

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

CIRCUS REPORT

Number 38

September 21, 1981



JOHNNY RIVERS WORLD'S ONLY
HIGH DIVING MULES

SHOW DATES

Bauer-Hall All Star Circus
to Nov. 1 Jackson, NJ

Carson & Barnes Circus
Sep 21 Alliance, Ohio
22 Wellsville
23 Bylesville
24 Chillicothe
25 Wheelersburg
26 Maysville, Ky
27 Paris

Castle Int'l Circus
Sep 22 Wakeeney, Kans.
23 Phillipsburg
24 Manhattan
26-27 Salina

Circus Arts Troupe
Sep 23-26 W. Amarillo, Tx.

Circus Europa
Sep 21-27 Reading, Pa.

Great American Circus
Sep 21 Jenkins, Ky
22 Abingdon, Va.
24 Marion, NC
26 Swainsboro, Ga.
27 Hinesville

Pickle Family Circus
Sep 25-Oct 5 Bakersfield, Ca

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Sep 22-27 Seattle, Wash.

Royal Crown Circus
Sep 25-26 Waterloo, Iowa

Royal Hanneford Circus
Sep 23-Oct 4 Richmond, Va

Royal Imperial Circus
Sep 23-26 Las Vegas, Nev

TNT & Royal Olympic Cir.
Sep 25-27 Marshalltown,
Iowa

---- MAGIC ----

Corky's Magic Circus
Sep 22 Durham, NC

Krystali
Sep 21-22 Waco, Texas
23-24 Austin
25-28 San Antonio

Magic In the Rockies
Sep 25-27 Estes Park, Colo

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
Sep 20 Ft. Morgan, Colo.

21 Ft. Collins
22 Loveland
23 Longmont
26 Canon City
27 Pueblo

Starfire
Sep 22-26 Salt Lake City,
Utah

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Sep 20-26 Farmington, Me.

James H. Drew Exposition
Sep 21-26 Marietta, Ga.

Bobby and Rosa Gibbs
Sep 23-Oct 4 Richmond, Va

Joe Schmitt, Jr. - Clown
Sep 20 Waxahachie, Texas
26 Waxahachie
27 Fort Worth

Tip Top Shows - Blue
Sep 25-27 La Crescent, Wisc



BILLY BARTON

TO ALL the Doubting Thomases, I am pleased to report that RON KELROY's Festival Circus, which I just played in Louisville is one of the finest outdoor fair units I have ever appeared with and in. The set-up is excellent with steel grandstands boxing in the show, covered outside by red and white striped side wall and bedecked with flags.

The show is squeezed in close to the spectators, and, in Louisville, was presented with two red rings on two blue and white stages. Ron also surrounds himself with quality talent and first rate people.

Our bandleader was KEITH KILLINGER and there is none finer in the business (and actually some of our better bandleaders were PUT into the business by Keith).

On tap also was LUCKY LARABEE. One forgets that a ringmaster who knows the ins and outs of a show, can see from the corner of his eye every little thing that is happening once existed in our business. The new style ringmaster doesn't seem to have this knowledge or experience; thus Lucky is one of the last Real ringmasters our business is fortunate enough to still have. Moreover he is a good announcer with a fine, authoritative voice.

Acts in Louisville included Johnny Luxem, Pio and Tony Nock's sway poles; Katinka's Poodles (a cute act); The Jupiters, triple trapeze; Lou Ann Jacobs; Pancho Magana; Albert and Jeanette Rix; The Galumbos, aerial motorcycle and rolling globes; myself and Bobby Davis as come-in clown. The show ran one hour and five minutes, was well received by both fair management and the public. Virtually every show for the ten day - three-show-a-day format was packed.

Overlapping the Louisville Fair, Ron had one in Springfield (Ill). That show consisted of the Gypsy Performing Bears, the Rolls Duo, the Zamperla Family, Albulet Brothers, high wire, the Great Wiregard, with the Zamperla Troupe doubling with other numbers. Earl Michaels was ringmaster, Al Vernon was bandleader and Tom Mulvey clowned.

Snapshots: Keith and Kathy went on to the Minnesota State Fair for Tommy Hanneford. The Nocks (Pio and Tony) and Johnny Luxem also went to that date. . . Lou Ann Jacobs and Pancho went to the Eastern States Expo for Wayne McCary. . . the Galumbos went to fairs for Eddie Zacchini. . . Also at the Eastern States are the Barredas, back from Mexico. . . Bonnie Armor is home now that the Castle show had a layoff before reopening its fall run. . . She will remain in Florida the rest of the year. . . Reggie is out with the show. .

Norma Cristiani called me before I left home to let me know she is getting notes together for a Memoir of her father and mother Ben and Eva Davenport and is looking for a ghostwriter. I was supposed to call her back but wouldn't you know the telephone number got wiped off my desk, along with other papers. . . Now that my mother is in a home I have our dog Myra Breckenridge with me. First thing that happened I had to hospitalize the dog for abscessed teeth - 17 were pulled and I was frantic with worry. Having a dog is like having a child I am finding out.

As lovely Lou Ann wails "life is a challenge!" Indeed it is!

Pancho has added still more startling effects to his wild whip and rope act, plus new wardrobe, and Keith is writing a new score for the act. Lou Ann's music is being changed and mine already has been.

A kid played around with and broke Kati Nock's major dog prop which had Frank Galumbo and others gluing it together in time for the first show - they made it.

Sharon Ward is still traipsing around Europe. . . Whence the Klementis have gone. . . Had a letter from Manuel Navarro - the girls are in a beautiful circus in Japan and they are doing the Monte Carlo Festival.

Stopped off at Bill and Trudy's Circus Farm and Trudy is whipping her new liberty dog act into shape; she expects to have it on tour

(Continued on Page 23)

BIG JOHN STRONG

SAYS

THANKS TO

DOREY MILLER

LORRAINE JENSEN

BOBBY AND ROSA GIBBS

ED FREEMAN

For helping me to make Bettendorf, Iowa, a huge success.

P. S. Also thanks to Al Buchanon, Marketing Director

Would like to buy used standing perch for coming season

**CURTIS KAINAN wants girl to assist in
revolving ladder act**

Could use you Bobby Gardner - Please call me

NO ACTS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS SHOWS

BIG JOHN STRONG

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Yucaipa, Calif. 92399

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Popo the Clown dies

Popo the Clown, who won the hearts of children all over the world, died of a heart attack on Sept. 2nd at his home in Oakland, Calif. Firefighters tried cardiopulmonary resuscitation but he was pronounced dead at 7:40 p.m. upon arrival at a local hospital.

In real life, Popo was Count DeBathe, born in St. Louis at the turn of the century. But the name really wasn't his. His parents abandoned him in a shoe box after he was born. A family adopted him but one day they handed him to neighbors with the last name of De Bathe and never returned.

"They've been gone 75 years and 6 months," he said in 1976. "Think I should wait?"

Popo was 42 years old when he learned he was an orphan. "But I knew it anyway," he said. "I was the ugly duckling. I didn't belong and they showed it. You can feel those things I left when I was 14."

He took a train to San Francisco "I sang and danced for a living in dumps and dives," he said. "And you couldn't just sing, you had to

serve beer, too. Then I went to Japan with a circus."

From then on he devoted himself to clowning and soothing the feelings of children. He appeared in circuses all over the world and learned to speak at least a half dozen languages.

Popo the Clown, the orphan with the borrowed last name, was always on the go, with Children's Fairyland (in Oakland, Calif.) as his home base.

In 1963, he visited 20 Asian countries and 29 cities in five months. On Dec. 24, 1964, he took off on a five month tour, this time visiting 29 countries and 40 cities in Europe and North Africa.



The next year it was the same story, in So. America. He left Oakland on Dec. 27, 1965 and toured 74 cities in 26 countries, giving 71 shows in 70 days.

In 1973, Popo won a niche for himself. He was immortalized in Bridgeport, Conn., and his portable dressing room was set up in the P. T. Barnum Museum, the nation's oldest and most respected repository of circus memorabilia.

Popo was honored again two years later when a life sized replica of him was set up in the wax works section of the museum.

But Popo always returned to Fairyland, a place he worked regularly from 1958 until he retired a few years ago.

When he was touring, he was inevitably asked why. He would always reply: "I get a lot of pleasure out of entertaining kids in my

(Continued on Page 21)

BARRY YIENGST & JANETTE
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SINGLE DATES OR TOURS CONTACT:

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4967 Bilmoor Avenue
Tarzana, Calif. 91356
September 3, 1981

Mr. Don Marcks
The Circus Report
525 Oak Street
El Cerrito, Calif 94530

Dear Don:

As a trapeze performer and sixth generation of aerialists and bareback riders, I join with the rest of the circus world in congratulating Miguel Vazquez upon accomplishing the quadruple somersault while the Ringling Red Unit was in Long Beach just recently.

There is some discrepancy in Mr. Graham's account as recorded in the September 7th issue of Circus Report, wherein he denies that my father, Ernest Clarke had accomplished the quadruple somersault in 1915 as stated in the Guinness Book of World Records.

I have known Fay Alexander for many years and have long admired him both as a person and an exceptionally fine flyer. However he never appeared in our family flying act. He trouped on various shows with my uncles, Charles and Percy Clarke. But the family flying act never appeared as the Clarkonians Trapeze act after my father's death in 1941. I appeared with other flying acts as well as using the name Clarkonians for many years after 1941. I feel that Mr. Alexander, in the transition from conversation to the printed page was mis-quoted. My uncle Charles and my uncle Percy along with my father re-counted many times and with great joy the fact that my father had accomplished the quadruple somersault.

My father, Ernest Clarke, did turn the quad as stated in the Guinness Book. I state that unequivocally! As a matter of fact, he turned the quad to the net as a regular finish to the act for MANY YEARS!

It is interesting to note, perhaps, that for many years Ernest and Charles Clarke worked flying trapeze as a duo. Charles the catcher and Ernest the leaper, with no one to drop bars from the pedestal.

The great Alfredo Codona, nearly 40 years ago at a circus performance, strangely enough in Long Beach, publicly stated that it was Ernest Clarke, and not he, who originally performed and perfected the triple somersault. Codona was acting as Equestrian Director and Ringmaster at this performance and he called upon my father to take a bow in response to this statement.

My father and his brothers, along with other great performers of their day, had an ethical compunction about not attempting any trick in the act that had not been perfected in practice. It was several months after learning the triple before he included it in his repertoire.

Do You Remember?

by TED LaVELDA

The clowns on Clyde Bros. Circus, at the opening date at Salina, Kans., 1953 were: Jack La Pearl, Lee Virtue, Len Keeler, Jimmy O'Donnel, Tommie Whiteside, Harry Villeponteau, Danny Styron, Mike Gaska and Ted LaVelda.

Also appearing with the show that season were The Flying Viennas with Del and Babs Graham as flyers, and Jimmy Crocker as the catcher.

Other acts included the Hanel Troupe on bars, Bob Perry, trampoline on skis, The Navarros, Renosa Condona, Margo Sisters, Harry Allen, mgr., Maxine Allen, concessions and Howard Suesz, owner.

PEOPLE

ANGELA and ERIC WILNOW are playing fairs in Connecticut. Enroute in from West Virginia they stopped to visit long-time friends the ALBERT RIX Family in Middletown, NY, for a few days. They report having a good time and enjoying Rix's usual hospitality and friendliness.

BIG JOHN STRONG has rejoined his tent show for the remainder of the season. He reports it has been an up and down season.

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AND
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ROBERT LUND's American Museum of Magic, in Marshall, Mich., capped its summer season with special honors to SID LORRAINE. His magic career - performer, inventor, author, columnist, artist - spans 65 years

Mr. Don Marcks

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I bring these facts to the fore, not to detract in any way from the accomplishment and glory due to Miguel But facts are facts. And merely because Tito's quadruple and Ernest Clarke's quadruple were not video-taped means only that there is no permanent record. The deed still stands.

Are Antoinette Concello's triple, Lillian Lietzel's artistry, Mabel Stark's genius in the cage, Poodles Hannefords originations and great artistry in the ring to be negated merely because there is no tape of this? I repeat the accomplishments still stand.

For Migueà to have accomplished the quadruple along with Tito Gaona and Ernest Clarke, they have formed the most exclusive club in all the world. Congratulations to them all.

Cordially,

Ernestine Claire Baer

Ernestine Clarke (Baer)

The C & B Show

BY JOHN DANIEL DRAPER

For 37 days in July and August, through the courtesy of Dorey Miller and his family it was the privilege of my wife and myself to travel on the Carson & Barnes Circus from Clarinda, Iowa, thru the midwest to Loudonville, Ohio. During this time we learned to know and appreciate the work of the many interesting persons who managed the show, performed with it, kept it moving and took care of the stock and the properties, as well as erected the canvases each day and fed the entire organization.

The menagerie holdings and the program, offered under one ticket of admission, were excellent representations of the traditional American circus at its best.

The wide variety of animals carried by the show included the world's largest herd of performing elephants numbering 27, also 6 camels, some 15 ponies (including Alphonse Loyal's pony ride), 14 horses, 6 lions, 3 tigers, a hyena, a rhino, a giraffe, a zebra, 7 llamas, 2 guanacos, 3 burros, 3 bears, a yak, a Highland cow and various types of horned sheep and goats.

The performance was presented in 5 rings under the beautiful 8 pole laminated polyvinyl big top. It was accompanied by the excellent offerings of Bill Reynolds and his circus band of 9 members. He had skillfully blended time honored circus marches with the familiar waltzes, gallops, and other forms that were carefully matched to the various acts. The regular pre-show concert of 4 or 5 offerings featured selections from a group which included In Fretta (Richards); Cyrus the Great, Bombardier, Call to Victory, Circus Days, Homestretch Gallup, Broadway One-Step (all by Karl King); Crimson Flush, and Belford's Carnival March (Alexander); Invercargill (Lithgow); Circus Bee (Fillmore) Gentry's Triumphal and Counterpoint (Jewell); Battle of Shiloh (Barnhouse); Gloria (Losey); Bombasto (Farrar); Circus King (Duble); Parade Marshall (Watson); Speed (Biese).

The various acts were accompanied by selections such as Circus Extravaganza, Copa Cabana (Walters); Four Fanfares (Yoder); Espana Waltz (Waldteufel); Bravura (Duble) Salute to the Sultan (Lawrence); Royal Decree (English); Big Cage, Caravan Club, Burma Patrol, Sunshine Gallop, Garland Entree

and Eclipse Galop (King); Indian Boy (Ben-nett); Billboard (Klohr); Pony Express (Foster); Robbins Bros. Triumphal (Gilson); Golden Anniversary (Akers); Storming of El Caney (Alexander); El Cumbanchero (Hernandez); Pavone (Ravel); Triumphal March from Aida (Verdi); El Relicario (Padilla); Lady of Spain (T. Evans); Ringling Bros. Grand Entry (Sweet); Enchantress (Blanke); Slim Trombone (Fillmore).

The actual program was very well coordinated and announced by the equestrian director, Jim Royal.

Single trapeze: Oriana Luna, Irene Bautista, Rosalba Perez, Rosario Bautista.

Wild animal act in steel arena with 4 lions and 2 tigers - Patricia White.

Potpourri of acts: Unicycles, The Caballeros (Lala, Ruben, Jr. Veronica) and T. J. Howell; Cloud Swing, Victor Flores; Roman rings, Diana Yoxall.

Riding lion (Freddie) on elephant (Susie) presented by Patricia White

Fiddle Faddle Candy pitch by David Rawls (concession mgr) while arena is being taken down.

Spec: The Golden Olden West (directed by Mrs. Barbara Byrd).

Princess Moonbeam - hair hang by Rosario Bautista, accompanied by webs (7), aerial arrows (4), swinging ladders (2).

Gorilla parody: Trainer, T. J. Howell, Gargan, the almost human gorilla, Tim Howell, with Lil Howell as the stooge.

Teeterboards: Franciscos (Arturo, Alfredo, Julio, David, Mimi Gaona); Caballero Family (Ruben, Judy, Ruben, Jr., Lala, Maria, Louise, Alfredo, Veronica)

Join us in the fun as we clown around in a big way - single elephants in all 5 rings.

Hand balancing: Fernando Bautista, Luis Caballero; Contortion: Lala Caballero, Maria Caballero; Foot juggling: Julio Castillo.

Liberty horses in two rings: Laura Herriott Walker or John Walker, Jr. and Holly Richardson; Camels in two rings: Harry Locker (3) and Bobby Gibbs (3). (On occasion Bob substituted 4 llamas and 1 pone for his 3 camel act).

Animal walkaround - impersonations of some 10 fairy tale animals.

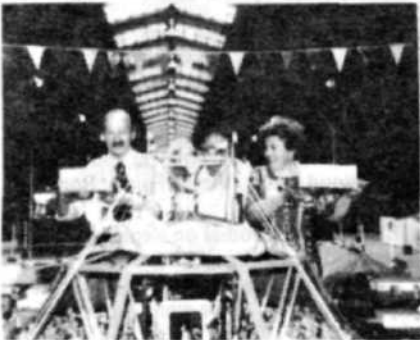
Cradles: Francisco & Oriana Luna (THE Mia Duo), Randy Fulton and Rosalba Perez (Duo Rosalba).

(Continued on Page 14-D)

CMB International

BY GEORGE BINGAMAN

Over 250 circus model builders, fans and friends gathered for the 45th Anniversary National get-together of the Circus Model Builders International at Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, near Baltimore, Md., July 15-18. The numbers increased on the last two days when the public flocked to the convention grounds spurred by television coverage on two Baltimore channels and a special flea market attraction.



Circus Tarantari, left to right, Bert Kramer, General Chairman John Paul Roberts and Louisa Kramer.

The center of attention was Circus Tarantari sent as a goodwill ambassador of The Netherlands. Circus Tarantari is the creation of Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Kramer of Abcoude, a suburb of Amsterdam.

The charming presence of Bert and Louisa Kramer marked the gathering as a truly international happening.

Circus Tarantari is a model toy circus of fantasy and childhood day dreaming and performs the magic of childlike play as when a child plays circus. When Bert and Louisa maneuver their models their audiences are transported into a Circus Land of Oz, reliving those golden days when children of all ages were children of all ages - all performing under a big top.

By handling the beautiful large scale models on a turntable ring, using taped music, marvelous lighting and appropriate spot-lighting, Bert and Louisa take you to a fantasyland of circus Continental style and make you feel that you are there.

Ingenious devices simulating illusion, me-



Banquet Invocation, left to right, Erna Rudy-noff, famous RBBB equestrienne, The Rev. Maurice Allaire, president, CMB, Louisa Kramer, Circus Tarantari.

chanical gimmicks, playful simplicity - all create the charisma of top tanbark productions.

Circus Tarantari performed three-a-day to appreciative audiences of adults and children. One fan took movies of the audience's reactions and found all the emotions of contemporary circus audiences present.

Over 175 exhibits of outstanding circus models were on display ranging in gauges from 1/16 of an inch to life size. The public could see several operating circus model trains, animated acts and performers of liberty horses, ponderous pachyderms, a side



Circus Model Builders Officials: left to right back row, G. Hartman, W. Heist, Jr., A. Gunther, R. P. Henphill, first row, A. Conover, M. Allaire, president, T. DeWitt, editor of LCW, (Missing, John Paul Roberts, general chairman).

show sword swallower, swallowing his snickersnee. Each exhibit represented a lifetime of dedicated model building, handcrafting at its best.

(Continued on Page 14-D)

CMB International (Continued)

Early conventioners enjoyed pre-convention bus tours to Baltimore and Washington. Two marvelous concerts of circus band music lifted the spirits of the windjamming enthusiasts. Bly's Circus Band from Fairfax, Va., directed by Maestro Carl A. Bly pooled top musicians from various aggregations and offered a breath-taking program of Big Top



Bel Air Community Band, Michael Pasterlak, director.

tunes in Merle Evans style on Thursday evening. The Bel Air Community Band, Michael Pasterlak conducting, also gave a splendid two-hour concert on Saturday afternoon.

Bert and Louisa Kramer were the guest speakers at the annual Saturday night banquet which followed other banquets during the week's activities for the past presidents and the women's auxiliary.

Sponsored by the Rudynoff Family Ring No. 60, CMB, and assisted by the Jack La Pearl Ring No. 19, and the George A. Kel-



Dapper Dan, 1981 Clown of the Week, CMB Manager of Lot No. 2

ler Ring No. 141, the CMB Gathering was master-minded by General Chairman John Paul Roberts and his cohorts. John Paul deserves the lion's share of credit for a great CMB International in Howard County, Md. in 1981.

C & B SHOW (Continued)

Those amazing animals: Dogs - Linda Loder Flores; Bears (3) - Harry Locker; Liberty ponies (6) - Rosa Gibbs; Liberty mules (6) - Bobby Gibbs; Llama and pony - Victor Flores.

Juggling: Charlie the Clown (Bruce Johnson), Rosalba Perez, Fernando & Irene Bautista, Ruben & Judy Caballero and T. J. Howell.

Big elephant act with 3 each in rings 1, 3 and 5 and 5 each in rings 2 and 4. It finishes with a very impressive long mount of 19 on the front track. (Performing elephant acts are directed by John Walker, Jr., Bobby Gibbs, Harry Locker, James H. Gables (Cochise), David Snyder and David Garcia with Laura Herriott Walker.

Antionette Walker, Beverly Royal and Diana Yoxall are also in the bull act).

High wire: Victor Flores

Pantomime presentation by Charlie the clown - either with Henry, the ghost or the lesson in golf.

Three flying acts: The Flying Gaonas- Arturo, Julio (does the triple), David, Mimi The Flying Caballeros - Ruben, Ruben, Jr, (does the triple), Veronica, Alfredo.

The Flying Lunas - Francisco, Francis and Oriana Luna and Rosalba Perez.

Contributing to the smooth running of the performance was the efficient work of the properties personnel headed by Inocente Castillo and the care of the wardrobe mistress, Dorothy Stone.

Trouping with the Carson & Barnes Circus from day-to-day was a tremendous experience, the memories of which Rosalie and I shall long cherish.

Hard to swallow

A Seattle man was recently hospitalized and underwent emergency surgery after he swallowed a knife while trying to dislodge a pill that got stuck in his throat.

The unidentified man explained that he had taken an aspirin which 'got stuck'. He then tried to dislodge the pill with a ten inch long table knife, which slipped and ended up in the vicinity of his chest cavity.

It took surgeons 5½ hours to remove the knife.

Do you remember?



The above picture was taken on the Russell Bros. Circus of 1944 and includes: left to right: Butch Crowe, Betty Escalante, Fanny McKlacky, Mars Bennett, Milonga Escalante-Cline, Kay Clark and Concha Algarin.

Adams Bros. Circus

The Adams Bros. Circus, operated by the Hand family, played its season in the North and South Carolina low lands, as well as the shore towns.

The show played under a 60 x 90 square end push pole top with 3 centers. Seating was bleacher type. A colorful red and yellow vinyl marquee was set up in front of the big top.

The side show was a 20 x 50 top with a good looking outside bally platform with bright bally cloth.

The show looked good on the lot and all equipment, including poles, seats, canvas, stakes, etc., was carried in a 1969 Chevrolet 1½ ton van body.

Everywhere the show received a good reception and sponsors were well pleased with the circus and many have already signed for a repeat date in 1982.

The program included: Juggling by Jimmy Hand; Rolling globe by Tommy Hand; The

clown, Jim Hand, Sr.; Book Pitch; Talking Horse, Herr Schrieber; Unicycle, Jimmy Hand; Clown with telephone gag; Juggling by Jimmy and Tommy; Intermission.

Dave Upton's uncaged cougar; Clown with balloon animals; Balloon pitch by M.T. John Marshall; Plate spinning by Tommy and Jimmy; Hypnotic pony, Baptiste Schreiber.

In addition the side show featured a contortionist, Jimmy Hand who also did magic; Herr Prf. Schrieber and his funny little animal (Peggy a performing Rhesus monkey), Miss Lori Anne (Lorraine Hand) blade box and El Gato, the fire eater, Bob Kesse.

PEOPLE

CINDY and WALLY PIPER (Wardrobe Supervisor on Ringling Blue Unit) are the parents of a baby boy, Wally, Jr., who was born on Aug. 30th. The new arrival weighed in at 8 lbs. 1 oz.

PEOPLE

MABEL BUCKINGHAM will be celebrating her 100th birthday on Oct. 7th. She would enjoy cards which can be sent to her in care of: Stewart Leard, 14 Louise Drive, Niantic, Conn. 06375. Mabel and her late husband, Walter, were active in the early days of the CFA, and were friends to many fans and circus people.

BOB LORRAINE, former clown, has just finished up a series of modeling assignments for a new series of Western wear.

STEPHEN ACAI, Jr., is compiling the history of his hometown, Littleton, NC. He reports that Bruce Greater Shows, as well as some other show, used that city as its winter home for many years. He would like to hear from anyone who might have information about the shows and their facilities in Littleton.

LARRY JOYNER, elephant man, was featured in a story about elephants which appeared in the New York Daily News on Aug. 21st.

TOMMY HANNEFORD's Royal Hanneford Circus will play the Egypt Temple Shrine Circus date in Florida on March 24-25, followed by a Tampa date on March 26-27.

CHARLES ROARK worked the Midwest Magic Jubilee at St. Louis, Aug. 6-9, where he did his Punch & Judy Show and also his vent act. He also worked with Johnnie Frazier's Cactus Kid Country and Western Show.

LEE KEENER and the Diano elephants performed in downtown Cleveland, Ohio, at the "People's Days" a weeklong event sponsored by the Downtown Business Association.

Heritage Festival

by *GEORGE BIRD*

The 1981 Ypsilanti (Mich) Heritage Festival, Aug. 28-30, featured the return of both the Franzen Bros. Circus and the Wallenda-Zoppe high wire act. Although this year's festival was marred by rain, both circus events drew large and appreciative crowds and both participated in the 140 unit Heritage Festival parade.

Tino and Olinka Zoppe's high wire act is certainly one of the best in the business and is presented in the most polished manner possible. They are truly professionals in every sense of the word and a credit to their profession.

The Franzen Bros. Circus performance is the strongest to date for this fine show. The addition of Senor Ochoa and Senor Ayala and their acts has strengthened the show considerably. Both have excellent wardrobe and present themselves well.

Wayne Franzen must be one of the best animal trainers of our time and his cat act is typical of his work - it is excellent in every way. Featuring two lions and two tigers, this act has everything including two roll-over tigers, two high-leg-walk tigers, and a tiger on the rolling ball. One of the most appealing

things about this act is that it is fast-paced with a minimum of time devoted to prop movement. I believe that this is now the outstanding act on the show. There are larger cat acts but I doubt there are better ones.

All of the ring stock on the show is in excellent condition, always clean, thanks of course to Mr. Franzen, but also to Animal Supt., Tina Grieser who seems always to be washing or grooming some of the many animals. Ms. Grieser also does a very smooth web and single trap routine which gets better each season.

Everyone on this show works - everyone helps with the big top - and the sense of family on the lot is obvious. There are no "stars" - you will find Wayne Franzen, who presents four animal acts this year, and of course owns the show, shoveling manure out of the stock trucks every morning.

Lynn Michael does an excellent job as ring announcer and musical director; her choice of music is appropriate and the performance runs smoothly and is well paced. Husband, Dennis Michael capably handles the circus comedy in an unusual and appealing way. His three turns are very well received.

The show makes an excellent appearance

(Continued on Page 20)

FESTIVAL (Continued)

on the lot. With its new blue and yellow top and the new rolling stock brightly painted, this show looks sharp! Wardrobe is excellent, props look good.

Everything about this year's Franzen show is CLASS. If you see the show be sure to get a copy of the printed program, it's a knockout!

PEOPLE

ROBERT FRANKLIN, former Monte Carlo Circus bandleader and trumpeter and BILL CHOCIANOWSKI, former Monte Carlo Circus drummer, have joined the big circus band at Circus World in Florida, under the direction of BUD KOWALSKI.

TOM (Pepe) PICCARD, clown, will be working the Italian Festival on Mulberry Street in New York City, Sept. 8-18.

In Memoriam

BILL DeARMO (94) whose real name was Wilbur Graham, died at Dimondale, Mich., in mid-July. He worked in vaudeville and circuses as a juggler, clown and trapeze artist. He could juggle anything from mops to cannon balls and would even hang by his teeth while juggling. His electric on stage personality was just the opposite of his private life. Often his act was used to close a show and he frequently upstaged the star acts. After retiring he continued to perform for benefit shows and church programs until his mid-80's.

Miscellaneous

Two centuries of circus art are currently being featured at the Museum of Art in Columbus, Ohio. The special event, Aug. 30 to Oct. 11th features a variety of art, workshops and films, all dealing with the circus.

PEOPLE

CHARLES & CO., CAS BOXLEY, FRAN ALI and SUZANNE, KEN CARTER, PRICE BURLINGAME and CHARLIE CARDEEN have been signed to perform at a Magic Club Installation Banquet which will be held in Alameda, Calif., on Sept. 28th.

JONATHAN and VICTORIA FREDDER, performers with the "Jubilee On Ice" show, are parents of a baby boy named Ian, born Aug. 29th and weighing in at 6 lbs. 10 oz. She is a former Ringling acrobat and he was a circus clown.

HARRY JENKINS, former circus organist, played the Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ at a March 15th showing of the silent movie "Beau Geste" in Sacramento, Calif.

POPO THE CLOWN (Continued)

life. When I look out at their smiling faces, that's my pay."

Popo revealed more of the reason when in 1969, he was given a UNICEFF award for bringing so much happiness to so many children.

Popo hadn't expected the award, but appreciated it.

"Were it not for the combination of fate and luck," he said, "it might just as well be I sitting out there on the street corner of Mexico City, Bangkok or Manila - I'm a waif myself - I know how they feel."

Send Cards

V. RAY HAMPTON, has been hospitalized and would enjoy receiving cards and letters. Write him at: Decatur Memorial Hospital, 2300 No. Edward St., Decatur, Ill. 62526.

He played in the 1929 John Robinson Circus band and also did magic in the side show later he toured with the Seils Sterling Circus.

'82 Show Date

A 350 year tradition will come to the Savannah, Ga., Civic Center early next year when the Royal Hanneford Circus replaces Ringling-Barnum as the Center's major attraction.

The Sarasota-based circus, which has been in the entertainment business since Irishman Michael Hanneford toured rural England in 1621, will be at the Civic Center, Feb. 23-24, 1982, Civic Center Manager Bob Howard reports.

"They are definitely a quality circus," said Howard, who will be meeting with circus management within the next few months to confirm performance times and ticket prices "If there's anything they're known for, it's performing as a family circus."

Featured performers of the circus include tiger trainer and aerial director Struppi Hanneford, horse trick riders Nellie Hanneford and Mark Hanneford Karoly and ringmistress Katherine Breen Hanneford.

Howard added that negotiations with Royal Hanneford were initiated more than a year ago, but at the time a decision was made to stick with Ringling-Barnum for one more year.

Ringling-Barnum announced earlier this year that the circus would not be returning to Savannah because of dissatisfaction with revised Civic Center rental requirements, including arena rental fees and concession sales.

Senior's Day

The Senior Citizen's Day at the Kentucky State Fair this year followed the very successful format of 1980, by re-booking Col. Bob "Smiley" Corbin's Band, who plays the music of the Big Band era, of the 1920's and 1930's.

They gave two performances in the a.m. and one in the early afternoon, in East Hall just like last year, and with a good crowd, as many if not more than last year. There was plenty of room for dancing and they loved it.

The band also played some "hoe-down" music and they really got carried away on square dancing, the band had to break it off.

The Senior Citizens were again brought in from all over the state; in school buses and some coming in Greyhound buses.

Col. "Smiley" Corbin's Band had the same members, all but Rudy Bundy (of Ringling Bros. fame), he was absent due to his wife's illness.

The band's five musicians were: Dalton Moorhead, organ; Johnny McCracken, alto and tenor sax, plus clarinet and singing; Wayne McCracken, electric piano (Johnny's brother); Richard Corbin, drums (Col. Bob's son) and Col. Bob "Smiley" Corbin, leader, trumpet, violin, flute and sax.

It is expected that this feature will be repeated again next year.

... Sally and Henry Payne - A couple of Senior Citizens.

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

by spring, along with her dog, act and then - bye-bye rocket ship . . . Dime and Connie Wilson were just leaving for a long route of fairs for Zacchini. . . Teddy and Lisa Stewart have gone splitsville, are getting a divorce, and Teddy is now in California . . . Lisa will marry a non-pro when the divorce is final . . . Sorry to hear the kids split up but trying to make a "go" of a bad situation might be even sorrier.

Rumors are that the Lantonys will be with Castle in 1982 . . . All those silly rumors circulating about Tarzan Zerbini are more wishful thinking than fact and it's about time the big mouths shut up. . . Frank Curry is alive and well and in New York, busy as always and June Dewsbury called to tell me that she is still "rolling" along. Did I ever have a doubt!

As I mentioned earlier the Klementis are now working in Europe; I had a long, long letter from Elfie just before they left. The kids had a lengthy and profitable run at Lake Tahoe.

Alberto and Sandy Zoppe totaled their truck enroute to Penna; fortunately no one was hurt. . . Visitors at Louisville included Art Barrett one day, Sam Polck the next. . . Bill and Sandy Slater had a concession in one of the exhibition halls and came over to chat every day.

Keith's sister Wanda was organist on the date and her husband came on for a week's vacation. . . also vacationing were the Otto Verdue and his wife, traveling now with Doris and Frank, and Renee Lemoine. She and Tony Nock are serious about each other

In a blaze of dubious glory: Pio Nock borrowed brother Tony's truck to take Sam Polack to the airport. When he returned the whole motor burned up on the fairground's parking lot. I doubt that Sam even knows it happened. Well, he can read it here.

Tidbits: Tommy Hanneford picked up a slew of fair dates formerly played by the Stebbings Circus. He is fielding a different unit for those dates as he is busy elsewhere. . . Mike Pike will make some dates for Tommy, booked by Keith. Mike will also maestro the Little Rock date for Alberto Zoppe where Donnie Johnson's show will be the nucleus.

On the Texas dates will be Donnie Johnson's flying act, Chipperfield's wild animal

act, Pirates of the Air, the Fornasaries, Lucio Cristiani family, the Living Statues (again, I am told), the Diano elephants, the Cuneo elephants, the Fabulous Darnells, Lottie Brunn, among the many.

This year they will eschew an aerial ballet and Keith will again be the bandleader and Ernie McLean will be em-cee. . . Word is that Blinko and Maran will not make the dates after all, but I don't know whether that is so or not, . . . Eddie and Jewel Ventura will do their cradle act along with Sa Sa and Doady.

Now is as good a time as any, I suppose, to inform my readers that I will be filing only two more columns this year. One from the Charleston date in October and one from Evansville in November, and then I am bowing out of Circus Report.

From time-to-time I may file a report with Don on some thing or other, but my days as a columnist are finished. I am just too busy now with too many other business matters and I no longer have the time to grind out a column every week.

I cannot devote the intense concentration to a business, to my act, and to the responsibility I owe myself in getting my novels ready for publication. I took off the entire month of July to finish my new book which will be out next year. I have a third book to start on; moreover I am writing articles for a mystery magazine and am filing, quarterly, reviews on novels for a second magazine.

These are responsibilities I cannot ignore because I am being paid to do it and have signed contracts to deliver the goods. Don, of course, understands just how much one man can do by himself; he does it every week.

Since I do not expect to continue working beyond those dates already signed up into June of 1982, and since every day in every way I am becoming more and more involved with a new life, a new career, and a new livelihood, my allegiance must be directed to its fundamental source. When my writing begins to pay all the bills and keeps me on the edge of survival and when show business does not, there is no question as to what my decision must be.

It was fun while it lasted but, as in all things an end must come.

See you down the road, luvs.

I Remember

from **JOHNNY ARMSTRONG**

Here's something from 49 years ago. I've been in show business 55 years.

In 1932, for two weeks, Aug. 29-Sept. 10, I with my partner, Otis Rixford and his wife were booked as "The Three Rixfords" at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto, where we did a hand-to-hand balancing and tumbling act.

A huge stage faced the grandstand and 3 acts were presented at one time in nearly every display. Scenery backstage was mounted on small flatcars on narrow gauge tracks and was changed by miniature motorized locomotives.

I can't recall all of the acts, but can name a few. We worked in a display with "Joe Mandis Trio" hand walking and hand jumping atop of and down from a pyramid of tables and chairs. Also "The Melino Trio" comedy table and chair act.

"Tiny Klein" was there doing a 500 ft. teeth hang slide for life from the top of the grandstand corner to a point across the track near the other end of the grandstand. Years later Tiny was Tinker Bell at Disneyland doing the same thing.

The Seven Avalons and The Max Thieland Troupe worked both ends with teeterboard while the 7 Gay Gordons did pyramids and tumbling in center stage. All came back later in the program with low tightwire acts.

Animal acts I remember there were Pallenberg's Bears and Capt. Schultz with a cage act and later an elephant act. Solo on stage was Ben Hamid's Arab Troupe. Their finale was long distance tumbling on the race track.

In the air there was Larry Saunders on high pole, the Cimse Sensation, high pole with a circular track for motorcycle on top and trapeze tricks at the other end of a gyrating boom. The Four Sensational Devils on high rigging with double ladder uprights. Bob Fisher's Five Fearless Flyers on double fly and return rig. Three flyers and two catchers. Eddie Ward did his catching in conventional hock hang, but Mrs. Fisher had a cradle type trap to facilitate her return casting.

The "Fuji Troupe", Japanese, shared the stage with the "Jim Wong" Chinese troupe. On the track were precision drills by the Canadian Northwest Mounties, as well as

Opera Under Canvas?

by **D. GORDON WALDRON**

Circus, opera and bluegrass music - they're an unlikely combination to be sure, but one that may surface next season if impresario Lowell E. McKirgan has his way.

"Imagine an honest-to-goodness opera done in bluegrass style with circus acts integrated and the whole thing playing under canvas," says the former hoosier banjo player. "It's a new innovation."

The opera is "Inez," composed by McKirgan himself. So far as anyone knows it is the first and only opera using specially written bluegrass music as its score. It tells the story of a southerner who comes north to work in the auto factories but yearns for the sweetheart he left back home.

Working circus acts into such a plot has been something of a challenge, McKirgan admits. "But they're the key to the whole thing. Opera is highbrow. Bluegrass is lowbrow. Circus is for everybody. We're after the broadest popular appeal."

Asked how he plans to make elephants plausible in an auto plant, McKirgan winks and gives a wise, knowing smile. "You're just going to have to buy a ticket and see."

Celebration Renamed

After 30 years, Wetumka, Okla., is changing the name of its annual celebration which henceforth will be called Wetumka Days.

In the past the city has celebrated "Sucker Day" on an annual basis to commemorate the day that a promoter came into the city, talked citizens and business concerns into buying circus tickets and then left town, without producing the circus.

The five day celebration which pokes fun at the city, has been renamed, officials report, because there is a limit to the fun a town can poke at itself.

some thrilling Cossack riding by the Malone NY Black Horse Brigade.

The finale of the stage show was music, singing and dancing by about 24 girls and several men of "The Dave Schooley Revue" and this was followed by a mammoth fireworks display each night.

He Wasn't Kidding

No one believed the man who said he had just run over a kangaroo in Tulsa, Okla., on Aug. 31st., until he produced the corpse.

The unidentified man stopped at a restaurant and announced he had just hit a kangaroo, said waitress Marilyn Hollenback.

"I brought this guy some coffee and he looked me straight in the eye and said, 'I hit a kangaroo on North Peoria,'" she said. "I laughed for 20 minutes."

"He never ordered because every time I looked at him I broke up again," she said.

After the laughter had subsided some the restaurant employees went outside to investigate. In the back of the man's truck was a 3½ ft. dead kangaroo.

"The old boy said he'd run over a kangaroo and we said sure," said Officer Ed Compos. "We looked in the back of his truck and there was a dead kangaroo."

Officials at the Tulsa zoo said they didn't know where the kangaroo might have come from.

In Memoriam

from BOB MAYER

Ms. Lorena J. Carver, 95, died in a South Miami Hospital on Aug. 20th. She was the last direct descendant of Dr. W. F. Carver, of show biz fame and wild west man who at one time tied in with the Buffalo Bill show. A partnership that lasted just one year.

One of the circus attractions created by Dr. Carver was the Diving Horses, they appeared at the Atlantic City Steel Pier and were eventually sold to the George Hamid Enterprises, where Loreen performed with the horses. After Hamid's death the horses were sold off.

Loreen retired to the Overseas Trailer Park, where many show people were retired, such as Con Colleano, Winifred Colleano, etc.

Loreena J. Carver was given all rites of the Roman Catholic Church, including the Mass of the Resurrection at the Holy Rosary Church, located in Cutler Ridge, on Franjo Road. Father Shea was the officiating priest.

From Florida

from 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

On Saturday, Aug. 29th, my family and I took a trip that proved interesting. We made a run from Tampa and back to visit my brother, Frank Goetz-Valenciano and his family who live in Ft. Myers.

As we left Tampa, driving south on 41 we drove through Gibsonton, which is "Showtown U.S.A." where a lot of performers and carnies stay and live.

Then we switched over to Hi-way 301 passing through Riverview, where I saw the old former circus winterquarters of Cristiani-Wallace. All buildings, barns and the house are still there. The sign at the entrance of the lot reads: The Crystal Ranch. It's a stable now for show horses in the area.

Finally we went on I-75, the new section passed Sarasota, as we drove my dad mentioned that we should watch for on the right is Tarzan Zerbini's winter quarters and just moments later a truck with his logo passed us.

Five minutes later we passed the quarters. There was a wild animal arena set up, among

other things. There were also some Hubert Castle semis with a large 5th wheel trailer, its color scheme was white with a blue stripe length-wise, and logos on the cabs, were also spotted on the lot.

Speaking of winter quarters, a housing development in Sarasota has been running a local TV commercial where they show an old picture of the old Ringling quarters and then they show the housing complex of today. And they say, "this is where the circus used to be."

PEOPLE

EUGENE C. LAMBART, Sr., is the man who recently had heart surgery. EUGENE LAMBART, the Sarasota based agent is still in good health and active in the booking business for both acts and shows.

CARLOS FARFAN and wife, visited with CR editor DON MARCKS on Sept. 7th and enjoyed an afternoon seeing the local San Francisco area sights.