), aerial excellence; Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla; Display of dog acts presented by George, Mary Ruth Herriot and Weiner Herriott; Barbara Woodcock's new leopard act; Aerial production featuring Donna Armstrong with four web girls; The George Hanneford Riding Act; Anna May with Ben Williams and Debra Chapman; Magic/Horse production number - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs featuring John Herriott as Prince Charming riding Silver Cloud; Intermission.

Philip Anthony, Liberty horses; The Guerars, high wire act; Elephant display with the Oscar Cristiani Elephants with Larry French, the Woodcock Elephants with Buckles and Barbara; The George Hanneford, Jr. elephants; Grand Finale.

This was the first opportunity I have had to attend a Tommy Hanneford production and he is quite a producer. All show equipment was in excellent shape, including the spec float and aerial production float. Unique was the combination of illusion for Snow White and incorporating John Herriott's dressage act into that fairy tale production. Unfortunately, during the second show on Mar. 27th, Johnny's horse slipped and pinned him under so he suffered a bad fall; however, like a true trouper, Johnny went on but he was sore the next day. Fortunately for both he and the horse, it was not as serious as it could have been. The aerial production was done in a winter scene complete with sleigh bringing in the aerial star (Donna Armstrong) and was costumed nicely with snow like effects (bubble machines).

Tony Curbelo was the vocalist and although he has a terrific voice, in my opinion, he sang forever - on and on. Within the first six acts during the Saturday morning show, he sang six times. Spec, Opening and Finale are enough for anyone, plus an aerial production.

The single professional clown on the show was Danny Chapman who did his usual outstanding come-in gags. It was obvious that a show of this size and class should have a clown alley, thus avoiding all those concession pitches Philip Morris made to cover the setting of props. Of course, Danny's years of experience make him one of the best come-in clowns left in the business and regardless of whether he is out there by himself during come-in or taking part in the show's production numbers, he is very animated and gets those laughs, a very hard working clown and so deserving of being asked to go up to the Smithsonian Institute to work in the near future.

Like all acts that come from the Woodcock winterquarters in Ruskin, Fla., Barbara's new leopard act is sensational. From the moment they start from the back door, down the track to center ring, it is class all the way. Two beautiful leopards standing up right on two feet, mounted on top of two elephants with ornate trappings, following one of the most beautiful women in show business is enough to give everyone goose bumps. Both Barbara and Buckles are performers extra-ordinaire so their entrance

## THANK YOU

The family of Angelo Giardino wish to thank all of his friends for caring for him, sharing your life with him and for your love.

Gratefully,

(His Sister) Sr. Josephine Calo  
301 Barclay Street  
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(Continued on Page 28)

# Father David

by ALBERT F. HOUSE

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 27th, for Father David Hennessy (AA), the first full time Roman Catholic priest and chaplain for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Father David, as he was affectionately known, succumbed from a heart attack in Charlotte, NC., after the last performance in that city, Tuesday, March 23rd. He had complained of not feeling well and went to his trailer immediately after the performance. His body was found the next day.

Father David was born in England, but migrated to the U.S. in 1957, and eventually became associated with his home church, Our Lady of Guadalupe at 229 W. 14th St., New York City. In 1978 he joined the Ringling show as its full time priest. He alternated his time between the two shows, being in New York with the new show, then returning to the second year tour of the other unit. His car and trailer were familiar sights on both shows and his presence was welcome because he spoke four languages and

ministered to all, regardless of faith. But he was of particular comfort to those Roman Catholic performers from behind the Iron Curtain.

A full mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was conducted by Rev. Leonard La Rocque, pastor of the English-Spanish church. At the closed coffin ceremony, he was assisted by other priests from the Assumption Order, of which Father David was a member. After the service, coffee and doughnuts were served.

Flower displays at the Redden Funeral Home and at the church's altar were mainly from Ringling personnel as most could not attend. At least one display was present from each unit. Ringling show staff people who were present included Trolle Rhodin, European Talent representative; Tim Holst, Red Unit Performance Director and Allen J. Bloom, Senior Vice President of Marketing and Sales. Members of the Felix Adler Tent, of which Father David was a member, who attended the funeral mass were Albert House, Frank Mara, Neil Lime and Frank Robie.

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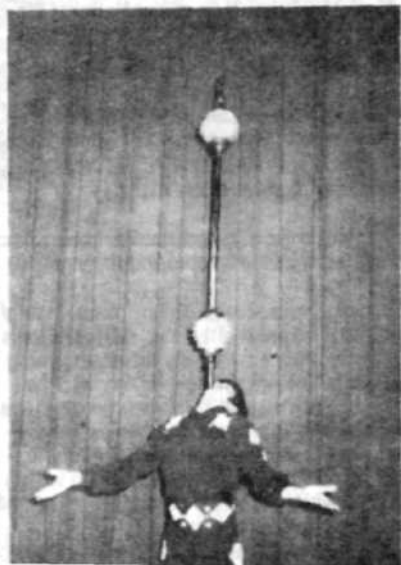
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## Remodeling Work

A multi-faceted expansion and remodeling program at Circus Circus Hotel/Casino, 1600 room Las Vegas mid-Strip resort, is proceeding on schedule, with completion slated for early May. Cost of the project will be in excess of \$7 million.

Already in use, a new 48,480 sq. ft. valet parking lot in front of the hotel provides spaces for 192 cars on street level and underground. Work is well underway on a 6000 ft. canopy over the entrance, the existing Circus Sky Shuttle terminal and south entry are being refaced, and the entire lobby and registration area is being enlarged.

The electronic game arcade on the mezzanine will be quadrupled in area, resulting in the world's largest collection of varied advanced video games ever assembled in one facility. On this same level, where the circus performing arena and carnival midway are located, a fast food restaurant area featuring international specialties will be added.

Included in the 24,000 sq. ft. of building reconstruction will be expanded slot machine areas, a remodeled Keno lounge, and a new gourmet-quality steak house. Application of new interior finishes and decor throughout various portions of the resort complex is in progress.

The project is under the supervision of architect Gary Wilson and the Ainsworth & Faulkner Construction Co., general contractors. The showpiece front entrance marquee is the creation of the Young Electric Sign Co. All are based in Las Vegas.

Growth of Circus Circus has been continuous since 1968, when the first phase of this unique establishment opened, featuring the world's largest permanent circus, as well as a casino, carnival midway and dining areas. In 1972, a 400 room, 15 story hotel tower was opened, followed by a twin tower in 1975 after acquisition by William G. Bennett, chairman of the board and William N. Pennington, president, of Circus Circus Hotels, Inc. In 1978, a 1000 car, high-rise garage was completed, and in the summer of 1979, Circusland RV Park, with 421 spaces adjacent to the main resort, premiered.

Circus Circus Manor, adding 810 rooms in five 3-story buildings, was ready for occupancy in the summer of 1980. And in 1981, the Circus Sky Shuttle was inaugurated, the

## PEOPLE

CHARLES MASON, former circus agent who worked with DOREY MILLER and JACK MOORE, has booked the Big John Strong Circus into his hometown of Milpitas, Calif. for late this year.

ADAM FLEISCHER writes that he did sell his magazine "MM" to Louis Tannen, Inc. of New York, as reported in a recent issue of Circus Report. However, he will continue to serve as editor of that magazine contrary to that earlier CR report.

EDDIE EDWARDS, former clown with the Big John Strong Circus, now works for the J. C. Penny Co. in Jamestown, NY.

DR. DAVE FAGAN, a San Diego, Calif., dentist was in the news recently when he removed a 6½ lb. tooth from the elephant Babe, at the Brookfield (Ill) Zoo.

MIKE and SALLY LaTORRES will have their Tropical Bird Fantasy and elephant Little Stoney at Naples Beach Hotel in Naples, Fla., on Apr. 19th. On Apr. 21st Little Stoney will be part of a Voter's Registration Drive in Sarasota, Fla., then on April 24-25 they'll be at the National Water Ski Championships in Seffner, Fla.

ATHENA FRANKS will debut her trapeze act and ladder number on the Martin & Downs Circus in Canada this year. Also on the show will be her sister DAUN and father BRADD, while Mom SHEILA stays at home and continues her office job.

first use of an automated transit system in Las Vegas.

According to vice president of marketing/public relations Mel Larson, "Circus Circus is the world's only family-oriented gaming resort, and from the day we opened, the 'adults only' barrier to Nevada tourism was eliminated. Our room rates are extremely modest, especially in view of our very luxurious accommodations. We remain within the economic range of average families, and that's getting to be a rarity."

A younger Circus Circus Hotel/Casino in Reno, Nev., celebrated the opening of a new high-rise tower last November, for a total of 725 rooms and suites.

## Show Date

The Shrine Circus at Canton, Ohio, was produced by Sam Polack and presented on Mar. 25-28. Al Dawley served as ringmaster for the engagement, while Boom Boom Browning was musical director and Ron Kelroy handled props.

The program featured: the Rix Bears; the Chapman Sisters; Ethel's Greyhounds; Kur-sawe's bikes; Killer Willard, kangaroo; Darrel Wallen and Mr. Rythm, plus Caberet; aerial feature with the Jennier Duo, Frank & Estreleta and the Venturas; Vidbel's elephants; Intermission.

Vidbel's ponies; Francarro, foot juggling; The Freddie's, rola bola; Christine's chimps; Aerialetta, single trapeze; David Rosaire's Perky Pokes; Guys & Gals, trampoline; Gorilla Parody and the Flying Larrays.

## Little Bits

by *MIKE NAUGHTON*

Bill Kay's All-Star Clown Alley for the Syracuse, NY, Tigris Temple Shrine Circus, Mar. 19-21, included: Bubba Hastings, Jr. (producing clown); Billy Vaughn, Michael Vaughn, Middy Streeter, Bubba Hastings III, Jack 'Eggroll' Kane and Mike Naughton. The Vaughn family clowns did a 20 minute pre-show warm-up.

Mike Naughton & Co., clowns, have been signed by Bauer-Hall Enterprises for the Nur Shrine Temple Circus in Wilmington, Dela. for May 27-30.

The Vaughn family clowns will make Bill Kay's annual Idaho tour in June.

Jack-'Eggroll' Kane returns to the newly formed Cole Bros. Circus.

Middy Streeter is set for a series of auto shows around metropolitan New York during the spring.

## Shrine Circus

by *DON SANDMAN*

The 40th annual Antioch Temple Shrine Circus was held at Hara Arena, Dayton, Oh. Mar. 28-Apr 3. The show was produced by Tommy Hanneford and the Royal Hanneford Circus.

The show opened with an overture of lights with Keith Killinger and the Shrine Circus Band. Then the Million Dollar Ringmaster Senor Rai was introduced.

Trumpets and Jungle drums with all in a Jungle setting lead to the presentation of Jorge Barreda and his (7) King of the Beasts.

Aerial artistry aloft finds the Adams Duo, the Dynasty Duo and Danuta the Spider Girl.

Animal antics finds Zoppe's ponies, Elkes Chimps and Nellie Hanneford on Midnight.

Peanuts - dog and clown catcher had everyone laughing.

Juggling and Acrobatics followed with Ricardi, Warren and the Nicholas Troupe.

Audience participation with the Sanger Riding School featuring Nellie Hanneford with the older gentlemen, Tommy Hanneford, and with 93 years young Katherine Hanneford.

A nautical mood is presented leading to the introduction of the 6 web girls and aerialist Lou Ann Jacobs.

Acrobatic astonishments is presented by the Lucky Brothers (Zerbini).

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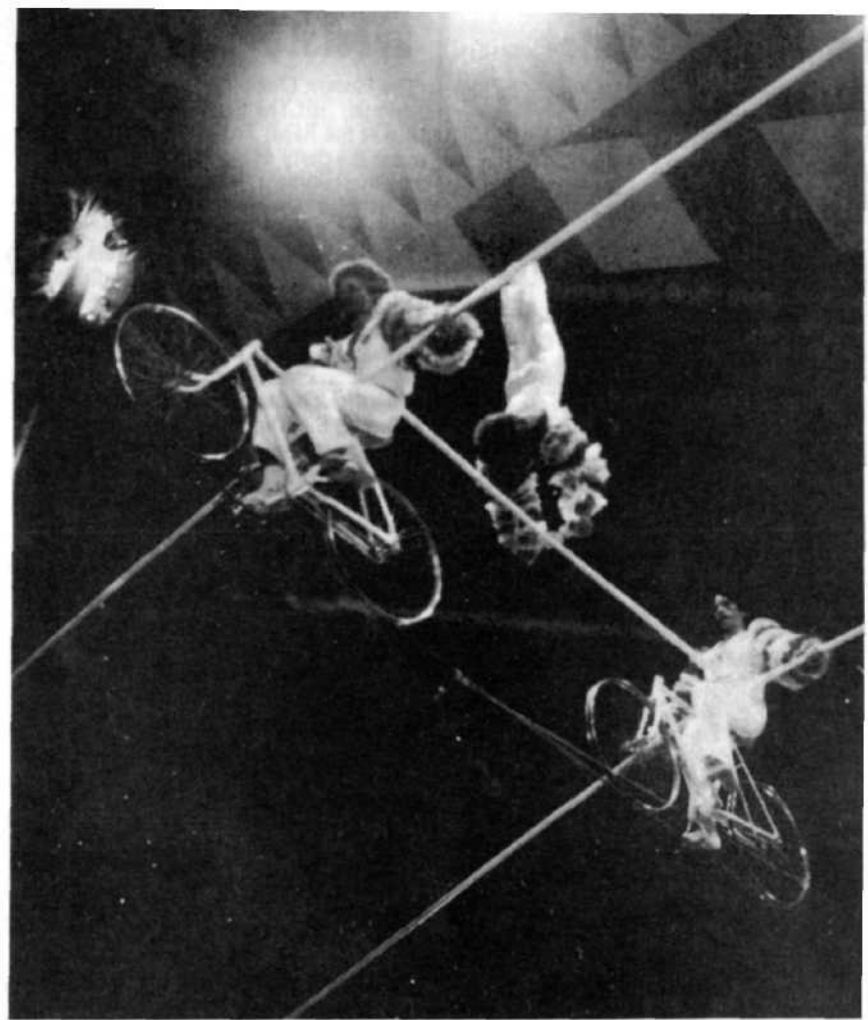
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(Continued on Page 19)



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## Washington Salute

The Smithsonian Institute will hold its big 'Spring Celebration' at the Museum of American History, in Washington, DC, Apr. 23-25. Called "A Salute to the Circus" the three day event will feature a one ring circus, complete with a wild west and side show.

Some of the performers participating in the circus salute are: John and Mary Ruth Herriott, The Knops, Frank Dean, Jonny Rivers, Larry Daylight and Ward Hall. Clown Alley will include Bill Ballantine, Danny Chapman, CoCo, Jr. and three other clowns.

Demonstrations will be offered by John Meah, painting side show banners, A. J. Fast, making clown shoes, Robert and Sandy Momyer, clown wigs, noses, etc., Peggy Day, circus costumes, and Gordon Carver, circus model building.

There will also be special daily film programs which will include several 1930 newsreels narrated by Pete Smith. A 1932 newsreel of the Flying Codonas and a 1937 film of the Cristiani act will also be screened.

A special concert of circus band music is planned for Sunday, April 25th, from 3 to 4 p.m. The music will be played by the National Concert Band of America, consisting of about 50 pieces.

At the same time - April 22-25 - the Circus Historical Society will hold their annual convention in Washington, DC.

## The Bookworm

by LLOYD E. JONES

Another honor has been bestowed upon the 'Le Grande David Show' which has been running week ends for years in Beverly, Mass with a cast of 60 people. The three "stars" - David, Seth and Marco were invited to take part in the White House annual Easter Egg Roll on the spacious lawn of the Capitol. On April 12th, many of the troupe traveled to Washington for this non-partisan event which has been a tradition since 1878.

The Academy of Magic Awards and Sciences had a much slimmer crowd this year but enthusiastic witnesses to its top awards saw the following receiving recognition.

Tomsoni & Co., Stage Magician of the Year; Mike Ammar, Close-up Magician; Al

## Special Party

The Eastern Chapter of the Pa. Showmen held their 'Hit The Road' party on March 14th at the Rajah Temple in Reading, Pa. It was the party of the year with continuous entertainment, fabulous snacks and a dinner, plus a casino set-up for fun gambling using play money.

All branches of show business were represented by those present, including State Fair officials, Show owners and circus people, as well as friends. Among the circus personnel at the party were Larry Rich, representing the George Carden Circus, which played the spot a week later. Also present were Harry Albacker, Bill Thompson and Jessie Griffiths, who represented the Western Chapter of the Showmen. The party was produced by Paul Heck, of Reading, and it was voted the 'blockbuster' of all parties.

Harry Albacker, magician, has been playing the Middletown Mall and the Carlisle Mall and during Easter week appeared at the Butler Mall.

Jessie Griffiths has signed for the Nebraska Shrine Tour for Grace McIntosh, beginning May 15th at North Platte. Following those dates she will pick up her regular tour of fairs, horse shows, etc., until October.

## PEOPLE

Clowns Whistles (A. J. Fast), Peanuts (Wayne Owen) and the advance Clown class of Lansing Community College worked eight performances with the Royal Hanneford Circus in Lansing, Mich., Mar. 4 thru 7th.

Instructor Whistles wishes to thank both the Royal Hanneford Circus and the Caravan Youth Center for their cooperation. The student clowns gained tremendous experience.

Goshman, Lecturer Award; Lance Burton, Visiting Magician Award; Jay Marshall, A Master Fellowship; Liberace, A Special Fellowship for his presentation of magicians in his shows. Gerald Koskt won the Literary Award and Scott Cervine was chosen as the Junior Magician. An Award of Merit was presented to Frank Herman and Mio-Yo Miller was presented an award for her long association with Dante.

**SHRINE CIRCUS (Continued)**

center ring, the Karoly-Zoppe Riders with Nellie Hanneford and Kim Loyal.

Spec of Pinocchio and Christmas Toy Time leads to the intermission, with the usual sale of coloring books, Twinkle lights, etc.

The Flying Lantonys, now three young lady flyers and the male catcher, open the second half of the show.

Alphonso fills the air with whips and fire.

Clown gag pulling the table cloth from under the dishes.

Trained bruins, presented by Jackie Altoff and the Altoff Bears.

Magic with a Touch of Class is presented by the three lovely ladies known as the Fabulous Darnells.

The Hanneford elephants are presented by Mark Hanneford Karoly with the aid of three lovely lasses.

The Finale was Flags of All Nations with each performer carrying the flag of his

hometown and a fond farewell, until next year.

Oh yes, Michael Wright presented his spinning Bedpans clown act.

Tommy Hanneford was the producer, and was assisted by Struppi Hanneford and John McConnell.

Harry Mills, concessionaire was not present as he had a heart attack and was hospitalized during the week. George Hubler was busy over looking the concessions.

Seen around the lot were Jake Conover, Al-len Brewer, Carl Grey and Don and Grace Sandman.

**PEOPLE**

BARRY YIENGST & JANNETTE report April dates that include military shows for Edgewood, Aberdeen and Andrews AFB in Maryland. Also the Scottish Rite Temple in Baltimore, the LVC Spring Arts Festival and St. Francis Prep School in York, Pa.



**HANGING IN THERE** - acrobats in The Great Circus of China opening show at Vancouver, BC, (Mar. 16) stay calm as their great Tower of the Chairs falls apart. Support cables hold them in mid air, preventing a serious accident. They went back and then completed the unusual feat. (From the Vancouver Sun of Mar. 17, 1982)

## New Book

**CLOWN ALLEY**, a new book by Bill Ballantine, will be in book stores on April 19. Ballantine was dean of the Ringling-Barnum Clown College from 1969-1977.

Ballantine who is internationally recognized as an author/illustrator, tells of his nine years as head of the world's most unusual college. The reader is taken behind the scenes and into the hearts and minds of the men and women who wear the grease paint and floppy shoes of the circus clown.

Fans and troupers alike should enjoy this story.

... Ron "Barney" DeHoff

## PEOPLE

**LEON PINTER**, organist, will be touring with the Roberts Bros. Circus again this season.

**KEVIN BROOKING**, known as "Simple Simon" will be appearing with Circus Hasani, in England this year, where he will be a solo clown and Jester to the public.

**JAY COCHRANE**, high act performer, is no longer working the Bruno Breakaway Sway pole act.

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**MARK ANTHONY** is working Mall dates in Eastern Penna. with **BUTTONS McBRIDE**

## Hoxie Bros.

by **JOE WIEBUSH**

Hoxie Bros. Circus was featured for the 26th annual Circus of the Greater Melbourne, Fla., Shrine Club on Saturday, Mar. 27 and Sunday, Mar. 28. The show was set up on the Brevard Mall and three performances were presented Saturday, with two on Sunday.

Members of the Hoxie Tent No. 137 CFA attended the Sunday matinee. The show offered an outstanding strong performance. The show had been on the road just one week before Melbourne. Despite the terrible weather on Sunday, the house was almost full. As a Shrine date it appeared to have been a sell-out.

During Sunday, the heaviest rain in many months fell in this drought parched area. As much as 11 to 16 inches fell in the area, plus 20 knot wind gusts. Fortunately the day was warm.

Hoxie has a new tent on order, but unfortunately it has not yet been delivered. The

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well worn top did keep some of the rain out considering the driving nature of the storm. On the hard lot there were numerous puddles, which caused only minor hitches in the routine, and slowed things down a bit. It was unusual to see a cage act working in ankle deep water (ankle deep on the cats at least). Despite the wind and weather there was no effort to give a "John Robinson" which under the circumstances would have been justified.

Hoxie Tucker was on the lot, along with John Lewis, acting as general superintendent, and Billy Griffin in the front office. Also, in the audience were several show folks, including: Jimmy James and Harry Hammond, of Beatty-Cole, and Chappie Fox and John Van Matre, well-known historians.

The 5 piece band was outstanding - even with the torrential rain beating on the top, making it sound like you were inside of a drum.

The program lists the following acts: Overture and Welcome to the Circus; Spec 'Circus on Parade'; Azan Clowns of Melbourne; Lions and Tigers presented by Wild Bill Kramer; The Gaonas, trampoline; The

(Continued on Page 27)

# Magic Report

by ED ROGERS

Wanting to take a vacation this year, and not knowing if I might make it to Atlanta (Ga) for the National Puppetry Festival, I decided to journey to far-off, exotic Tempe (Ariz) on Mar. 12-14 and attend the I.B.M. Ring No. 55, Sunland Sorcery Convention (no not that IBM, this is the International Brotherhood of Magicians).

Magicians came from as far away as the east coast, to see and participate in the event. Friday and Saturday evening, there were 2 hour shows which were held in the A.S.U. Music Theatre. Performers from the U. S. and Mexico showed sleight of hand tricks, card tricks, tricks with apparatus and illusions. One of my favorites was where the magician tore a small, egg-shaped piece of tissue paper, put it on a fan, bounced it around and it became an egg. I had it figured out (I thought) until he broke the egg into a glass to prove it real! Another man put his wife into a box and cut her into six pieces, with giant blades. In a twinkling, he had restored her, seemingly none the worse for wear. She managed to smile fetchingly through the whole escapade.

There were close-up shows, too, where the magicians performed miracles with cups, balls, coins and cards right under our noses, making things appear, disappear and penetrate solid wooden tables. Afterwards, some of them taught us the methods of accomplishing these startling effects. It looked like it would be easy to do, with about twenty years of practice.

About 15 dealers assembled in a room to show off and sell their wares. And I found out how, the night before, a fellow had pulled a beautiful silk handkerchief out of a candle flame.

A surprise highlight of the Sunday afternoon festivities was a film of the portion of the David Copperfield TV special of last October (which I did not see when it was broadcast) wherein he vanished a seven ton Lear jet airplane. Truly mind-boggling! Then David himself appeared, though not magically and talked and visited with us for about half an hour.

He appears to be a very sensible and modest man and made a good impression on his audience. As he said when he came on stage "I'll be glad to answer any and all questions you may have . . . except how I vanished the Lear jet!"

(Continued on Page 27)

**WANTED - Re: Tom Mix**

Clippings, Photographs, Information, etc.  
 What happened to the bus that Mix used  
 as his mobile home (1934-1938).

Where is Hank Durnell and Cyse O'Dell?

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**MAGIC REPORT (Continued)**

David has a new project he is really excited about, one that seems very worthwhile. The idea is to use magic as therapy to help handicapped youngsters, those with speech difficulties and mental or physical problems. In experiments he has participated in so far, the kids seem to take a great interest in the magic and the results have been gratifying as to progress made by some of them. One little girl who had had a stroke and was hardly able to move her right hand was doing rope tricks at the end of one session!

Registration increased from approximately 104 last year to 175 in 1982. Although I did not see any puppets for sale, with the exception of an egg bag trick which turns into a puppet elephant, the weekend was a lot of fun.

I should mention before closing, one of the delights of the event was Jay Marshall, who appeared on the public show with Lefty (one of the top puppet acts, of course, in the country), and who also did a magic lecture in his own, inimitable manner.

Bart Beede (President Phoenix Guild of Puppetry) attended and seemed to enjoy the event, also.

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**HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS (Continued)**

Rolls Duo, aerial cradle; Clowns; Holveck & Co., magic; Clowns; Educated Dogs and Trained Ponies; The Comedy Mule; Aerial Ballet and Trapeze Artistry; Intermission.

Azan Clowns; Comedy on the Silver strand by Lee Merritt; Trained Goats; Clowns; the Slide-for-Life by Mademoiselle Kathleen; Equestrian Excellence, presented by the Indian Princess; Clowns; The Hoxie Bros. Circus Elephants, featuring a Male African.

## SPEAKING OF (Continued)

was only a prelude to the act itself. Much leaping of the cats from the bulls to the pedestals, back to the bulls, etc. and with the music, fabulous wardrobe and showy animals and expert showmanship it was a real winner! Thus adds another terrific act to their package.

And what can you say that hasn't already been said about Ben Williams, Debra Chapman and Anna May - except that each time you see it, it seems to get better and better and never fails to bring down the house.

And speaking of elephants, it has been years since I had seen the Oscar Cristiani herd over in Hawaii and have those ole girls gotten big. The heads on one or two of 'em are huge, like the old Ringling work bulls under canvas. They are so impressive and very ably worked and presented by Mr. and Mrs. Larry French. Oscar and Marian were visiting and looked so sharp, as if they could jump right in the ring and do it again - who can forget Marian's unique style of working the bull act?

The famous George Hanneford, Jr. Riding Family added little Miss Nellie Hanneford for part of this date, as well as Mrs. George Hanneford, Sr. (92 years young); however, due to previous commitments Mrs. Hanneford, Tommy and Nellie had to leave early. It was great to see the George Hanneford, Jr. riding act again in the ring as Kathy and young George have really grown up and are becoming artists in their own right. There is nothing more circusy than a beautiful rosinback being ridden around the ring, and so few shows have riding acts anymore.

An impressive display was three rings of dogs that really provided action and color. The George Hanneford, Jr.'s dogs were in one ring, Mary Ruth Herriott in the center and Weiner Herriott in the other end ring. All three dog acts also had a pony and the display was real old-time circus. Mary Ruth never looked better and seems to be always working on wardrobe. Weiner handles her act superbly!

Gorilla parody's seem to be a dime a dozen but none can put together the production of Norbu. His props show much effort and he truly stands out; however, in all honesty, I did not care for his milking the audience ala-clown style a the very end,



where he plays one side of the house against the other in applause and noise. Danny Chapman already had used this old clown standby in his come-in to great success so by the time Norbu closed his act with it, it simply did not fit in and seemed so obvious to gain applause.

Another act that spells 'Circus' is the beautiful spotted liberty horses of Philip Anthony. Philip works this act with such class and professionalism that it appears to be easy. Milonga Cline visited from Lakeland and I know it pleased her to see Johnny's old act in such capable hands.

Princess Morning Star's entrance with the huge Indian headdress always brings audience response and she (Dianne Hanneford) works so smoothly up in the air. She is another beautiful show gal that never seems to age!

As I am sure by now you can surmise, it was a very strong show - any show with the Hannefords, Herriotts and Woodcocks has to be special! But best of all, from the Kinkers' viewpoint, the best part of all is the jackpotting in the backyard as visitors abound and it is a riot going from one trailer to another, getting the news and rumors.

During the St. Petersburg date, the Manuel Ramos family were added to the show but unfortunately, prior commitments prevented them from appearing at the Tampa date.

I want to thank George and Vicky Hanneford for their wonderful hospitality - there are no people like show people!

## PEOPLE

BOBBY REYNOLDS is with Circus Vargas where he has his "Miss Peggy" fat lady show on the circus midway.

BILL "Calliope" GREEN, of Beatrice, Nbr, was featured in a photo story report in the Beatrice (Nebr) Daily Sun, last month.

## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

I had intended to write about three circuses that we attended recently but an all day rain, which was unexpected; unpredicted but not unwelcome (Florida is really dry) kept us from attending Hoxie Bros. show across the state the state at Melbourne Beach. Sorry about that but maybe one of the members of the Hoxie-Tucker Tent will write in about the show. We were going to have a pot luck noon meal and all of the cold cuts, cheese and olives that we were going to bring had been prepared and refrigerated! David's co-workers at Sterile Design, Inc. will be enjoying them this week.

One week ago Friday evening, Mar. 19th we drove across the state to the Atlantic Ocean side to join the college crowd for the 'Spring Fling' at Daytona Beach. The real reason for the trip was to attend Bahia Temple's Daytona Beach Shrine Club Circus produced by the Charles Coronas family. The Coronas live at Hollywood, Fla., also on the east side.

Saturday morning, David went to the Stadium to visit the performers while I went to an antique show at the Volusia Mall where I found a huge pile of circus photos, programs and other circus related items. After lunch, I showed them to David and we purchased one of Elvin, Gloria and Dawnita Bale.

If you have been to Florida at 'spring break' time you will know what its like with thousands of beautiful, young people at the beaches. We parked, took off our shoes and waded along in the surf with them, dodging the frisbees and dogs and sunburned students. My two favorites had huge snakes casually draped around their necks, while one young man was riding a high unicycle along the hard-packed sand. Talk about the circus, we were there! Well we thought we were!

Saturday evening was clear, warm and beautiful and we sat outdoors at the stadium to see this very fine show. The crowd was sparse at this, the 3rd show of the day but they made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. Noble Bob Sands who is in charge for Bahia Shrine tried to give us back our money, but being 'good' circus fans we insisted on paying for our tickets.

The band was Bill and David Pruyne, situat-

ed in the infield and sounded great and the announcer-ringmaster was Sabastian Adriani. Show started with a young man doing a slide for life from the top of the stadium to the center of the field. (I'm sorry to say I do not know his name, but he is also a sway pole sensation, so if you see this in Circus Report, send in your name, please). The Ramos had the cage act of mixed cats. "Pizza" clowning assisted by none other than the versatile Trevor Bale, first time we had seen him in clown make up but then he can do and does do a lot of acts, including a comedy car routine in this show. Visiting with him later he talked again of how much he enjoyed the seminar with the Circus Fans at the convention in Sarasota.

The Abulets appeared on the high wire and then the two chimpanzee acts; Shamskis and Ramos were joined by The Fitzpatrick uncaged leopard, this is new, owned and presented by Bonnie Bale and her husband George Fitzpatrick.

The Ruwills did upside down plate spinning flanked by two risley acts, the Oscarrians and the Morgan Ashton family. The audience loved it as they are fast and funny and speaking from years past, it was always the case when our risley act, "The Young Nelsons" was on, you know it was "fast" when I tell you our music was "Hold That Tiger."

There were beautiful horses in all 3 rings worked by Trevor Bale, daughter Bonnie and her husband George. Bonnie Bale also did her cloud swing. Flying trapeze act was the Aztecs. Stevie Coronas brought the elephants out for their turn assisted by Serge Coronas.

Honored guests at the show were from the Clyde Beatty-Cole Circus, the Pughs; Harry Hammond and Edna Antes, along with some of the office staff. All of you will be pleased to know that Edna who came with Mari Jo Couls, is walking, unaided and looking marvelous.

Everybody trooped backstage to talk and talk after viewing this delightful show. These people worked under difficult conditions as for (what reason, I do not know) the entire grass surface had been removed and they were all, literally, animals and performers mired in deep coarse sand! I hope I've mentioned everyone who was in the show as the

(Continued on Page 30)

## FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

program is printed printed for the show in Orlando and is augmented by other acts. Now I wonder if the rain cancelled that show this past Sunday, the 28th?

A recent news release in one of our local papers telling about the Felds buying back RBBB mentioned their circus winterquarters in "Sarasota." Oh, well, some people think it winters there, but the folks who live in the homes that are built on the old winter quarter grounds (and a few of us) know its quarters are in Venice, Fla.

Egypt Temple Shrine Circus (produced this year by Tommy Hanneford) also plays in two places, opening at the Bayfront, St. Petersburg and moving on to the Curtis Hixon, Tampa for two days. Twenty-six of us attended the evening performance on Saturday, Mar. 27th in Tampa. Circus fans, kids, model builders and just friends. This is the biggest bargain show as the adult tickets are only \$3.75 (up from \$3.00 last year). The program is so big it looks like a small town phone book! It is as overpowering as the show that the Hanneford family brought in, and our friends loved every minute of it, as did the rest of the audience.

Bill Kourpates wanted the readers to know that Tommy Hanneford was appointed an "Ambassador" by Egypt Temple, only the third person so honored by them and presented with an Egypt fez.

Tommy Hanneford is the executive producer and Glenn Parkins is the executive director. Music is by Kay Parker, Robert Parker and Russell Darr with soloist Tony Curbelo, who incidentally has a beautiful voice. Robert Parker is the son of the late "Slivers" Johnson of funny car fame and Kay is his wife. "Slivers" real name was Walter Parker.

Philip Morris was the ringmaster, also the designer of the "specs" and furnished costumes and Keith Killiner did the musical arrangements while David Jones is lighting director and Wally Jones is producing clown.

Opening cage act was Ada Smieya with tigers and lions assisted by her son. The spectacular elephant, Anna May, worked by Benny Williams and assisted by Debra Chapman and the leopard. Debbie's dad, Danny Chapman was clowning on this show and sez watching Debbie climb around on that elephant makes him nervous! I said it before and I'll

say it again, you should be so lucky as to see this act!

Milonga (Escalante) Cline was sitting next to me and thrilled at the sight of Philip Anthony and his Hollywood horses, which were the Cline's horses before Philip acquired 'em. Dog acts were Mary Ruth Herriott's poodles worked by her and daughters and Diana (Hanneford) with a mixed group assisted by the Hanneford children. Diane also did her upside-down loop walk and single trapeze. She improves each year and makes a breathtaking entrance on horse back with the Indian headdress (ala Struppi Hanneford) when she appears as Princess Morningstar. I think David Hackett is her No. 1 fan, and when I mentioned that to one of our friends, she asked "Did he fall for her before or after Cher?" and I had to reply that he thought that Diane was just super before, during and after Cher! Cher is framed and on our kitchen counter and used to be all over the frig door, but I got bored with her one day and put up Brooke Shields.

I'm (again) a little vague about the other pretty single trapeze gal, Miss Danuksa (?) and also the name of the wire act (high) instead of the flying act as they could not hang their rigging in this building but the pretty 15 year old girl made her public debut at this show.

Johnny Herriott and horse Silver Cloud took a bad spill coming in for one of the specs when the horse slipped on a wet spot on the floor, fell and pinned John's leg underneath, glad to say that nothing was broken but the horse got bruises and cuts and John also got bruised, but appeared to play "Prince Charming" to one of his pretty daughters that evening.

We had not seen the one and only "Norbu's Almost Human Gorilla" perform for quite a while and his daughter Noby Arden is doing the role formerly done by her Mom, Arden while Arden is now the stooge. Some of the guests thought he was real, he is so convincing.

The Hanneford Riding act was superb with George and Vickie's son doing the clowning part. (Nana Hanneford did not appear at this show). The 3 rings of elephants were the Hannefords; Barbara (the beautiful) and Buckles Woodcocks and Larry and Karen (Cristiani) French with the Oscar Cristiani

(Continued on Page 31)

## FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

elephants. Three good, fast paced acts, but scary when you find the floor of the Curtis Hixon shaking beneath you as they run around in the rings, the floor of the auditorium is also the roof of the parking garage and both Milonga and I were wondering if it was going to fall on the parked cars . . . but it didn't. How much do you think three herds of elephants weigh?

Lili Kristenson's number No. 1 fan, 11 yr. old Heather Thomas finally got to meet her idol but was puzzled because Lili was not in make-up, as she and Sven came to see the show as did Eric Adams, Billy Rodgers, and Bobby Gordon Hodgson, wife Caroline (Hodgini), daughter Carol and Caroline's sister Corrine (Hodgini) Dearo. Also Bill and Trudy (Wilson) Strong, Connie Wilson and I'm sure there were many other performers visiting. Nobody ever wants to leave after the show, including our youngest guest, who is only 3 and at her very first circus. However, the Tampa police finally said, "Everybody out" as they were ready to lock the doors. We reluctantly left for home.

## In Memoriam

GEORGE F. RITTER (67), a wire designer for General Electric, died on March 19, at St. Petersburg, Fla. In his earlier days he was in vaudeville and had been a musician with Cole Bros. Circus for many years. He was a native of Syracuse, NY. Survivors include his wife, Helen, and a daughter, Carol Floyd.

## Miscellaneous

The No Elephant Circus, a New York City based clown troupe, will appear with the Royal Hanneford Circus, Apr. 16-18 at the Wagner College, Staten Island, NY, courtesy of the Tibor Alexander Agency, New York City.

Featuring Bob Daraio, Lenny Wright, Jessie Hentoff and Tony Duncan, the No Elephant Circus includes juggling, clowning, tightrope walking and fire eating. They will perform two shows a day.