

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 35-36

September 20, 1982



THE GAUTIER FAMILY

PEOPLE

PHILLIP CLINE, son of Milonga and the late Johnny Cline, wants to thank all of his circus friends for the many cards and prayers. He is now at home, walking and doing a lot of fishing.

ED BARDY, author of the book "The Story of the Campbell Bros. Circus" writes that the hard-bound edition of this book is sold out. A soft-bound edition is available at \$8.00 (see ad elsewhere in this issue).

AUSTIN MILES recently appeared in a segment of the English television film series, "The Optimist."

THE CHANDLERS - Phil, Linda and Lauren - are still together, contrary to the numerous rumors that have been spread about them. They have been working spot dates for the Holmes Agency, Gary Strong and the Karen Armel Agency. Phil has also been busy running his magic shop, and Linda recently completed a 12 week acting run in the state play of Florida "Cross & Sword."

BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON participated this summer in a pilot program introducing street entertainment into the Long Beach, Calif., redevelopment district. The program was unusual in that street entertainment was prohibited as a form of panhandling by city ordinance.

The performers involved in the program were under contract to the Public Corporation for the Arts. The ordinances have now been changed to allow street entertainment, but performers must still audition to obtain special permits.



BY
DON
MARCKS

PROGRESS REPORT

Thus far I've made some real good progress following the surgery on my eyes. As a result it looks as if that surgery was a success and within a short time now I should be all back to normal.

Everything was going fine, until just this past Saturday evening, when I slipped on a slick spot on the pavement and my feet went out from under me.

For a moment I was in the air, then I came crashing down on my left side. Because of the strange sound that occurred when my hip hit the blacktop I thought I must have broken my hip.

Fortunately, I have only a bruised hip, but because of the way that I landed I broke the elbow of my left arm, at the socket. As a result this will mean some additional time of rest and recovery.

I was lucky in that I did not injure my eye and so it is just a matter of waiting for the bone to heal so that I can get back to work once again.

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Meanwhile, The Circus Report will continue to be mailed, perhaps a bit late at times, but at least it will have some sort of regularity.

You should receive it each week, if not just drop me a card and I'll get the missing issues into the mail for you.

PEOPLE

RUSS TULLY and NELL were watching a performance of the Ringling Blue Unit in San Francisco, and as the girls dressed in Indian costumes came into the arena riding on elephants, Russ said, "I didn't know Indians rode elephants." Instantly Nell replied, "It's alright, they are Indian elephants."

Show Dates

Castle Int'l Circus
Sep. 22 Las Cruces, NM
25-26 Salina

Circus Knie
Sep 20-21 Russalet, Swtz.
22-23 P. A. Stand
24-29 P. Gurzelen

Franzen Bros. Circus
Sep 20 Belle Plaine, Iowa
21 Brooklyn
22 Albia
23 Centerville

Great American Circus
Sep 20 Orange Pk, Fla.
21 Atlantic Beach
22 Daytona Beach

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Sep 20 Travelers Rest, SC
21 Tocca, Ga.
22 Lavonia
23 Chatsworth
24 Dalton
25 Calhoun
26 Summerville

Pickle Family Circus
Sep 21-22 LaVerne, Ca.
25-26 S. Barbara

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Sep 21-26 Seattle, Wash.

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Sep 21-26 St. Louis, Mo.

Roberts Bros. Circus
Sep 20 Sharpsburg, Md.
21 Romney, W. Va
22 Ridgeley
23 Pending
24 Davis
25 Hendricks

Royal Lichtenstein Cir.
Sep 20 Stayton, Ore.
21 Portland
22-23 Longview, Wash.
24 Chehalis
25 Portland, Ore.

Swan Bros. Circus
Sep. 23-Oct. 3
Bakersfield, Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic
Sep 22-26
Overland Park, Kans.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Sep 19-25 Farmington, Me

James H. Drew Exposition
Sep 20-25 Marietta, Ga.

Elliott Amusement Co.
Sep 24-26 Lake Orion,
Mich

Foley & Burk Shows
to Sep 26 Pomona, Ca.

Tip Top Shows
Sep 24-26 La Crescent,
Wisc.

--- MAGIC ---

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA
Sep 21 Jamestown, ND
22 Mandon

Bentley Bros.

by DON SANDMAN

Bentley Bros. Circus played the Carthage Fairgrounds in Cincinnati, Ohio, Aug. 27-29 for the Cincinnati Fireman's Protective Assoc. Capt. Sam Ruhe, the sponsor's chairman, said it attracted the greatest crowds in years, with seven full houses.

The city was well covered with Bentley Bros. paper and Free Children's tickets were distributed widely. A family ticket was sold for \$12.50. The Cincinnati stand followed a Johnstown, Pa., date where people were turned away. So, Bentley Bros. is a winner!

Not only was the show a winner at the box office, but the people paying their way in got a winning performance, as follows:

Brooks Greer and his Bentley Bros. Circus band played a 15 minute concert before the show began. After the introduction of Capt. Sam Ruhe, the chairman of the sponsoring Fireman's Protective Assoc., ringmaster Jon Friday blew the whistle which promptly sent Julia Ventura down the wire on a slide for life and the Circus Parade started. During the parade of performers, juggling and sword balancing on the ladder were being presented in the rings.

Following this Allan Gold and his performing wild animals (5 tigers, 3 lions) were presented. Then came aerial artistry from not one, but two lovely trapeze stars facing each other - Mlle. Maya and Miss Aerialetta, kept the crowd on the edge of their seats.

The Lucky Bros. comedy acrobatics followed to a good hand. Princess Elena Omar kept the crowd wondering with her one finger stand, plus her upside down, balance on the head feat while playing the mandolin. The Nicholas Troupe, teeterboard worked ring one while the Gomez Sisters rolled up and down on rolling globes in ring three.

The Clown Toothache gag was followed

was followed by Ethel Jennier's Greyhounds, Jerry Lipko's Chimps and Evy Karoly's dogs and pony. Iron jaw feats were then presented by the Claudia Sisters, working from a special rigging. The act's highlight is when one young lady supports both of the others hanging by her teeth.

Rex Peterson's liberty horses (8) could be billed as the act beautiful to this writer who is not normally a fan of liberty acts. These animals were well educated and well presented.

The clowns returned for the Boxing Match and then the first half was closed with an aerial extravaganza with five lovely ladies in beautiful costumes working on the ground and in the air - The rasmon Duo Cradle, The Phoenix Duo Cradle and the Ventura aerial perch. This number was climaxed with Miss Jo Ann and Miss Julie and their aerial drop.

A 15 minute intermission is taken to pitch Coloring Books and Elephant rides.

Opening the second half of the performance is the Flying Lunas, highlighted by the passing leap.

Manwell Gonsalvas has everyone again on the edge of their seats when he starts balancing on the rola bola and bowling balls. He adds planks to this by jumping into the air.

High school dressage follows with the Pedersons on Golden Star and Black Beauty, Dave Knoderer on Sir Bingo and Evy Karoly with Fire Chips on the long rein.

The Riding Zerbini have the riders flying forward and backwards at the same time, as a highlight of this act.

The Clowns close their portion of the performance with The Sharpshooter and are followed by the Bucky Steele elephants presented by Miss JoAnn (3 Asians, 1 African).

Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy, owners, producers, etc., can again be proud for having presented a good, well paced circus,

(Continued on Page 19)

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Great Y Circus

The Redlands (Calif) YMCA's Great All American Youth Circus (Great Y Circus) presented its 44th annual home show run with seven performances on May 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 with completely sold out houses. Prices were \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children with discount coupons on pizza purchases on each ticket at a local pizza parlor. Programs for this year's show included the logo on the cover in four colors, a page of history with three photos, the program of displays and a fourth page with credits. The four page program was run as a tab in the local newspaper.

The three hour show began with the 2001 theme in a completely darkened house. With each crescendo in the music performing groups were spotlighted in the execution of a trick - a handstand on four stacked chairs, a handstand on a high tilted ladder, a five-man back lever move on a cradle, two neck-to-neck swivels, a spot on the show's new chaser-lined logo. The effective introduction was followed by a parade of performers and the national anthem.

High cradle-to-cradle casting, new to the repertoire of the "World's Oldest Community Circus" provided an exciting opening to the show and included a front flip, 1½ and passing leap. Two trampolines followed with a large group executing individual and two-person shoulder routines. Display four was a swinging rings act on a nautical theme followed by the large beginning circus acrobatics group doing Roman ladders, tumbling mini-tramp and pyramid routines. This training number of 139 from the show's total of 230 performers guarantees talent for many years to come.

Clowns in an exploding house were next, followed by a display of eight aerial duos on cradle plus one four lane, six person cradle. A beginning and advanced group of unicyclists (67 in all) provided complicated patterns, a 15 ft. giraffe unicycle, and the world's only tandem unicycle. Double ladders was the rigging selected for the young beginning girl's aerial number followed by a sophisticated aerial ballet on web carefully choreographed to "I Sing the Body Electric"

(Continued on Page 17)

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Ice Capades

by BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON

I was fortunate to be a part of the enthusiastic audience watching one of the three units of the spectacular Ice Capades at the Los Angeles Sports Arena.

The Sports Arena was the show's only Los Angeles area appearance. Most shows skip the Sports Arena and tour several of the outlying newer arenas. The Los Angeles Forum, however, is cutting back on entertainment, and booking in more sporting events.

The costumes and sets were gorgeous and special effects abounded. These ranged from fireworks and self-contained fountains, to an underwater ballet performed inside a sphere.

The most popular number in the show was an aerial butterfly number performed under black light with four girls in Monarch Butterfly capes, and a fifth girl costumed as a chryailis. They used theatrical flying belts which not only allowed them to spin vertically, but also to somersault horizontally. The girls were raised by motorized winches which were capable of swinging them back and forth and also in a complete circle without the use of sitters. Flying was by Foy.

One of these winches was used very effectively to fly Barbie Smith as Dorothy caught in the cyclone at the beginning of the Wizard of Ah's production number. Barbie Smith is a perky blonde who came across very well in this number. It was an

adaptation created for the Ice Capades by James F. Englehardt and Robert Turk, with music by Tom Warrall, including a beautiful song "The Land of Magic."

The featured stars were Charlie Tickner and Lisa-Marie Allen. The other principal skaters were Aimee Kravette, Barbie Smith, Chris Harrison and Lisa Carey (pairs), and John Dowding and Lorna Wighton (ice dancing). All the principals were strong and their acts very well received.

David Lee, younger brother of Albert Lucas, presented his juggling act which includes a lot of independent action.

Comedy was provided by Jean-Pierre Romano with his comedy bikes and by Mike Course and David Sadleir. Mike Course is excellent at eccentric movement and his voice carries to all parts of the arena. Mike and David have been enthusiastically received every time I have seen them, and they are consistently funny.

Peluza was listed in the program with his comedy vaulting act, but did not appear.

The highlight of the show was somebody not listed in the program. Janet Lynn appeared as a special guest star. She came out of retirement last winter to participate in the televised pro-all star competition. She has decided to return to performing on a limited basis, but stresses that her three sons receive priority.

I hope to see Janet perform again, and am definitely looking forward to seeing the other units of the Ice Capades.

A Special Day

Recently former members and their spouses of the Ervings, Paulanes, Marvels and Lang Troupe teeterboard acts, gathered for dinner and entertainment at the Hoffbrau restaurant in Sheboygan, Wisc., to honor Florence and Erv Lange as they observed their 40th year in show business.

Although they came from all over the U.S. to attend, they were all at one time residents of Sheboygan, who had been trained in teeterboard acrobatics by Erv. Unable to attend were the second and third generation Langes, Jane and Bob Lange and family, who were appearing with Holiday Hippodrome Show.

The entertainment was MC'd by Herb Jarsch. A movie of the first act in 1941 was shown, as well as the current Lange Troupe.

Photos of all the troupes through the years were posted all around on bulletin boards. Movies were also taken during the evening.

Erv and Flo received flowers and a gift from the group.

The committee consisted of Earl and Erica Radke, Olga and Herb Gorsch, and Al and Carol Udovich.

Remember?

by BILL WOTSCH

In the Cleveland (Ohio) Sunday Plain Dealer of Aug. 1, 1982, the magazine section has an article titled "Circus of Sorrow, The Fire of '42".

This article was written by Brian E. Albrecht and tells of the Ringling-Barnum menagerie fire on the circus lot at East 9th and Lakeside Ave., in Cleveland, on Aug. 4, 1942. That's 40 years ago.

In the story it tells of different people who helped save some of the animals. One part tells of a mounted policeman, Tony Welling, who rescued 20 horses. He is now retired.

I missed being there because I was out in California. Years later when I got to know Dr. Henderson, the circus vet, he mentioned about the elephants and other animals that were burned. They were treated in the basement of the Public Hall.

In 1965, while attending the CFA Convention in Seattle, Henry Ringling North was the guest speaker. When I was introduced to him he asked where I was from.

When I told him Cleveland, Ohio, he said he remembered Cleveland well, "we had that awful menagerie fire there in 1942."

Pickle Family Circus

by MICHAEL SPORRER

Looking for something new and novel in circus? Well, I found it. On July 30-31, San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus, now in its 8th year of touring, made a return visit to Seattle, Wash. I had not seen the show since 1978 and decided to attend the evening performance at St. Mark's Cathedral on the lawn. Only by watching a local TV program was I able to get the time and location of this year's show.

Upon arrival I was surprised to see a huge crowd. Most of them had learned about the show through special news reports and local information in a newspaper that I do not read.

Tickets were \$3.50 and \$4.00 at the door. As you enter the circus proper you are given an information sheet which includes the 1982 Summer and Fall route, something unheard of on any regular circus.

The show is compact, carries no tent and no animals. They use three sections of alu-

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minum seating, the side wall is hung from the seats forming a half round seating area, a canvas backdrop is used as the performers entrance.

The sold out Saturday evening performance featured a pre-show jazz band. Several clown numbers are excellent, a single trapeze number is very good. Theatrical lighting is used and adds to the performance.

Other acts included juggling and trampoline, a rope walker uses a chair and the whole show is something new and novel.

After the Seattle date the show was going on to Mukilteo for Aug. 3-4, then Friday Harbor Aug. 7-8 and back into Oregon.

This show only works on the west coast, but I was certainly impressed with the high quality of its program and presentation.

PEOPLE

HANABELLE, the Lady Clown, was a guest on the Joe Franklin TV show in New York City on Aug. 26th.

Ernie Burch

There was a time, in the late 1950's, when there was a clown on every local channel. Kids sat glued to TV sets giggling over the antics of men in vari-colored costumes hiding behind wildly painted faces. Today, clowns aren't as visible as they once were, but they're still around, doing pratfalls, slapstick and generally clowning around.

One of the more visible is Blinko, kinf of the white-faced clowns. The Goodwill Ambassador for Circus Circus Casino in Las Vegas, Blinko, brings 40 years experience with him. Clowning with the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus until 1960, Blinko has developed an act with his wife, Maran, that has pleased and delighted audiences for decades. Known as "Balloon-A-Rama", the act has been seen all over the world. In 1967, Blinko and Maran were chosen to travel to Russia with the American circus. At home they've traveled in nearly all of the fifty states finding wide acceptance, particularly in Hawaii, Texas and Minnesota.

Besides being a professional clown, Blinko is also a compassionate one. Pediatric wards of many hospitals have rung with the laughter of children being entertained by Blinko the Clown. Adults have also enjoyed his act and left the cares of everyday life behind, if only for a few minutes, while they watch Blinko and Maran.

Because of their constant traveling, Blinko and Maran have developed another specialty act, that of gourmet cook. Limited by space Maran has still been able to prepare delicious meals and has taught Blinko to prepare dishes from her native Hungary. No matter

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where they travel, they always travel with a touch of home.

And yet, Blinko is at home no matter where he is. Among his many souvenirs of his 40 years in show business, Blinko proudly holds letters of thanks from heads of State and notes of appreciation from his colleagues, not to mention thousands of cards and letters from the most important people in the world - the children.

GREAT Y CIRCUS (Continued)

from the musical Fame. Web-sitters were outfitted in burgundy tuxes with the eight ladies in burgundy and pink. After the difficult up-beat web routine, the audience was invited outside to the rear of the YMCA gym to view the high wire act which included a three person pyramid. Intermission followed and outside concession stands were heavily patronized contributing towards the best income the show has had to date.

Second half opened with Shoot-Thru-Ladder followed by a newly wardrobeed 22 person teeterboard act featuring duo back flips to two chairs, double back to chair, and three and four high. Multiple trapeze, an intermediate synchronized aerial act for girls on three and six position riggings, preceded a clown boxing gag and the well-received juggling act. A shoulder balance perch act with two young girls performing dual handstands was next.

The Great Y Circus' unique men's cradle act on one six-lane and two four-lane cradles consists of hanging stacks and pyramids in unusual strength moves. Display 19 was

a high bar act followed by a hysterical clown vaulting number by seven of the trainer/performers. Swinging toe hangs and one-hocks catches high-lighted the single trapeze number. Running concurrently with single trap was a dual foot loop and cradle rigging, another "first" for the show.

The last two displays included the seldom seen German Gym Wheel (2) and flying trapeze which must also be performed outside due to the limitations of the small gymnasium. Two catchers and nine flyers unfortunately necessitated alternation of performers in the flying act since financial constraints made it impossible to acquire a second flying rigging this season. A double-full twist and a double passing leap (1½, front flip, shoot-over) were the high-lights of this concluding act.

Music was provided by a 25 piece band, directed by Al Ritchie. Gloria Beam, new wardrobe director, completely changed the wardrobe for over one-half of the acts this year, a move that cost several thousand dollars and hours of labor. Warren C. Wood, director of the show, presented trophies following the final performance.

Death in Peru

In April of this year, Alicia Ballard, of Peru (Ind), the wife of millionaire Charles E. 'Chad' Ballard was shot and killed in her home just east of Peru.

Chad Ballard, 68, was charged with the shooting and reportedly admitted that he had done it, to both the maid and police investigators.

The maid, Mabel Moore, told officials she had heard the Ballards arguing and then Mrs. Ballard stumbled into the kitchen, saying "I've been shot." She had been shot in the back.

Chad Ballard is said to have been sickly, diabetic and partly paralyzed. He was hospitalized after the incident.

A newspaper report quoted former circus aerialist, Dortha Carter, as saying that Chad had gone through life with an artificial leg because of a circus accident when he was a child. He went to school in Europe, graduated from Yale University in 1937, and had traveled around the world several times.

Chad's father, Charles Edward Ballard, was a pin setter in a bowling alley in West Baden at the age of 10. At about 1922-23 he took over control of the West Baden Hotel and opened a hospital on its 6th floor. He built his fortune with a gambling casino in West Baden and from 1919 to 1930, he along with circus tycoons Jerry Mugivan and Bert Bowers, operated about five circuses under the American Circus Corp. banner.

Ed Ballard was shot and killed on Nov. 6, 1936, at a Hot Springs, Ark., hotel following an argument with a former partner in a Miami Beach Casino.

King Royale

by JOE LOUIS

On Saturday, June 26th, I visited the King Royale Circus in Greenfield, Mass. The show played to two full houses, with performance at 4 and 8 p.m.

The show was super for a small one. The acts looked just great and were well received in presenting their acts. The audience was very responsive, showing their appreciation in applause following each act.

Acts in the show consisted of a comedy trampoline opening the show (Terry and Gary).

The lovely Miss Tavana worked on the web and was followed by Thomas Cathros, magic, assisted by the pretty Miss Zenya (Cathros is also the show's ringmaster).

Miss Tavana presented a juggling number, and then the first half was closed by the Gary and Terry Gorilla number.

The second half of the show opened with a clown gag (Les), followed by a dog and balloon act. Next on were Pete & Petrova doing a cradle act (Petrova is only 9 yrs. old).

Miss Tavana returned to present a trapeze act. I was very impressed by the physical grace and fluid presentation of such a pretty performer. Having seen many single trapeze acts in the last few years, this one has to be one of the best I've had the opportunity to see. The quality of the performance takes me back in time remembering such performances of past aerialists in the 50's and 60's, who took such great pride and skill in developing an act to a art form rather than just to take up show time.

Then came a hand balancing act by Gary, and the show closed with the African elephant, Kenya, presented by Pete and ridden by Tajana.

in the **NEWS**

On July 7th, two men dressed as clowns made off with \$15,000 from an armored van parked in front of a shopping center bank at McMurray, Pa.

Officials report the men spent time entertaining children and parents while waiting for the guards to come back to the truck.



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Do you remember?

by *TED LaVELDA*

In the fall of the 1954 season, after the close of the regular tour, Hagen Bros. Circus went out on a late fall tour, under canvas with Bob Couls as manager and Mari-Jo Couls in the office. Vera Hines and Jimmy Ray worked up ahead of the show on press and promotion.

Bob Dickman who had handled the billing during the summer closed and Harry Rawls replaced him. "Little" Bob Stevens and his wife Clara, ran the concessions.

Herb and Helen Walters supplied the cage animals and elephants. I managed the side show and Floyd Bradbury was the inside lecturer.

Among the performers were Cal and Torchy Townsend, revolving ladder; Wayne and Marge Newman, posing horses; The Reynosas; Carl Nelson, dogs and clowning; Walter's elephant worked by Charles Rex; Patti Couls, Phyllis Newman, Marlene Bradbury, Shirley Rex and Torchy Townsend,

BENTLEY BROS. (Continued)

with happy audiences looking forward to next year.

Phil Granger is the producing clown. I am sorry that all I got were the first names of his partners, Max and Jeff.

Fans seen around the lot were too plentiful to mention as I wouldn't want to miss anyone. They all wished to thank Tommy and Chuck for their hospitality. Thanks also to Capt. Ruhe and the firemen who put up with us.

aerial numbers.

Floyd Bradbury was the show organist and announcer. John "Shorty" Lynn was the lot supt.

The tour took the show through Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana and was profitable. Couls managed the Hagen show for several seasons.

Skywalk Feat

by CHESTER MELLO

Steven G. Wallenda, son of Gunther Wallenda, and a grand-nephew to Karl Wallenda, recently performed a spectacular skywalk, at Canada's Wonderland Amusement Park in Toronto.

Wallenda performed three consecutive night walks on July 31, Aug. 1 and 2nd at 9:30 p.m.

The cable was strung from the base of International Bridge, which runs across the fountains, up to an 80 ft. ledge on the 130 ft. high Victory Falls, a gigantic man-made mountain and waterfall.

During the walk, Wallenda was illuminated by two spot lights, located centrally, one on either side of the wire. Also there was a fabulous Laser Light Show throughout the entire walk, as well as a fireworks display as Wallenda reached the top.

Upon completion of each performance, Wallenda was rewarded with a fifteen minute ovation from the approximately 36,000 people below.

The first walk was announced as a Dedication to Steve's aunt, Jenny Wallenda. I later found out that the cable was rigged by Steve's uncle, Andy Anderson.

On the last day it rained all day, but stopped just a few minutes before walk time. So Wallenda chose to go ahead with the walk, even though the cable was wet and more than likely very slick. To make things even harder, Wallenda chose to do the entire walk with the balancing pole high over his head, which I've been told is very difficult.

Overall the walk was the most spectacular and well performed display of wire walking

I have ever seen.

I might add, that included in the show, preceding Wallenda, were 3 high divers, who made a 60 ft. dive while holding flaming torches.

PEOPLE

JOHN MCGINN and his wife clowned for a County Fair in Arizona last month, doing clown walkarounds.

MONROE, balancing act and TANYA the elephant, are appearing in the show "Bal du Moulin Rouge de Paris" at the Las Vegas Hilton Hotel. Also appearing in the show are the SALY BROTHERS, acrobats.

HANABELLE, the Lady Clown, has been signed for the "New York Is Book Country" (international book fair) for Sept. 12. The booking was handled by Barnes and Noble.

MARK EVANS, magician, is touring with the show "The Mad World of Magic" playing dates in the Southwest.

DAVE and JUDY TWOMEY, of the Hap-pytime Circus, along with JOE ANDERSON and several members of the Joseph Andrew Rowe Tent, of Los Angeles, visited The Great Y Circus in Redlands, Calif. Also visiting the show was ED RUSSELL.

GARY (Yo-Yo) NOEL visited with LOU JACOBS, CHUCK SIDLOW and other clowns with the Ringling Red Unit at Wichita, Kansas, Aug. 13-15.

WARREN C. WOOD, BILL and MICHELLE BRANDENBERGER and DOUG HAIR-GROVE, of the Great Y Circus, visited the Ringling Blue Unit on Aug. 7th.



HUGO ZACCHINI: GUEST COLUMNIST

A funny thing happened to me while being shot out of a cannon! "What?" you ask. I'm sorry you asked that. What kind of a ramrod are you?

The only funny thing, in a strange sort of way, is that anyone is doing it at all. Oh, the thought of my missing the net or going thru the ceiling might be funny to some people. I must confess that in such a case I personally would fail to see the humor.

I can recall misfires. That is when the countdown goes: "Five, four, three, two, one, zero," the firing switch is thrown, and nothing happens. That is a case of a bad electrical connection. Some people think that is very funny. Well, it may be a barrel of laughs for some who are watching. But for me, it is pure Hell and tension. Fortun-

ately, in the past, proper steps have always been taken and so far, no bad accident has occurred.

The real humor comes when you are not performing the stunt and people are joking about it. Like: "I guess it takes a man of your calibre to do it," or "I guess that you have to get loaded every time you do it," or "Bet you really get a bang out of that," or "Do you really get a charge out of that," I have to laugh. What else can I do? No one forces me. Besides, I'm the one who always wanted to be a Big Shot.

The above comments were written by my friend Hugo Zacchini, current circus star and human projectile of the famous Zacchini cannon act clan.

It is reassuring to know that Hugo won a landmark U. S. Supreme Court case regarding his rights of performance.

This in our new-mod times of questionable federal justice where a Presidential assailant, rapists, murderers, robbers, etc., can get some kind of a legal slap on the wrist and go free.

At the same time, because of just one liar, honest circus people who violate a federal dog licensing law might be branded as criminals if enough federal money is made available to enforce the statute at whim.

Could it be the intention of some politicians to make America a place where hard work doesn't pay?

PEOPLE

JOSHUA SILVER, served as Associate Producer for the stage show "Blues In The Night" which recently played on Broadway in New York City.

RAY-MOND worked a cerebral palsy fund raising show at Hanover, Pa., in June, then worked dates in Maryland, Texas and Florida in July, followed by dates in Penna. during August.



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CFA Convention

by DON SANDMAN

Approximately 220 Circus Fans arrived in Little Rock, Ark., for their annual convention, July 4-7. The event was hosted by the Harold Ronk Tent No. 128.

Fans started arriving at the Camelot Hotel headquarters on July 3rd and upon entering the lobby you could easily imagine that the convention started on the 3rd, for the jackpotting was already going on.

William H. (Bill) Walters, the convention chairman, along with his committees had everything ready to go. Secretary Allen Duffield was ready for the opening registration period at 1 p.m. on July 4th.

As the registrants passed along the registration table they received their credentials and Goodie Bags and were welcomed to Little Rock. At the end of the line National CFA President James (Jim) Saunders shook hands and invited all to partake of the Hospitality Room, where members of the Harold Barnes Tent had popcorn and genuine circus lemonade for all.

The Bull Room with the Hemann Bros. Model Circus in full operation was opened at 2 p.m. The circus was built by Charles Hemann and was displayed along with circusions of all kinds. Across the hall the sales room was quite active as Circus Fans were able to purchase circus artwork, programs, books, posters, etc., for their collections.

At 6 p.m. Father Dagwell had the church service for all who wished to attend and at 8:30 p.m. the movie room was opened for the first time.

Monday, July 5th, the registration desk opened at 8 am for those who arrived late after the desk had closed on Sunday. The first business meeting was held at 10 a.m. with President Jim Saunders presiding. At 12:30 the District Directors, Tent Presidents and State Chairman gathered in the Kings Court Dining Room for a (Dutch Treat) Luncheon.

At approximately 2:30 the buses were outside the Camelot and the Convention moved to Woody's Sherwood Forest where the Millette Amateur Circus, under canvas, was set up and waiting. This amateur circus is a product of the Ed Millette Tent No. 5 of Dal-

las and is made up of some very talented young performers and about 15 members, parents and brothers who served as roustabouts, spotters and coaches. The director is Bill Hooper, ringmaster Loncy Leake, canvas boss Harry Jenkins, Jr., producing clown is Jackie Jenkins, Mistress of Ceremonies and backdoo, Mary Lee, Music, Barbara Hunter and Chaplain, Rev. Victor Hunter.

The performers and I hope I have them all are: Swinging Ladder, Dee Ann Hedrick, Melissa Mitchell, Elizabeth Hunter, Lisa Birchfield, Janice Hedrick, Stephanie Cox, Kay Burk, Trina Lankford, Shelly Birchfield. Cradle, Elaine Evans and Fred Coulston, Unicycle, Danny Burk, Kay Burk, Tight Wire and Rola Bola, Charlis Lankford, High Flying Trapeze, Shelly Birchfield. The Clowns, Jackie Jenkins, Jim Decker, Carol Evans, Billy Baker, Geoff Cox, Sylven Walker.

Monica and the Tumblers, Monica Mitchell, Fred Coulston, Janice Hedrick, Dee Ann Hedrick, Melissa Mitchell, Kay Burk, Elizabeth Hunter, Lisa Birchfield, Terry Lynn Cromeens, Andrea Kirby, Juggling, Harry Jenkins, Jr., Rope Spinning, Geoff Cox, Trapeze and High Ladder, Janice Hedrick, Stephanie Cox, Spanish Web, Elaine Evans, Wizard of the Whips, Harry Jenkins, Jr. assisted by Elizabeth Hunter, Jackie Jenkins, Double Trapeze, Shave Evans, Melissa Mitchell, Unicycle, Vanna Walker, Balance beam, Janice Hedrick, The Magic Clown, Sylven Walker, High Trapeze, Fred Coulston, Patriotic Finale with Uncle Sam on stilts (David Evans). The child clowns were Monica Mitchell, Carissa Leake, Andrea Kirby and Jon Jenkins.

After the circus a good old fashioned Southern Barbeque was enjoyed in the club house where, for the Koo Koo Club we were entertained by Charles Roark and his little wooden buddy. Logan Pritchett was also a feature with his magic.

Then after the Barbeque we danced and listened to the Big Band style of the '30s and '40s. All too soon we had to return to Camelot and then once again the movie room was reopened.

Tuesday late registrations were available at 8 a.m. and then the seminars began at 9 a.m. Seminars were conducted by Jerry

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CFA CONVENTION (Continued)

Russell who spoke on "Arkansas Circus Pre-Civil War"; Lloyd B. Laster, of Tyler, Tex. a former Arkansan, spoke on 60 years of Show Business, with his talk entitled 'Elephant Tracks and Peanut Sacks.' Also speaking were Art Miller, circus agent and Jesse A. Jessen, executive vice president of Carson & Barnes Circus.

At 12:30 p.m. the Ladies enjoyed the Ladies Luncheon where they heard Sandra Zoppe of Circus Italia and Charles Roark Arkansas' "Mr. Circus".

At 2 p.m. Robert Parkinson, of the Circus World Museum, presented a program of slides and movies on the History of The Circus Parade.

The Tuesday evening presentation was the internationally famous Alberto Zoppe Circus Italia, which was playing in the Convention Theatre. Before the big show began, Charles Roark presented an old time Punch & Judy Show which brought a lot of attention, then followed an old time whistle pitch, which the fans loved.

The show was produced by Alberto Zoppe and the performance director was Sandra Zoppe. Ringmaster was Logan the Magic Ringmaster, and the musical director was Lee Maloney.

The show was presented in one ring on the stage and opened with the Zany Baboons of JaVanna. This was followed by "Torito's" juggling display. Head to head juggling. Miss Jezell (Dinky Patterson) was the Classic Balerina on the tight wire. The clowns presented the Long Shirt and Giovanni's Pizza Surprise (Chris Alberti) presented Plate Spinning with a different angle.

Logan the Magic Ringmaster then called for a young man from the audience to assist him. Little did the young fellow know he was to be used in the Guillotine. Then the Olmeda's Spanish Horse Fantasy closed the first half of the show.

Mr. Lloyd Laster gave the Peanut Pitch and it was completely sold out. The act beautiful Chris Alberti's Acrobatic Poodles opened the second half, followed by the Antonios, Champion Bicyclists. The clowns returned for the Washerwoman, which naturally ended up in the audience.

Then Miss Lorili on the swinging trapeze (Dinky Patterson), followed by the clowns

and a balloon blowing contest. Phil and Francine brought on their elephant "Don-di" which is one of the best pachyderms in the business and the finale "Old Glory" closed the show in patriotic tradition. After the circus performance the Movie Room was opened for those interested.

Wednesday, at 10 a.m. the Second Business meeting was called to order by President Jim Saunders. Following the reports from committees, presentations of future sites for the convention were discussed: 1985 Los Angeles, 1984 San Antonio and 1983 at Philadelphia. The Election of Officers found Al House elected to serve as President for 82-83.

At 6 p.m. a no-host cocktail hour was held in the Camelot Hotel's Red Lion Rampert Room and at 7 p.m. all gathered for the Closing Banquet where Harold Ronk the Singing Ringmaster, of Ringling-Barnum fame and namesake of the host tent, was the speaker. He also entertained with songs from Broadway and the Circus.

The gift donated by John Pugh which had been used on the 1979 tour of the Beatty-Cole Circus will now be located in Tacoma, Wash., at the home of Ralph Decker. Shirley Ryon was the winner and she gave it to Ralph.

The Harold Barnes tent closed the meeting for the Harold Ronk Tent by conducting the drawing and delivering the door prizes. The Scrap Book Contest held by the Past Presidents Club was won by the Harold Barnes Tent of Springfield, Ohio, and 2nd place went to the Ed Millette Tent of Dallas, Texas.

After the Banquet it was "over and out" and the various units headed back for home.

PEOPLE

MIGUEL VAZQUEZ completed the Quad during the matinee performance of the Ringling Blue Unit Circus at the Cow Palace in San Francisco (Calif) on Sept. 4th. Then for the first time he achieved a double pirouette back to the bar on his return.