

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 30

July 27, 1981



BARBARA BRAUN

Show Dates

Aahmes Shrine Circus
July 31-Aug 2 Pleasanton, Ca

Beatty-Cole Circus
July 30-31 Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Carden Int'l Circus
July 29 Leavenworth, Kans.
30-Aug 1 Waynesville, Mo

Carson & Barnes Circus
July 27 Carlyle, Ill.
28 Fairfield
29 Mt. Carmel
30 Washington, Ind.
31 Bloomfield
Aug. 1 Bedford

Castle Int'l Circus
July 27-29 St. Joseph, Mo.
30-Aug 1 Joplin

Circus Arts Troupe
July 30-Aug 2 State College
Pa.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
July 27 Burlington, Vt.
28 Ticonderoga, NY
29 Glens Falls
30 Johnstown
31 Auburn
Aug. 1 Mt. Morris
2 Silver Creek

Hubler's Int'l Circus
July 31 Frederick, Md.
Aug. 1 Hagerstown

Make-A-Circus
July 27 Alameda, Calif.
30 Gilroy
31 Watsonville

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
to Aug 2 Houston, Texas

Ringling-Barnum - Red
to Aug 4 Inglewood, Calif.

Roberts Bros. Circus
July 27 Hiram, Me.

Royal Crown Circus
July 31-Sep 6 Lincoln, Nebr

Royal Hanneford Circus
Jul 31-Aug 1 Williamsport, Pa

Royal Imperial Circus
July 29-30 Aurora, Colo.
Aug. 2-3 Arvada

Swan Bros. Circus
Jul 27-Aug 8 Santa Rosa,
Calif.

TNT & Royal Olympic
Jul 30-Aug 1 Ann Harbor,
Mich

Wenatchee Youth Circus
Jul 28-Aug 1 Wenatchee,
Wash.

---- MAGIC ----

Krystali
Jul 31-Aug 3 Louisville, Ky

Midwest Magic Conclave
Jul 31-Aug 1 Milwaukee,
Wisc.

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
July 27 Martinsville, Ind.
28 Brazil
29 Terre Haute
30 Clinton
31 Linton
Aug 1 Washington

Felix Snipes
Jul 31-Aug 1 Conroe, Texas

The Palace Family
July 20-25 Vallejo, Calif.

Starfire
Jul 28-Aug 1 Topeka, Kans

---- OTHER DATES ----

Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Jul 27-Aug 2 Providence, RI

Disney World on Ice
Jul 31-Aug 16 New York, NY

James H. Drew Exposition
Jul 23-31 Terre Haute, Ind.
Aug 2-8 Valparaiso

Foley & Burk Shows
Jul 27-Aug 8 Santa Rosa,
Calif.

Poco Plus . . .
to Sep 20 Des Moines, Iowa

Scott's Medicine Show
July 27 Swift Current, Sask
28 Assiniboia
30 Stoughton
31 Melville
Aug. 1 Moosomin

Tip Top Shows - Blue
Jul 29-Aug 2 Green Lake,
Wisc.

Tip Top Shows - Green
Jul 29-Aug 2 Cedarburg,
Wisc.

PEOPLE

CLARK McDERMOTT and his Cold Nose Five act worked the Roseville, Calif., Fair July 1-5. Also appearing at the fair was the illusion act of **CHUCK JONES**.

MICHEALANGELO NOCK, 15 yrs. old, debuted in "The Nerveless Nock's Swaypole Act" on June 27th at Tommy Bartlett's Water Ski, Sky and Stage show. This now gives the Nock's an opportunity to perform with 6 sway poles at one time.

CANOBBIO, the Italian tent manufacturer, (his tops are used by Monte Carlo Festival and other shows) has appointed **SAL MURILLO**, of Las Vegas, as his exclusive U. S. agent for the sale of his tents.

BRUCE ANDERSON, high act, will be with the Carden-Johnson Circus at Pleasanton, Ca. late this month. Also working the date will be **CHESTER CABLE** and **WINI McKAY**.

TERRY and **DANUTA PARSONS** recently returned to the U. S. after spending time in England where they trained **MICHAEL CRAWFORD** for his work in the show "Barnum" which is now playing in London.

THE AMAZING KONKLINS have been working dates in Louisiana and will attend the Abbott Get-Together in Colon, Mich., next month, which will be followed by show engagements thru October.

JIM HOWLE had a "One Man Show" of his art work at a studio in Laguna Beach, Calif., on July 17-19th.

MISS CONSTANCIA, leopards and jaguar; **DORIAN BLAKE**, illusionist and **JERRY LIPKO'S** Chimps will work the State Fair at Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 19-25. Their booking was handled by World Wide Attractions, Inc.

LOTTIE BRUNN, juggler, reports she will be working the Texas Dates this fall, where she is to be featured in the center ring.

RICHARD HARRIS, vent act, was a guest on the John Davidson TV Show the afternoon of July 14th.

ROGER duBOIS, high act, was featured in the July 3rd issue of the Providence (R. I.) Journal. The article by Bob Kerr was written when Roger played Kennedy Park at Fall River, Mass.

Thanks To

A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Just a month ago Slim passed through the garden gate to the other side "where the grass grows green and tall, and there are no chains."

I am taking this way to thank all his friends for their messages of love and sympathy to me and our family. We are so grateful for each one of you.

Thank you a hundredfold.

Lillian Lewis (Mrs. George W. 'Slim' Lewis)
8107 Riverland Drive
Redding, Calif. - 96002

in the NEWS

A SCHOOL SHOW

Oak View Elementary School in Fairfax, Va., held its 13th annual physical education show in nearby Robinson Secondary School fieldhouse.

Four hundred Oak View students, grades 1-6 under the direction of physical education teachers Jim Moyer and Cheryl Thompson performed a variety of activities before a receptive audience of 2,000 spectators.

Activities included such circus acts as unicycling, juggling, stilt-walking, rolling globe, German gym wheel, tumbling, balancing, quartet adagio, circus bicycle, pyramids, Roman ladders, contortion, duo adagio and rola bola.

JOE and **BETTY NAND** played the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Las Vegas with their Lancelot Link Chimp Act, and are currently working the Boardwalk at Santa Cruz, Calif, for **SANDY DOBRITCH**.

DAVID COPPERFIELD, illusionist, was the co-host on the Mike Douglas TV Show for the week of July 13-17.

PHIL KAVANAUGH and **ROSA DOUGLASS** clowns, won a half page photo story in the Arizona Republic during the CFA Convention in that state.

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Report

LOTS OF ACTION IN MID-WEST

BY DON SANDMAN

Circus Fans in Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky and Southern Indiana had a Circus Spectacular between June 18th and June 28th.

RBBB Blue Unit played Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio, RBBB Red Unit was in Louisville, Ky., and TNT & Royal Olympic was in Columbus, Ohio. A few fans from this area caught all three shows.

RBBB Blue was back in the area after playing in Cincinnati in April, but the show drew good crowds to Hara Arena in Dayton. Because of the lowness of the building Elvin Bale had to skip the wheel of death and the Duo Dobritch were also unable to perform.

The show, being revisited by those who saw it in the Riverfront Coliseum thought it was better here in the smaller arena. As usual Miss Ursula Bottcher and her Polar Bears, Charly Baumann, Elvin Bale, Bonnie Bale, The Fkyng Seguras, The Flying Padillas, The Grantcharovi, The King Charles Troupe, Johnny Zoppe, The Guerreo Troupe, and The Gautier Family headlined an outstanding evening.

RBBB Red with Gunther Gebel Williams, Mickey Antalek, The Flying Farfans, La Tosca, Wally Naghtin, Sigrid Gebel, Tina Gebel, Lou Jacobs, Dolly Jacobs, The Flying Vasquez, Marguerite Michelle, Henry Schroer, Miguel Ayala, the Urias Troupe and the Carrillo Brothers played with Fairgrounds Col-

iseum in Louisville, Ky. Though you think each year that the Spec can't get better this year's "Circus on Parade" seems to out do them all. To the Circus Model Builder, the new Crimson-Mirror Bandwagon, complete with sunburst wheels is a great attraction. Nadezda Romaniuk was not performing at this stand.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played the Town & Country Shopping Center in Columbus, Ohio, With the Tegges are The O'Briens, and the Haucks. Clowning at this date were Tim Tegge, Tim Miller and Angie Bowman. Lee O'Brien was now working in the closing spec.

This was the first open mall that TNT has played and the weather held out with none of the shows being rained on, but the wind made the performers keep a careful eye out for flying objects. This experience would be helpful to them since their next date was also outside, at Baraboo, Wisc.

Circus Fans seen at TNT were Fred Pfening, Jr., Ricky Pfening, Al Conover, Jake Conover, Ed Jones, Jean Jones, Norman Vodrey, Grace Sandman and the writer, Don Sandman.

Louise Tegge and Tim again kept the show moving with their rollacking good circus music.

PEOPLE

BILL RODGERS, of Tropical Bird Fame, flew to Ohio to visit his mother on her birthday.

Report

FROM PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BY MICHAEL SPORRER

The 1981 circus season is in full swing with the arrival in Western Washington of the Hubert Castle International Circus and the American Continental Circus, playing the Tacoma/Seattle area. Missing from the line up of shows this year is Circus Vargas who changed their route.

The 16th annual Seattle Officers Guild presented the American Continental Circus (A Gatti Production) in the Seattle Center Coliseum, July 3-5. This year only five performances were given. Prices went up to \$5.50 and programs went to \$1.50.

Between performances on Friday, July 3rd members of the Jack Bell Tent CFA No. 90 served pink lemonade and home made cookies to performers and workingmen.

The Friday evening show started a bit late and drew a nice crowd. The line up is much the same as was in Tacoma for the Shrine in April. New on the show is Kay Rosaire's ti-

gers and leopards. Tommy Donoho and Pom Pom Scott worked the three elephants. The porredon Perch is still the hit of the show. Their grace and style won them the Silver Clown at last years Monte Carlo Festival.

Be sure to catch them when they are in your area, they have a nice show.

in the NEWS

JULY 4th CIRCUS DATE

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus played the annual July 4th celebration in Ottumwa, Iowa.

The show was managed by Kent Clayton who served as ringmaster as well as performing his whip and rope spinning act.

Also appearing in the show were: Yago's Wheel, Miss Marquis, fantail doves; Kathy English, single trapeze; Dave Upton's Uncaged cougar; Eduardo's Gypsy Bears; The Flying Garcias.

Music was handled by the Mike Pike duo.

YOGI KLEMENDORE

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REPORT

A JULY 4th CELEBRATION

BY PAUL SAVAGE

The Temple of Music, Providence, R. I., July 4th Celebration was held at the Roger Williams Park in Providence, where the Bertolino Bros. Circus performed as part of the celebration which was witnessed by 15,000 people.

Appearing in the show were: Caroline Savage and Her Poodle Revue (7 poodles); the Marcelli & Janis wire act; Jazzo the Clown; Jerry Coyle, Man of Many Instruments; Bertolino youngest brother and his wife, juggling; Gorilla Act by the Bertolino brothers; Carl Bertolino, sub. trunk and magic; Paul and Caroline Savage, Temple of the Swords and magic.

All acts worked in the rain and a series of fireworks concluded the program.

Our thanks to the Police security which was supreme with police on horses, motor bikes and squad cars, all giving their services for the day without pay.

Also in Fall River, Mass., at another date was Roger DuBois, high act.

In Memoriam

ALDEN N. BICE, a member of the Seattle Musicians Union No. 76, died recently in Seattle, Wash. He had been a member of the CFA and was noted for playing a calliope in many of the parades in the Pacific Northwest. He is survived by his wife, Irene, and a daughter and two sons.

The 3rd GENERATION

HORTON WONDER BEARS

GRAN MAR

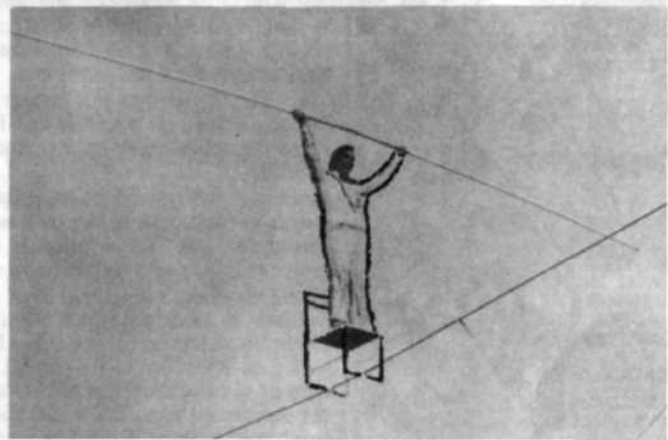
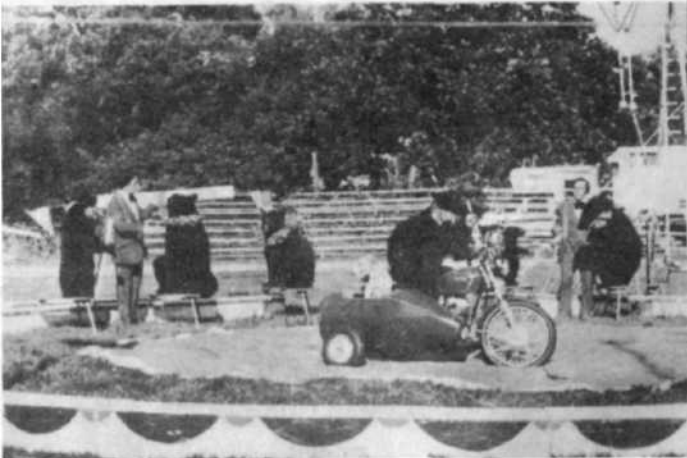
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CFA Convention

BY BOB MC CALL

A cookout, Mexican dinner and the Big John Strong Circus kept everyone busy as more than 230 people gathered in Scottsdale, Ariz., for the annual Circus Fans Association of American convention.

Jim Saunders, of Springfield, Ohio, was elected president of the organization, succeeding Fred Reed of Glendale, Ariz.

The John Strong Circus played three days on the giant grass lot at the Radison Resort in Scottsdale. Strong called the lot "the best grass lot in the United States."

A straw house was on hand as John presented his circus to CFA members and local residents. Daughter Nicole also performed as an added act. Daughter Sandy was already a part of the show, performing a clown swinging ladder act.

Clowns Phil Kavanaugh and Rosa Douglass, who performed on the Strong circus a year ago, also joined the show for the Scottsdale run.

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Members of the Roland C. Butler Tent, co-sponsor of the convention, presented each member of the show with a small gift following the performance. Even Neena, the elephant, was given a gift, a ribbon be-decked watermelon.

Circus historian Chang Reynolds, author David Hammarstrom and Ringling clown Peggy Williams were on hand to present well attended seminars.

Numerous circus models and artifacts were displayed in the "bull room". They included the animated circus owned by Al Turner of Lakewood, Colo., a computer controlled circus owned by Fred Canfield of Fullerton, Calif.

A cookout in the desert following a ride on a hay wagon highlighted one of the evening's entertainment. A dance troupe made up of young people from nearby Guadalupe presented authentic Mexican dances. They were followed by the Sun City, Ariz., Cheerleaders. This latter group is composed of "young" women ranging in age from 55 to 78. They put on a spirited show that brought everybody to their feet at the end.

John Strong was the guest speaker at the closing banquet. He discussed his life in the circus and earlier career on the stage and in television.

During John's talk, he was surprised by a singing telegram sent to him by several members of his show. The performance kept everyone rolling with laughter and applause.

Following John's talk, Fred Reed presented him with a model of the Big John Strong Circus. Reed had carved the circus figures, each a replica of one of the current performers or of some show had been members of the show in the past. The model packs into two trucks, painted like the two used on the show.

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SPECIAL

A SPECIAL CLASS IN NEW YORK

BY HANABELLE

The New York Clown Alley hosted recent Russian arrival, Yury Belov at its last meeting. Mr. Belov, the former Artistic Director of the Moscow Variety Arts Academy, and a staff member of the Moscow State Circus Academy, is now a New York City resident.

He gave a workshop session for the Alley (participants were Hanabelle and John Grimaldi, among others), doing a series: circus mimes.

He is now beginning a workshop series at John Townsen's (Clowns) studio, and is coaching members of the Alley. Mr. Belov is famous in Russia for his teaching and for his creation of clown acts for top-notch performers (such as Oleg Popov).

NEWS BRIEF

EDITOR RETIRES

Walter Hohenadel, editor of the CFA magazine "White Tops" since 1977, retired from the post at the Circus Fans Association convention in Scottsdale, Ariz., in June.

Robert McCall, of Phoenix, Ariz., a former Associated Press newsmen, was named by the board of directors to succeed Hohenadel as editor.

Hohenadel's printing company in Rochelle, Ill., will continue to print and distribute the magazine.

a Circus

CIRCUS VEGAS -

Circus Vegas was presented in the Aladdin Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., July 6-12, with a major portion of the show being taped for later viewing on TV.

Parley Baer was the circus ringmaster while Anthony Newly made the announcements for the TV cameras.

The show ran two hours and 30 minutes and acts included: Emmett Kelly, Jr. Dream sequence; Spec; The Ferges Troupe, trampoline; Baby Tarra the elephant; The Drouguettes, juggling; Circus 2000, cradle and webs with dry ice effect; Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla; Darrell Wallen and the dressage horse 'Mr. Rhythm'; Emmett Kelly, Jr. and Ballerina; Lancelot Chimps, Joe and Betty Naud; The Painters, knock about comedy; The Flying Carrolls; Intermission.

Mario Drouguette, aerial ladder; Misty Raines, soloist; Larry Dean, tigers; Emmett Kelly, Jr. tiger mime; The Ruwills, plate spinning; Richard St. John, cloud swing; Emmett Kelly, Jr., rope mime; Los Latinos, tight wire; Bob Kramer, illusionist; Steele's elephants.

PEOPLE

LIPKO'S CHIMPS have been signed for a 5 week tour with the Hetzer Int'l Circus starting Oct. 2nd. Just prior to the circus date they will be working fairs in Mass., Long Island and Maine for Better Booking Agency.



A FAMILY OF CIRCUS CLOWNS

by Barbara Schechter - from the *Globe-Democrat*, St. Louis, Mo., June 20-21, '81.

Call a clown named Coco at the Moolah Shrine Circus, and more than one will answer.

Michael, 58, Graham, 34 and Mike, 13.

It is the first time three generations of the Polakovs family, better known as the Coco clan, have donned greasepaint, their trademark sailor hats and clowned around in a circus together.

The eldest Coco, a clown for more than 50 years, instilled his love for the art in four of his six children, and the tradition is being passed on to grandchildren.

Graham, the producer clown for this circus needed an extra, so he called his father. The eldest Coco is performing for the first time with his namesake grandson. Michael's youngest child, David, 16, also is in the act, as is a stepson, Byron, 27.

"I have never forced them to do anything," the veteran clown said in a slightly British accent while the family relaxed in its trailer.

Polakovs is a third-generation clown, acquiring his taste for the spotlight in his native Russia. His grandfather began the Coco character more than 100 years ago, and his father carried it on as Coco II.

After the family moved to England, the Coco's performed throughout Europe and Coco

II received an Order of the British Empire from Queen Elizabeth II.

Coco III, who appears on television and tours throughout the United States and Canada, calls himself a "European" clown, in contrast to a strictly television clown or character-type clown like Emmett Kelly.

"We just don't put makeup on and go out there and go 'Blahhh'. We go out and amuse people with slapstick. In every walk of life there's a funny side."

The Coco's take their skits from life, focusing on the foibles of such characters as undertakers, barbers and painters.

After a half century of laughs, Polakovs says humor has not changed much with the generations. The only concessions the clowns make to progress is replacing the Model T's with rocket ships.

The Coco children, now grown, often travel separately, performing throughout the country. They get together for holidays, weddings and funerals. "You travel so much you miss each other," said Graham, who uses Florida as a base.

His father calls Catlettsburg, Ky., home, and he scoffs when he is asked whether it is a tough life being a clown.

"I've got a \$100,000 home, two apartments I own 22 acres, three Oldsmobiles, and I've brought up six kids. Now you tell me about being a clown."

Report

A JULY 4th FEATURE

CIRCUS JOE VALENCIANO

I had a wonderful July 4th, one I'll remember for a long time. It was all thanks to my good friends, Tony and Elaine Lyle, owners of Glenwood Mobile Home Park in Tampa.

They arranged for me to be in the 4th of July parade at Brandon, just outside of Tampa. I appeared as "Joey the Clown" riding on the White Viking Golf Mobile.

Mr. Lyle also went along dressed up as a clown. He purchased greasepaint from Billy Rodgers' shop, near Gibsonton, for his makeup.

We had a 'circus' of a good time. The Golf cart was decorated with American flags, colorful balloons and streamers.

Other clowns were there too and the Egypt Temple Shrine were there with their clown units, which included a comedy car, calliope, mini bikes and an army of clowns. Egypt Temple sponsors the annual Shrine Circus for Tampa and St. Petersburg area each spring.

I haven't worn my nose and clown suit since my family and I were on the Hoxie

Bros. Circus several years ago, where I did clown in spec.

Clown Alley at that time on the Hoxie show consisted of my good friend 'Bumpsy' Anthony and Buddy La Form, and for awhile Dime and Connie Wilson were there.

The golf cart that we used in the parade is owned by 'Circus Joe' that's me! As we made our way down the parade route we tossed candy out to the children, it was good to see the smiles, as they gathered around to grab a piece of candy.

On the cart we had a fire-type siren which I operated. It made a lot of noise and was a real attention grabber.

Speaking of parades, I very much enjoyed the Chicago Circus Parade, with the giant Baraboo circus wagon collection. It was televised on PBS, May 24th and was shown in the Tampa area on Channel 3.

Once again I would like to thank the Lyles for giving me the chance to be a clown once again.

KING BROS.

CIRCUS

- TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN -

- 1 - Vicki Kernan King (MRS. FLOYD KING) leased the title "KING BROS. CIRCUS" to Mr. Remo Cristiani and partners for the years 1959 and 1960 with weekly rental/royalty payments made directly to her.**
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- 3 - The heirs of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd King have not SOLD, LEASED, OR GIVEN PERMISSION TO ANYONE FOR USE OF THE TITLE "KING BROS. CIRCUS" AND/OR KING BROTHERS CIRCUS.**

**Mrs. Linda King Pritchett
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Cochran, Georgia - 31014**

Show Report

CARLA WALLEDA CIRCUS

BY BILL GALLOWAY

The Carla Wallenda Aerial Thrill Show and Family Circus continued the summer tour at the Bavarian Summer Festival in Barnesville, Pa. The circus appeared as a free attraction, July 2 to 12. Two shows were presented each day, at 2:30 and 7:30 in the Grove.

Earlier in the route, at Siebertsville, Pa., members of the show visited Roberts Bros. Circus. Mario Wallenda is on that show. During a performance the people from Carla's show teamed with Mario's group to present a seven person roman ladder act as the 'Centurions'.

Appearing in that number were: Mario, Tammy, and Dixie with Ron Fernandez, Valerie Wallenda, Brenda Galloway and Brenda Hamlin. This was the largest number of people in that type of act in many years.

Barnesville show line-up: Brenvondez, hanging perch (Ron Fernandez and Brenda Gallo

way); Clowns, Skunk gag, Bimbilindo and Hiccup; Miss Carlita's Miniature Flying Circus (Valerie Wallenda); Miss Brenda's Canines (Brenda Galloway); The Centurions, Roman ladder (Ron, Brenda and Brenda Hamlin); Valdyras, unicycle (Ron, Brenda, Brenda and Valerie); Rab-Bu, Gorilla Parody (Brenda, Brenda and Valerie); Sway Pole, Miss Carla Wallenda; Slide for life, Miss Carla Wallenda.

Staff: Wallmore Circus Corp. (Carla Wallenda and Mike Morgan), owner and producer; Mike Morgan, announcer/organist.

Following the Barnesville date, the show will move to Iowa for fair dates. It will return to Ohio and Penna. in August and September for additional fair dates and celebrations.

Notice

Officials of Ford Bros. Circus report that contrary to previous reports, their circus has not experienced any blowdown this season.

HOTLINE

July 16 - The Sarasota, Fla., Shrine Club has officially been designated as a Shrine Temple and will henceforth be known as the Sahib Shrine Temple.

PEOPLE

MARCELLI & JANIS worked 2 weeks in Canobie Lake Park, NH, for Dwight Damon, as well as other outdoor celebrations in New England during July. In August they will be working in Canada for Gastoni Attractions.

MICHAEL McCARTHY, clown, has been

signed for the Pomona (Calif) Fair, Sept. 7 thru 20th.

MIKE PIKE is arranging the music and will conduct the band for the Alberto Zuppe International Circus at Little Rock, Ark., on Sept. 12th.

Mrs. EMMA SARGENT (Box 306, Worcester, Vt. 05682) will be teaching a class about circus history and would appreciate any help that can be provided in the way of information, pictures, posters, etc.

Mr. and Mrs. ADEN W. LOWRY, Sedan, Kans. attended the CFA Convention in Scottsdale, Ariz., then flew to California to visit their daughter and husband (Mr. and Mrs. Cleon Burden) who live in Lancaster, Calif.



Circus Train Draws Crowd

Many residents from the Cumberland, Md. area were at the local Amtrak Station last month when the Ringling-Barnum Circus train stopped in their city while enroute from Philadelphia, Pa. to Louisville, Ky.

The train stopped in Cumberland to water the animals and two units were added to the circus train. In addition to the number of animal cars, the train was carrying some cars loaded with automobiles and passenger cars. In all it was reported that the train contain-

ed 39 coaches.

Chessie System officials said the train was being pulled by two locomotives and because of the intense heat was forced to travel at 30 miles per hour.

A retired railroader in Cumberland said this was the first time in his recollection that the circus train had stopped in Cumberland in 30 years. The train used to take a different route.

SPEAKING OF

by JIM PARKER

Side Show Impresarios C. M. Christ and Ward Hall provided a huge Fourth of July Celebration for all those show folks in the Gibsonton area that are not out on the road.

Their recently remodeled home is a beauty and the large yard was decorated appropriately in red, white and blue.

Cooks Sheila Cook and Connie Daugherty had been busy all day preparing the feast which included mounds of bar-b-que ribs, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, various pots of beans, deviled eggs, huge watermelon boats filled with assorted fruit, wine, punch, beer, soft drinks and watermelons filled with vodka.

Among those at the gala affair were: Harry and Bea Fee; Mavis, Little Richard and Lisa Johnston; Mark Williams; Al and Barbara Moody; Blackie Snelling; Bob Hewitt; Jimmy Lee Long; Jack Korie; Joe and Bernice Hilton; Pete Terhurne; Jimmy Spoer; Rae and Ray; Kenny and Sible Fess; Lady Sandra and Creighton Spohn; Marge Porter; Creig Armes; Doug Burnam; Johnny Meah; Wayne Murray; Dallas and Carole Stump; Billy and Eelen Bell; Whitey and Alma Richards and Mark and Opal Durbin.

An unusual amount of show people remain in this area for this time of year and basically most of those out on the road are sending back poor reports as far as the business and weather goes.

However, Chris and Ward's winterquarters continue to hum as several big production projects for fairs are getting ready. Ward himself was all excited - he's an expected "grandparent" as his cat is due to delivery any day now and she has taken over the luxurious stateroom in his living quarters semi.

A sad note, Circus Model Builder, Circus Historical Society member and Circus Fan, Lou Kreischer of El Cajon, Calif., passed away very unexpectedly on July 1st.

Lou was well-known among the old Ringling clowns as he often gillied them from the show lot back to the train when they played Westgate Park in San Diego. Lou himself, was a neat, whiteface clown and very active in the San Diego-Los Angeles area. He certainly will be missed by his many friends... deepest sympathy to his family, Gerri, Toni and Beth.

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REPORT

FREAK SHOW

BY KEVIN MENARD

Dave Cota, owner of the Freak Animal Circus, has expanded his enterprise to include a separate attraction of a Freak Person. A Human Spider Man, a novel addition with its 40 ft. bannerline and tent.

The new attraction is doing quite well, opening day it made more than the Freak Animal Show and the admission price is less.

"People want to see strange and weird things," Cota says, "and that's what I look for, something bigger and better."

When asked where he found Spider Man, Cota replied, "That my friend will be the best kept secret in the world. I won't tell and Spider Man doesn't talk soooo."

The Freak Animal Show and The Spider Man Exhibit are all with the Billy Burr Fun-O-Rama Show in New England.

ues to rack up excellent to turnaway business in the northeast, which seems to run contrary to what the carnies, fairs, etc., are doing.

Review

THE CORONAS CIRCUS

BY RICHARD JOHNSON

What is a circus? Webster's dictionary defines a circus as a public spectacle including feats of physical skill and daring, wild animal acts and performances by jugglers and clowns. The Coronas Circus is all this and more. I believe the word Circus and Coronas are synonymous.

The Coronas Circus productions of Hollywood, Fla., presented two shows at the Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson, Miss., on May 23 sponsored by the Wahabi Shrine Temple.

The show started with Pizza, the clown. Introductions of Shrine dignitaries were made followed with the National Anthem. The Circus overture was played by the Coronas Circus band under the very capable direction of William Pryun. Sebastian Adriani holds the position of ringmaster on the Coronas Circus. Sebastian's diction and enunciation is very clear and can be understood by the audience. Sebastian's appearance enhances the show and does not distract from the acts.

The circus begins with an aerial display over ring one. Gandoff (Warren Adams) - a very strong and exciting trapeze and cloud swing act. Ring two: The Rolls Duo - a smooth cradle act. Ring three: Miss Pam presenting very graceful trapeze moves.

Next on the program was Eddie Schmitt with a magnificent tiger act. Eddie puts his tigers through their paces from pyramids to rollovers, from a fighting act to a love act. Eddie Schmitt has one of the top tiger acts in the business. Eddie and his wife, Cheryl, told me they would be leaving the Coronas Circus after the date in Kansas City to play at Park Safari near Montreal, Canada. They will perform there until September. He will use 12 tigers at Park Safari.

The Flying Ibarra's flying trapeze act executed some very smooth and beautiful turns. The second display was made up of dogs in all three rings. Ring one: Marina's Afghans and Poodle revue - very beautiful dogs. Ring two: Janie's dazzling Dobermans featuring a miniature pinscher. The wardrobe was outstanding. Ring three: Curtis Canine Revue - a well trained dog act.

The show goes back in the air for El Gran Mar - Mark Bronson Horton on the high wire. El Gran Mar amazed and entertained the au-

dience with his intricate moves on the high wire. A part of one trick I think should be mentioned is El Gran Mar takes his bicycle to the center of the ring and mounts and completes the ride by returning to the center of the wire and dismounts. The final trick in his act is walking the length of the wire with his feet placed in baskets and blind folded with no net below. A very good act.

Satani Demon used all three rings in his act - a very theatrical and showy act and brilliantly costumed. An act I have wanted to see and enjoyed very much.

The CoCo clowns were next with CoCo, Jr. Pizza and CoCo III. Balancing and juggling was next. Ring one: the Perry Duo, juggling. They have a sharp, clean, fast paced act - a pleasure to watch. You have to see this act twice to make sure you have seen everything. Also in ring one is Curt juggling. Ring two: Sir Harry James, one finger balance. This is the second time I have seen this act and I always enjoy it. His presentation and props combine to make a winner. Ring three: the Amazing Danacher balancing and unicycle act.

In ring one and three were the Texas White Horse Troupe - a well trained liberty act.

George and Serge Coronas presented two gyro wheels on opposite sides of the coliseum which had a very impressive close to the first half. All of this and the program was just half over.

The second half started with the CoCo clowns walk-around. Next was an animal display well worth the price of a ticket. In ring one and three were the Horton Wonder Bears. In ring one Mark Bronson Horton presented black Himalaya bears. This is a bear act you don't want to miss seeing. I have read and heard about it and been told if I had a chance to be sure to see Rex Bronson Horton's Wonder Bears. There are no bench warmers in this act, every bear performs. Just to name a few of the tricks the bears perform a foot juggling routine in each ring. They ride bicycles, skate boards, motorcycles and roller skate. That is right - roller skating bears. The act is fast and very professionally presented.

Rex Horton is an outstanding bear trainer. This shows in the act. Ring two was Gina's Royal Palace Leopards - three beautiful animals. One comment I want to make about this act is the props - all very impressive.

(Continued on Page 30)

CORONAS CIRCUS (Continued)

Props and animal presentation make this act a pleasure to watch. Miss Stevana rocketship trapeze was a beautiful act to watch.

Ring one: Wizbini tight wire. The audience enjoyed a sailor themed comedy low wire act. Ring two: the Rainos Duo - a slack wire act, a very unique act. Ron Perry and his wife, present tricks on the slack wire unmatched in the circus world today. From chair balance to fire juggling, you name it, they do it. But wait, that's not all. The Rainos Duo is going one step beyond that. They are introducing a tandem wire rigging, not one but two wires, one wire above the other, Ron and Pam performing at the same time. Watch for that. Ron and Pam Perry will be performing later at the Gas Light and then to Circus Atayde on tour. Ring three: Curt Kidd entertained the audience with wire walking feats. A stilt walk was presented by the CoCo clowns.

Joann and Don Anderson dressage horses in rings one and three in a Spanish theme. The comedy painters gag with CoCo, Jr., CoCo III and Pizza. This was truly a funny routine

The timing was perfect. They had the audience laughing from the start of the routine all the way to the finish. It is done with such perfection I would like to see it again.

The Hawthorn elephants were presented in ring one by the DeWayne family featuring a baby African riding a bicycle.

The finale consisted of a rocket/cannon act with human missile Capt. Adamo (Warren Adams). All the performers were back in the area with flags during this act.

The Coronas Circus is a big show. All the acts I have named, three were left out because they had no room to put them up at the Coliseum. The Coronas Circus is not a suitcase operation. They carry their own equipment. New equipment added included two GMC Astro trucks - one with a 40 ft trailer, the other with a 45 ft trailer, also with a telescopic boom for installing aerial rigging. They also have a new Kenworth tractor with a 40 ft. trailer. They carry rigging for indoor and outdoor dates.

The season opened with 16 Shrine Temples and several state fairs already under contract. For next year, the Coronas Circus Productions booked Monroe, La., before they even unloaded the show, by the impressive equipment they have. They have also for next year a new date in Omaha, Nebr., From Jackson, they play Shreveport, La., then to Kansas City, then to the big one in St. Louis. The Coronas Circus of Hollywood is on top.

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