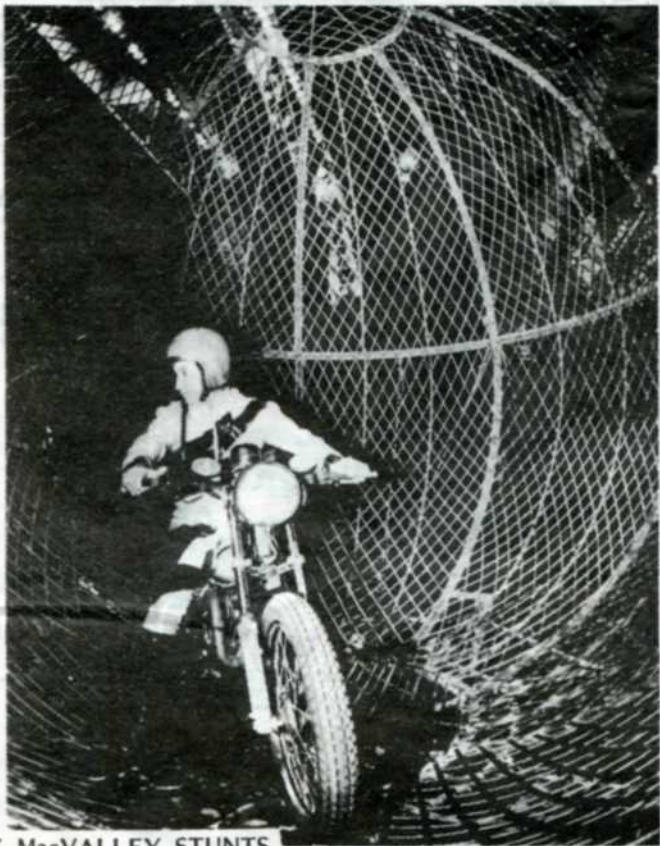


# CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
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OUR 12th YEAR

Number 15

June 20, 1983



DOUGLAS MacVALLEY STUNTS

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## Show Dates

Carson & Barnes Circus

June 19 Hillsboro, Ore.  
20 Troutdale  
21 Seaside  
22 Centralia, Wash.  
23 Buckley  
24 Federal Way  
25 Snoqualmie

Circus Vargas

June 23-27 Chicago, Ill.

Circus Variety Show

June 21 Salt Lake City,  
Utah

Gerry Cottle's Circus

to June 26 Singapore

Hall & Christ Circus Unique

June 24-July 2  
Winnipeg, Man. Canada

Liebel Family Circus

June 22-26 Cresco, Iowa

Oscarian Bros. Circus

June 24-26  
Pascagoula, Miss.

Peanut Circus

June 17-18 Chipley, Fla.

Pickle Family Circus

June 22 Madera, Calif.  
25-26 Sonora

Ringling-Barnum - Red

June 23-26 Okla. City, Okla.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Roberts Bros. Circus

June 20 Blue Ridge Sum. Pa.  
22 Shamokin Dam  
23 Danville  
24 Freeland  
25 Forest City

TNT & Royal Olympic

June 22-26  
Overland Park, Kans.

## --- OTHER DATES ---

Bryan's Clowns, Inc.

June 25 New Castle, Pa.

James H. Drew Exposition

June 20-25 Richlands, Va.

Elliott Amusements

June 24-26  
Lake Orion, Mich.

Foley & Burk Shows

June 25-July 10  
Pleasanton, Calif.

Model Railroad Show

June 25-26 San Leandro, Ca.

NY Festival of Clowns

to July 10 New York, NY

Tent Troupe

June 25-28 Dickerson, Md.

## --- MAGIC ---

Harry Albacker

June 20-25 Cemeton, Pa.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA

June 23 Wauseon, Ohio  
25 Salem  
26 Crestline

Magic of Money-Donn Davison

June 22-23 Amarillo, Texas

## Samantha



It's time to drive to the next town. Seems like it is work and drive every day, with just no time to relax or rest.

They tell you that you'll see the country when you sign on, but it just isn't true. About all you see is the center line on the highways.

Reminds me of the Navy's slogan "Join the Navy and see the world." That's an incorrect statement if I ever heard one.

## Notes

by GENE McDONALD

A recent note from Barrie Nixon of Circus Startime in Australia may be of interest to CR readers.

The circus, Barrie says, is playing in Victoria and is enjoying excellent business and a good reputation.

The circus has grown since you last saw it. We have signed an excellent trainer for our 1984 season and this should give our show a good lift.

We are performing in a 2 pole tent. In the past the show was presented under a 4 pole tent, European-type, which was heated in cold weather.

## PEOPLE

JAN NAUD and her Baboons will be appearing at the International Wild Life Park in Grand Prairie, Texas for the summer season. Larry Allen Dean is helping her with the act which is called "Babette's Baboons."

TEGGE and SICARD, clowns, will be producing clown numbers for Bog John's Clown Capades which open in San Bernardino, Ca., on Aug. 14th.

DONALD L. FREDRICK has joined the sales staff of the C. R. Frank Popcorn and Supply Co. He will be working in the Southwest Missouri and Northwest Arkansas area.

DR. HENRY W. MAXFIELD, of Mason City, Ill., bought out performances of the Franzen Bros. Circus for his home town, and offered local citizens a free visit to the circus as his way of saying Thanks to all of his many patients.

JOHN & SHANE, a teeterboard act with hand voltage, is being readied for presentation next season by John Hansen and his son Shane.

KEVIN MENARD, magician, has been hired as "Theatrical Creative Consultant" for the Walter Child's All Star Circus, an Entertainment Production, Inc., company.



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# Royal Sanger Circus

by DON SANDMAN

Tommy Hanneford presented his Royal Sanger Circus under the former Circus World Museum tent in Columbus, Ohio, at the Columbus Zoological Park, on May 30, 1983.

Advertising for the circus had the Royal Hanneford Circus title but Tommy said "that from now on the tented circus would be known as the Royal Sanger Circus," and would be playing dates this summer in the midwest and east.

The circus was set up on the lot behind the amusement park and had a concession and novelty stand out front. As the amusement park and the Columbus Zoo use the same parking lot and a Flea Market was set up on the lot with the circus, the parking conditions and access to the park were difficult, with long lines waiting to move in. But the show was worth all the effort required.

The show, as presented, was as follows: Opening overture by Kay and Robert Parker with organs and drums; Introduction of Mr. Ringmaster, Senor Rai; The Flying Ganas, feature the passing leap; Superclown in Tug-o-War with kids from audience; The Chair Balancing of Sir Sladeck; Cheyanna (Laura) on the trapeze; Capt. Jack Zimmerman, uncaged leopard 'Sabu'; The Garys on trampoline; Ricardo, juggler; Miss Nellie Hanneford, riding her horse 'Shannabar'; Mongo, the comedy gorilla and his keeper Miss Nioca; Gerard Soules and his Poodle Revue; Cee Cee the clown balances eggs; The Karoly Riding Act, with Mrs. Katherine Hanneford (94 yrs of age) introduced to the audience; Intermission.

Steven's Monkeyshines, trained chimp; The Adams Duo, aerial perch; The Francisco's, teeterboard with Julio doing a double twist to the chair; Cee Cee and the Tablecloth trick; Mark Karoly and the circus elephants.

Staff for the show was: Tommy Hanneford, executive director; Senor Rai, ringmaster/announcer; Warren Adams, prop



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boss; Charles E. Poindexter, electrician; Jack Zimmerman, animal supt.; Gertrude Hanneford, aerial director; Harry Fried, assistant prop boss; Cheryl Jones, wardrobe mistress; Mike Wright, wardrobe master; Ray Orzak, costume designs; Kay Parker, musical director and Wayne Liikala, canvas boss.

Clown Alley consisted of Mike Wright and Cheryl Jones.

## Novelty Acts

Novelty acts working in the "Hello Hollywood Hello" show at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno (Nevada) are:

Jerry Dewert, trapeze contortionist; The Stupids, tumbling act; Chuck Jones, illusionist; Sheila Sparr, vocalist and the Argentinean Gauchos.

# The Beatty Show

by FRANK BALL

I have, this spring, had an opportunity to visit, for a number of days, the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. First in Burlington, NC, then in Winchester and McLean, Va. and in Hagerstown, Md. (where the Emmett Kelly tent of which I am a member sponsored), then Frederick, Md., LaPlata, Md., and then Manassas, Va, and finally Annapolis, Md. from which the show went into Penna.

In all of the time, and on all of the dates, the show was doing good business. The performance was costumed, performed and presented excellently and the personnel, in the back yard and in the big top seemed happy.

John Pugh, the president and chairman of the board, as well as co-owner, and chief executive, seems relaxed, assured and happy. When things were going well, full houses and few beefs, his job is so much easier and he has time to enjoy a few hours away from the show, as he and Brigitte did at a luncheon at Hagerstown and a morning sail on Chesapeake Bay as the guests of Geoffrey

Williams and a luncheon at the Annapolis Yacht Club.

The show opens with an enlarged, fast moving, well lighted Dave Hoover presentation of 10-12 mixed lions and tigers in the steel arena, featuring Jon Jon, the world's largest performing male lion and two others seemingly of the same size. In the traditional full attention to the wild animal act begun by Clyde Beatty, no vendors work the stands during this act.

Ringmaster-performance director Jimmie James maintains a smooth performance with kid participation with Sheila Sloan in an animal training number which seems to please the audience.

New this year are the Hall Baboons which had just returned from Japan in time to open with the show, with probably the largest and best trained baboons in the circus world.

New also is Marie France and her Yorkshires, a dog act refreshingly without costumes, where the dogs do the performing and go thru an amazing routine of tricks, including front leg walks, ball rolling on a high track and a comedy number.

Then, again this year, under Capt. Fred Logan, the show's 9 giant Asian elephants are presented in several numbers, finishing in the world's only 9 elephant walking long mount. This act, with Dorey Miller's standing long mount of 21 elephants, and Barbara and Buckle Woodcock's single elephant "Anna May" gives to America a substantial lead in trained elephant presentation. Add to these the presentations of Gunther Gebel Williams and the Axel Gautier family on the two Ringling shows, and our leadership seems more secure both in quality and quantity.

Since I last saw the show in Annapolis, Fred Logan has undergone emergency surgery to surgically remove a stomach ulcer. I am glad to report that he has been released from the hospital, but will have to undergo an extended period of convalescence which he plans to spend with his family on the show, but not working.

Catch this show as it comes your way. Try to give it a hand where you can help. The fellowship with a happy crowd of show people will give you much satisfaction.

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## Star is honored

by BETTY BARTHOLOMEW

Ernestine Clarke Baer, former circus trapeze artist (Clarkonians) and equestrian was honored on the 40th anniversary of the tent that bears her name by fans from throughout Washington State.

The Ernestine Clarke Tent No. 39, of Bellingham, Wash., was founded on April 10, 1943, in tribute to the lovely woman who was not only a great trapeze artist, but was known throughout the circus world for performing a mid-air split above the back of a running horse. Wallace Winter, first and current president welcomed Ernestine on behalf of the fans.

Parley Baer, former circus ringmaster, was unable to accompany his wife, Ernestine, to Seattle, due to television commitments.

Helen Billetti Warburton, whose high wire act, appeared on the Polack show with Ernestine, presented her with a beautiful plaque commemorating the anniversary. The Seattle Tent has recently expanded its name

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Circus Baggage Stock (Fox) .. 30.00  
Cristianis (Habler) ..... 12.00  
— Plus \$2.00 Shipping —

to Jack Bell-Helen Billetti Tent in honor of the former high wire performer. Helen is the sister-in-law of circus bandmaster, the late Jack Bell for whom the Seattle Tent was originally named.

+++++

It was an occasion to remember one great circus performer and honor another. "Jack always said they should have named the tent after Helen," said Lillian Bell, speaking of her late husband Jack Bell, circus bandmaster and his sister-in-law Helen Billetti Warburton, former circus high wire artist. On the 25th anniversary of the founding of the tent that bears his name, Jack Bell was being honored and one of his fondest wishes was coming true. Henceforth, the Seattle Tent would be known as the Jack Bell-Helen Billetti Tent No. 90, CFA.

Fans Doris and Gene McDonald were presented with a walnut and brass plaque "in recognition and appreciation of their devotion to and founding of Jack Bell Tent No. 90, CFA." and Helen Warburton was presented with the new charter for the Jack Bell-Helen Billetti Tent No. 90, CFA.

## Roberts Bros.

by DON SANDMAN

Roberts Bros. Circus arrived in Ohio on the 16th of April, to play at Georgetown, where they had to change lots because of the rains in the area.

They opened at the Brown County Fairgrounds under the sponsorship of the Georgetown Life Squad, and had a tight lot, but had the show up in time, despite a last minute decision as to where the show would go.

Bob and Doris Earl, along with Bobby and Teresa in the concession wagon, and Jeff Earl putting it up and down, presented a fine circus performance.

One side of the front yard has a Moon Ride and the concession wagon, while on the other side are a pony sweep, basketball pitch and dart game, and elephant skinned dog. Down the center was the ticket booth and the novelty stand.

Music for the show is handled by Tex Daniels at the organ and Mario Ferreiro on the drums. George Rowe is the announcer/ringmaster.

The performance presented during the week at various dates has changed as some additional acts have joined the show. The following acts were presented at the Ohio stands.

Joe Myer opened the show with the Coloring Book Pitch, along with an autographing party. Clowning is handled by Joe Myers and Jimmie Stutz.

Jeff Earl and Yvonne Stephens present their canine revues. Isabelle Ferreira works center ring with her balancing act. Clowns present their version of the Rocket Ship. LeaAnne Stephens works on the Roman rings and does an upside down roof walk thru the loops. Yvonne Stephens presents Frosty the Wonder Pony and Ian Craig presents his liberty ponies. The clowns then returned with their magic?

LeaAnne Stephens took to the air on the trapeze, and Miss Isabelle and Miss Pamela did swinging ladders. Ian Craig presented his mixed animal revue of goats, donkies, dogs, etc. Clown Jimmy Stutz then juggled an assortment of items and Kalamar & Co. (George Rowe) took over for a display of illusions.

Intermission brought the usual concession pitch, after which The Great Moises (Ferreira) worked his comedy balancing act. Capt. Jeff Earl then presented "Tasha" the performing elephant, followed by the Balloon Pitch.

A juggling display in two rings was then presented by Mario Ferreira and Ian Craig. The Great Tino worked the space age bola of seven cylinders stacked one on top of the other,

Miss Carmen, wire act, Hunky's comedy whips and Johnson's Bears, featuring Bonnie the Kissing Bear have since joined the show.

Many circus fans have been seen on the show lot and the Earls have been very good hosts, welcoming the fans and making them a part of the family. They are all called the Roberts Bros. when a townner asks for Mr. Roberts and any fan may be pointed out and introduced as one of the Roberts Bros.

Our thanks to Robert and Doris and the Roberts Bros. family for their hospitality.

## PEOPLE

COL. JERRY LIPKO and his Chimps will be at the Southwick Wild Animal Park in Blackstone, Mass., for the summer season.

JOE TROLLY, novelty skater and puppeteer, recently finished a 30 day run on the cruise ship "Voltendam" and an engagement at a Hilton Hotel near Washington, DC. Some fair dates are anticipated in the fall.

## New idea

by DAVE MURPHY

It seems to me that ever since the first circus started its tour, show operators have ignored an inexpensive, easy and effective means of letting the public know that the circus was in town.

Imagine, a potential ticket buyer driving past the show grounds; across the top of the big tent he sees a sign, sewed right into the canvas saying "Big Circus Today Only."

He immediately knows that the tent does not contain a display of the latest farm equipment or an evangelists meeting. He also knows that if he wants to take the family to the circus he can't do it "sometime next week."

Come on, who'll be first? Maybe a special Day-Glo sign for night-time effect.

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## The Champ

by EDDIE HOWE

Former world heavy weight champion Jack Dempsey, who died May 30th, appeared in person as the star feature of the Cole Bros. Railroad Circus in the 1940's. Dempsey shared a private sleeping car on the show train with Cole Bros. owner Zack Terrell, when

he trouped with the show.

Dempsey was also a close personal friend and an associate to Jack Tavlin, the last owner of Cole Bros. Circus in 1949 and 1950. Dempsey was interested in the circus business through his association with Tavlin over the years and his famed Jack Dempsey restaurant in NYC was a longtime gathering place for circus folks, year-around. Dempsey also was a close friend of former Ringling press agent Eddie Howe and his family.

# The Great Flood

BY P. ANTHONY KELLY

The trumpeting of 12 elephants, the loud roaring of 25 lions and tigers, and the swish of a raging river greeted the men of the Hagenbeck-Wallace winterquarters, March 25, 1913, and before midnight nearly all of the animals were wiped away.

Wallace featured the worst as the high water marks of all previous floods were buried beneath 12 ft. or more of water than ever before - came to flood Peru, Ind. Wallace told reporters he "wouldn't be surprised to learn the whole property was wiped off the Missinninewa river and that the 75 men, as well as all the animals were dead." Telephone wires were washed away and all communication was lost. Wallace's losses reached \$150,000 (the total loss of Peru was \$3,000,000). (1)

By Tuesday morning, the elephants were standing in 3 ft. of water, which continued to rise at the rate of 7 in. each hour. Animals shivered with cold as the flood waters extinguished the heating stoves. Most of the deer, llama, kangaroo and horses drowned and what few were left were picked up and placed on top of wagons.

Elephant trainer John Worden waded in water above his waist to reach the elephant barn, the floor of which was a foot below the outside ground. The elephants seemed greatly relieved to see their trainer and ceased their frantic trumpeting. (2)

They stood quietly while the men went under the water and removed the heavy chains holding the elephants to the floor. With "Tess" as their leader, they started out the door until the rushing water came in the opened door with terrifying speed. The elephants stampeded back into the barn. Three times the elephants started out and were driven back by the chilling water and winter wind . . . to say nothing of the rushing water. By now, trainer Worden was standing in water up to his shoulders. He would have drowned, had it not been for "Nellie" who lifted him off the floor with her right foot and trunk - it was Nellie's idea because Worden was nearly unconscious. She carried him to the house 100 yards away. Nellie returned to the barn where the other elephants were battling against death. Eight of them, headed

by Nellie, fell in line and marched to the house, where they made several attempts to enter.

They beat down the doors and burst the windows, but none were small enough to enter. They stuck their trunks through the windows and their trainer fed them bedding hay. By them, the trainer was forced upstairs by the rising water. He watched the elephants pace around the house, but noticed the number decreasing. The elephants were victims of exposure, having slipped beneath the water and drowned. (3)

Thursday morning when the water began to lower, four of the dead elephants were found within a few feet of the house, one dead in the elephant barn and the bodies of three others washed down the river. One was found on top of a cement bridge. Nellie, Pinto and Jumbo were still living. Nancy, Bedlina, Joky, Diamond, Satan, Baby and Trilby were dead.

Over in the "Cat Barn", Captain Schweyer, the renowned animal trainer from Switzerland was having troubles of his own. Wednesday, when the flood was at its highest, the trainer entered the animal dens and built platforms for the animals to stand on out of the water. (4)

But the water continued to rise at the astounding rate of 6 in. an hour. Most of the lions, tigers, leopards and panthers drowned in their cages, but one Bengal tiger beat upon the bars until he had a hole large enough to crawl through. He crawled out, only to jump into the water and drown. Only 3 lions and 3 camels remained alive. But some of the animals seemed to enjoy the flood. "Big George" the hippo, came out of the flood smiling. His keeper said that he was underwater for more than 12 hours at one stretch. Only 8 of the 600 horses were lost, but the ones who survived lost more than 100 pounds each due to the exposure during the flood. (5)

Wallace wanted to purchase Hillcrest farm just east of his winterquarters, with the intention of building the quarters on the long, high ridge. Had he been able to make the purchase in 1892, he would have avoided the great losses caused by the 1913 flood. But with the consignment of animals and European performers from "across the pond" - The Great Hagenbeck-Wallace Cir-

(Continued on Page 17)

# THE DAY I BECAME A LION TAMER



No one ever knew his real name. He billed himself simply and modestly as, "Juno, the World's Greatest Lion Tamer." And as his assistant, I was ready to believe it.

In the hope that I, too, would someday become a lion tamer, I never took my eyes off Juno during his thrilling act.

Juno was a showman who knew how to add an extra thrill to his performance. While other tamers ended their acts with the lions all leaping from their platforms, Juno finished up his act by having the largest of his animals, a huge black-maned lion, leap right at him.

Juno always pretended that this part was an unexpected movement on the part of the lion. He always seemed afraid as he held up his chair in a protective gesture. But the well-trained beast knew its job. All he had to do to win an extra chunk of red meat was to bite off the leg of the chair. Then, at the sound of the shot from Juno's pistol the lion leaped back. And, as usual, the crowd went wild with excitement.

I not only watched Juno during his act, but eaves dropped while he trained new animals. Juno didn't mind my hanging about after my own work was done, but he showed that he knew what was in my mind. "Someday, you hope to take my place in the cage, eh?"

"Well, perhaps you will - but you will never learn the secret of my act with Bawana, young man," he said.

Bawana was an enormous Congo lion, which Juno had never quite succeeded in taming. He was dangerous all the time; so dangerous, in fact, that he could not allow Bawana into the cage with the other animals for fear that the Congo beast would kill the others.

Yet, Bawana was the animal Juno chose for his greatest feat - the placing of his entire head into the open mouth of a lion! What secret did Juno possess that kept the wild animal from chewing his head off?

Although Juno willingly revealed all of the other secrets of his trade to me, that was one trick he steadfastly refused to explain. And on several occasions when I had to take Juno's place due to illness or for some other reason, I went through his entire act except for the trick with Bawana.

Juno used to enjoy watching me rehearse his act after the show. And thanks to him, I became quite an expert. Since lions will only go through their paces with the man who'd trained them, I had to fool them into thinking that I was Juno. I did this by wearing his clothes and shouting the orders in the same tone of voice that Juno himself used.

In time I even mastered the trick in which the black-maned beast charged in a great leap at the trainer. I can still remember Juno's words of advice.

"Keep a tight hold on the chair. Keep it always in front of you. Whatever you do, don't lose your head and drop it when he leaps. All he wants to do is bite the leg off it. But if he doesn't find the chair where he expects it, he may bite you instead!"

It was about three weeks before the circus ended its season that it happened. Juno, unwilling to wait until the season was over to train a new animal that had arrived from Africa, was badly mauled by the newcomer. He would be unable to finish out the season, and I was named to work the animal act for the final weeks.

(Continued on Next Page)

## THE LION TAMER (Continued)

I visited Juno in his room a few hours before I was scheduled to go on. "Juno, since I am going to do your act, won't you tell me your secret? I want to put my head in the lion's mouth!"

"Never!" stormed Juno. "Skip that part of the act!"

"But that would be cheating the customers," I protested. "They love that part of the act and many of them come just to see it!"

"Forget the customers!" he shouted. "Find it out yourself, if you're anxious to perform it!"

"But, Juno," I pleaded. "I wouldn't feel as if I were really a lion tamer if I didn't perform the whole act! You must tell me how you do it!"

My entreaties fell on deaf ears. Juno ordered me out of his room and with a heavy heart I went back to the circus.

A big crowd filled the arena that evening, and I felt a strange excitement as I took my position in the center of the cage. In one hand I held a whip, in the other a gun loaded with blank shells.

I gave the signal to my assistant to open the tunnel grill, and three lions came out. They ignored me completely, moving in a wide circle. Instead of going to their respective platforms, they lolled about on the floor of the cage, playfully pawing at each other.

I cracked my whip in the air, shouted their names and the three animals leaped to their places. I held up a large loop, called the first lion, Cicero, and touched its nose with the end of my whip. The trained beast dutifully leaped through the hoop, then returned to its place.

But I felt sad. I knew the crowd would be disappointed when I failed to put my head into Bawana's mouth.

Perhaps because my mind was on Bawana, I didn't notice the second lion as it shot its paw at me, knocking the whip right out of my hand. And then I did a foolish thing. Instead of backing away and firing off a couple of blank shots, I stooped to pick up the whip.

In a flash, the lion moved again - this time knocking the gun out of my hand. I stared in panic as the lion growled and snapped its

tail back and forth.

In the next moment, the lion leaped at me. I fell back, stupified, my heart thumping and my whole body streaming with sweat.

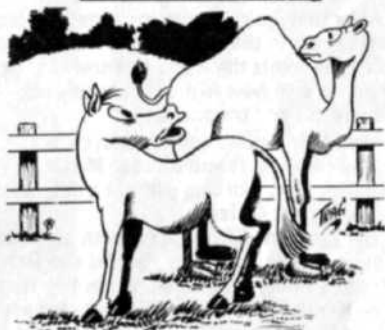
And then I felt myself being propelled backward by the enormous weight of the lion. I hit the floor, the lion right on top of me.

In an almost foolish gesture of self-defense, I grabbed hold of the beast's mouth. At that instant, I got the shock of my life: The lion couldn't close its mouth! At once I realized what had happened. My thumbs were pressing the sides of his thick lips over his teeth, behind the big canines, and the lion realized that he could not close his mouth without biting his own lips!

So that was Juno's secret! That was how he could place his head inside a lion's mouth without any fear that the beast would close his mouth!

At that moment, I knew, I had become a full-fledged lion tamer!

(From an old magazine article. The author and magazine title have been lost over the years).



• "My back was strained from carrying heavy people . . . but what in the world happened to yours?"

## THE GREAT FLOOD (Continued)

cus lived on! (6)

- 1 - Peru Republican, Nov. 29, 1907
- 2 - Peru Republican, Apr. 4, 1913, pge. 6
- 3 - Miami County Sentinel, Dec. 25, 1913
- 4 - Miami County-Sentinal, Dec. 25, 1913
- 5 - Peru Republican, Apr. 4, 1913
- 6 - Bandwagon magazine, "B. E. Wallace Winterquarters"

# Dallas Shrine Circus

by BOB STODDARD

1982

Billed again as "The Greatest Show in Dallas", the 1982 official program of the 14th Annual Shrine Circus with R. L. "Bob" Watson as general chairman was presented on Oct. 24-31, at the Dallas Convention Center.

Tom Kirkland was the circus administrator. Bob Atterbury was the director, with Joey Atterbury as his assistant. Carol Atterbury was in charge of wardrobe. Her assistant is Betty Huber who is probably the most loved person on the Texas dates every year.

The clown warm-up was begun by the He-la Temple Shrine Clowns and was capped by Toe Toe the Clown (Earl Michaels) who is also the assistant ringmaster.

The circus overture featuring Keith Killinger with a great twelve piece band brought on the introductions of the Shrine Circus Committee.

Ernie McLean, in his 25th year as ringmaster on the Texas dates, introduced the "Circus on Parade" led by Irving Hall, the unicycling whiz.

After that Josip Marcan presented the largest cat act in the world with 17 tigers and lions. He wants the world to know that he is on his own now with his own animals, equipment and transportation.

Then Irving Hall's comedy bicycle act, followed by Gene and Eleanor Mendez on the high wire, working without a net, doing a two-high at 40 feet.

The Zamperlas dressage act with Lipizzan horses. Clown act: Terry Parsons and Don Young's funny cars. Perch acts in two rings: The Knops (from Poland did a double perch on the forehead. They have been with Ringling and other shows). The other ring was The Pueyrredons from Argentina. It is their first time in this country.

Clown number with Toe Toe and Irving Hall, plus the two Galumbos boys, Frankie and Dieter.

Three rings of cycles - The Kursawes, The Navarros (from Mexico) and the Zamperlas.

Clown number - Poco and Slo Poke with their duck hunt and elephant finish.

Two rings of baboons by Carmen and Javanna Hall.

Toe Toe the clown does his "bigger and

bigger gag".

A beautiful production number with the show girls riding on merry-go-rounds high in the air on each side and featuring Evita (Queen of the Air) in the mirrored ball, over center ring with millions of colored spots racing around the auditorium. It was a great "flash" act to run into the intermission.

The second half opened with the Flying Carrols, which is still owned by Donny Johnson. Even though Gayner isn't in the act anymore, it is still a good act.

Clown turn with Don Young and Jo Mc Millan's restaurant juggling routine.

Six aerial acts at the same time are hard to watch - but I tried. Three were cradle acts, including the Smiths, Navarros and Galumbos. Danuta, the spider Goddess and the traps of Kristina LaDeon and La Yana (Dubsky).

The Zamperla horse riding act featured Ermass doing a backward somersault - horse to horse, and Stafano doing a backward somersault from a teeterboard to a two horse pyramid.

The Fabulous Fearless Bauers Sway Pole Act is worth the \$6.00 ticket itself.

The Pueyrredons act "Oliver and His Gauchos" here for the first time (from Argentina) have a different Gaucho act that fractured me. Unfortunately, I didn't understand a word they said and vice-versa.

Three rings of elephants. Two Cuneo herds of 5 bulls each were handled by Linda and Ben DeWayne and by John and Laura (Herriott) Walker. Larry and Karen French presented four Cristiani elephants.

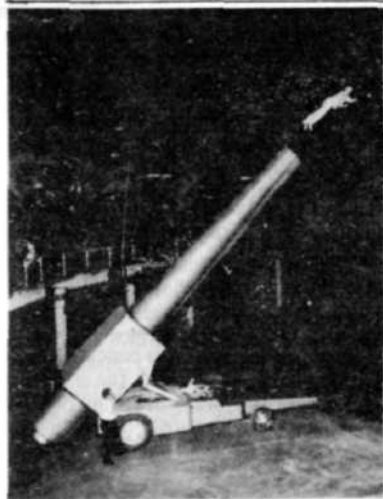
Clown acts: Petey and the dog catcher with Terry Parson (Spikeawopski) and Poco and Slo Poke with their dog act.

Dave Smith (formerly of the Rock-Smith Flyers) was shot out of the cannon as Capt. Circus.

The finale was the introduction of all artists (performers) who stood on the ring curb and finished with costumed Cinderella on the center stage as her "Birds of Paradise" flew to her one at a time and unfurled different flags for a beautiful finish. Cinderella was Yana (Zsa Zsa) Dubsky.

An extra added attraction in the Saturday night show was presented after the prop crew spirited a huge cake out to the center ring during finale - hidden from Bob Atter-

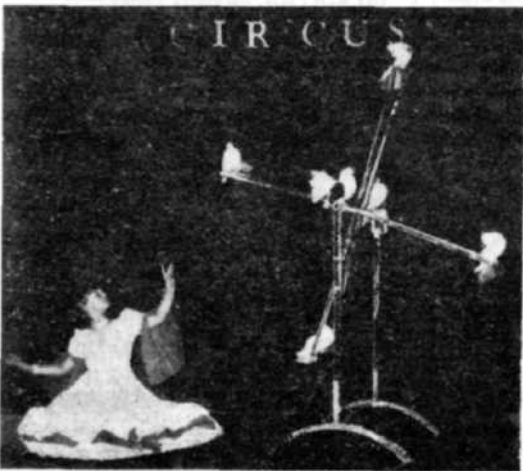
(Continued on Page 19)



**DAVE SMITH, "Capt. Circus"** being shot from the cannon at the Dallas Shrine Circus.



**KRISTINA LaDEON** and her Las Vegas Poodle Revue as seen at the Dallas Shrine Circus.



**CINDERELLA**, Yana (Zsa Zsa) Dubsky and her "Birds of Paradise" as presented at the Dallas Shrine Circus.



**THE KURSAWES** (top to bottom: bottom: Angela, Sylvia and Fred) as featured at the Dallas Shrine Circus.

bury's view by a 4 x 8 floor covering panel that they carried to the center ring with Frank Galumbos and the cake behind it.

Keith Killing and the band broke into "Happy Birthday" and Ernie McLean announced that it was Bob Atterbury's 67th birthday. The audience responded with a round of applause.

## PEOPLE

**HELGE DAM**, animal trainer, was pictured with a leopard in a recent AP photo service release. The caption said she was performing at the Shrine Circus in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

## Jules & Beck

by JOY the CLOWN

Caught the Jules & Beck Circus in Buford, Ga., on May 26th and again at Dahlonega, Ga., on May 29th. There was a good crowd at both shows, but the show in Dahlonega was attended by a capacity crowd with people standing in order to see the performance.

The show in Dahlonega was sponsored by The Little League and was held on their lot. It was a good promotion with radio give aways and a good job of papering the town. The D.J., Debbie, from the local radio station rode Myrtle the elephant and posed for publicity pictures. The radio station is running a follow up on the circus by telling the kids to bring in circus posters for prizes. This way the town will be cleared of the outdated paper. This makes for good public relations with the town officials.

Bob Green did a fantastic job at the organ. There were many good acts which included: Rusty the Military Pony, the Performing Bears, Joe Silverlake's Barnyard Review, Mel Ray's Flying Saucers, Demonstration of the Australian Bull Whip and the Silverlake Duo on the rings.

The audience loved the whole show, but were especially impressed with the little five (5) year old clown, Bradley Silverlake, son of Jim Silverlake. The Silverlakes have been in the circus for several generations and it looks like little Bradley is going to be a star. He performed several bits with the other clowns and he was the "hit" of the show.

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It was even a good day for concessions. Everything was sold out with the crowd still willing to buy. After the show the kids were lined up to ride Myrtle the elephant and to see the snake show.

## PEOPLE

JACK RYAN, formerly Magic Mountain's Director of Public Relations, is currently visiting senior lecturer in public relations writing in the Journalism Department of the University of Southern California.

Ryan's course, Public Relations Media, is required for all public relations majors with in the USC journalism program.

Since leaving the amusement park in Dec. 1978, Ryan has operated his own public relations consulting and writing service, accomplishing a wide range of show business public communications projects for clients on both coasts, including Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Ice Capades and Harry Blackstone, Jr.

# Shrine Circus

by DON SANDMAN

The Murat Temple Shrine Circus held its 38th annual circus at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis, April 21-24. The circus was produced by Coronas of Hollywood, Fla.

The staff included: Charles Coronas, Sr., executive producer; George and Serge Coronas, producers; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster/announcer; William Pruyn, musical director; David Pruyn, lighting and Cucci Rizzi, sound. Charles Landkas, Jr. handled props and transportation.

The performance as given here included: Circus on Parade, the Murat Marching Units, plus performers and animals; National Anthem; Wade Burck and the White and Bengal tigers; Miss Maya, trapeze; Mariio, trapeze; Bertini, aerial perch; Venturas, aerial perch; Claudia Sisters, iron jaw; Cuciolo, world's smallest trampoline performer; The Abulet Bros., high wire; Zamperla Bicycle Troupe; Vlastek-Bertini, unicycle; Gonsalves, rola bola; Zerbini, teeterboard;

Dieka Sisters, rolling globes; Miss Stevens, Rocket ship trapeze; Nebraska the Unrideable Mule presented by the Scott Family; Maya, sword balancing; Becky, sword balancing; Duo Hellena, perch; Paublos, perch; Natasha, sword balancing; Clowns; Satini Demon, fire act; Miss Maya's Yorkshires; Miss Erna's Chimps; Miss Inga's Chow Chows; *The Double Gyro Wheels of the Brothers Coronas; Intermission, with pitch for midway attractions, adjoining the show arena.*

*The Lucky Bros., comedy; The Flying Larrays and the Flying Cristiani-Gaonas; Clowns; Scott's Basketball Dogs; The Riding Zerbini and Napoleones Roman Riders; Clowns; Elephant display with elephants presented by Lee and Jeanette Keener, Bill and Cindy Morris, John and Laura Walker; Motorcycle Skywalk with Serge and Stevie Coronas; Hugo Zacchini, the Human Cannonball; Exit Marches.*

## Franzen Bros.

by WAYNE BOLZ

The updated 90 minute performance of the Franzen Bros. Circus, as of Memorial Day in Illinois, is as follows:

Clown, Teaka; Wayne Franzen, 6 tigers and 2 lions; Curtis Caanen & Sherrie, wire; Arabian Fantasy with camel and llama, presented by Wayne Franzen; Teako the clown; Mike Ashton and Leslie, foot juggling and acrobatic act; 5 goats and a donkey presented by Brian and Chad Franzen; Aerial display with Miss Heidi, Amy and Sherrie, web and trapeze; Mike Ashton and Leslie, song and dance and balancing routine. Ladder act by Curtis Cannia, Sherrie and Harry Muller (Falcon Duo); Teaka the clown; excellent act with Okha the elephant; Heidi Bolz, roman rings; Curtis Cannin and Sherrie with dogs (5); The Astro Duo (Amy and Harry Muller); 12 ponies of America presented by Wayne Franzen.

The circus has a 3 piece band with Heidi Bolz at the organ, Mike Ashton on drums and Paul Neubauer, trumpet. Paul also ser-

ves as the ringmaster.

Visiting the circus for a barbeque were Norma and Bob Jones, president of the Wayne Franzen Tent CFA, President of Seils Sterling Tent, CFA, Wayne Bolz with wife, Donna and daughter Tracy. Ed Freeman, agent, hosted the event with the circus people.

## In Memoriam

FRANKLIN WESTERVELT (83) died as the result of a heart attack suffered while driving his car, which left the road and hit a pole in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., on May 2.

His wife, Eunice, suffered moderate injuries in the accident and was hospitalized at Lee Memorial Hospital.

Known to his friends as "Westy", Franklin was an avid circus fan and supporter for the circus.

## Clown

Sandusky, Ohio, clown Eddie Dunford, was the warm-up act for a benefit show to raise money for liver patient Candice Thomas, of Chester county, Md. Feature attraction, The Blue Ridge, did a super job of entertaining with country selections that had the audience on their feet dancing, and also applauding wildly for their latest single release, "One More Chance", which has been little 13 month old Candice's theme song ever since The Blue Ridge became aware of her situation last fall.

Veteran clown Larry Rich was enroute to Pittsburgh and visited with Dunford, then was pressed into action at the last minute to help with promotion and publicity. His efforts were rewarded with a full house at the first show 7 p.m. and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  house for the late show, at 11 p.m. Nearly \$3,000 was raised for the Thomas family and even the White House got into the act. President Reagan has offered to fly the family from their Maryland home to the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh, when a liver is found for the transplant operation.

Dunford used several of his circus props, plus excellent magic effects in his opening routine. Featured was "flowers from nowhere" using many lovely feather flowers,

which filled the stage at the conclusion of his routine. Eddie is a very funny clown and has several fair dates set for this summer. He is also booked on Sam Polack and Eddie Zacchini circuses this spring and summer.

Eddie told us he is currently working with a group of other Ohio artists producing magic shows and has plans on the drawing boards for an Elvis during the concert years tribute show.

..... Dianne Knowlton

## PEOPLE

DOUG TERRANOVA and ILONA LUCIA CANESTRELLI have announced their engagement. They plan to be married in early December. Doug is working the Donny Johnson elephants and cats, while Ilona is in the Pietro Canestrelli family acts. Both just recently completed the tour with Reid Bros. Circus in the Pacific Northwest.

JIM HOWELL and DAVID LORENTZ, recently visited with Don Marcks at the office of Circus Report. Both are working out in front of the Carson & Barnes Circus.

## Show personnel

Show personnel with the Pickle Family Circus for 1983 includes:

Robert Burkhart, juggler/roustabout; Judy Finelli, juggler; Robin Hood, Juggler/acrobat/trampoline; Marc Jondall, juggler/rope walker; Jay Laverdure, juggler/trampoline/acrobat; Zoe Leader, juggler/roustabout; Lance McGee, juggler/acrobat; Brenda Munnell, apprentice/roustabout; Jim Murdoch, apprentice/roustabout; Michael Ohta, roustabout; Rebecca Perez, aerialist/juggler/acrobat/trampoline; Larry Pisoni, Lorenzo the clown; Lorenzo Pisoni, clown.

On the bandstand are: Jeffrey Gaeto, keyboard; Mark Kennedy, bass; Michael Moore, trumpet/fluglehorn; Harvey Robb, saxophone/clarinet; Nick Saume, drums/percussion and sound effects.

All show music is composed and arranged

by Randy Craig, Jeffrey Gaeto and Mark Kennedy.

Behind the Scenes are: Allen Gross, technical consultant; Zoe Leader, graphics/PR; and tour management; Laura McKeon, program development; Don McMillan, assistant business manager; Michael Ohta, technical co-director; Kimi Okada, gorilla choreography; Mart Pearson, box office/community liason; Larry Pisoni, artistic director; Peggy Snider, designer; Joanne Sonn, business manager; Carlos Uribe, technical co-director.



GENE and DORIS McDONALD visited on the Carson & Barnes Circus lot in Arizona, just before the show was to enter into California. It was the second time that the new big top had been put into the air and it was a beautiful sight.

## Randon Ramblings

by ART "Doc" MILLER

Today in Starke (Fla) the streets down town are lined with ten fold more people than ever assembled to watch George W. Christy's 20-car epic parade. T'was the annual Shrine Grotto State parade here and its bigger than huge!

Somehow my mind drifted back to the final evening of the great Harris Bros. five ring (5 center poles too) of the Ray Marsh Bryden's aggravation. Little by little the show had dwindled down to a couple of performers and was definitely on the lam to out-run attachments on his fleet of trucks, all bought on the cuff, real slick-like.

I don't recall the hamlet where I caught it, as I was back tracking to my boss' outfit for more scratch to scoff on and get booking gas money. Well, there it was, sitting besides the highway, a very small crowd of lot lice hanging around with a small passel of patrons seated on the one erected section of blues. No side wall was up, so the butcher hopefully could sell a few sacks of corn on the outside. Up on one truck sat the air calliope, for lorn, as there was no one to bang the keys, besides it needed gasoline to operate.

The performance commenced without a tournament, just the one lone girl performer bowing to one and all, while old Jim Dailey (I'm guessing it was Jim) struck up a Scottish ditty on his bag pipes, and the performance was on. That poor gal did about everything she could think of, juggling medicine clubs, fire torches, even posed and waved from the swinging ladder, while red faced Jim blew with gusto on the few notes he knew on the blasted bag pipe.

Yes, the calliope was up for sale, \$25.00 by gosh, but even I that evening, lacked a saw-buck. Somehow the truck finance outfit smoked out the show and took it away, bag and baggage, so to speak.

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What a sad finish to a small trucker that opened the season with much fan-fair about that five pole, 50 ft. (and ring) big top. No doubt it was the last circus to ever send the band to the graveyard to play a tribute to the once well-known circus owner, Charles Lee. At this late date, it is doubtful if little circuses now playing Canton, Pa., ever heard of Lee's 50 wagon show.

Somewhat earlier, during the late '20s, I happened to pause and watch Kaus United Shows, unload the train. Business was so bad they could not hire a pull along team locally, so all of the ride boys grabbed the pull along rope hooked to the nearest wagon and with brute force, they inched that heavy wagon along the silvery planks on the flat. If this wasn't sad enough, a bunch of college boys chanted "the Volga boat man" at them, which certainly added to their unhappiness.

# Johnny Peers

by BOB STODDARD

Johnny Peers started his show business career when he was 5 yrs. old, working in the concession stands owned by his father, Terry, on the major circuses and fairs.

When he was 16, he forsook the family business in order to pursue a new career with a young Mexican friend named Zapata, who was also a novelty salesman on the Ringling show. The pair had watched the clowns work for sometime and decided, "Hey, we can do that - better!" They shook on it and went to Clown College in 1969, and spent the next few years as a team on the Ringling show.

They realized the Clown College was a good base, but that you didn't learn to become a clown in eight weeks. This also was a way to get started in the business because it was hard to get a start on a show.

Johnny said, "Zapata's grandfather was a famous clown in South America in the 50's and he came to the Ringling show then. His name was "Drouette" and he was still clowning on the show when I was there. He was an old man then." He told me, "The make-up don't mean nothing, the costume don't mean nothing." He pointed to his heart and said, "this is where a clown is - right here."

Johnny decided that this advice was worth remembering. The pair worked on their clown skills with the help of some of the greatest clowns that ever lived, like Lou Jacobs, Bobby Kaye and a lot of other old-timers.

They signed on with the Vargas show as producing clowns where they concentrated on quality rather than quantity.

"We tried to give the people some stuff that they hadn't seen before," Johnny recalled.

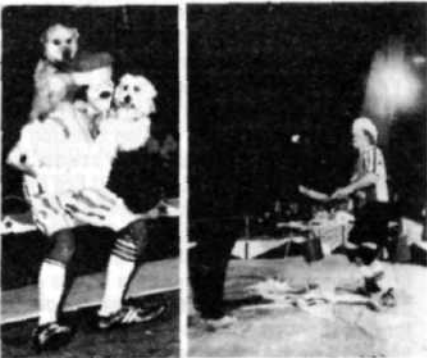
They worked the American Continental Circus, Busch Gardens and several other parks, Circus Chiani in South America, always honing their acts and trying to perfect every move.

"But then, an unfortunate turn of events; Zapata passed away a couple of years ago," Johnny said, "and I miss him. I'm doing it alone now. I'd like to have a partner, but good partners are hard to find. I had the

best partner that anyone could ask for. I haven't found anyone that would come close to him yet."

Johnny met his wife, Jackie, in South America. "I went all the way to South America to meet an English girl," he said. "Jackie is having a hard time getting used to the gypsy life but wouldn't want to change Johnny's plans. "He wouldn't be happy," she said.

"That's right," Johnny said. "I live and breathe comedy and I wouldn't be happy in anything else. Once you've got it in the blood it's hard to get it out."



For a while Jackie worked as Johnny's partner, but she doesn't like being a clown.

"She likes being elegant," is how Johnny put it. "She does the web and is practicing juggling and some other circus skills. None of her family was in show business."

"There are already so many good acts," she said, "and I would have to wait until after I have the baby anyway."

"That's the really big date for the Peers family," he said. "Are you going to make a clown out of your son or daughter," I asked. "You never know," Johnny laughed.

I wondered how long he intended to be a clown. "I don't know," he said. "It started out as an ambition, then became a vocation and now, it's a living. I guess as long as people are happy about what I do - and we keep eating - I'll keep doing it. I like to make people laugh. I hope it keeps going - strong!"

For the last three years Johnny has been producing clown on the American Continental Circus and has left that show to be

(Continued on Page 28)

# Orak Shrine Circus

by JON FRIDAY

The Orak Temple Shrine Circus of South Bend, Ind., was produced by Carden Int'l Circus, and presented at the 4-H Fairgrounds on May 31-June 2nd.

The 1983 program (presented on June 1, 1983) offered:

Clown come-in. Smiley (John) Daly, assisted by a very young John-John. (Fans how long has it been since you've seen a real pro clown do a come-in and get laughs (not screams for free balloons) from the youngsters and/or also work the grandstand and entertain the many senior citizens?). I've never seen anybody get as much mileage from an old cracked (probably discarded) plastic garbage can or trash can and an old broom, with most of the bristles missing as Smiley.

Introduction of Circus Chairman and Potentate by Bobby Golden.

Very brief overture by organist Richard "Rosio" Brooks and his drummer.

11 Royal Bengal tigers presented in the steel arena by Eddie Schmidt.

Frank & Estreleta (Frank and Ruthie Clark) high aerial hanging perch; featuring a heel suspension on a revolving lyre or loop and several spins.

Miss Christine (Fossett) presents "Killer Willard," the boxing kangaroo - Champion of Australia. Mr. and Mrs. Tony Fossett portray the stooges from the audience that attempt to box with the kangaroo.

Smiley Daly with a clown breakaway bicycle bit (difficult on the grass) followed by an unusual pantomime gag with a rag doll which he pampers, changes with a rag-

ged diaper and then discards over his shoulder.

Miss Gina (Mrs. George) Carden presents (the late) Victor Julian's Little Stars - dress dog act. Act opens with a black and white gowned poodle; then two butterflies; Batman; Blue and white gowned poodle; Scotman; Green and white "Irish Lass" in-gown poodle; Indian brave; Cowboy, "Rhinstone-type;" Ballerina; "Miss America" in red, white and blue; Miss Liberty (as in statue); and Uncle Sam Poodle followed by the familiar back somersault terrier dog.

To the many animal lovers as well as circus fans that were concerned about the welfare of these canines following the death of Leo "Coke" Coffey, rest assured they have the same groom caring for them as previously (along with an assistant); are healthy and look to me like they will continue to bring smiles and laughter to tens of thousands of more adults and children during their lives.

I'm not running for public office just now or anything like it; but I personally would have purchased this act from Mr. Schafer before I would have stood on the sidelines and allowed these lovely animals to be "put to sleep" or even seen the act broken up. If anybody things for a second that is just circus three-sheeting; ask Gerard Soules who was there to help him out when he really needed help. (Off the soap box now).

Garcia Duo, cradle, young brother-sister team on upright rigging from the Cortez family, flying-return act. Bobby Golden contributed a vocal here as he did earlier with "More" for Francarro & Estreleta's aerial turn.

(Continued on Page 28)

**ORAK SHRINE (Continued)**

Clowns with mystical levitation. Smiley and John-John Daly and "Dave".

Christina's Chimpanzees (Fossett), four chimps, plus a Yorkshire terrier making a short appearance as the "World's Smallest Elephant." Highlights for the chimps include a strip routine, Russian-style dancing and for a finale, "Zimba" rides a mini-motorbike.

Intermission.

Francarros, risley (foot juggling) and Miss Victoria, risley (foot juggling). Both acts use unique props.)

The Cortez Family (5), flying return act from Columbia, South America, featuring the debut of 5 yr. old Alex, who completed a cross-over sans safety belt and closing with a passing leap.

Smiley Daly as Cousin Schmo Duke and his General Lee clown (comedy) car.

Tongo, Irene & Co. (Fossetts), Gorilla Parody with two-almost human "Gorillas" and one real chimpanzee includes an audience romp with the larger of the two "Gorillas" that turns out to be a very attractive Fossett girl.

Carden Int'l Shrine Circus Elephants - Vicky, Judy and Jenny, presented by producer George Carden, assisted by the lovely Miss Linda.

The staff consisted of: George Carden and Larry Carden, co-presidents and co-producers; Carl Medeiros, prop supt.; Richard "Rosio" Brooks, musical director; Bobby Golden, announcer/vocalist; Bob and Mary Sands, promotional/marketing direction.

**JOHNNY PEERS (Continued)**

producing clown for Gil Gray's Dr. Pepper Circus at the State Fair of Texas.

He works his magic shows during the Christmas season.

He doesn't have to worry about being alone anymore. He has his wife, Jackie, and a beautiful daughter, Jessica Brooke Peers, who weighed 7 lbs. 8 ozs. when she was born on Jan. 1, 1983.

He has a new clown partner now too that he thinks will be just fine and they are making the fans laugh on the American Continental Circus right now!

# Bentley Bros. Circus <sup>1982</sup>

by *GEORGE C. BINGAMAN*

Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy brought Bentley Bros. Circus to the Municipal Stadium at Reading Pa., on Aug. 5 and 6, continuing an eastern tour which played the New England States, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Iowa and Kansas. Packed houses greeted them in the Pretzel City where the dates were sponsored by F.O.P. No. 9.

The bigger and better 1982 edition included six (6) multi-ringers and nineteen (19) outstanding acts in nineteen (19) displays comprising a 2½ hour show!

First time ever for eastern circus-goers were the Petersen horses, Princess Omar's hand balancing and Manuel Gonsalves rola bola, all super stuff!

Rex Petersen's eight (8) brown Anglo-Arabians were as beautiful a group of liberty horses as I've seen in the east for several years, with sharp evolutions featuring a bleak which I cannot recall having seen in a decade.

Princess Omar, from Argentina, presented unsurpassed hand balancing which included a one finger stand as a starter and continuing through a fast revolving two hander with feet removing the hat and finally a one-and-only revolving head stand playing Chaplin's circus theme on the mandolin while the Ringmaster, Jon Friday, held the microphone near the instrument entertaining the awe-inspired throng. Wow!

Portugal's Manuel Gonsalves was not to be outdone with his big league rola bola emphasizing quickness to a stepped up beat and change of tricks, using hand stands, roping, board on ball and climaxing with an unbelievable series of four jumps including a half twist as he slapped four boards in succession on the rola bola. You had to see it to believe it!

The Zerbini's returned with four marvelous acts, comedy tables, teeterboard, high trapeze and equestrian. The Lucky Bros. evoked sharp audience appreciation and crowd exuberance.

Animal acts were good and plenty. Alan Gold added four (4) fine cats to his '81 group and came out smoking with a fine series of tricks with healthy looking animals which responded immediately and displayed

handsomely.

Jerry Lipko's three (3) chimps took a deserved center ring, while Ethel's Greyhounds and Evie's Mixed Canines winged the three-ringer with the perennial dilemma "Who do you watch?" They were all great.

Not only Petersen's liberty horses, but Zerbini's broad-backs and three (3) rings of high school horses (Evie Karoly, Rex and Charlotte Petersen and Dave Knoderer) provided a super dose of equestrian excellence.

Bucky Steele's fine four (4) ponderous ones are presented by the young and beautiful Joanne Cragmile who moves the pachyderms through their marvelous maneuvers flawlessly and managed to steal the show with her stunning presence!

Jon Friday emceed in the ringmaster's garb. Three funny clown gags were presented by Bentley's Buffoons - Pappy, producer, Dinky and Maxo (Phil Grego, Jeff Konick, Gary Maximena). Bentley's six piece band led by Brooks Greer, tumpet, assisted by Bary Nitikman, trumpet, Mark Kalesjian, trombone, Mike Thomas, sax, Jeff Bair, piano, Dennis Sherman, drums, provided the needed back-up music.

The program of displays: Overture; Slide for Life, Julie Ventura; Parade, three rings of sword balancing, Zerbini, Jennier, Luna; Alan Gold and his Cats; High trapeze, two rings, Miss Aerialetta and Mademoiselle Maya; Lucky Bros., comedy table; Mario and Roberta Zerbini; Princess Elena Omar, hand balancing; two rings of iron jaw (triple) and rolling globes, The Claudia Sisters and Oban Sisters; Nicholas Group, teeterboard (Zerbini); Clown Dentistry; Three rings, Ethel's Greyhounds, Lipko's Chimps, Evie's Mixed Canines; Rex Petersen's Liberty Horses; Clown Boxing; Three rings aerial cradle, Osmonds, Phoenix Duo, Venturas with center ring of six (6) striking red-robed beauties; Intermission.

The Flying Lunas; Rola bola with Manuel Gonsalves; Three rings of high school horses, Evie Karoly, Rex and Charlotte Petersen, Dave Knoderer; The Zerbini Riding Act; Clown Sharpshooting; Bucky Steele's Four Ponderous Pachyderms presented by Joanne Cragmile.

The 1982 Bentley Bros. Circus is Bigger and Better than ever. Congratulations to Tommy and Chuck!



Manuel Gonsalves



Bentley Bros. Circus Band



Evie's Mixed Canines and Dave Knoderer



David Knoderer



Ethel's Greyhounds



Rex Petersen's Liberty Horses

## Show Dates

Lewis Bros. Circus  
 June 13 Newark, NY  
 14 Clyde  
 15 Fulton  
 16-17 Watertown  
 18 Ogdensburg

19 Massena  
 20 Malone  
 21 Plattsburg

## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Sunday, Apr. 17th dawned clear (tired of this?), cold, again, yet! We drove 35 miles to Heidi and Jim Grogan's where we had been invited to an old fashioned Florida fish fry, and Heidi said, "Rain or shine." Well, no rain fell, but the party ended up indoors and on the spacious screened porches surrounding their large house overlooking the Alafia river. The same Alafia where Jim totalled the helicopter not long ago, but I forgot to ask Charlie Guti is he was going to take a ride in one again very soon. The Alafia is a busy river with people fishing and pleasure boating.

Among the guests were the following carnival and circus folks: Egle (Zacchini) and Carl J. Sedelymeyer, Rene and Joanne Zacchini (Rene is a lawyer in Tampa), Mrs. Jo Fleenor and her daughter who works in Heidi's shop in Tampa. Heidi's folks, Elvira, Charlie, Mickey and Peter. Also, up from Sarasota were Mr. and Mrs. Fredoni (former risley act) so we had a little conversation about which way they "kicked" what kind of risley cushions used, etc. Only ex-acrobats would have been interested in this talk, but I did find out they were the first risley act to work in an ice show.

The fish, which Jim rolled in corn meal and deep-fried was Grouper and delicious, along with home made cole slaw, french fries and assorted goodies and beverages. (I am beginning to sound like Tom Powell from AB who eats and drinks his way around the country, I guess this is OK as long as I don't get fat as Tom, it would look terrible on me at 5 ft. 1 in. in height).

The Grogans invited their meat man, Mr. Mandese and his wife and David and I ate with them. David talked "sausages" and we went home and sent them a recipe for Swedish sausage. T. Wilson Sparks and his wife were there and soon going to Minnesota (he is from Florida Fair). A family named Webster with two small children arrived, Mrs. Webster who writes for the Tampa Tribune is also from Minnesota. Ward Hall, Chris Christ, Bobby Johnson, Kenny Dodd (Sarasota), Jackie LeClaire and Billy Rodgers were also there. I've omitted a few folks as I didn't get their names, but it was fun with super food and conversation.

Heidi's mom and dad have sold all their rolling stock since quitting the road and are now settled into a lovely brick home next door to Grogans, who leave soon for their summer with Tommy Bartlett's Water Show in Wisconsin Dells. We hope to see them there!

Thursday, Apr. 21st, we drove to Show-folks Club, Sarasota, where their CFA tent hosted a pot luck supper for CFA Pres. Al House, wife Maxine and son Jim, down from Oakland, NJ. A fine turn out, exhibits of model builders and Dolly Copeland's paintings and again a lot of good food and conversation and talk of the coming CFA convention in Philadelphia. Other things exhibited were clown dolls, letterheads and tickets from shows, books and scrapbooks owned by tent members.

In a recent article that included news of Mark Pilger's training at Baraboo, credit was given to Milonga Cline, when in fact it was Milonga's daughter, Kathy Cline Huebing who helped Mark.

Milonga's son, John, Jr., and wife Rebecca moved from Lakeland, Fla., to Houston, Texas, where John (who is an electrician) has a long term contract working on a nuclear plant.

Blanca Escalante Caucia's widower Luis and daughter Luisa arrived from California to spend Easter vacation with Milonga, only to find that the vacation times did not coincide, however, they enjoyed many events, tour of the Ringling museums, etc. Luisa (whose mother was a singer and a double for the late Delores del Rio) is a high school teacher. None of the grandchildren of Mario Escalante followed the circus with the exception of Milonga's three and now they are all into other types of work. It is wonderful when 2nd and 3rd generation performing families carry on in traditional acts, but not all of them choose that life style anymore.

## PEOPLE

BILL BURGER recently visited with JACK BENNETT in Okla. Jack is a book dealer and there was quite a discussion about books and circuses. Bill also visited Roller Bros. Circus while enroute to visit his grandchildren in Tulsa.