

# THE CIRCUS REPORT

Number 26

June 29, 1981

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY  
Our 10th Year



RON & JOY HOLIDAY and their Magnificent Magical Animals

# Show Dates

## Beatty-Cole Circus

June 26-28 Auburn, Mass.  
29-30 Leominster  
July 1-2 Nahua, N.H.  
3-5 Methuen

## Carson & Barnes Circus

June 29 York, Nebr.  
30 Geneva  
July 1 Fairburg  
2 Falls City  
3 Maryville, Mo.  
4 Clarinda, Iowa  
5 Council Bluffs

## Castle Int'l Circus

Jun 26-27 Salt Lake City,  
Utah  
29 Ogden  
July 1-2 Billings, Mont.  
3-4 Great Falls

## Circus Arts Troupe

July 2-4 Poughkeepsie, Ny

## Great American Circus

June 28 Patton, Pa.  
29 Bedford  
30 Chambersburg

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

Jun 28 Gaithersburg, Md  
29 Fredrick  
30 Westminster  
July 1 Annapolis  
2 Glassboro, NJ  
3 Millburn  
4 Maplewood  
5 Presidential Lakes

## PTL Circus

June 29-July 4 Charlotte,  
N.C.

## Police Circus

July 3-5 Seattle, Wash.

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue

Jun 26-28 Memphis, Tenn  
30-July 1 Little Rock,  
Ark.  
July 3-4 Monroe, La.

## Ringling-Barnum - Red

July 1-6 Phoenix, Ariz.  
(Note: An extra day has  
been added to the Phoenix  
date, which was deducted  
from the Tucson date)

## Roberts Bros. Circus

June 30 Manchester, VT

## Royal Crown Circus

June 28-29 Midwest City,  
Okla  
July 2-5 Oklahoma City

## Royal Imperial Circus

Jun 27-30 Pueblo, Colo  
Jul 3-5 Colo. Springs

## Swan Bros. Circus

July 1-5 San Rafael, Calif.

## TNT & Royal Olympic

Jun 24-28 Columbus, Oh.  
July 2-4 Baraboo, Wisc.

## Wenatchee Youth Circus

July 4 Prosser, Wash.

## --- MAGIC ---

### Krystali's Kavalcade

Jun 28-Jul 1 Des Moines,  
Iowa  
July 2-3 Waterloo

### Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA

Jun 28 Mt. Pleasant, Pa.  
29 Alaquippa  
July 1 Angola, Ind.  
2 La Grange  
3 Wabash  
4 Peru  
5 Merrillville

### S.A.M. Convention

July 1-4 Boston, Mass.

### Starfire

Jun 30 Ft. Smith, Ark.  
Jul 1-5 Tulsa, Okla.

## --- OTHER DATES ---

### Burr's Fun-O-Rama

Jun 28-Jul 5 Fall River, Mass

### James H. Drew Exposition

Jun 29-Jul 4 Prestonburg, Ky

### Los Latinos

to Jul 5 Milwaukee, Wisc.

### Summerfest

to July 5 Milwaukee, Wisc.

### Tip Top Shows - Blue

July 1-5 East Troy, Wisc.

### Tip Top Shows - Green

July 2-5 Columbus, Wisc.

### Whizzer the Clown

July 4 E. Fultonham, Oh.  
5 Wellington

# in the NEWS

## WILD WEST SHOW SHUT DOWN

(By Martin Burns, staff writer for the Signal of Newhall, Calif. Reprinted from the June 10th, 1981 issue of The Signal).

Sometimes it is almost too much for a cow boy to bear.

An old hand - who can turn cartwheels in his saddle, straddle two bare-backed ponies and ride with one under each foot and darn near rope birds out of mid-air - getting tripped up in county red tape is a tough nut to swallow.

Montie Montana, Jr. is still trying.

In the true tradition of the Old West-cum-Hollywood, his Wild West Show practically had to go on. But Monday night (June 8) Montana shut it down, just two days after its official debut, Saturday night.

Tuesday afternoon he was still upset.

"I didn't know there were so many government agencies that could tell a man what he can and can't do," Montana said.

His Wild West Show which has toured ov-

er 25 countries from Africa to Australia ran afoul in Montana's very own home town. He had fallen prey to the maze of county rules and regulations which govern nearly all building.

Montana decided two years ago to make Newhall the summer home of his touring western event. Based on the same show Buffalo Bill brought to thousands at the turn of the Century, Montana settled his troops near the Calgrove exit off Interstate 5.

Everything went fairly smoothly at first. He needed permission from the county Regional Planning dept., He got it. He needed a business license. He got it. He needed special sanitation equipment, special fire prevention equipment, special electrical wiring. He got it; he found it; he did it.

But an hour before his Monday show he got a notice: He needed several building permits and several inspections.

"What could I do?" Montana said, "I just shut her down voluntarily. There was no way I could do all that in an hour."

Much of the fault Montana places squarely on his own shoulders. "I plead stupidity," he said. "I thought I'd done everything right I hadn't."

But he places a bit of the responsibility for his show's delay on one "zealous" county inspector. "I tell you if he had been in charge of the Westward movement we'd all still be in Chicago. He wanted me to get a building permit on a teepee."

But even with all the problems, Montana is still enthusiastic about his show and its first performances.

## CARSON & BARNES

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## In Memoriam

KENNETH VAN EVERY (73) who was known as "Van, the Tent Stake Man, of Northville, NY, died May 31st, after being ill for three weeks. He was widely known among circus management people as a supplier of stakes and tent poles. He played trombone with the Lucky Strike Band of Carolina and with different circus bands around the country in earlier years. He assumed the business upon the death of his father, producing tent poles and stakes. He always attended the openings of various circuses in Florida. He is survived by his wife, Eva, and two daughters.

# REPORT

## CIRCUS HOLIDAY

BY DON SANDMAN

On a rainy Saturday in Indiana (June 6) Circus Holiday played the Greendale Park in Lawrenceburg, Ind, for the Dearborn Jaycees.

The show arrived amid their 6th straight day of rain and though the lot was muddy they were able to find a high spot and erect the big top. The front lot for this date consisted of the Snake Show, Concession truck, Novelty stand and Side Show, leading to the marquee of the big top.

Jim Begley and Jack King and their Midwest Productions have a show that looks good on the lot. They have had some problems as I said with rain their first six days out. Other problems have been a burned-up generator on the light plant and some of the hired acts did not show and the acts who did are having to double up until replacement acts are hired for those who are missing.

Carl Conley is doing the Side Show pitch

and in spite of the weather, which finally cleared up before the afternoon performance, he turned a good tip into the side show. Jim Conley had the Snake Show.

Acts working the show are: Dave Upton, announcer/ringmaster/uncaged cougar; Carl Conley, juggling; Mike and Sally LaTorres, birds and Little Stoney the elephant. Sorry to say I didn't get the clown names. Jim Begley's daughter works a goat turn. They all manage to put on a nice little show and Jim says that two more acts were to join the next week, to fill in the holes.

The elephant ride was very busy at this stand. The Coloring Book pitch did well and the tent was filled with people standing. Oh yes, Jack King played the organ.

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## Notice

### CORRECTION . . .

The ad printed below contained some errors in its original printing early this month and has been corrected to show the right prices and equipment.

# Report

## "CIRCUS WORKS" EXHIBIT

Peter Walker's one man show at the Bjorn Lindgren Gallery in New York, called "Circus Works", a narrative series of paintings, drawings and lithographs, has been extended through July.

"Circus Works" grows out of the artist's six year involvement with Carson & Barnes Circus, with which Walker has traveled and worked extensively. In his paintings and drawings of this subject, he captures the performers and workers as they go about the routines of daily life and preparation for the performance. A major piece in this show is an 8 ft. x 24 ft. dyptic, "The Grand Imagineer", which gives a panoramic view of the entire circus.

His lithographic suite of three bleed prints entitled "Circus Suite I" has been published by the Bjorn Lindgren Gallery and is included in this exhibit. The suite has its genesis in sketches designed to decorate the sides of Carson & Barnes Circus trucks. The truck pictorials were executed in a barn at the circus winter quarters during the winter of 1977-78.

A native New Yorker, the 34 year old

painter received his B.F.A. from Cooper Union in 1968. He has also studied at the Art Students' League and the Provincetown Workshop. He has had two previous one man shows in New York, and has exhibited both in Houston and Lisbon. He also has many works in prominent collections and museums.

## SPECIAL

### MORRIS COSTUME SHOP

Morris Costumes has just completed an 8000 sq. ft. addition to its building in Charlotte, N. C., bringing the total size to just under 20,000 sq. feet.

The new addition will include a new showroom, additional warehouse space, a workshop and a 150 seat rehearsal theatre. The parking lot has also been enlarged to include paved parking for 65 cars.

While under construction, two workers came running into the shop to Philip Morris's office one morning and asked to use the phone to call the police.

They explained that their bulldozer had just dug up a skeleton. When Phil went to investigate he found it was a broken skull stage prop that one of his employees had thrown away.

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## NEWS BRIEFED

### FLYING FRUIT FLY CIRCUS

(by Joan Ford and reprinted from the Vancouver, BC paper).

"And now under the Big Top, straight from far-off Australia, let's welcome the amazing, the exciting, the one and only . . . Flying Fruit Fly Circus!"

The band sets up a lively tune. On comes an array of jugglers, unicyclists, acrobats, and clowns, the usual acts that make us love a circus. Except all the performers are children, aged five to 18.

The Flying Fruit Fly Circus was part of the Vancouver International Children's Festival. The 32-member troupe performed twice a day in its own brightly colored circus tent, and every one of the 14 performances was sold out ahead of time. That's not too surprising. Who would turn down the chance to see The Flying Wombats, The Great Leaping Lizards and Captain Tyrone and the Torpedoes?

This student group was formed two years ago by the Murray River Performing Group, a professional Australian theatre company. Most of the students live in the Albury-Wodonga region of New South Wales and Victoria. They practise after school and on weekends at the YMCA in Albury. Up to now they've performed only once a year during the May holidays.

"Coming to Canada was a big thing," said 13-year-old Gael, a member of the all-girl trapeze act known as the Hi-Lites. "Before this the circus hadn't really been part of our lives."

Children invited to join the circus must have athletic talent and an ability to work with others. A spirit of cooperation rather than competition is fostered. Participation in the circus helps them develop confidence, pride, self-respect and self-discipline.

"There's only one strict rule at the Circus," said 17-year-old Ian. "If you miss training you won't be performing. When you join the circus you come to stay."

Ian should know. He has been with the circus for more than a year now, clowning his way through innumerable audiences in search of the mysterious Mrs. Jones who has left him with her 'pot plant'.

Do Canadian audiences appreciate Australian humor? "Not always," said 12-year-old Mich, a whiz on the unicycle. "Australians are more

## In Memoriam

DR. WILLIAM HUEBENER (88), a doctor of internal medicine, died recently in Bremen, Germany. He once served as the personal physician to Kaiser Wilhelm II. He came to the United States in 1923 and became a U. S. citizen in 1949.

During World War I he was among the first of the German pilots who learned to fly. And in his later years he was a noted cardiologist and developed systems to strengthen the heart.

He was also an experienced circus performer, having been trained in aerial work and as a horseback rider. He frequently performed with circus acts, and his home was always open to circus people, a spot where they could visit and lay-over during dates.

He is survived by his wife, Verna, who lives in Ohio, and several relatives in Germany.

## Mailroom

The Post Office recently returned copies of Circus Report addressed to the following people, stating the address was incorrect.

Rafael Menendez  
John Palmstrom  
Gilles Valiquette

Donna R. Perry  
Dolores Coronado



broadminded. They laugh a lot more. Of course sometimes things have different meanings, so Canadian kids don't understand what they're doing."

As for other differences, the Fruit Flies found Vancouver and Sydney very much alike. "Except for the mountains with snow on top, this could be home," Gael comments. "They're both big cities with skyscrapers and beaches and water."

"Except it never stops raining here," Mick protests. "It's always sunny back in Australia"



.... from  
DON MARCKS

This month's mailing of Circus Report has been a complete disaster! At least 90% of the readers and advertisers have written or phoned to complain that their issues were late in arriving. They also stated they wanted to see Circus Report stay on a regular weekly schedule.

The June 1st issue was mailed on May 29 and is only now starting to be delivered. In most cases they will be there by the time this reaches you and the rest will arrive in just a short time.

The issue for June 8/15 was mailed from here on June 8th and the issue dated June

22nd was mailed on June 16th.

The general opinion from readers seems to be - raise the rates if need be, but keep Circus Report on that dependable weekly system.

Meanwhile we have gone back to the weekly schedule via First Class Mail. This should get things back to normal and keep the paper flowing through the mail regularly.

There are a couple of alternatives that have not yet been mentioned, and will be brought up at a later date. These ideas require a considerable amount of study and planning before they can be offered for consideration.

For those who have wondered about the idea of adding magic to Circus Report, the answer is two fold. It is an attempt to help make the paper grow and increase its overall circulation. It is also the only place that pro-magicians can turn for information and details in which they are interested in. A number of important shows now carry magic acts and so it has become a part of the circus business in general.

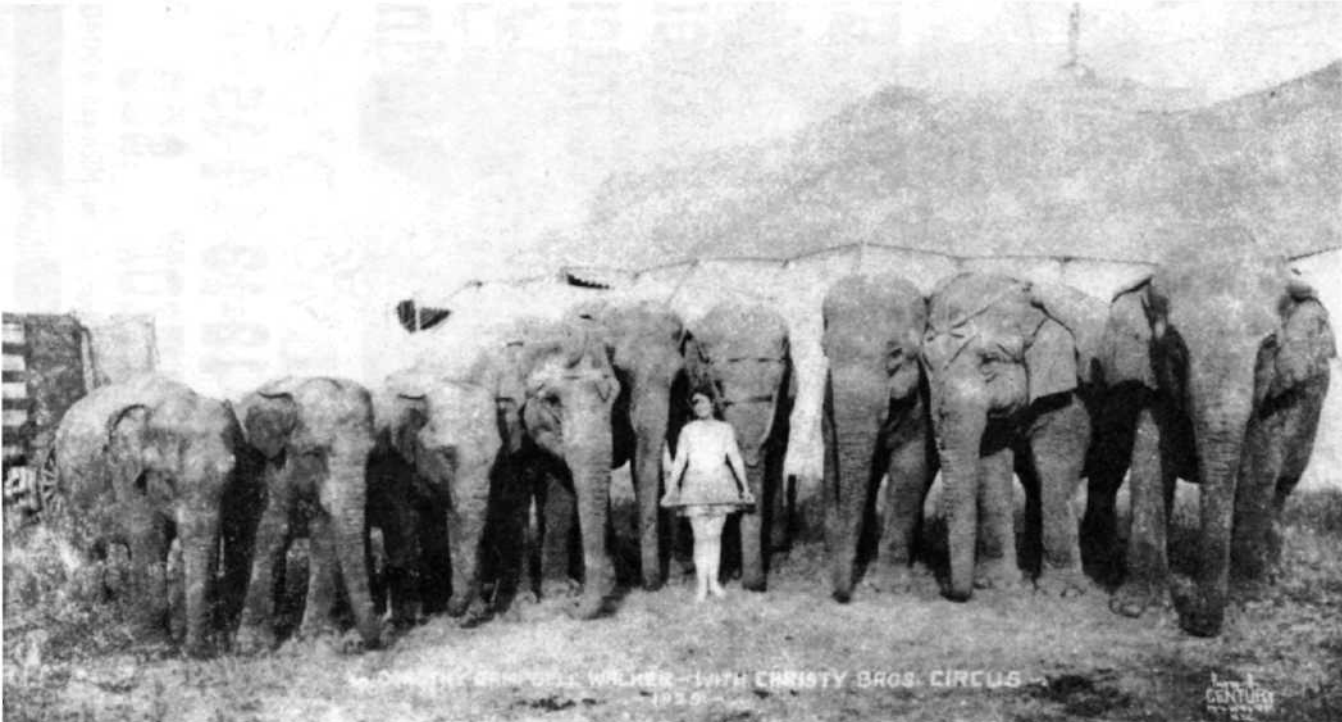


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Dorothy Campbell Walker with the Christy Bros. Circus Elephants - 1929



# BILLY BARTON

This week's column kicks off with an incredible rumor. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife official told at least two circus men (and possibly others) that he had processed papers for 20 baby Asian elephants coming in for the Ringling show. The information was tendered as my source was shipping out if Miami with a circus. Whether this rumor is true or not, who knows? It seems doubtful a Fish and Wildlife official would make up such a story out of whole cloth. If true, is Ringling planning a major surprise for 1982?

The Stebbings did indeed go to South America with their circus and now I hear stories that they are having problems down there, especially with their animals. It won't be the first time such problems have been encountered by shows going to South America so it could well be true. We'll know more about it when they finally get back.

**Tour-Guiding:** Denver is a beautiful city and I'm sure the American tourist would give his eye teeth to be able to trade places with circus people hop-scotching all over the map. Unfortunately our show schedules do not usually allow us the time to take in all the sights. Those of you playing the Denver area be sure to make an attempt to visit two spots - The Organ Grinder, a fantastic pizza palace featuring a magnificent pipe organ and lovely concerts, and the Casa Bonita featuring cliff-divers, strolling musicians, gunfighters, magicians and a puppet show. Both places must be seen to be believed.

**Snapshots:** When the Hannefords stopped over at the Wilderness Campgrounds in Michigan who showed up unexpectedly but Gaylord and Belinda, now touring with Nordmark's show. Also at the camp grounds were Pio, Tony and Katinka Nock. . . Tommy built a mobile platform, plus howdahs for two of his smaller elephants and Bill Golden is now operating an elephant ride. It's a first for Tommy. I caught its debut and the ride was doing quite well. . . Senor Rai is the latest to join the Video-Tape-Clique and is busy trying to buy up vintage movies, like the old Charlie Chan and Sherlock Holmes films.

Dwight Hanson took time off to dash to Florida to build an elephant barn for the Hanneford herd. He is due to be joined down there by Wally & Cheryl. . . A mid-summer unit of the Hanneford Circus with a full company begins in July. The regular fall tour begins in mid-Sept., opening at Salisbury, Md.

Bill and Trudy finally touched down in early June at the old homestead in Ohio; they'd been in Canada playing dates for Zerbini. . . Davide Zoppe finally got his Fish and Wildlife Permit. It was in the mail when he arrived home from Gracie's dates. They also received their Canadian Transit Permit, so the Winnipeg date is on, as well as the fair in Ottawa, in August. They still await a verdict on the fine.

Now that Harry Thomas is doing that famed Mabel Stark Wrestling Tiger Routine, Rowena says she must come up with new material for costuming that is "rip, hole, tiger and fall-proof!" Laughingly she says that Mabel wore leather so they will think along those lines - but - double-knit polyester just doesn't do it.

Two movies to the Circus Vargas credits: "Leave 'em Laughing" earlier in the year, and, just lately, "Side Show."

The Bauer-Hall Shrine Date in Wilmington was a bit top-heavy with comedy acts - the Plunketts, trampoline, plus Killer Willard and Irene and Tongo - all "stooge" numbers. Davide Zoppe and family also on tap. Talk about "leave 'em laughing". . . Bonnie Armor is on the road with Reggie. Last time I spoke with her she was in Western Canada doing that string of one-dayers.

Acts on Wayne McCarey's Shrine Circuit in Maine consisted of The Plunketts, Christopher James, Aerialetta, Vidbels, Albert and Jeannette Rix, Janet and Frank Burger, Tino Zoppe and Olinka. . . The Denver Police date for Grace: Jimmy Douglass, Harry Thomas, Carson & Barnes bulls, Irene & Tongo, Christina's chimps, Killer Willard, Andre & Andre, the Obandos, Flying Lantonys, Maryse Begary

(Continued on Next Page)

and yours truly. . .In Hastings: Clark's lions, Dime and Connie Wilson, Vidbels, Kent and Donna Clayton, Don Philips & Co., the Flying Margays (plus rolling globes), Walt and Wendy, Victor Julian's Little Stars presented by Leo Coffey, Miss Wendy (rings), Mr. Bell and yours truly. Clowns in Denver were: Vern Woerner, Grumpy and Bobby Davis, in Hastings: Rick Legg, Buck Nolan, Dime and Connie Wilson,

Jessie Griffiths is playing her usual string of fairs plus a number of Horse shows. . .Virginia Lee Fenton, who was in Denver, says she doesn't plan to travel east any more. Her drummer Chuck, has a good job on the West Coast and it is too hard for Virginia to travel great distances alone.

Wendy Patterson finally unveiled her new ring act and is doing a very good handstand. . . .Gracie has re-signed the Rochester Shrine date for 1982. . . .The Nebraska tour was successful. One town, Lexington, previously played outdoors, was in a building for the first time and proved such a hit the town will be played for two days next year indoors. Business in Hastings was the best the Shrine ever had; turnaways every night show

with people lined up for blocks. The Shriners said everyone in town was calling them, telling them how great the show was. . .You can bet Gracie will have that date back next year!

The Vidbels, after spending seasons in a park, are spot dating this year. Taking their place at the Catskill Game Farm are Roman and Jean Schmitt. . .Al and Joyce are due to hit the fair route for Moffett. . .Maryse Begary followed up Denver with a string of dates out west for Larry Carden. . .Clark's lions have added new routines to the act and new wardrobe. Their "cage boy" Gerald Burns is a poet/author, with two books published.

Sylvia Lantony is expecting. . . Meanwhile the Lantony's are playing the Bill Kay dates; ditto Al and Joyce Vidbel. . . Heard the Rodriguez Troupe and Gary Thomas are no longer with Castle.

Red Williams, handling the Carson & Barnes elephants in Denver mysteriously disappeared before the first show on the last Sunday - we still don't know what happened to him. Dorey had to send someone to fetch the stranded elephants to a friend's place in the Denver area.

Harry and Rowena Thomas say they couldn't wait to get to Fantasy Island (they are there now), it's such a lovely place. They were joined by the Burketts, back from Japan. . . Erik Adams, Jr. scheduled to play in Denver, was a no-show at the last moment when, as he opened a pop-top can of pop, the piece flew up and cut his eye. He was hospitalized and, from what I hear, it was a serious freak-accident.

Tommy Bentley must share honors with lone Stevens McIntosh when it comes to telling wonderful ribald stories about the 'old days'. And speaking of the latter, lone asked me to tell the world at large that wherever she is she is 'keeping it stirred.'

Raoul Valdez, once a catcher for Tito Gona, later for Sergio Ramos, was found dead in his car in a Las Vegas parking lot, a suicide. Seems he had a butane bottle in the car, closed all the windows, turned on the gas, and ended it all.

During a stop-over in Omaha, enroute home from Denver, I visited my old stamping grounds, the Conant Hotel. Chris Sederes, one of the brother-owners, came up and said, 'Billy, you look tired.' 'I am,' I replied. The next

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# REVIEW

## BENTLEY BROS. CIRCUS

BY JACK MESTER

As I write this I am using the counter of a concession stand in the Swing Auditorium located on the grounds of the National Orange Show in San Bernardino, Calif. Bentley Bros. Circus was here on Thursday, May 28th for a one day stand (no shows on May 29 as reported in CR) with a 4 and 7:30 p.m. show.

The first show drew a loosely-packed half house, while the 7:30 show drew a loose ¾ house. Some would dispute this and say it was a full house, but there were a good 250 to 450 seats empty upstairs. This place has 2500 seats on the main floor and 2000 on three sides upstairs.

The Otto Berosini cat act's steel arena was set up on the main stage, where unfortunately one of the cats reached through the cage and pulled the front curtain inside, ripping it badly. This was before the 4 p.m. show, when the cages were being positioned. Three rings were used on the main floor, very tight together.

In order to allow for the opening spec of all performers, the first 3 or 4 rows of seats were pulled out and then placed on the north end floor, opposite ring 3. The Winn Family aerial motorcycle rigging was also located in this area, close to the west wall or exit doors.

The rigging for the flying act was located on the opposite end flanking ring 1, thus giving those in the balcony the closest ringside seat ever for a flying trapeze act. I wondered if anyone would attempt to shake hands with a flyer in free-flight or dive into the net from the balcony railing. Neither occurred despite the lack of security in the area.

Tommy Bentley and Chuck Clancy have indeed co-ordinated a very fine show and selected a group of excellent performers who for their '81 season on the west coast. With Tommy as ringmaster/performance director the show moves along fairly smoothly, although at several points in the program minor problems did occur that were noticeable. There are always unpredictable occurrences that make even the best producers go into a sweat, however, Mr. Bentley is a man capable of concealing his anxiety when Murphy's Law rears its ugly head.

Acts appearing with Bentley Bros. Circus

# SPECIAL

## AS I SEE IT . . .

BY HARMEN LYZENGA

Circus Vargas has come and gone from the "biggest little city in the world" Reno, Nev. This circus has left its mark upon those who thought the large tented circus was dead and gone. Well, not so.

Contrary to popular belief that a large tented circus cannot survive in this day and age, they have been proven wrong by the Vargas sweat and tears approach.

This large tented circus cannot be forgotten soon and deserves to be remembered long after the last truck has left the lot.

Circus Vargas is like unto a fine wine that you appreciate and only drink from when you need your pallet satisfied to perfection.

When you attend this well organized show you will see the perfection at work and professional showmanship at its best.

In closing, the eye will be be-dazzled with splendor and pomp and you will know that circusdom will live on forever in the conscious mind long after the last hurrah.

This is Circus Vargas at its best.

are: Otto Berosini, mixed cat act; Richard St. John, cloud swing; Zerbini's slapstick comedy acrobats; Heidi Wendany, dog act; the Karoly's, dog act; Zerbini Troupe, teeterboard; the Young Troupe, teeterboard; two sordid balance acts whose names I did not get; Winn's chair balancing; Heidi Wendany, horse; Karoly's horse; Roverta Winn, slide for life (upside down); Winn Bros. inclined wire walk; Juggling by Heidi Wendany, Walt Stimax, Jr., and the Juggling Jewels; two chimp acts (one the Stimax Chimps); Zerbini's riding act; The Steele elephants (3 Asians, 1 African) presented by Bucky Steele and Jody Craigmier.

Clowning was handled by the team of Dion Aumier and Beverly Hoagland (a lovely young lady with magnetic eyes on a face of a Cherub). Dion is superb with his steel drum and brings the house down with screams and applause from the audience.

Although the music was not all traditional 'circus', plenty of show tunes were heard by a 10 piece band on this date.

(If I missed anyone it was not intended.)

## PEOPLE

**BOB-O** the Clown (Robert Hitson) was recently released from the Kaiser Permanente Hospital. He had a *diabetic infection* in his right leg and almost lost it. However, with the best surgery in the Sacramento area and quick action his leg was saved. Bob-O wants to thank Surgeon C. C. Sorenson, Surgeon D. Hickman, M.D.S. Dr. W. C. Hollifield, as well as the fine nurses of 5-West. He appreciates all of their work. Meanwhile, as he continues to recuperate at home, he would enjoy cards and letters, which can be sent to him at: **7621 Sunset Ave., Fair Oaks, Ca. 95628.**

**PETER HOFF**, clown/acrobat/musician, did a solo concert in New York City last month.

**ERNEST MONTEGO**, juggler, recently appeared on the "Monte Carlo" TV series.

**JILL FREEMAN**, photographer (Circus Days) and artist **PETER WILSON** (art work on display in New York) were seen visiting on the Beatty-Cole lot at Milford, Conn.

**TOM PICCARD**, clown and **JIM HOWLE** ar-

tist, visited Ringling's Blue Unit at Philadelphia, Pa. Tom is working as a clown on the Wildwood, N.J. Boardwalk and in various motels, while Jim is still selling his fine line of circus clown paintings.

**DOTTIE MORRIS** worked as a hot dog vendor and **SUSIE MORRIS** worked the cotton Candy stand for a TV show "Young and the Restless" which is to be aired with a circus sequence on June 25th.

**JIM FORREST** and his sister **MARY** visited **THE KLEMENTIS** at Lake Tahoe, Calif., and then visited **CEMON** and **SUSAN** on the Vargas show in Reno last month.

**RON** and **JOY HOLIDAY** have added a new black panther to their act. The new cat will be used in a brand new illusion.

**DAVE HOOVER** used an actual fire hoop thru which a lion jumped on June 6th, in Connecticut. It was the first time in 16 years that the state has allowed a controlled fire to be used within the circus big top.

**JAY COCHRANE** made a "Skywalk" across the Cleveland Stadium on June 3rd, just before the Indians/Boston ball game.

**ELMO GIBB**, advance clown for the Beatty-Cole Circus, was guest of honor at a statewide P. T. Barnum Top, CFA, dinner held in Plainville, Conn. on June 7th.

**RAY DIRGO**, artist, has been busy adding circus sketches to his collection of art work and will have a book of his work ready for publication this fall.

## in the NEWS

### FAIR CONTRACT AWARDED

The Florida State Fair has awarded its upcoming 1982 midway contract to Deggeller Attractions of Stuart, Fla. According to the reports, Deggeller Attractions offered fair officials a financial agreement that would net an estimated \$42,000 more in profits for the fair than any of the other contracts.

Based on the 1980 midway gross earnings of about \$600,000 it is estimated that Deggeller's offer would net \$295,000 in profits for the fair.

Other carnivals in the bidding for the midway contract included Royal American Show, Johnny's United Shows and Cumberland Valley Shows. Royal American had been featured at the fair since the early 1930's.

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# MAILBAG

FROM WILLIAM WOTSCH

It was a happy day here in Cleveland on May 27th, there were smiles and joy and a touch of Disneyland, for Mickey Mouse of Disneyland, Anaheim, Calif., paid a visit.

In real life, Paul Castle, a native Clevelander and a long-time friend of our family, spent a week here visiting friends. Meanwhile, his mother was visiting friends in California.

Paul learned to speed on skates on a frozen pond at Edgewater Park when about 14 years old. When our arena opened in 1937, Paul was the mascot for the Cleveland Barons Hockey Team. Dressed in a Hockey jersey, trousers and speed skates he would lead the team out on the ice. A small fellow lead in those big fellows out for an introduction to the fans.

He also skated in the Silver Speed Skate Races, and learned to do a jumping act on speed skates. This lead to a try-out for the

Sonja Heinie Ice Revue and he left our arena in 1940 to join her show.

At our hockey games Paul was dressed in a "Bell Hops Uniform" between periods and would skate with lucky number winners programs to the announcer for the prize that had been won.

On the big ice show he jumped over suitcases, trunks, etc., then in 1950 he joined Holiday on Ice in Europe, skating all over Europe. In 1957 he was at the Gruman Air craft for 18 months, then went to the Hilton Hotel in Chicago and rejoined Ice Capades for 1959-60.

From here he went to California, worked in movies as a stuntman, doubled for the star of the "Dennis the Menace" series and in Dec. 1961 joined Disneyland as Official Greeter and "Mickey Mouse." His wife also skated with him in Europe and Ice Capades.

Paul is about 4 ft. 4 in. and could really jump on speed skates. He appeared in a couple of Johnny Weismuller films, one of which he played the part of a native with a blowgun.

He recently finished a movie in which Eve Arden and Chevy Chase are the stars. It's called "Under the Rainbow." There are lots of midgets in this film, and Paul roller skates in a hotel lobby in one scene.

On his visit here Paul had a cap with the movie studio name on it, wore a short sleeve shirt, slacks and brown shoes. He also showed us photos of Disneyland and movie location shots.

Now he is back at Disneyland greeting visitors as "Mickey Mouse" and posing for pictures. He is starting his 20th year there in Anaheim.

Mickey Mouse, you made a lot of people happy here and you made my birthday a very happy one.

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## Miscellaneous

TV's annual "Circus of the Stars" show is now planning its upcoming new show. The show will be in its 6th year of nation-wide presentation this season.

# Notes on

## AMAZING AFRICAN

Tossing a baseball at a target, reeling a fishing pole, hoisting a flag to the top of a mast, beating a drum, banging a cymbal with it's tail, playing the 3 shell game (without a mistake), are just a few of the many feats performed by an amazing animal, at the Crandon Park Zoo in Key Biscayne, Fla. No, not a chimpanzee, but a 6 year old African elephant (female).

This African elephant has been trained by Richard 'Army' McGuire, and he named her 'Peggy', in honor of a fine elephant trainer and performer, Peggy MacDonald.

Army is a young, ambitious trainer, who gained his experience in safari parks and circuses, absorbing much elephant expertise from such veteran pros as Karly Peterson, Bill 'Buckles' Woodcock and Rex Williams.

In 1980, Army was contracted by a large animal importing firm to bring back a shipment of 33 African elephants, from Africa. This was the biggest group ever transported by ship from the dark continent.

Army has taught Peggy to play basketball, squirt water on command, kick a soccer ball, blow a harmonica, pull a sulky cart, work in harness, push a teeterboard and all the standard ring tricks, stand up, ground and tub sit-ups, lay down, waltz, etc. Many of these are first time tricks, having never been accomplished by an African before.

In all Peggy does over 40 separate and distinct tricks on command. Lana, another African female, has also been trained by Army at the zoo, but Peggy has far surpassed her.

This great feat of training is even more remarkable because Army had to overcome much fear in these elephants and many bad habits, acquired at the hands of an amateur so-called trainer who attempted to train the animals before Army was called in.

The Fuentes family, operators of many circuses in Mexico, Central America and in South America, tried to purchase Peggy, but the zoo declined their offer.

Army is presently negotiating with the Fuentes to train several baby African elephants for their shows. Some baby Africans are due to arrive in the U. S. this summer.

The Crandon Park Zoo has been closed for some time now, while a transfer of stock is made to the new Metrozoo in Miami.

The Metrozoo will open full time to the public in Dec. 1981. A complete wildlife show will be presented daily, featuring the elephants, birds of prey and other animals.

For this show, and to prove to zoo officials, his training skills were not limited to elephants, Army has put together a diverse collection of creatures, in two weeks.

This included a raven playing a piano, a monkey playing basketball, a cockatoo with an array of stunts, including the 3 shell game, and several wild hawks, doing free flying to and from his arm on command. In a rather limited field today, it is reassuring to see such a multi-talented and dedicated trainer appear.

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# Report

## POLICE CIRCUS

BY NORMAN ABRAHMS

The Greeburgh, N. Y., Police held their 48 annual circus for underprivileged children on June 6th.

Charlie Van Buskirk was the ringmaster, a four piece band was directed by Bob Cass, adding considerably to this year's show. Mr. Lollipops, the Klown, worked come-in.

The program included: Parade of the Circus stars; National Anthem; Circus Overture; The Billy Gunga Family, juggling on globes; Hal and Andrea, with educated dogs; Clown sharp shooting gag; Hal's Paper Cutting Capers; The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters; The wonderful antics of the Gunga Kids; Intermission.

Hal Haviland and his Pony, Timothy wowed them with the act; Billy Gunga and his novelty glass act; Miss Diana, foot juggler; Jazzbo the clown, magic, assisted by Mr. Lollipops, Princess Pain in the Neck and children from the audience; The Cyclonians, unicycle act.

Our special thanks to Sgt. Kapica and Sgt. Sarks for a wonderful day. The show was booked by Falzone Agency of White Plains, New York.

## Miscellaneous

THE WAZZAN TROUPE, BOB & EDNA TOP and THE RAMOS FAMILY are current ly appearing at Kennywood Park in Penna.

## Miscellaneous

### LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE CLOWNS

BY SHIRLEY MILLER

Let's hear it for the clowns  
Dedication their middle name!  
The Circus Ring  
Their stage to fame!  
The spotlight shines  
On Chatic gestures  
Fun filled, sometimes sad  
Hopefully hearing sounds of laughter  
Come on, Let's hear it for the clowns  
No act the very same  
Skits familiar  
But add-libbing - the name of the game  
Improvising - you bet!  
They invented that word!  
Utalizing - their props  
Making fun with absurd!  
Making it look so easy  
Their timing a work of art  
Expressions so fantastic  
That come from the heart

Carson & Barnes Circus won a full page of pictures and a story in the Topeka (Kans.) Capital-Journal on May 31st, which was written by L. David Harris.

Ford Bros. Circus played Ottawa, Kans. on June 6th, where two performances were presented under sponsorship of the Lions Club.

# In Memoriam

**BOB FILLMAN (57)** a ventriloquist and mentalist, died June 2 at El Paso, Texas. He was the creator of many fine magical effects and was a popular performer on the west coasts and in Australia.

**GEORGE (Slim) LEWIS (70)**, died June 10, his birthday, at Redding, Calif. He was the author of the book "Elephant Tramp" and had toured with most of America's major circuses and worked in many zoos, as an elephant man. He had become an authority and lecturer on elephants.

**BOB STULL (88)** former owner of the Stull Magic Shop in San Francisco, died in that city on June 2. He created many magic effects, including the Stull Watch. He was long active on the west coast and just last year was honored by the Magic Castle for his many contributions to magic.

**DON TANNER (47)** author of many magic

## **BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

thing I knew he told Evelyn, the desk clerk, to give me the best room in the house and demanded that I stay over to get some rest. I ended up in the penthouse suite, reserved only for VIP's, which consisted of a double living room (filled with antiques - one more, when I checked in), two bedrooms and two baths, a dining room and kitchen and stereo. The penthouse had once been the apartment home of the former owner. Needless to say, that for once I was speechless. Thanks, Chris - I will never forget my luxurious stay in that penthouse - and all on the house!

See you down the road, luvs.

---

books and a magic dealer, died recently in Ohio. He was well-known for his many years of association with the magic fraternity.

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**TINA**, an elephant owned by John Cuneo, died at Dixon, Calif., Veterinary School on May 29th. Her last show appearance was with the American Continental Circus.

# Report

## HALL AND CHRIST SIGN STAR

Hall and Christ have signed Roy 'The Great' Huston to star in their "Wondercade" revue which will open its tour at the Ohio State Fair, Columbus, Aug. 14th. The show which runs two hours, will be presented in 30 minute segments at Columbus with a new audience for each segment.

Hall said, "this will keep the entire performance intact and running smooth. Also when people talk about the show and one discovers they saw a different performance than another it will cause repeat attendance."

Seventeen illusions will be presented with Huston's wife, Susan, performing the intricate and dangerous ones, such as the buzz saw, cannon and pyramid illusions.

Six sets of scenery and illustrated stairways and many special effects will be utilized for the six production numbers.

Sheila Cook has been signed as featured dancer. Chorus girls and boys will be auditioned in New York and Miami in July with rehearsals commencing in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 1st.

In Gibsonton, Fla., winter quarters, Johnny Meah, is creating a new front entrance on a 40 ft. semi which will open to 60 ft. and 24 ft. high. Harold Mudry is out fitting a 30 ft trailer with a sewing room and wardrobe space for the 400 costumes. Marge Porter is working on additional new costumes.

A 45 ft. semi has been added for illusions and props. A big top, pole trailer and other equipment is being secured by Christ and should be at winterquarters in a couple of weeks. Also being built at Gibsonton shops are a new show front, tanks and stage for "Aqua Sensations". A performance which will take place in the water, on the stage and in the air. Features will include a water ballet, divers, comedians and novelty acts.

A show front is being constructed for the "Indian Village". Talent coordinator, Brian Morrissey is lining up Indians representing various tribes and their individual tribal customs in dance, attire, sports and handicraft work. A feature of the Indian show will be Seminoles wrestling live alligators.

New canvas is on order for the "Gorilla Girl Show" and the "Three Star Illusion Show."

A steel stage, 8 ft. high, is under construc-

tion to support Douglas MacValley troupe's "Globe of Death Motorcycle Thrill Show." By elevating the globe it will be able to be seen by an audience of 3000 at a time instead of the 80 to 100 who could see it at ground level. At present there are only three such acts working in the USA - at MGM in Reno, Playboy Hotel in Atlantic City, and the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit.

New banners and inside curtains are being made for the Circus Unique Side Show, attractions and personnel include: Johnny Meah, manager; Jack Korie, inside lecturer; Bob Fulkerson, front talker; Leonard Farley, front door; Bill Christy, ticket supervisor; Pete Terhurne, dwarf fire eater; Bill Cole, quarter man; Louise Capps, armless girl; Emmett, turtle man; Loretta Fulkerson, tattooed lady; High Pockets, giant; Big Bruce Snouden, fat man; Poobah, iron tongue pigmy; Connie Daugherty, electric act; Kelly Carlisle, blade box and Dick Brisben, penny boy.

The side show would not have gone out again due to the costs involved with this big new show, except for the pay one price, at the Ohio State Fair. Because of the guarantees there it makes it possible for the show to make the season. After the Columbus opening the side show continues at Canfield (Ohio) with National Exhibitions, Hutchinson, Kans., with Royal American, Oklahoma City with Link and Dallas for Lowell Stapf.

The "Wondercade" revue will go on from Columbus heading northeast for a tour of auditoriums, arenas and at a few spots will be presented at regional shopping malls under the big top.

The other shows are built expressly for the Ohio State Fair and will return to winterquarters following that date.

Also operating this season are Wax World Museums at Roger Shakeens park in Salisbury, Mass., managed by Tom Dukes. The World of Wax Museum on the boardwalk at Wildwood, N.J., managed by Pixie Carson. The 20th Century Wax Museum on the boardwalk and a headless girl illusion show and motorcycle exhibit on Casino Pier, managed by Robert Parsons, Sr. The motorcycle and illusion show will play fairs following the seashore season.

On the road is a museum of oddities in partnership with Bobby and Kathy Parsons,

(Continued on Page 27)

## PEOPLE

**TIM HOLST** and **JEFFREY LOSEFF**, of Ringling's Red Unit were the subject of a recent AP release which told about their work during a circus performance.

**KAY ROSAIRE**'s mixed cat act has joined the American Continental Circus for the remainder of the 1981 season.

**CHRIS ANAST**, CFA, visited Borger Bros. Circus several times during the show's fall and winter tour.

**TOM (Popcorn) SINK**, **ECTERA**, **BOB OWENS**, **PHIL KAVANAUGH**, **ROSA DOUGLASS** and **TOM CARAVELLO** (all clowns) will tour with Big John Strong's 'Clown Capades' in July and August.

**DAVID HAMMARSTROM**, author of "Behind the Big Top" reports his book is now into a second printing.

**DAVID COPPERFIELD**, magician, was a guest on the John Davidson Show on June 11th.

**JOHN RUSSELL**, with Ringling Red, made a Guinness record during the show's New York City date by walking 34 steps on a pair of 33 ft. high stilts.

**TOM PRIESTLY**, has been working with the Lemke Chimp act for the past two years. He replaced **MARVIN VARNER**, who now resides in Dallas, Texas. Marvin had been with the act for 28 years.

**LARRY WILSON**, magician, was featured on the John Davidson TV Show on June 19th.

Prof. **STU MILLER** and all his Magic Time USA cast spent a weekend parked at the Morris costume and magic shop. Also recently at the show were **HARRY DUBSKY** and his Royal Palace Circus cast,

**CHERI**, aerialist, was featured in the Harlem Irving Times paper on March 25th, showing her performing with Borger Bros. Circus on the aerial web.

**BONNIE BONTA** is spending the summer at her home in North Aurora, Ill.

**BILL BRICKLE**, will take his poodles on tour with Circus Odyssey during the coming summer months.

**JEFF McBRIDE**, mime, is returning to the Queen Elizabeth Hotel in Montreal in Aug.

## REPORT

### CIRCUS POSTERS AND GOOD EATING

BY MARY K. HOPPE

Over 100 original circus posters that date back from 1914 to the present time decorate the walls of Pickett House, a restaurant in East Texas.

The posters were collected by Bubba Voss who played trumpet in the Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus band from 1955 to 1970, and who now resides in Orange, Tex.

Formerly an old school house, the Pickett House serves family-style meals and is located in a theme park named Heritage Village. The site is one mile west on U. S. 190 from Woodville, Texas.

### HALL & CHRIST (Continued)

managed by Dennis St. John, along with a fun house owned by Parsons, Sr., and Jr., currently with Bill Burr in New England, the unit will play fairs with National Expositions, Link and World of Pleasure shows

Henry and Shirley Valentine are managing a three show unit: Dolly Regan, half lady-half baby; The Incredible Museum of Oddities and a Snake Girl Illusion show. Included in their personnel are Mike Karnes, Debbie Bickle, Joni Jo McCabe, George Moody, Ruth Worth, Allen Wallick and Dolly Scott.

**JOEY JORDAN**, ice skating juggler, will be featured on Canada's "Stars on Ice" Tv series this summer.



There stands the gent who gave me my start in show business.