

# CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEK!  
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 31-32

August 30, 1982



THE VASHEK DUO

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### Show Acts

Acts appearing with the Wm. Kay Circus presented for the Osiris Shrine Temple at Wheeling, W. Va. (July 16-17) included:

Jack Cook, comedy car; Andre's Serengetti lions; Michelle, aerialist; Susan Sheryl's Royal Afghans; The Drougetts, juggling; Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla; Harry James, balancing; Rietta, Goddess of the Galaxy; The Diano elephants presented by Lee Keener; The Zoppes, balancing; The Flying Lantons; The Albanis, aerial cyclists; Johnny Zoppe, rhesus monkeys; The Wallendas, high wire, and clowns Joe Sherman, and Dime and Connie Wilson.

## PEOPLE

FROSTY LITTLE, RBBB Clown Boss was in San Francisco, Calif., on Aug. 17th for a clown audition program at the Cow Palace. Also auditioning at the same time were those wanting to become show girls.

ANGELA WILNOW and Her Collies just recently finished playing the Festival Circus at the Illinois State Fair, produced by Ron Kelroy and Assoc. They are now performing in New York and New England, on dates booked by the Wes Oler Agency and the Dwight Damon Agency.

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ACTS . . . . Are you listed with us?

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### The Acts

by DAVID E. REID

The program as presented by Circus Vargas, playing at Lancaster Mall in Salem, Ore., Aug. 4th featured:

Web in two rings with 3 girls each; Elephant teeterboard act; Clowns and the hot dog number; Jugglers in the end rings; Two girls, double traps; Cemon's Chimps (6 chimps); Llamas; Liberty Horse act (8) and camels and ponies; Two cradle acts; Slack wire, bounding rope, tight wire; Adagio posing, 2 men, 1 woman; Spec Circus on Parade with a contortion act in ring 1, principal riding act in Ring 2 and hand balancing act in Ring 3; Intermission.

Two flying acts, 2 women and 1 male in one act, 2 male and 1 woman in other; Clowns and the levitation; Three rings of Samoyed dogs; 3 man high wire act; Menage act in all three rings; Clowns with the bank robbery and Superman; Ground Acrobats; Elephants.

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# Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus  
 Aug 30-31 Wilson, NC  
 Sep 1-3 Fayetteville  
 4-6 Concord

Bentley Bros. Circus  
 Sep 3-4 Dubuque, Iowa  
 5-6 Davenport

Circus Knie  
 Aug 27-Sept 15  
 Geneve, Switz.

Circus Vargas  
 Aug 30-31 Bellingh'm, Wa  
 Sep 1-2 Mt. Vernon  
 3-5 Everett

Great American Circus  
 Aug 30 Hindman, KY  
 31 Pikeville  
 Sep 1 Paintsville  
 2 Hazard  
 3 Somerset  
 4 Glasgow

Hoxie Bros. Circus  
 Aug 30 Morganville, NJ  
 Sep. 1 Atlantic City  
 2 Runnemedede  
 3 Somers Point  
 4 Mystic Islands

Ringling-Barnum - Blue  
 Sep 2-6 San Fran, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Red

Roberts Bros. Circus  
 Aug 30 Stewartstown, Pa  
 31 Rising Sun, Md.

Royal Hanneford Circus  
 Sep 2-11 Greenville, SC

Royal Lichtenstein  
 Aug 30-31 Fresno, Ca.  
 Sep 1 Kerman  
 2-5 Sacramento  
 6 Bryte

Super Circus  
 to Sep 5 Jackson, NJ

TNT & Royal Olympic  
 Sep 2-4 Grand Rapids,  
 Mich.

Wallenda Circus  
 Sep 2-10 Flemington,  
 NJ

--- OTHER DATES ---

Burr's Fun-O-Rama  
 to Sep 6 Windsor, Me.

Cold Nose Five  
 Aug 31-Sep 4 Du Quoin,  
 Ill.

James H. Drew Exposition  
 Aug 30-Sept. 4  
 Pennington Gap, Va.

Elliott Amusements  
 Sep 2-6 Hart, Mich.

Flying Larrays  
 Aug 28-Sept. 6  
 Long Island, NY

Great Ice Odyssey  
 Aug 31-Sept. 5  
 Portland, Me.

Lilli-Ana  
 Aug 30-Sep 3 Detroit,  
 Mich.

Doug MacValley Stunts  
 to Sep 12 Storytown  
 Park

Scottish Games  
 Sep 4-5 Santa Rosa, Ca.

Tip Top Shows  
 Sep 2-6 Plymouth, Wsc

--- MAGIC ---

Harry Albacker  
 Aug. 30-Sept. 6  
 Newfoundland, Pa.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA  
 Aug 30 Alliance, S.D.  
 31 Shadron  
 Sep 2 Columbus  
 3 Huron, N. D.  
 4 Watertown

# In Mexico

by Vincent Medeiros

The writer recently caught an interesting circus here in Mexico. The program was as follows:

Overture; Opening welcome with 6 beautiful girls; The Olivers, trampoline (5 men and a girl); The Great Alexander, head balancing trapeze; Clowns (2 midgets); Miss Carmen, slack wire; Miss La Jessica, revolving trapeze; Los Roland, juggling (3 men and a girl); Sergio Casagrande, black panther; Sr. Sagitarius, contortionist; Big production number with all performers, followed by intermission.

Sergio Casagrande, cage act with 4 Bengal tigers and 4 African lions; Clown gag; Miss La Liliana, single trapeze; Sr. Humberto and Mrs. Georgina, elephants; Clown boxing number; Julio Caesar, camel act; Flying act with Alex Rolando, Francisco Coge, Alexander, Jr. and Rommel, Sr. Humberto, Sr. Jilio, Sr. Tuli and Miss Patricia; Grand Finale with all performers.

The show's staff includes: Humberto Padilla, gen. mgr.; Tuli Padilla, performance

director; Alejandro Padilla, show director; Rolando Padilla, ticket office; Fernando Padilla, big top; Julio Padilla, transportation and Francisco Padilla, animal supt.

## Clown Week

by BOB STODDARD

National Clown Week (Aug. 1-7) has now come and gone, so I can think of other things.

As promotional director for our Clown Alley No. 85, it takes more of my time than any other event during the year, unless it's our annual Clown and Circus Days which will be at Trader's Village in Grand Prairie, Texas, Oct. 16-17.

This year our main effort was directed toward a six-day promotion at Forum 303 Mall in Grand Prairie where we drew the best newspaper and TV coverage that I've ever seen.

The Mall's marketing director, Shirley DuPree, also said the same thing.

Three half-hour television shows are already scheduled with two more coming up plus a segment of a pilot program.

## Clown Cavalcade

Almost 300 clowns and would-be clowns turned out for the first annual Bay Area Cavalcade of Clowns at the Palo Alto Elks Lodge (Calif). Sponsored by the Elks No. 1471 Jolly Corks Clown Unit in association with the Clowns Around Clown Club and Clown Alley 80/Golden Gate Clowns, the affair proved that sufficient.

The Elks picnic facility behind the club building proper proved to be the ideal location, with its shady areas, barbeque pits, playground equipment and picnic tables. Throughout the day clowns and their families came and went, some in makeup and some out of makeup.

The high points of the day were lectures and demonstrations on magic and clown related topics. Steve Dawson from the Magic Touch, magic shop in San Jose, lectured on basic magic for clowns, and showed his new book "How To Be Funny Without Being Stupid."

Frank Herman from Bandon, Ore., lectured on magic for clowns and showed

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some of his inventions and exclusive items. Frank is a goldmine of information, gags and ideas, and was an early pioneer in children's television in the L.A. area as Skipper Frank. The years have not dulled Frank's enthusiasm or know-how, and the crowd responded enthusiastically to both lectures.

All through the day seminars were given on other aspects of the clown arts. Larry Russick demonstrated and taught juggling to those interested, and Chris Ganas held a short seminar on Introduction to Clowning. Frank Petritas and Terry Campbell did workshops on mime, while Gerry (Jelly-bean) Levoe did face painting. Leonard Miller showed others how to do balloon modeling.

Several clowns assisted in makeup seminars, showing both the treatment and application of the various types of clown makeup. Frank (Mr. Clown) Dolittle from the Golden Gate Clowns demonstrated tramp clown makeup, Frank Petritas and Leo and Sue Schrier applied auguste makeup, while Max (Max-E-Million) Martinez and Pepper the Clown showed how to apply classic whiteface. These demonstrations proved to be both informal and informative.

During the breaks the Elks Clown Band played, and many danced and clowned around to the music.

Late in the afternoon the Clowns Around club put on a performance of clown skits that kept everyone happy.

At 5 o'clock the steak barbeque began, and many stayed for the feast and fraternal familiarity. The best part of the day was meeting old and new friends and socializing with those of similar interests.

The Cavalcade of Clowns was headed up by a three-man committee of Chris Ganas from Clown Alley 80/Golden Gate Clowns, Ed Sorokowitz from the Elks No. 1471

(Continued on Page 25)

## Franzen Bros.

by KEN HOLEHOUSE

We caught up with Franzen Bros. Circus the second week of July in Antigo and in Rhinelander, Wisc. The show played three performances at 4, 6 and 8 p.m. in Antigo and two shows in Rhinelander.

The Antigo crowds were huge and fantastically responsive. The Rhinelander crowds were big, but only mildly enthusiastic. Any circus would want to take the Antigo crowd on the road with them - they were that good.

Since the show has already been reviewed several times in CR, I won't cover that ground again. But the show continues in the wrapping of greatness that has been noted in earlier reviews and you can't find a nicer, more professionally done circus anywhere.

Although Wayne Franzen has a one hundred per cent turnover on cast and crew this year, take-down and setup worked like clockwork. Everyone knew his job, did it well, and participated in the great spirit of camaraderie that makes this lot such a pleasure to visit.

Some random notes about the show not covered before:

Although drummer Byron Bufford has left the show, Bob Alma does a terrific up-tempo job on the organ and keeps the action moving at a lively pace. His sound is pure circus and his accomplished playing makes you think there's an eight piece band behind him.

Paul Neibauer helps make the musical sound so rich with his fine trumpet playing. He highlights and accents the organ playing and his announcing is so competently professional I thought I was seeing the Vargas show.

Clowns - former Ringling troupers, Dave Myslewick and Howard Nash are sensation-

al, creative and classy. They offer what is probably the best duo clown act playing a mud show today. They appear a number of times in the show and do the traditional clown gags of starched pants, spinning plates and washerwoman gag with precision and style.

Unfortunately, by the time you read this, Howard will have left the show. But hopefully David will have a talented replacement to make the routines work as well as when I saw them.

See this show even if you have to travel some distance. It gets better every year - and this is the best yet.

## Contract Awarded

Bill Jackson, Circus Administrator for Arabia Shrine Temple in Houston (Texas) has announced that the contract for the 1983 Houston Shrine Circus has been awarded to Hanneford Circus, Inc. The circus will be held in Houston from April 28 thru May 8, 1983.

"Once we recognized we would have to change producers for 1983, we examined very closely the major circuses in the United States," said Jackson. "There are many good circuses, but we feel that Hanneford's presents the best blend of entertainment, real circus and production numbers."

Contacted in Rochester, Mich., where a small unit of the Hanneford Circus was playing under canvas, Tommy Hanneford, President of Hanneford Circus, Inc., stated "It is a real honor for our circus to be selected for the Arabia Temple engagement. It is one of the major shrine engagements in the United States and our plans are to bring them a very unique and super performance."

# Summerfest '82

by CHRISTINA L. ENGLISH

Summerfest 1982, although marred by dreadful weather, was definitely in spite of it all a tremendous crowd pleaser. It played for 12 days this year in contrast to the usual ten.

Among the "worth sees" at this show biz bonanza was the Festival Circus sponsored by Kohls Foodstores and produced by Ron Kelroy. The hour long extravaganza was the only area beside the main stage that had standing room only crowds for three shows daily, with the exception of the first show on June 24th. The show should have been rained out, but wasn't because Ron doesn't believe that the show stops for inclement weather (like last year in Rockford at the Tebala Shrine Circus when the show went in its entirety while the audience sat beneath their umbrellas while the rain went on). Although the house was only half full, because people wanted to see the show, in the finest show business spirit the artists gave their all.

The line-up was about as follows: (the line-up is the secret, so it's never published in exact running order): Overture led by Keith Killinger; ringmaster Lucky Larabee; The Munoz Sisters double star spin; Billy Barton's cloud swing; Digger the Boxing Kangaroo presented by the Weldes; The Karinas, comedy trampoline; The Albuelt Bros., high wire; Los Argentinos, perch act; The Bovays, bar act; Miss Constancia's uncaged leopards; Sir Chadwick Chase and His Rolls Rotten; Bobby Davis and John McKay, clowning around and a beautiful Patriotic Finale.

We saw many people coming back over and over again to see the show. The Kohls people were quite impressed with the operation. I spoke with three of the representatives (not telling them who I was, of course) and they were more than thrilled.

In fact one could easily spot quite a few of them, as they were wearing baseball caps with "Festival Circus" on them.

The circus area was demarcated by red and white canvas sidewall around the entire area, with a red and white band tent, alternating green pennants with Kohls pennants around the area, and multi-colored pennants attached to all aerial rigging. I am told that the area will be set up the same way in Rockford, the next town.

The stages (blue and white, of course) will allow acts such as bicycles to perform outdoors where they ordinarily cannot perform. This area was highly visible from outside the grounds, and was a major contributing factor in influencing people with children to attend. The circus (especially one such as this) tempts folks of all ages to drift away for however a brief time; in this case a full hour and ten minutes, into the magical world of fantasy that is circus.

Illustrious visitors to the show included an unscheduled appearance by three charming cobblers from Ron's homeland, Australia. They were all charming chaps who, we are certain, were immensely impressed by the acts, area and so forth. They did not make their impressions known.

It's interesting how funny things can be. Australians come to America to meet an Australian who can show them how to run a really big show. They were discussing the possibility of recreating St. Louis' 1980 ten ring circus, how it was in the days when Ron had it, and the shows were Monsters, in Melbourne at one of the major entertainment centers. In fact, they are considering using Ron's copyrighted grid pattern and cement blocks that Ron built for St. Louis

Meanwhile, back at Summerfest, Ron's 11th year went fantastically, as usual, and of course he will be back there next year with a completely new show full of star-studded circus performers.

The show will go on!!!

# HOTLINE

The big top of the English circus owned by Mathias Cimarro, burned recently, just hours before they were to open their annual tour, at Witham, Essex. Also destroyed in the fire were most of the performer's props. Police are investigating the incident.

Peter Zakovic (42) of Perth, Australia, was ripped apart by lions at the Wanneroo Safari Park, just 31 miles north of Perth. Witnesses reported he got out of his car and walked up to the lions as they lay waiting for their mid-morning meal. The pack of 15 lions jumped on him and tore him apart.

## PEOPLE

EUGENE A. NOCK, Jr. of the Six Nerveless Nock has announced his engagement to CHRISTINE ASHLEY, of Ashley Groves, Inc. The couple became engaged on Aug. 10th.

## In Hawaii

The program for the 1982 edition of the Continental Circus, produced and directed by Paul V. Kaye, at the Neal Blaisdell Center in Honolulu, Aug. 12-15 featured:

Spec 'Circus Fantasy on Parade'; Doug Terranova, tigers; Bob Top & Edna, roller skating; Clowns; the Castle Bears; Christopher James, tightwire; Aerial Ballet featuring Lorelei on the trapeze; Scott's Unridable Mule; Los Gauchos, from Argentina; Intermission.

The Flying Miklins, featuring Mitchell in a triple somersault; Clowns; Scott's Football Dogs; the Clyde Bros. Elephants; The Plunkett Family, trampoline; Karl Winn Trio, aerial motorcycle; Finale, a Salute to the United Nations.

The circus staff included: Paul V. Kaye, executive producer and director; Earl Michaels, ringmaster/announcer; Jack Cervone, musical director; Ken Miller, producing clown; Eva Dunleavy, aerial ballet director; Chris Schacht, prop and rigging supt.; Lora Patterson, wardrobe mistress; Ray Tom, transportation consultant and Paul Yempuku, special photographer and program designer.

## Klowns

The No Elephant Circus, of New York City, premiered a new production of its show "Klowns" on July 21st at Stockton State College in New Jersey, performing for the school's 1982 summer theatre festival.

The performance starred Edgard Mourino, Karen Gersch and Niki Swarthout. The gymnastics/comedy act included "The Moosecow Ballet", a clown and acrobatic skit accompanied by music from "The Nutcracker Suite."

Mourino, an acrobat, gymnast and stuntman, is the subject of the book "Tumbleweeds" published in 1977. He has been an actor and stuntman coordinator for the Public Theatre and Metropolitan Opera in New York City. He has worked as a stuntman in such films as "Fort Apache the Bronx", "Dressed to Kill", "Arthur" and several others.

He will take a 10-week leave of absence from the No Elephant Circus to fulfill a teaching commitment with the Clown College in Florida.

Karen Gersch produced "Klowns" for two seasons at Great Adventure Park. A founding member of the Big Apple Circus, she studied with Russian circus performers Nina Crasavina. She has toured with three-ring circuses around the country, and with La Compagnie Foraine's one-ring circus in France. She has done acrobatics and also clowning at the Palladium, Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall and the Minskoff Theatre in New York City.

Niki Swarthout hails from Montana. The all-around state gymnastics champion at the University of Montana, where she earned a bachelor's degree in dance and drama, she came to New York to pursue a dancing career. She was introduced to the circus by Karen Gersch.

## Clown Capades

by FRED REED

'Clown Capades,' the latest "Big" John Strong production, was in Phoenix, Ariz., Aug. 17th, with two great performances to large, appreciative and enthusiastic audiences.

There were also clowns galore, augmented by exceptional specialty acts. Clown routines were handled primarily by three fine young ladies - Beth Brown (Little Dixie), Andrea Chaffin (Polka Dottie) and Rene Rossetti (Bell Pepper). Working with them was Frank Elwess (Willie). It was great to see this veteran clown back in make-up. Bob Owen (Spiff) was producing clown.

The specialty acts were exceptionally good. The Keppo Duo, beautifully costumed and with sparkling props, performed on the rolling globes and did a second turn as the Boothroyds, which had the youngsters in the audience with them all the way.

David King, assisted by a very pretty young lady, presented his illusions with just the right touch of comedy. Mark Voza and his "Pirate Birds of the Sea," presented his birds in a most unusual and interesting routine.

Rick Parrott proved to be a most talented performer. Working in clown garb, he first showed amazing skill as a juggler. In his second appearance, he worked on stage with a youngster from the audience and presented an amazing unicycle act. He returned for a third time as a clever ventriloquist and for his final appearance he played the banjo.

The show was backed by Neil Armstrong at the organ and Randy Bradle on the drums. Bob Owens, who we have watched for years as a clown, proved to be an excellent master of ceremonies.

This is without a doubt one of "Big" John Strong's finest productions. He has assembled for 'Clown Capades' a fine group of talented people.

## Magic Circus Revue

by *DON SANDMAN*

J & E Productions brought their magic Circus Revue to the Mason High School for a 7:30 p.m. performance at Mason, Ohio, on Aug. 1st.

Sponsors for the program was the Mason Jaycees.

The Magic Circus Revue is managed by Larry Allmon and is promoted by Ron Bacon and J & E Productions of Belpre, Ohio.

Featured with the Magic Circus is Terry Miller & Co., and the Lang Family.

The program as presented here was as follows:

Opening flash entrance of illusionist Terry Miller with flowers, Jam Box, Chest of Death and finally Needle thru Balloon. The Roberts Juggling Trio followed, Joey and Terry, comedy Magic, Terry Miller & Co., then presented the broom support, Kid Silks and the Mummy Case.

Intermission followed with a color book pitch and the sale of a photo of Miller.

Opening the second half was the Silly Sailors, slapstick acrobatics (Lang kids), Miller & Co., sawing a lady in half, the Goofus Plant, Lang's Teeterboard with the Lang family, Goofus Comedy Plant return, Asra Levitation, Finale with the Goofus plant finally blooming.

Terry Miller & Co. includes Terry Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Joey Johnson, Judy Wilson, The Langs, Roberts Juggling, Silly Sailors and Lang's teeterboard by the Lang family.

Seen around the lobby were CFA's Jake Conover, Ed Knoeple, Don Sandman and Al Conover.

Refreshment and novelty stands were in

the lobby. The stage had a black background with silver strands. Props were all well painted and show looked good. Lighting problems were created by the way the show had to set up on stage, but effects came off well. Terry Miller & Co., stayed around after the show to sign coloring book and photos purchased by the kids.

Many thanks to Ron Bacon and Larry Allmon for their hospitality.

## PEOPLE

THE SIX NERVELESS NOCKS will be featured on the National "P. M. Magazine Show on Sept. 20th.

BRIDGET HUMPHREY, of Walla Walla, Wash., teaches clowning and heads "The Entertainers" a troupe of clowns and jugglers.

KEITH and ELEANOR WHITE, of St. Petersburg, Fla., visited Don Marcks and the offices of Circus Report during their recent visit to the San Francisco area.

## Decision Delayed

The National Awards Committee of the Circus Hall of Fame met on July 4th, in Little Rock, Ark., during the annual CFA Convention.

The committee voted to delay decisions on nominees until the next meeting. The Circus Hall of Fame is now owned by John and Jan Zweifel, of Orlando, Fla.

## Bentley Bros.

Acts appearing in the program presented by Bentley Bros. Circus includes:

Slide for life by Julia; Spec "Circus on Parade"; Sword Balancing display in all three rings; Alan Gold, wild animals; Miss Aerialetta, trapeze, Mlle. Maya, trapeze, Lucky Bros., knock-about; Eleana Omar, balancing; Gomez Sisters, rolling globes, Manuel Gonzvales, rola bola, Nichols Troupe, teeterboard; Clowns with tooth gag; Ethel Jennier's greyhounds; Jerry Lip-

ko's chimps, Evy Karoly's dogs; The Claudia Sisters, iron jaw; Peterson's liberty horses; Clowns and Boxing gag; The Rosmonds, cradle, The Venturas, aerial perch, The Phoenix Duo, cradle; Aerial Fantasy with 6 girls; Intermission.

The Martinez Trio, perch; Evy Karoly, dressage with America's Fire Chip, Rex and Charlotte Peterson, dressage with Black Beauty and Golden Star, Dave Knoderer dressage with Sir Bingo, the Painted Wonder; The Zerbini Family, riding act; Clown sharpshooting number; The Circus elephant act (4) presented by Jo Ann Craigmile.

The show's producers are Tommy Bentley and Charles Clancy; Ringmaster is Jon Friday; Prop Boss is Pablo Martinez; Band-leader is Brooks Gear and Concession Manager is Walt Stimax.

Clowns appearing with the show were: Phil Shear, Gary Maximo and Jeff Mc Bride.

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## New View of Chaplin

Previously unseen films of comedian Charlie Chaplin will be aired on TV late this year. The 21,000 ft. of old clips have been released from family archives by Chaplin's widow. They show sides of the "little clown" that fans have never seen before.

The Chaplin family agreed to let them be aired because they were impressed by the Silent Years Special, an award-winning 13 part series on movie golden oldies compiled last year by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill.

The new programs will cover the years between 1916 and 1939 and include rushes from the film "The Circus," and clips showing Chaplin trying to shake off the little tramp image which made him famous.

Brownlow, who saw the films, says, "it is an astounding batch of film. It has never been cut or edited."

Chaplin guarded the films with great care and pride. "The film shows him in a totally different light from that normally seen by filmgoers."

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## Leopard Status Changed

After a year and a half of discussion, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reclassified the leopard from "endangered" to "threatened" in 18 southern African nations.

This means that after ten years of bans, it will now be legal for American hunters to bring home leopard trophies legally taken from that region.

Wildlife authorities characteristically argue that the reclassification will aid the leopard because sport hunting will provide jobs for Africans, as well as income, who presently regard the leopard as worthless.

"There is no way of knowing just how many leopards are killed as pests by Africans, but it has been a significant concern to a number of investigators," says Megan Durham, a Wildlife official.

# HOTLINE

Aug. 3 - Greenville, Wisc. - A Carson & Barnes Circus truck of elephants tipped over at a Wisconsin highway junction near this city. None of the six elephants in the truck were injured, but the driver suffered a concussion and a fractured leg, and a passenger was cut on the head. The accident occurred at the intersection of U. S. 45 and Wisconsin 76.

## Personnel

Personnel touring with the Big John Strong show "Clown Capades" which opened Aug. 15th, at the California Theatre in San Bernardino, Calif., includes:

Bob Owens, Beth Brown, Rick Parrott, Frank (Willie) Elness, Renee Rossetti, Adria Chaffin, clowns, plus Dave King & Co., magic, The Keppo Duo, Mark Voza, birds, with Neil Armstrong, organist and Randy Bradle, drummer.

## CMB Meet Set

The 1983 Circus Model Builders National Gathering will be held at Circus World near Orlando, Fla., on March 14-18. The gathering is being hosted by the "Chappie Fox Ring", Circus Model Builders of Central Florida.

A large model display is planned and will be on exhibit for the patrons of Circus World.

The event will close with the traditional banquet, with guest speakers yet to be named. Mrs. Edna Antes and Mrs. Mari-Jo Couls will handle the registration and will work out of the No. 124 Ringling Office wagon during the gathering.

## PEOPLE

JAN and BILL BIGGERSTAFF visited the Ringling Blue Unit in Southern California recently.

## Seeks Help

Marjorie (Ross) Jewett is looking for her cousin - Glenn Van Wye - whose last known address some 15 years ago was with a circus using a Chicago address.

Marjorie and Glenn's mothers were twin sisters, and both died several years ago. A brother reports that Glenn has not been heard from since he went to work with the circus.

Anyone having information or an address on Glenn Van Wye is urged to write to:

Marjorie Jewett, 5581 Corfu Court, Huber Heights, Ohio 45424.

## Show Visit

by JAMES COLE

I recently visited the Beatty-Cole Circus in New Jersey as a guest of the Flying Alvarez Family. I am very pleased to report that 15 year old Martin Alvarez is successfully completing the triple somersault to catcher

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George Pages with an almost 100% record for this season.

Eight year old Carolina Alvarez is making her debut this year and is capturing the hearts of the audience with her charm and aerial skills.

Members of the Alvarez Family and other Beatty-Cole performers were very saddened to learn of the accident and injury to Ringling trapeze star Gino Farfan.

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The TV Show "Cassie & Co." about a mail order bride operation included an office scene with several framed circus posters on the back wall. The show was aired on the west coast the night of July 23rd.

# Clown

by *TERRY ROSS ERICKSON*

Just a sad-faced clown walking by, baggy pants concealing an age withered body. Shriner sheik in gaudy gauze, playing horrible sounds on a battered horn. Old men with gleaming gold teeth surrounding him - all smiles - forgotten pain.

He looks as their shoes, gold shoes with long pointed toes, curling medievally upward, ending in tassles and tinkly bells. Bearded men passing, some, grizzled like himself - all old, all merry today, all holding tightly to one more day of life. Glee-ful old children announcing to young children along the sidewalks that the - Circus has come to town!

Gus in polka dots, fright wig and false nose blowing balloons for a tiny and silent tot. He looks down through rheumy eyes, remembering his own grandchild is bigger, almost grown now. He blows hard into the balloon. It lengthens, his breath shortens, then giving the balloon a fancy twist, he hands it to the child. Now it is

a sausage hound and baby smiles.

Hands gnarled with age reach down patting the soft little head, soft with down, shining in newness. He reaches up to pat his own, covered with bright pink-dyed mop. When he was young, it was rich and full, as rich as Absolom's. Now it is as wispy as the first threads of fog drifting in from the sea.

The crowd drifts in to see the show. The old clown follows after the children and sinks foot-weary into a broken theatre seat. But his smile remains. The house is full and the children are laughing - laughing at the spec, and the clowns for a day - laughing at the silly old clowns, laughing at the baggy pants and gaudy gauze - laughing just to be laughing at clowns.

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HEIDI and JIM GROGAN, MARK PILGER, BUCKLES WOODCOCK, TONY SMAHA, Jr., BOB HOCUM, WAYNE and DONNA BOLZ, RUDY (Pinky) DELMONTE and the BARISHNAKOV were recently seen visiting on the Carson & Barnes Circus lot.

# PEOPLE

**BILL BRICKLE** plans to resume operation of his "Wonderland Circus Revue" in early October. Acts set thus far are Grinn & Barrett, and Annie and the Wooden Soldier.

**CLARK McDERMOTT** and his Cold Nose Five act, **JOYCE RICE**, whips and ropes, **BOBBY MOORE'S MONGREL REVUE** and **GARLAND PARNELL**, monkeys, were working at the Calgary Stampede in Calgary Canada last month.

**PHILLIP CLINE** is improving after his accident and is now able to walk and is allowed to go home on weekends. He is still undergoing therapy at Lucern General Hospital at Orlando, Fla.

**LEE MERRIWEATHER**, **BROOKE SHEILDS**, **CONNIE STEVENS**, **JAMIE FARR**, **DANIELLE BRISEBOIS**, **JON "Bowser" BAUMAN**, **ADAM RICH** and many other stars participated in the annual "Celebrity Benefit" performance of the Ringling Circus in Southern California.

## CLOWN CAVALCADE (Continued)

Jolly Corks Clown Unit, and Max Martinez from the Clowns Around Clown Club.

All agreed that the event was successful and plans are underway for the Second Annual Cavalcade next year.

Dealers present were the Magic Touch, Larry's Costumes and Novelty and the House of Humor. Reports were that sales were good.

One interesting aspect of the Cavalcade was that although there was a bar set up, no alcoholic beverages were served to anyone in makeup, upholding the high ideals of clowning. The three participating clubs shared a small profit from the affair.

**BOBBY COULDER**, H & H Equipment, Hamlet Hwy., Bennettsville, SC 29512, says the Jaycees are looking for a carnival to play in their city in October. He can be contacted by calling: 803-479-8725.

**JAMES COLE's** Cole's Miniature Circus played in Winter Park, Fla., Aug. 19-22.

# The Quad

By GLENN COLLINS

Miguel Vazquez, a 17-year-old member of the Flying Vazquez circus team, has become the first aerialist to achieve the quadruple somersault, a goal that has eluded generations of performers throughout the 123-year history of trapeze flying.

Making the attempt under the bright spotlights of the Tucson (Ariz.) Community Center before 7,000 people Saturday night, Mr. Vazquez performed four back somersaults from the flying trapeze into the hands of the catcher, his 31-year-old brother, Juan.

His hands and feet hurtling at a speed of 75 miles an hour above the slender ribbon of safety net over Ring 1 of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Mr. Vazquez spiraled four times in a high arc that took him near the steel rigging in the ceiling.

## 'Like the 4-Minute Mile'

"I always knew I could do it," Mr. Vazquez said after the performance, "but I can't believe I did. It's like the four-minute mile."

The quadruple somersault, one of the most difficult of all big-top feats, has been the dream of aerialists ever since the triple was first performed in 1909.

The 1956 Hollywood movie "Tra-

peze," starring Burt Lancaster, Tony Curtis and Gina Lollobrigida, was a fictionalized account of the attempt to achieve the first triple somersault. The trick was actually accomplished by Ernest and Charles Clarke in a performance of the Publiones Circus in Cuba.

Only a dozen performers have been able to do the triple somersault, and two — Ernie Lane and Charles Siegrist — died in an attempt.

"I guess the movie has meant a lot to all circus performers," Mr. Vazquez said in an interview before his feat, "but it has been a real inspiration to me."

The quadruple has a high degree of difficulty, not only because it takes a rare athlete to complete four midair somersaults while positioning perfectly to be caught by the wrists, but also because of the problem it poses for the catcher. Hanging upside down from his horizontal bar, the catcher must grasp his partner as he spins out of his fourth somersault with explosive speed.

The final somersault must be carefully timed so that the force of the fall does not dislocate the catcher's shoulders. The power of this somersault has been known to strip the skin off the fingers of the aerialist. Although the trapeze rigging is set up the same way for each performance, making the dis-

(Continued on Page 27)



## THE QUAD (Continued)



Marty Katz

## Miguel Vazquez

tances uniform during each attempt, variations in temperature and humidity from performance to performance can affect the ability of the catcher to grip the flyer.

If the flyer loses control or is deflected by a bungled catch, there is the chance he could miss the narrow safety net and fall to the tanbark.

"The quadruple isn't just a physical test, it's also a mental one," Mr. Vazquez said.

## Recorded on Videotape

The 130-pound, 5-foot-8½-inch Mr. Vazquez is shy and self-effacing for a daring young man on the flying trapeze. He performed his first successful quadruple in a practice session last Aug. 19 in Long Beach, Calif.

The members of the Flying Vazquez recorded the performance on videotape, as they do most practice sessions, for a training aid. Mr. Vazquez has successfully performed the feat 10 more times in practice, 6 of which are on tape.

Although the quadruple somersault had never been achieved in an actual circus performance, there is some

controversy about whether the trick has ever been done by another aerialist in a practice session. The Clarkes are said to have done it in 1915, employing a "mechanic," or safety harness.

Tito Gaona, once a star aerialist with Ringling, said he achieved a quadruple in a 1976 practice session in Florida. Mr. Gaona tried to perform the feat publicly for part of the 1978 season, but never did it successfully. He is now a featured trapeze flyer for a circus in Switzerland.

Mr. Vazquez comes from Mexico City and was born into a family that has performed in Mexican circuses for five generations. He has been an aerialist since the age of 12. When he was 13, in Toledo, Ohio, he achieved his first triple somersault. He and Juan started practicing the quadruple in January 1981.

Long Beach, Calif., where Mr. Vazquez first performed the quadruple, is also the final resting place of Alfredo Codona, another Mexican trapeze flyer, whom many regard as the greatest aerialist of all time. In the 1920's, Mr. Codona was the only performer to achieve the triple somersault with regularity, until Tito Gaona began doing it in the 70's.

"Mrs. Codona gave me Alfredo Codona's belt after I first did the quadruple in practice," Mr. Vazquez said. "She wished me good luck. I felt that her gift made me a part of circus history."

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# LIONS and TIGERS and EVERYTHING

Eighteen years in the same theme park? That's right "Jungle Larry" and his family began their eighteenth year at the Cedar Point Amusement Park. Ten different wild animal shows daily from May 15th to Sept. 19, 1982.

Col. Larry Tetzlaff known to millions world wide as "Jungle Larry" was a dedicated snake hunter as a young boy. By the time he was 16 he had an international collection at Milham Park, near Kalamazoo,

a "rare bird." During World War II he and his assistants extracted venom of more than a quarter of a million deadly poisonous snakes to be made into life saving serums.

Tetzlaff recalls how on a radio interview series by Ripley (Believe It Or Not, Robert L. Ripley), he was once offered \$750 if he would get married in a pit filled with diamond-back rattlesnakes. His gal said O.K. but her parents didn't and Ripley had to find a substitute for him.



Mich. While he was at Western Michigan University, Harry Lewiston famed side show operator contacted him to help him maintain the giant reticulated pythons on Robert L. Ripley's Believe It Or Not Museum.

Later he gained much show experience while working with Frank "Bring 'em Back Alive" Buck. While with Buch he learned to handle everything from anteaters to zebras.

After a stint with Ross Allen and several major Florida wild animal attractions, Uncle Sam decided to use his talents listing him as

Today at the Ripley Museum in St. Augustine there is a board that contains some of Jungle Larry's hair. Some visitor once asked a guide if Ripley had pulled it out of Larry's scalp. Actually, on the same display panel is a piece of Tigon (half tiger-half lion) mane. In 1969, Larry and his wife Nancy "Safari Jane" (on TV) bred a lion and tiger and produced triplet tiglons that have been featured on TV shows throughout the world.

The tiglons were born at the Sandusky,

(Continued on Page 30)

## **LIONS and TIGERS (Continued)**

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Ohio, Park and were taken to Florida for the First Governor's Conference on Tourism. Their pictures appeared in newspapers and magazines around the world. They are still alive and healthy and part of the collection at Jungle Larry's and Safari Jane's African Safari Park in Naples, Fla. They live in the summer at Cedar Point.

When the war days were over, Tetzlaff spent much time working in Africa, Australia and South America, collecting wild animals for circuses and zoological parks throughout the world.

Tetzlaff had been exposed to some of Europe's finest animal trainers. He created many new types of harmony acts: baboons riding lions, chimps and lions riding together on elephants, chimpanzees wrestling six foot monitor lizards, just to name a few.

Through the years he has trained dozens of young people to be trainers that are names in the circus world today.

# Biggest aerial trick makes Vazquez a circus superstar

By Harry L. Graham  
and Renee Quirk-Haas  
Register staff writers

Miguel Vazquez caught the quadruple somersault again and again during public performances of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus this weekend at the San Diego Sports Arena. Twice in a row, in fact.

The slender young Mexican locked wrists with his catcher, brother Juan, to complete the difficult trick on the Saturday evening show, then did it again on the Sunday matinee.

It was just the previous weekend, on July 10, at Tucson Community Center that Miguel, 17, and Juan, 34, made circus history by linking up on the first quad ever completed before an audience.

Now the 135-pound, 5-foot-8½-inch flier has vowed to try the quad at every performance this season, including the circus' stand at the Anaheim Convention Center Aug. 5-16.

Often called *the biggest trick*, the quad was thought by most circus fliers to be an impossible trick until triple somersault ace Tito Gaona came along and began spinning it on the Ringling Circus in 1978. But he never made a wrist catch on the quad in a public performance, although he later said he caught it in practice in Tunja, Colombia.

Miguel, who has been flying only 4½ years, says he saw films of Gaona's quad and was so thrilled by the near-misses, that he wondered if he might someday be able to catch the dangerous trick.

In January 1981, in Venice, Fla., other fliers watched Miguel spin his classic triple and remarked at the great lift he had. "You oughta go for the quad," one said. "You got power like Gaona."

Miguel talked to Juan about it, and his brother said he thought it was worth a try.

The youth spun the quad to the net in practice for a week, getting higher and higher as Juan coached from the ground. After a week they began to try for a wrist catch, with Juan on his catcher's trapeze.

In Long Beach last Aug. 19, Miguel threw the four turns to Juan and they locked wrists and held on. The trick was videotaped by their brother-in-law.

"We were able to prove we'd done it," said the shy youth. "People had to believe us."

They caught the quad 11 times before they began attempting it during the Ringling performances this year. "We missed 250 in a row before we made the catch in Tucson," said Juan. But they missed only 10 more before they caught the quad Saturday night. Then they caught the trick Sunday afternoon for two completions in a row.

"There was a very great outburst of yelling and screaming from the audience Saturday night because they knew what he was attempting and what he achieved," said Charly Baumann, performance director and tiger trainer for the circus.

On Sunday evening, Miguel and Juan went for their third straight, but came up short, with Miguel falling to the net.