

CIRCUUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 4

January 25, 1982



THE GREAT WALLENDAS



AMERICA'S FINEST JUGGLER

MARTIN LAMBERTI

NOW BOOKING SPOT DATES FOR 1982 SEASON

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SHOW DATES

Circus Vargas

Jan. 21-25 San Diego, Ca.

Circus America

to Feb. 14 Mexico City,
Mexico

Great Circus of China

Jan 22-31 Toronto, Ont.
Canada

Bugs Bunny Show

Jan 15-17 San Fran, Cal.
26-31 Oakland

Ronk is Guest Speaker

by GEORGE C. BINGAMAN

Harold Ronk came, saw and conquered at Hagerstown, Md., on Oct. 10th when he appeared as honored guest and main speaker at the annual banquet of the Emmett Kelly Tent, CFA.



Here follows the glittering highlights excerpted from his masterful address and heart-rendering concert. The chronicle of the singing ringmaster's life is a resume of GSOE for the past 25 years.

John Ringling North and John Murray Anderson found Harold Ronk singing for the National Presbyterian Church, National Symphony and National Gallery of Art in Washington. He had been Sigmund Romberg's voice on his famous tours and was pressed into GSOE service singing at the opening of their show in Madison Square Garden's splendorous opening in 1951.

Harold joined GSOE before the modern circus era when most big tops were dropped and railroad circuses were removed from the rails. RBBB was still quartered in Sarasota, but was to be replaced by a golf course and condominium complex. GSOE became a new arena show in ballparks and arenas moving indoors at San Diego in 1960.

When they played the World's Fair in Montreal's large football stadium it was so wintry, cold, icy that Henry Ringling North blasted out upon first encountering the stark performance conditions, "Who in the hell booked this date?"

In 25 years he has appeared in most new arenas including New Orleans' Superdome in a day of multi-arenas such as Houston

having four and Dallas with three arenas.

He recounted the conditions in the Watts area of Los Angeles in 1960 when the show was shut down for six days because of snipers. The building was sealed off, and the animals were removed to the Coliseum and the National Guard was stationed, armed with machine guns. This was the setting for his opening, "Ladies and Gentlemen . . ."

In Quebec City in November two blizzards caused the animal tent to cave in, and there were two shows without animals.

In Norfolk in 1980 after two storms and large drifts, the Governor declared it a disaster area. The streets were impassable and the spectators spent all night in the Coliseum while the clowns entertained.

In Louisville, Ky., the area was flooded, cars overturned and there was a power failure.

There are more late arrivals now due to poorer service from the railroads.

Golf carts were used to get about in the massive Astrodome and two-seater bikes helped to transport performers to the floor. Viewers looked down on the flying acts and it took Philip Petite, seventeen minutes to walk across the top on a wire.

In Washington's Uline Arena conditions were over crowded and crammed and the loudspeaker system, "not a single word was understandable to the audience." In the opening parade he cited the various countries represented by the performers. One time he recited the alphabet instead and "no one person questioned what in the hell I was doing."



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Harold Ronk sang the National Anthem from 1975 to 1977. He reported that even the European performers appreciated this. He was to receive a special award for this patriotic vocal rendition.

(Continued on Page 23)

Circus Althoff

by JACK FRANKLIN

As the 747 swung into the pattern at the airport in Frankfurt, Germany, my view of the city was highlighted by a cluster of bright circus tents. That afternoon I searched all over the downtown area looking for a post, telling where the circus was. I found the poster, then the lot, and was able to see the Circus Giovanni Althoff.

Naturally, I was there well before show time to see their set-up. Their many wagons formed a large rectangle at the outer limits of the lot. Outside this was a fence made up of portable sections about tent feet long. There was an opening near the rear of the lot through which the public was admitted free to see the animals. The living area beyond was roped off and guarded. One long narrow tent contained a herd of 11 adult elephants and 10 more young ones. Also, 6 camels and a few goats. A second similar tent contained about 20 show horses and an additional 15 ponies. The third smaller tent up against a living quarters trailer contained two plastic swimming pools which were empty at the time I was there. The paintings on the sides of the trailer told me it was the home of the crocodiles and snakes.

Four full size wagons contained the tigers, three of these cage wagons were open to each other so the cats could take relatively long walks. The fourth cage contained six baby tigers who sounded just like amplified kittens when they yowled.

Across the viewing aisle from the tigers was a row of polar bear cages. For the most part they just lay quietly in their cages. Both rows of cages were connected to a long chute which ran into the big cage inside the big top.

Back to the front end which consisted of a block long row of wagons with gayly painted and lighted, fold-up sides which created a massive appearance for the show. One wagon on each side of the entrance was a four windowed ticket wagon. I bought a \$12.00 (U.S.) ticket for a good (but not the best) seat in the grandstand.

The entrance was up a ramp through a wagon to a ticket taker, then down another ramp into what they call the restaurant tent. Here a large concession wagon sold

frankfurters (invented right here), cotton candy, coffee, programs, souvenirs, popcorn etc. One of the souvenirs was a circus flag with a picture of a tiger and a clown. The clown looked an awful lot like Lou Jacobs. Across the aisle from the concession wagon were several picnic tables for those who preferred eating there.

There was about a 30 ft. gap between the restaurant tent and the big top. Off to one side was the donnicker wagon. A large generator wagon servicing the front end was also in this area. Several people were at the entrance of the big top asking to see your ticket stubs before entering.

The big top was big. It had only one ring, but was surrounded by a massive bank of seats. The center was held up by four large king poles, and there was one row of quarter poles. There is no hippodrome track as we know it in this country.

The box seats face up to a wall about 30 in. high and about 2 ft. inside that is the ring curb. Behind the box seats is an aisle all around the tent. Outside the aisle are the quarter poles and the beginning of the grandstand. The grandstand is solid floored throughout and everyone has a bench to sit on - each row is stepped up about five in. above the one in front of it. At the top of each aisle up the grandstand is an exit with outside stairs going down to ground level.

Two or more heater wagons pumped hot air through large ducts to the space under the grandstand. (It was quite cold and wet the day I was there). The blue top and red and white sidewalls looked very smooth and may have been heavy plastic rather than canvas. On the back side were two performers' entrances with space for the band to come in.

All this is carried on more than 80 wagons handled by more than 20 trucks and tractors. There is also an almost equal number of private trailers, vans and campers. Judging from the photograph in their program, the circus-owned wagons move by rail on system flats.

As I entered the tent I heard Merle Evans' band playing good traditional circus music. It was just a tape but it added a great deal to the mood of the occasion. The butchers worked the incoming crowd just as they do here.

(Continued on Page 21)

Santa's Magic Circus

by BILL WESTON

The all new 1981 edition of Santa's Magic Circus opened its season at Erie, Pa., on Dec. 1st to an enthusiastic crowd of more than 2500 people. The show was strictly class from the word go!

Upon entering the auditorium your eyes were met by the elaborate show setting. The format was that of a one ring circus. The performers worked in front of massive silver and black shimmering curtains. The entire performing area was extremely well lighted by enormous lighting trees.

Opening curtain was at 7 p.m. Music for the show was provided by two accomplished musicians: drummer Michel Dorval and accordavox Fred Kitchen.

A 6:55 p.m. pre-show music started which immediately aroused the audience's anticipation of what was to come. Clown walk-around and welcome was provided by Coco the clown. At 7 p.m. a "voice over" greeted the crowd in attendance and made several public service announcements.

Then following the announcements the band began a rousing overture; which was followed by an immediate blackout; suddenly the arena was flooded with colored light. A blast of a whistle was heard and the shimmering curtains opened to reveal Ringmaster Dorian Blake in his shimmering rhinestone covered splendor. Upon the sight of the ringmaster the audience could anticipate an evening well spent. The ringmaster's announcements were colorful and exciting, giving each of the acts to follow a well deserved build-up.

As each of the acts made their appearance; the rhinestone and sequined wardrobe made the audience "ooh" and "aah" and at various times shouts and cheers were heard as the performers made their way to the arena area.

First up: The astounding "Goldfinger" and his sensational one-finger stand and balancing act. Class and elegance is the only way to describe this act.

Next up: The mind boggling magic and illusions of Dorian Blake. The wardrobe for this act received immediate response from the audience. The magic and illusions came fast and the audience was quick to voice

their approval. This performer rocks-n-rolls the audience from start to finish" and they loved every minute of it.

To keep the crowd's adrenaline flowing was apparently the producers idea from beginning to end, for the next act did just that.

The ringmaster next introduced, "Rejean" the fastest juggler on two feet. This performer entered doing somersaults to the center of the arena. Then it was one amazing juggling feat after another. Truly a marvelous performer.

During the ringmaster's announcement of the next act, he was interrupted by Coco the clown, who insisted he was an accomplished magician, after a comical confrontation, Coco was allowed to perform. He then presented his magic, which ended in a "sucker gag" blow-off.

Then came recognition of the evening's sponsor; which was handled extremely well and one would have thought that the sponsor had a large hand in the production of the show. A point that many sponsored dates could learn from.

Then the appearance of Dave Upton's presentation of his 250 lb. uncaged mountain lion.

It was intermission time, as the performers prepared for the second half of this sparkling extravaganza.

To open the second half, there was a medley by the band and the ringmaster made his appearance, yet in another dazzling costume.

The opening act for the second half was the grace and balancing of the breath-taking Lou Robertson, Jr., and his chair balancing and tower of terror!

Next up was juggling and rola bola performed by the classy Dino and Yvonne.

The musicians were given recognition for a job well done, and received a rousing applause from the audience.

A children's delight was next as Coco made his appearance upon stilts, standing 15 ft. above the arena floor.

The arena was then transformed into an area of magical splendor as once again illusionist Dorian Blake made his appearance. He was instantly met with thundering applause as he began producing his assistants, numerous livestock and closed with a mind

(Continued on Page 19)

From Florida

by MARJORIE HACKETT

It was a gala event indeed when Showfolks of Sarasota hosted their annual party to welcome in the New Year of 1982 at the George Potter building, next door to Roberts Arena on the fair grounds of Sarasota County.

A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered to eat, drink, dance and be merry consisting of performers, present and retired; circus fans from various parts of the country and a liberal sprinkling of towns folk and all those who have an interest in the circus world and it's people.

David and I drove down in the late afternoon (we always stay overnight as sea fog gets to be a problem here in Florida at this time of the year) staying at the Golden Host (Great Western Motel) on Taimiami Trail (U.S. 41) where many of the staff are former circus people. Also at the motel were Nancy and Harley Murphy of Cocoa and their daughter formerly from Illinois.

Our group included Milonga (Escalante) Cline of Lakeland, Fla., Estber (Escalante) Crouch, Katz and Luis Caucchia (husband of the late Blanca Escalante) in from California. They were the house guests of Art Concello Also the Talleys and CFA guests from New Jersey.

The band music for dancing was marvelous altho the dance floor was a bit sticky but even that did not prevent one of the ever energetic Dubskeys from doing a series of cartwheels across it, and in his full tuxedo, yet!

Since Ringling was playing in the arena in Venice many of the RBBB connected people were absent, however the well known names and families were grouped around their tables, such as the Wallendas (including Arthur and Marlene Grotelant in from Hawaii), Helen and Carla Wallenda, Jenny Wallenda Anderson and Andy Anderson, children and grandchildren of these folks.

There was a gathering of the various Cristianis with children and grandchildren, Oscar and Marian Cristianis, daughter Carin and Husband Larry French and grandson (Young) Ben Rossi (whose dad is a talent coordinator at Disneyworld just to name a few.

Another table held the Zerbinis, Reggie Armour and Bonnie (Cristiani) Armour and

their children . . . and so on and on. Oh, and lots of Nock's and their families, Vesta and Ken Grimaldi, Carl Linares, many of the Fornasaris, Barbara and Buckles Woodcock, etc.

I can't include them all. There were also many Circus Fans present including Rosalie Hoffman, Don Sexton, John Marietta, Alton Jones, Emily and Elwood Talley, Nedra and Chuck Gonzales, Tiny Stagg, Genevieve and George Porter, Tex and Dolly Copeland (and I'm sure I've missed some names).

La Norma introduced her sister and brother-in-law from Denmark who danced a tango for the group. Husband Andre Fox was there as were the Herriott family, the famous Galla Shawn (Tiny Gallagher), and since Johnny Herriott is the President of Showfolks he ably did the announcing and awarding of door prizes which were donated by many of the members present. They consisted of beer, champagne, box of writing paper (which I won, thank you) and even a year's subscription to the best circus publication going, what else but Don Marcks' "Circus Report."

Food was supplied by the Camel's Den, Sarasota, and don't forget if you are there drop in for the excellent food and a look at a lot of circus and other celebrities' photos that line the walls above the booths in this small restaurant and bar across from downtown Maas Department store.

The volunteers who worked so hard and made this lovely party such an event are to be (much) thanked! We enjoyed it, stayed up much too late but "Hello" to 1982, what ever it brings!

We will be at the Bayfront, St. Petersburg, Fla., for opening night, Jan. 5th, for RBBB.

Some famous "Specs" from the early years of the American Circus.

1851 - Cinderella - Robinson & Eldred

1851 - St. George and the Dragon - Welch and Delavan

1851 - Putnam or Days of '76 - Spaulding and Rogers

1852 - Field of the Cloth of Gold - Dan Rice's Circus

1855 - Hun, the Hunter - Welch & Lent

1856 - Miser of Bagdad - Madigan & Meyers

1860 - Jack the Giant Killer - L. B. Lent

1866 - Mazeppa - Wm. Lake's Circus

Big Show Set

Big John Strong and his son, John A. J. Strong will join forces to present a special circus at the Sun Dome in Phoenix, Ariz., on Feb. 6-7.

A special feature of the circus will be the John A. J. Strong's Circus Side Show, planned as a free attraction. Circus patrons will visit and pass through the side show on their way to the building in which the circus performance is to be presented.

Acts signed thus far for the Feb. 6-7 show are: Donnie Johnson's 9 tiger act and 3 elephants; The Flying Carrolls; The Rebounders, trampoline; Wini McKay, single trapeze; Chester Cable, foot juggler; Ron Pace and Chris Kennington, aerial cradle and web; Curtis Cainan, animals and wire; Bill Schreiber and Chris, dogs, ponies and web; Hunt Bushnell, birds; John A. J. Strong, juggling, and Tina and Brian Greiser, animals.

A 12 piece band will be used for the date, directed by Lee Maloney. Concessions and elephant rides will be made available to the circus patrons.

Clowns scheduled to appear in the circus are: Rick Perales, James Hebert, Chris Roberts and Sandy Strong.

Phil Kavanaugh will serve as marketing director and will handle the advance work.

Illusionist

by 'Circus Joe' Vanelciano

I recently saw a fine illusion act on the New Mike Douglas Entertainment Hour. The act was "Marie" a lady illusionist with two male assistants. She looked very nice with long dark hair, high leg boots, a Vegas type costume and a head band.

She started off with a sword basket and added a new twist to the illusion. The one man got in as usual, then she had these super long swords with feathers at the end, poked them through in the usual manner and then to climax the trick she set the basket on fire. High flames came out of the top of the basket. And for a unique special effect the man in the basket sticks out his arm amongst the flames.

Next she sawed a man in half the modern way, with a chain saw cutting through the cabinet. Then it was separated and restored

Texas Bakery

(The following information is taken from a brochure prepared by the Collin Street Bakery, of Corsicana, Texas, which is included with each of their Original Deluxe Fruit Cakes shipped from the Texas bakery)

The year is 1896. The place, a primitive kitchen-store on Collin Street, Corsicana, Texas. The young German baker, August Weidmann, has just formed a partnership with dashing Thomas McElwee whose promotional flair is already trained on Weidmann's wonderful "white fruit cake," recently named the Original DeLuxe.

Ten prosperous years pass. A grand new Collin Street Bakery goes up on 6th Avenue. The legend of the Original DeLuxe is ready to take wing.

Having wealth, drive and a youthful wonder of celebrities, Thomas McElwee turns the new bakery's entire second floor into an elite private hotel; then he throws open its rooms to the day's visiting celebrities; vaudevillians, stars of opera and sports and the theatre.

Among his guests are Caruso, Will Rogers, John J. McGraw, "Gentleman Jim" Corbett. In fact, it is John Ringling and his circus troupers who bring the Collin Street Bakery its first great Christmas order - several hundred Original DeLuxe Fruit Cakes destined for foreign places - and this order implants the cake's beginning reputation as a delicacy of international favor.

Today, successors to the deceased Weidmann and McElwee have made certain nothing fundamental in the Collin Street Bakery's operation will change. The famous cake's recipe is still followed to the letter. All cakes are custom-baked. And the cake you're about to enjoy cannot be duplicated in flavor and honest culinary beauty under any other trade name on earth.

After eating our cake, you may, too, find our Bakery a very good place to remember - for many holidays to come.

once again.

And finally they did an escape illusion, in which she is tied with chains to an upright cabinet. The man walks around it while encircling it with a curtain. And in split-second timing, she is on the outside and he is chained in the cabinet.



DO YOU RECOGNIZE THE ABOVE PHOTO? Charlie Campbell is seeking information on the above picture - name of show, location, date. If you can provide him with any information concerning this picture he would appreciate it. Write to: Charlie Campbell, 150 - 10th St., Atlanta, Ga. 30309.

RBBB Parades

by 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

For the first time in many years, Ringling-Barnum Circus staged an old-time circus parade in St. Petersburg, Fla., which was presented on the morning of Jan. 7th.

This was an old-fashioned street parade, presented for the benefit of the television cameras. This year the circus was taped by CBS and not NBC as was done in the past. The TV special will be aired sometime this March.

"Circus Joe' and the Valenciano family started off the year right by attending the 112th edition of Ringling, which this year is the Blue Unit, playing at the Bayfront Center for the week of Jan. 5-11.

They had very good billing, the best I have seen in a long time. All four TV stations had ads, as did radio and the large billboards of the area, all announcing the show's run.

We attended the night show on Jan. 5th the day the taping took place. It was interesting for this writer to watch the cameramen at work. There were four of them.

My family and I enjoyed the show. As usual it is a beautifully costumed spectacle, there's no doubt about that. But the program seemed to have less acts and what really surprised us was that for the first time we saw the Ringling show without an aerial ballet. No webs or ladders, just the dancing girls and clowns.

in the NEWS

A victim of the rain storm flood, a Bengal tiger that escaped from its home just south of San Francisco was shot and killed on Jan. 8th.

The tiger was sighted by a rancher who said it was trying to get into his dog kennel. He shot the animal once in the head with a deer rifle, after which the tiger ran away.

Later a professional tracker and a policeman found the tiger under a deserted barn, about a mile and a half away. The tracker shot the tiger several times with his shotgun, while the policeman shot it with his revolver. Later they said the tiger was going to attack them.

PEOPLE

MURILLO and ULISES, balancing act, has returned to the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, where they are featured in the 1982 edition of "Folies Bergere."

PHIL TEMPLE, magician, will play a Feb. 1-14 date at the 3 million dollar "Magic Isle" club in Newport Beach, Calif.

DON MARTINEZ, aerialist doing a 3½ and a double cut-away on the flying trapeze, is presently performing with Circo Americano.

Speaking of . . .

by JIM PARKER

What a show! Those were the comments heard on the Orlando, Fla., lot of the Police Benevolent Assn. Circus produced by Ron Morris, of Sarasota, on Dec. 11-13, utilizing the Roberts Bros. Circus top, mid-way and physical equipment. I am sure it was the strongest show ever held under their big top and the line up ran as follows:

Master of Mirth, Danny Chapman, doing come-in; The Juggling Jewels (Young); Hansi (Hans Klose); Kay Rosaire's big cats; Carmen del Marino, head balancing trapeze; Danny Chapman & Co.; Jeff Earl, dogs; Ian Craik, ponies; Color Book Pitch; Hunky Johnson's whip act; Ben Williams and Anna Mae; Intermission.

Hunky Johnson's bears; Danny Chapman, clown; Gorilla Parody (Hans Klose and family); The Young Teeterboard Troupe; Carol Liabos, contortion; Lisa Johnson, cloud swing; Ben Williams with the Woodcock

Performing elephants.

Staff included: Bobby and Tera Earl, concessions; Doris Earl, side wall supt.; Bob Stephens, head butcher; LeeAnn Stephens, outside novelties; Carmen Johnson, ringmistress; Florence Oler, organist and Carl Gallo the sponsor's Liaison Officer.

From the opening, with Danny Chapman's expert clowning, to the closing with Ben Williams and the Woodcock Performing Elephants, it was circus through and through.

Kay Rosaire was absolutely stunning with her beautiful blonde hair and her bright red sequined wardrobe, presenting three tigers and two jaguars and one leopard. The cats all appeared young and full of energy and her spinning tiger is not to be believed! Kaye and Jim have not finished with the act and continue to add more tricks as well as more cats.

Under the Roberts Bros. top every act seemed to be "showcased" since nearly everyone had a ring side seat, particularly when the cat act was on as Kay's cage certainly filled the ring.

Carmen and Lisa Johnson certainly added class to the show and it was the first time that I had the opportunity to meet the Hunky Johnson family, although I knew Swede Johnson during his Ringling clowning days.

Of course, Danny Chapman is in a class by himself and remained the children's favorite; however, the kiddies certainly enjoyed Jeff Earl's dogs as well as their ponies presented by Ian Craik. The Young Troupe are certainly talented and versatile and their two turns rounded out the strong performance, as did the antics of Hans Klose's gorilla parody. And of course, what can you say that has not already been said regarding Ben Williams and Anna Mae - with out a doubt, the best single elephant act in show business! Of course, Ben takes no back seat when working the three bull act either.

It is too bad a show of this high caliber could not go out for a season together instead of just a few spot dates, but then who could afford that nut for long! Ron Morris' expertise paid off as the tent was full and they sure got a lot of show.

Visitors on the lot included Mark Anthony, Bill Shoop, Dick and Laura Lunsford

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Back Then

by ART "Doc" MILLER

CRACKER JACK, the long time 5c prize popcorn confection, owes much of its early nation-wide acceptance (same as Coca Cola) to the circus world. For years seat butchers all wore white jackets bearing "Cracker Jack" across the back. Ditto World War I style overseas hats, with Cracker Jack written in script. No one likely now living recalls the cost to the shows per package, but if it retailed in stores for 5c, their cost surely was as low as 2½c and they always pitched them for a dime.

Somewhere years ago, a competing confection, similar in taste called "Zig Zag" never made a permanent place on store shelves. Back east, around New York City, Ernest Haag having seen how Cracker Jack sold in an area spread out from Chicago, concocted a similar pop corn and molasses, plus lots of peanuts which he sold at ball parks, etc. The peanuts were a big lever in its popularity and Haag saved quite a nest egg which he used to transport himself westward to the Ohio River.

There he bought an out-sized skiff and planned to float down stream, and hove to shore at every landing. His idea was to set up jacks and sell a lemonade flavored drink giving a prize with each glass.

Before embarking, a down and out musi-

cian on the bum paused at the skiff and Haag joined him out. He figured his music would draw patronage for the lemonade and to boost sales, he gave a 'bally' prize about every tenth sale.

This proved to be very successful and by the time Haag reached Louisiana, he had a grouch bag filled. Here he purchased a 3-a-breast hitch of mules for a two wheel cane cart and loaded it with some side wall, a few seats, a hand organ and another down and outer performer.

This was the start of the famous Mighty Haag Shows. Although it has been around 50 years since that show was on the road, in most any village in the east, even today, *folks will inquire of troupers playing there what ever became of the Mighty Haag Show.*

In my lifetime of show business, I can only count to three, titles that seem to always be remembered by both city and villagers. They are the Haag Show, Johnny J. Jones and the Sparks Circus.

There was never a suspicion of grift on Charlie Sparks show, in fact, the strongest thing ever worked and this was unbeknown to wife Hattie, was a Blow-off cooch and that wasn't strong either.

Florida Law

PERMIT FOR EXHIBITION OR SALE OF WILDLIFE; PEN SPECIFICATIONS AND CAGING REQUIREMENTS

1 - Any person possessing any wildlife in captivity for exhibition or public sale shall comply with the provisions of Section 372.921, F.S., exempt as provided therein.

All wild or non-domestic birds, mammals or reptiles, whether indigenous to Florida or not, are protected and shall be included with in the provisions of Section 372.921, F.S., provided that any establishment which offers only poultry, canaries, shell parakeets, love-birds, cockatiels, parrots, toucans, myna birds, finches, hamsters, guinea pigs, domestic rats and mice, gerbils, or chameleons (Anolis) for sale as pets shall be excluded from the provisions of this section.

2 - No person shall maintain any wildlife in confinement in any unsanitary or unsafe condition or in a manner which results in the maltreatment, mistreatment or neglect of such wildlife nor shall any species of wildlife, performing wildlife, or non-performing wildlife be confined to any pen, cage or enclosure which does not meet the minimum pen specifications as specified herein.

3 - All wildlife maintained under provisions of this section shall be housed in a safe and sanitary manner. Failure to provide sanitary surroundings for wildlife or failure to adequately protect the public from wildlife possessed under the provisions of this chapter shall be considered a violation.

a - Safe:-

1 - Cage construction shall be sufficiently strong to contain the wildlife and to protect the animal from injury from other specimens on exhibit. Caging considered unsafe by Commission personnel shall be reconstructed in accordance with Section 39-6.03 (f)-(g)(7), F.A.C. This caging shall be completed and approved within thirty (30) days after official notification from the Commission.

2 - Safety barriers shall be present to adequately prevent wildlife from touching, grasping or biting visitors. Barriers such as walls, fences, moats, retaining rails and other necessary devices shall be present to prevent the public from approaching the cages, pens, enclosures or areas near enough to con-

tact the wildlife.

3 - Wildlife removed from caging and directly exposed to the public must be under rigid supervision and control at all times and Class I wildlife (except elephants) shall be controlled in such a manner as to prevent physical contact with the public. Extreme caution shall be exercised to protect the public from injury.

4 - Class I or Class II wildlife maintained for exhibition or public sale, as defined in Section 39-6.02 shall, also be kept in compliance with Section 39-6.02 (5)(a)-(d) and (6)(a)1-2.

b - Sanitary:-

1 - All wildlife maintained under provisions of this section shall be kept in a sanitary manner.

2 - Water - clean, fresh water shall be provided daily. Water containers shall be cleaned and disinfected.

3 - Food - All food shall be kept in a manner so as to prevent spoilage or contamination.

4 - Waste - Fecal and food waste shall be removed from cages and pens daily and disposed of or stored in a manner so as to prevent noxious odors or attraction of insect pests. Hard floors shall be scrubbed and disinfected at least weekly. Large pens and paddocks with dirt floors shall be raked every three (3) days and the waste removed.

5 - Drainage and pools - Cages, pens and paddocks shall be designed so as to provide adequate drainage of the enclosure. Standing water shall not be allowed except in the case of species requiring water for wading, submersing or swimming. Pools provided for any wildlife shall be cleaned as often as needed to ensure good water quality.

4 - No person shall sell or possess for the purpose of sale or public exhibition any wildlife, except as provided herein, without having in his possession a bill of sale or other documentary evidence showing the name and address of the supplier of any such wildlife.

BILLY ROGERS, high act performer, writes that about a week after he closed with the Gatti show last year, a fire swept through his facilities in Texas, destroying costumes, photos, equipment, etc. He is slowly getting back to normal and his 5th wheel is still in good shape.

SANTA'S MAGIC CIRCUS (Continued)

boggling escape.

After his closing effect Dorian Blake was *commenting on how marvelous the Erie, Pa. audience had been*, when once again he was interrupted by Coco, who wanted to present another magical illusion. After a comical heated argument the decision was left up to the crowd, who applauded their approval of Coco's magical ambitions. With the aid of Dorian Blake, Santa Claus was produced from a box much too small for him to have been in it!

Santa was welcomed, he talked with the crowd, then the entire audience joined with Santa in several Christmas songs.

Santa left to a wild applause from the crowd, and ringmaster Dorian Blake left the audience with a most touching seasons greetings, thank you and good night. He then disappeared through the glow of the curtains.

Moments later Santa reappeared to greet

the kids individually.

In all, this was a perfect evening's entertainment. The dazzling wardrobe, the sensational performers, the fabulous music, the exciting description of the acts by the ringmaster and of course, Santa Claus.

This was truly an evening well spent, truly a show that was worth the price of admission, the crowd surely received more than its moneys worth.

The show was a presentation of James Nordmark's Events International, of Sarasota, Fla.

People

WALLY BAPTIST, President of Baptist Sound & Mfg. Co., of Jacksonville, Ill., recently received that city's "Citizen of the Year" award presented by the City Council.

Circus Festival

by JACK NIBLETT

The Eighth International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo, Dec. 10 thru 14th, 1981, provided five days of unbelievable circus achievements and terrific enthusiasm.

In addition to the sawdust ring thrills this is a great social occasion attended each evening by Prince Rainier III of Monaco, with Princess Grace, members of the Royal Family, and notables from local High Society and the Circus World.

The Prince, as President of the Festival, presided over the Jury which comprised M. M., John Ringling North, Cary Grant, Otto Netzker, Alfredo Atayde, Jimmy Chipperfield, Carl Semback-Krone and Madames Jacqueline Cartier and Liana Orfei. The great tent with one ring and a hippodrome track came from M. M., Ennis and Willy Togni, and is normally used for their "American Circus."

Thirty-five acts from 23 circuses, from 18 different countries provided a different program for each of the five nights, and this years participants came from privately owned and State circuses. Amongst the latter, the USSR, Chinese Republic, North Korea, Bulgaria, East German Republic, Czechoslovakia, and Egypt, all contributed some outstanding artists.

Performances start at 8:30 p.m. and finish shortly after mid-night. There was a large orchestra, conducted by Zygmunt Michalek, and the Ringmaster's duties were very ably undertaken by Sergio; handsome, immaculate, and a popular figure, from the French Circus, Jean Richard.

The fifth performance was a Grand Galan Night, when awards were announced and presentations made. Top awards given by Prince Rainier were the Golden Clowns which went to Oleg Popov, clown (USSR)

and to Roby Gasser with his sea lion act (Switzerland). The Silver Clowns went to Les Cretzu, springboard (Roumania), Pieter Liubitchenko and Ludmilla Golovko, trapeze washington (USSR), Joselito Barreda, high wire (Colombia), Alexis Sisters, equilibrists (Portugal), Kris Kreemo, juggler (USA).

Special Prizes awarded by Individuals and Organizations (including one from the Circus Fans Association), were presented to the following artists:

Les Sineros, equilibrists (Italy), El Helw, risley (Egypt), Peter and Katja Stanik, mixed wild animal group (East Germany), Kang Djeung Souk and Kim Dong Il, aerial voltige (Korea), Roby Gasser, sea lions (Switzerland), Valery Georjev, juggler, USSR), Gina Giovanni, equilibrists (Belgium), Yasmine Smart, high school and liberty horses (Great Britain), Mary Chipperfield, tigers (Great Britain), Flavio Miletti, chimpanzees (Italy), Wjatislaw Zolkin, foot juggler with Russian bears (USSR), Les Bertis, cycling act (Czecho-Slovakia), Les Navarro Sisters, aerial bars and ropes (Mexico), Willy Meyer, Jean Richard, liberty horses (France), Les Romanovis, bareback riding act (Bulgaria), Yang Liu and Wang Zheng Gang, jugglers (China), Flying Bells, flying trapeze (Mexico), Elder Miletti, reprise clowns (Italy).

There were scenes of wild excitement and joviality at the end of this performance, artists and audience mingling in the ring, congratulations, kisses and handshakes being exchanged, and many pictures being taken.

Even Adolph, Gasser's truly amazing sea lion (he is on his way to the U. S. I understand) joined in the occasion, balancing the Golden Clown award on his nose.

All in all, a rich, heady occasion, and one which gave renewed hope for the future of the circus.

CIRCUS ALTHOFF (Continued)

At 2:30 the band struck up a fanfare, a short welcome speech was made by the ringmaster and 16 big polar bears got the show off to a great start. While the big cage was still up, the tiger act was offered next. A clown did a good job of being useless to the roustabouts during the teardown of the cage.

Next six camels did a surprisingly good liberty act. The juggler that followed was one of the best I've seen. An eight pony liberty act could be recognized as one in training. However, the same man followed this with seven very well trained ponies.

Little Anna-Rose Segura offered the best solo trapeze act I've ever seen. She was terrific. And then came the baby African elephants who did a nice liberty act. The Wallis trampoline team put on a good show.

At intermission most of the audience headed for the restaurant tent. The music was provided by an eight piece band which played circus type music. This backed up the acts rather than giving another form of entertainment which actually distracts from the performers and animals. In between acts they played the popular music of the day.

The second half opened with the high wire artist. After that all eyes dropped to the ring to watch twelve beautiful liberty horses do a very good act. (The other set of liberty horses, seen in the horse tent, was not shown at this performance). The clowns then pulled the tooth extraction gag.

A snake about 10 ft. long wound around a charmer who was part of a troupe that displayed the twelve crocodiles. (No, they did not do a liberty act). They were followed by the Alexis Sisters who did a marvelous balancing act with a great show of strength for two young women.

Giovanni Althoff himself, directed the eleven elephants in a fine act, ending in a two way mount while standing on pedestals.

The clowns came back with a camera and had the children roaring. The last act was a good teeterboard display. The performers made their bows to close a great day at the circus.



CATHERINE BACH, star of the TV series "Dukes of Hazzard" is pictured here (above and below) as she presented an elephant act in the recent TV special "Circus of the Stars"



JO-JO, the famous Dog-Faced Boy, so long exhibited by Barnum & Bailey, died at Salonica, Turkey, from Pneumonia, on January 31, 1904. His name in private life was Theodore Peteroff.

He made his first appearance in New York in March 1885, as one of the principal exhibits of Barnum's Circus at Madison Square Garden.

He was about five feet in height, and his entire body was covered with a thick growth of hair, which, together with the peculiar formation of his head, gave him a striking resemblance to a dog.

East Coast News

by FRANK ROBIE

Former carnival and circus concessionaire B. J. (Jimmy) Murray and wife, Helen, were seen in Carteret, NJ, doing a 'Chemico' household cleaner pitch at a flea market. Murray was on Seils-Sterling and Downie Bros. Circus in the 1930's. He has been asked to visit with the Felix Adler Tent No. 12 CFA, in March.

Noticed in Nassau, Long Island, where Ringling Red played its final week of the season was a new concession item. A two inch blue and yellow "Greatest Show on Earth" logo pin with ribbon and various dangles, elephant, rabbit's foot, lock, etc. Sells for \$2.00. It should be noted that the elephant's trunk was down and there were not many left during mid-week.

Foremost female juggler Lottie Brunn played the Texas dates this year and enjoyed visiting with old friends. Doing a center ring spot she was enthusiastically received.

Local circus fans received a special invitation to attend the opening exhibition of "Center Ring: The Artist" two centuries of circus art at the New York State Museum, Albany, NY.

Museum and was seen in Milwaukee by the Circus Historical Society in June of last year. It has a catalogue of 125 pages which sells for \$10.00 listing everything in the show and showing photographically about half of the exhibit. A good collector's item which can be had by writing to: The Milwaukee Art Museum, 750 No. Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, Wisc 53202. Please note, there is an additional 75c charge for postage and tax. The Albany exhibit will run through March 7th.

Kudos from the Ringling personnel and area circus fans for the Big Apple Circus playing at Lincoln Center until Jan. 4, 1982. The show has a plastic top and a heating system which during 20 degree weather was very effective. Ticket prices for this one ring show ran from \$14.00 to \$5.00. This may be the start of a State Circus and should be watched carefully as its funding formula has improved during the past four years.

George Clancy, Captain, Hudson River Day Line and former concessionaire with the Ringling show in the 1930's is in Sloan-Kettering Memorial Hospital fighting Big C. He would appreciate hearing from friends. His address is: Room 1215, Sloan-Kettering, 1275 York Ave., New York, NY. 10021.

RONK IS GUEST (Continued)

Years ago ringmasters were not singers. Harold Ronk's adding of the dimension of singing to the ring boss' craft personalized singing as a part of the Big Show and established his niche in America's circus hall of fame.

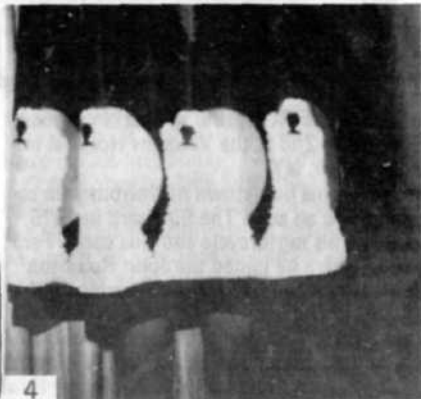
His circus career has been marked with great anecdotes. Two spectators seeing two



men in tuxedos near the track remarked, "Are they the Ringling Brothers?" When the front office inadequately briefed him on a VIP he remarked to an unknown guest "It is a pleasure to have you. How do I identify you to the audience?" Came the reply, I'm the Governor of the State." Once an inebriated commissioner blurted, over the loud-speaker system, "He had nothing against the circus. He objected to the circus coming and taking away all the money."

Once on Johnny Carson's Tonight Show he wanted a few circus acts. They brought Hugo Schmidt's dancing bear, Sarah Chapman, clown Ray Kutty's midget car, a juggler, As a windup Johnny got caught in the car. The baby elephant vomited. The bear wouldn't dance. The juggler slipped. Sarah did a simple routine. Harold summed it all up, "what makes this the greatest?"

After the amazing address Harold Ronk poured on the afterburners with a heart-pumping recital of nostalgic tunes climaxing with Hammerstein's immortal lyrics, "My life has been blessed with the sound of music and I'll sing once more." Accompanied by Henry Lushbaugh, Ronk sang his banqueteers aloft for the aerial ballet of circus fantasyland with those lyrics, "wild dreams, child dreams . . . parade days, lemonade days . . . clowns . . . here comes the circus."



Reminiscent of his debut with Emmett Kelly in the New York Ice Follies when he sang to Mr. Frown he also sang "Laugh Clown Laugh" and also "Mr. Clown, Mr. Clown. Take a frown and turn it upside down. . . Funny face, make troubles go like bubbles into space . . . Love that clown . . . Never let 'em down. Thank you clown"

And then he closed ala "Mighty Barnum" singing on Broadway to his wife, "The colors of my life will end shining light to lead me home."

When Harold Ronk sat down we were all in happy tears for we had found our circus fantasyland again on earth."

Photo identification:

(1) - Harold Ronk addresses banquet, Emmett Kelly Tent, CFA.

(2) - President Frank Ball, toastmasters banquet.

(3) - Honored guests Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rix (Rix's Bears) and daughter Jeanette (in center).

(4) - Rix's polar bears embroidered on the hem of dress of Jeanette Rix.

(All photos taken by the writer).

PEOPLE

AUDREY AREILANES (604 No. Stone-man Ave., No. 1, Alhambra, Ca. 91801) edits bookplates in the news and is interested in doing a feature on circus bookplates Her Jan. 1981 issue included a circus plate.

In Memoriam

OSCAR DECKER (85) retired circus man, died Dec. 2nd at the Veterans Hospital in Newburgh, NY.

He left his hometown of Newburgh in response to an ad in The Billboard in 1919, driving his motorcycle and side car to Peru, Ind., where he joined the John Robinson Circus as a country route billposter. In the following he was brigade manager, concession supt., in charge of the cookhouse, buyer and purchaser and held a variety of other jobs on such shows as John Robinson, Hunt, Downie, James M. Cole, Mighty Haag, Eddy Bros. and others.

In recent years he sold novelties and balloons at parades, fairs and ballparks. He was a member of the CFA, CHS, Showfolks of Sarasota, American Legion, Senior Citizens Club 60 and for many years he made the Peru Circus City Festival. Members of the John Herriott Tent CFA served as pallbearers.

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Kelly-Miles Reunited

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus gave three performances in the Cumberland County College gym in Vineland, NJ, on Jan. 17th, sponsored by the Cumberland County Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.).

The performances reunited famed clown Emmett Kelly, Jr. and ringmaster Austin Miles, who was one of the founders of the original Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus which was produced by Leonard Green. Fulfilling Austin Miles' long-time dream of presenting a circus on concert hall stages, the initial production was designed for just that and appeared in such prestigious halls as The Arie Crown Theatre in Chicago's McCormick Place, and The Brooklyn Academy of Music.

The colorful show included animals from the *Daktari* television series, along with *Gentle Ben*, and featured a ballet with Emmett and *Raggedy Ann* which was heralded as a masterpiece. The show gained critical acclaim in all the major newspapers.

An invitation to perform at the White House followed and Emmett and Austin presented the entire circus in The East Room in 1972. Their performance was so well received that they were immediately invited back for the Easter party in 1973 where the circus was presented on the White House lawn. Three of the original programs are preserved in the White House archives. The U. S. Information Agency filmed the circus which was shown in 84 countries focusing on the technology and the arts in the U. S. Film clips featuring Emmett and Austin were shown on national TV newscasts when Emmett, Sr. died.

The famed duo were also featured in a Kodak TV commercial. Ringmaster Austin Miles extolled the virtues of the Kodak XL movie camera while Emmett demonstrated it by taking pictures of the circus. The commercial due to run for one month was so popular that it was extended for six months, a record for Kodak.

After a year Austin Miles left the circus to narrate *The Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show*. Emmett continued with the circus (with Leonard Green at the helm), elaborating it to include high wire acts, elephants and all the trappings, taking on the flavor of a European one ring circus. They have since ap-

peared at fairs, auditoriums, gyms and stadiums across the country.

Austin Miles moved to Cumberland County three years ago on a temporary basis after marrying Valerie Davis of Millville, NJ. With the help of his mother-in-law Grace Davis, he wrote his first book, "The Real Ringmaster" published by New Leaf Press. His daughter Lori (Lorilini the Clown) last year won the Miss Cumberland County Beauty Pageant so Austin has remained in Cumberland County for an additional year. Lori, who won the state talent competition and was 4th runner-up to Miss New Jersey, made a guest appearance at all three performances of the circus. Ringmistress Nancy (Mrs. Emmett) Kelly usually handles the announcing chores for the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus. When Emmett learned that Austin lived within five miles of this date, he requested that Austin be his ringmaster. "It was a most joyful reunion," Austin stated. This was the first time the duo have worked together in 9 years.

Ice Show

Acts featured in the Jarda Kubik's "Ice-travaganza" (unique ice-less ice show) presented in the High School Auditorium in Silver Spring, Md., for the Saint Luke Youth Ministry on Dec. 27th were:

Dorothy Stratton (sings, skates and clarinet solos), Gita Salkinder (solist from USSR), Kim Reale (US figure skating gold medalist), Charles and Dolores Yonker (adagio pair), Chuck Yonker (clown and skating snow man), Jarda Kubik (international ice skating comedian and soloist), Jepson and Co. (comedy magic, ventriloquism), Bob Jepson, also MC'd this entertaining and well balanced international variety ice skating revue.

"Ice-travaganza" is now going to shopping malls and schools in the L. I. and N.J. areas.

"Stars on Ice" a show also produced by Jarda Kubik will be in Biddeford, Maine, on March 5 or 12th.

BOOK WORM

by LLOYD E. JONES

Our recent 2nd annual Book and Magic Fair brought out a good crowd, plus a big display of posters by the Walkers and Phil Temple, with Dante and Thurston material. There were lots of books by Magic Limited, plus magic by Dave Berry (Magic Magic) as well as Steve Dawson (Magic Touch).

The day passed swiftly with an informative discussion by Blake Maxam and Dave Fiscus on the problems of entertaining children. Jerry Salazar presented his Linking Ring

Routine now in book form and Al Gosham convinced all that he is one of the world's greatest when it comes to close up work with sponges and balls. Matt Goldine, an old-timer showed the new fry what experience can do with tricks.

The big framed poster of Virgil and Julie was won by Price Burlingame. The set of Thayer books went to Lisa Miles, of San Jose; the Fiscus and Walker books went to

Dr. Frank Blaisdell and the Merlin posters to Wynn Matsumura, A. Spalding, Bill Madden and Teller, of Asparagus Valley fame.

Blackie of the Magic Touch closed the activities with close-up

The Asparagus Valley Troupe, who recently closed after a long run in San Francisco, are now planning a new show which will be called "Mrs. Lonsberry's Seance of Horror" it will feature magic based on the macabre and bizarre, with levitation, materialization and resurrection of the dead.

Correction

That was Montie Montana, Sr. who was featured in the Rose Parade at Pasadena, Ca. on New Years Day, and he was also shown roping and riding at his ranch.

The typesetter mixed up the copy and as a result Montie Montana, Sr. was incorrectly identified in the CR for Jan. 18, 1982.

People

ORSON WELLES will present some sleight-of-hand tricks on the upcoming NBC-TV special called "Magic With the Stars." Also appearing in the show will be illusionists DAVID COPPERFIELD and the GREAT TOMSONI.

ETHEL JENNIER and JO ANN JENNIER recently visited Circus World park in Florida and renewed friendships with many of the show folks including BUD and JANET DILLNER, FAY ALEXANDER, TOM ROBIN, ROMAN and JEANNIE SCHMITT, THE HERNANDEZ TROUPE and others.

BUCKY STEELE and his Elephant Breeding Compound in Seagoville, Texas, were featured in a TV special shown over WFAA TV in Dallas, on Jan. 3rd.

WILLIE TYLER and Lester, vent act, were featured guests on the John Davidson TV Show the afternoon of Jan. 15th.

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