



AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
Our 10th Year

Number 42

October 19, 1981



PAT WHITE with "Susie"

Comment

by ROBERT LUND

The criticism of the Le Grand David Show in Lloyd Jones' column in the Sept. 28 th is sue of CR is unkind, unfair and untrue.

The show is not an "amateur theatrical", Lloyd and his anonymous source aside. Why anonymous, Lloyd? If Le Grand David is an amateur theatrical, Ringling is a mud show.

The entire operation - front of the house, back of the house, the show itself, staging, sets, costumes, props, music, lights, promotional material - is totally professional. Not only is the show professional, but so are the credentials of members of the company. Various members of the troupe have studied and worked in theatre, magic, drama, music, dance, costume design, textiles, lighting, theatre architecture, theatrical law - virtually every phase of theatre - in this country and in Europe.

"The show is too 'heavy' in boxes and costumes in relationship to the red lighting or much dimmed stage," Lloyd's anonymous carper complains. "It is heavy going to watch, particularly if not in the first ten rows - more lighting, full stage brightness would take away much of the 'heavy' strain and you could see it for a change."

The only accurate statement in that screed is that much of the show is done in subdued light. But for a reason that apparently escaped Lloyd's critic. The show is an effort to evoke an earlier era, which it does admirably.

The charge that the show is "heavy going to watch" is patently false. It is a pleasure to watch from any vantage point. I have seen the show from the second row, twelfth row and while standing back of the railing behind the last row of seats. It was not a strain to see from any of these positions, nor was it "heavy going." I have talked with

people who have seen the show 25 and 30 times from as many different seats. No one I have talked with has complained of not being able to see what was going on.

Lloyd says he "asked around among seasoned theatre-goers, professional magicians and such" to determine if the show is "as good as stated."

If it isn't as good as stated, the lads and ladies of Beverly have pulled the wool over the eyes of a lot of knowledgeable people. Let's dismiss the opinions of the dilettantes and non-pros beginning with myself, John Henry Grossman, Dan Waldron, Phil Willmarth, Robert Albo, Steve Tigner, Herb Downs and many others who have acclaimed the show as the most striking, beautiful magic show of its time. Let's pitch out the Magician of the Year Award the Larsens and the Magic Castle gave to Marco, the leader of the company, and his election to the S.A.M. Hall of Fame, both honors conferred this year. Forget the news paper reviews and magazine pieces, the two page spread in Time. Let's say all those people were mistaken in their assessment of the show, that they were beguiled or misled, that they didn't see what they thought they saw.

You might be able to dismiss the praise lavished on the show by non-pros and laymen, but how do you explain away the acclaim of such respected professionals as Neil Foster, Bev Bergeron, Sid Lorraine, Andre Kole, Claude Isbecque-Klingsor, Bruce Posgate and numerous others? These people are not impressionable amateurs or devotees. They are pros, veterans of many years who have seen many magic shows in many countries. Were they hoodwinked, too?

There is a provincialism in this country

(Continued on Page 30)

SHOW DATES

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

Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct 19-20 Ft. Arthur, Tx
21-22 Orange

Beni Kadem Shrine Cir.
Oct 23-25 Charleston,
W. Va.

Brickle's Wonderland Cir.
Oct 15 Brunson, SC
16 Ridgeland
19 Yememsassee
20 Hardeeville
21-23 Walterboro

Carson & Barnes Circus
Oct 19 Carrollton, Ga.
20 Ft. Payne, Ala.
21 Scottsboro
22 Albertville
23 Cullman
24 Winfield
25 Haleyridge

Circus Arts Troupe
Oct 22-24 Flagstaff, Arz

Circus Vargas
Oct 19-21 Lake Chas. La
22-25 Baton Rouge

Dr. Pepper Circus
to Oct. 26 Dallas, Tex.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
to Oct 26 Boston, Mass

Ringling-Barnum - Red
to Nov 1 Rosemont, Ill

Royal Crown Circus
Oct 20-21 Davenport, Ia
24-25 Cedar Rapids

Royal Lichtenstein Cir.
Oct 19 Edwardsville, Ill
20-21 St. Louis, Mo
22-24 Carbondale, Ill.

TNT & Royal Olympic
Oct 21-25 Joliet, Ill

Texas Shrine Circus
Oct 20-25 San Antonio,
Texas

--- MAGIC ---

Krystali
Oct 19-22 Phoenix, Arz
23 Yuma
24-25 El Cajon, Ca

Pf. Miller - Magic Time USA
Oct 19 Nebraska City, Neb
20 Shenandoah, Ia
21 Clarinda
22 Maryville, Mo.
23 Red Oak, Iowa
24 St. Joseph, Mo.
25 Richmond

Nordlaw
Oct 21 Irving, Mich
22 Casnovia
23 Ashton
24 New Swanzy

Starfire
Oct 19-21 Cheyenne, Wy
22 No. Platte, Neb
23-24 Grand Island

--- OTHER DATES ---

James H. Drew Exposition
Oct 19-24 Athens, Ga.

Humane Society Confer.
Oct 14-17 St. Louis, Mo

Royal Scots Dragoons
Oct 19 Lafayette, La.
20 New Orleans
21 Lake Charles
22 Lufkin, Texas
23 Austin
24 Ft. Worth

Joe Schmitt, Jr.
Oct 18 Coppel, Texas

Cover Photo

The front cover photo of this issue of CR was provided by David P. Orr, of Sandy Hook, Conn.

He took the picture at Tipton, Ind., on Aug. 12, 1981.

The photo is of Pat White with the lion riding elephant "Susie". Pat presents a wild animal act with Carson & Barnes, and also presents Freddie the lion riding on the elephant.

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Animal Rights

Hundreds of animal rights activists attended a major animal rights conference at Ocean City, Md., Oct. 10-12. Title of the conference was "Mobilization for Animal Rights: Conference '81".

Purpose of the conference was to establish task forces and a coordinating body to mobilize mass support and individual grass roots action.

The program included workshops concerned with both animal rights issues and mobilization tactics. Up-to-date information on such important issues as vivisection, factory farming, wildlife protection, pet over population and vegetarianism with experts in each field on hand to discuss the subjects.

Other workshops focused on the practical tactics and strategies available to political activists, boycotts, community and campus organizing, use of the mass media, legislative initiatives, research and documentation.

Represented at the conference were such groups as: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), Amer-

ican Anti-Vivisection Society, Animal Rights Network, the Anti-Cruelty Society, Beauty Without Cruelty, Coalition to End Animal Suffering in Experimentation (CEASE), The Fund for Animals, National Anti-Vivisection Society, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Vivisection, plus several animal rights and welfare groups.

Speakers included: Henry Spira, long-time animal rights activist; Richard Morgan, author of Love and Anger; Jim Mason, author of Animal Factories; Patricia Curtis, author of Animal Rights; Hope Ryden, author and wildlife ethologist and Tom Regan, author of Animal Rights and Human Obligations.

People

BILL WILLIAMS (Cotton Candy the Clown) has been working a series of new store openings in the San Francisco, Calif., area.

IN LOVING MEMORY

JACK LEONTINI

Born

October 6, 1900

Died

September 30, 1981

THE WALLEDA FAMILY



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GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO OUR FAMILY**



**LAI D TO REST AT
MANASOTA MEMORIAL PARK**

Tuesday, October 6, 1981

Circus Italia

BY GEORGE BINGAMAN

Internationally famous Alberto Zoppe presented Circus Italia to wowed audiences in Boscov's shopping mall in Pottsville, Pa. on Aug. 13th, where I saw the show at 2 and 7 p.m.



I was pleased to hear numerous spectators acclaim the show as "better than those you pay for". As Circus Italia plays on contract to the Boscove chain, the merchandizing attraction is still top circus. There were large crowds at each performance, captivated by the skills, the comedy and the great assortment of animals - lioness, horses, 13 dogs, a cat, duck, rooster. Far from a quack performance!

Master Nino is the star providing great comedy, super acrobatics and top equestrianism to the three acts for a 45 minute show. Master Nino's comedy surpasses much of contemporary clowning in our circuits as he is a great crowd-baiter and



able to match his shenanigans with various skills in the European and Russian style.

Miss Carla is an acrobatic ballerina bare-back rider and adds the combination of equestrienneship with beauty and youth.

Italia opens with a clown come-in by Nino followed by juggling and a super riding act featuring Carlo and Nino.

Enter an uncaged lioness who emerges



from the cage directly to a horse-mount at opposite ring, quite a spectacular opener which commands the audience's undivided attention until the show ends many minutes later. In a remarkable assortment of tricks, roll-overs, sit-ups, kissing, the lioness becomes Queen of this outstanding one-ringer. The exit through the hoop of fire into the cage is dramatically presented as top wild animal exhibition.

Then come the dogs - first a police canine then Nino, both of whom mount the Appaloosan and then the inexorable parade of twelve more barking bowzers, then a cat, then a duck, and finally a rooster as if to crow "fowl, I fly to the mountains" as the



cock reaches the top of the heap of dogmanity. What a stopper!

Circus Italia is real circus. You must not miss her when Alberto Zoppe comes to your mall.

Alberto has magnificent plans to enlarge and embellish Italia into Circus Europa scheduled to open in Little Rock on Sept. 12, when Zoppe plans to open a large big top show featuring night club style acts

(Continued on Page 25)

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Train Wreck

by ALLEN BABCOCK

On Monday, Sept. 28th, I received a phone call from a detective friend here in Decatur, he had been ordered to report to work for the Norfolk & Western Railroad. They had just received word of the train derailment of the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit at Gibson City.

Since Gibson City is a town of about 3600 people and just 65 miles north of Decatur, I called Bill Backstein and together we drove off to see what was going on.

In Gibson City all but two of the railroad crossings in town were closed to traffic due to the derailment. No one seemed to be sure what happened to cause the derailment, but the track was sure torn up for a ways.

There were cars down on the roadbed with two of the concession workers cars jack-knifed.

What probably saved the wreck from being a disaster was the fact the train was only going about 20 miles an hour. Also that the train was stopped quickly and because the

embankment that the concession workers car crashed into was soft, otherwise I would guess they might have turned over.

As it was concession car 78 and 79 were jack knifed and hanging over a gulley with the wheels off the ground. If the train had traveled another 100 feet down the line, car 78 would have slammed into a railroad signal tower which no doubt would have broken the car open.

Fortunately, the stock cars with the elephants and horses and working men were at the foot of the train and they and the engines didn't leave the tracks.

Cars 77 through 84 were the ones involved in the derailment. Car 77 is the workingmen and cars 78, 79 and 80 carried the concession crew. Next was 81, the pie car, then transportation crew car 82 and 83, and the showgirls in car 84 and last the first two performers cars.

I'm not sure of the exact time of the wreck but it was either about 9:30 or 10:30 a.m. I imagine some of the folks still had their watches set on eastern time, while they were

(Continued on Page 21)

From England

SALLY CHIPPERFIELD'S CIRCUS

BY DAVID JAMIESON

At a time when the circus generally is not doing particularly good business, one of the newer British touring circuses is doing well and growing in size and stature. Sally Chipperfield's Circus was started in 1978 by the daughter of Dick Chipperfield, Sr., boss of the original Chipperfield's Circus, and her husband, James Clubb.

Beginning with a modest two pole big top, each season has brought about a steady improvement in the quality of the show. After a successful season in 1980, the directors purchased the magnificent red, white and blue, four pole, Canobbio big top of Circus Merano in Norway, along with its red fence and classy bandstand curtains, and it is in this splendid auditorium that Sally Chipperfield's Circus is presented in 1981.

Sally Chipperfield herself has worked in the circus all her life. As a child she helped out with the dogs and ponies and later rode horses and elephants and assisted in the ring with a whole variety of circus routines, from magic and illusion to presenting macaws or alligators. She went with the family circus from England to South Africa in 1964 and has had her own poodle troupe since then.

Chipperfield's Circus returned to Britain in 1969 and further established itself as a center for trained wild animals, notably lions, tigers, leopards, bears and elephants. Sally's brother, Dick Chipperfield, Jr., is a prolific wild animal trainer. His act with 17 lions was a prize winner at the 1980 Monte Carlo International Circus Festival and it is now being shown in the U. S. by Marcel Peters.

James Clubb was not born into the circus but comes from Dartford, Kent, where his father is a highly successful businessman. Jim's passion for animals and the circus began at an early age and grew with regular visits to Bertram Mill's at Olympia, to Billy Smart's Circus and to Chipperfield's. A whole menagerie of animals shared the Clubb household - not just the usual domestic pets, but also snakes, lizards, crocodiles, monkeys and other exotic animals. Jim learned fire eating and, complete with snakes and colorful costume, undertook local cabaret engagements while still at school.

During one summer holiday, Jim Clubb worked with Chipperfield's Circus, helping with the animals, cleaning the wagons, feeding: the unglamorous but essential behind-the-scenes toil. Young Clubb stuck to the work and got on well. He left school at the earliest opportunity and joined Chipperfield's for the 1972 season. He served a tough but thorough apprenticeship, learning a great deal from Dick Chipperfield and his son, Dick, Jr., and his brother, John, as well as carrying the pythons around the ring and then hypnotizing the alligators. Jim and Sally worked together in this act. Romance blossomed and they were married in Dartford in 1974. The years with Chipperfield's gave James Clubb invaluable experience in training and presenting lions, tigers, leopards and black panthers, polar and black bears. In addition, he bought two young brown bears in 1975 and trained them for his own act.

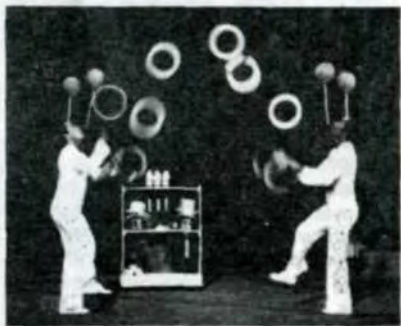
After presenting a Christmas circus in Derby in 1977 with the Chipperfield's, Sally and Jim established their own touring circus in 1978, using a two pole big top. As well as their own poodles and bears, the animals included a group of five lionesses, trained by Dick Chipperfield, Jr., and presented by James Clubb, and four Shetland ponies which Jim trained.

The first touring season went well but was followed by poor business in Derby in the Christmas of 1978. Further disaster befell them at the opening of the 1979 season when heavy snow brought the tent down at Great Malvern and the king poles were snapped in two. The tent was later repaired by a local tent maker, but a week later, high winds ripped it to pieces at 2 o'clock in the morning.

A replacement big top was soon found, coming from Circus Mikkenie in Holland, and the tour continued. Later the same season, the lions escaped and took refuge in a local school, giving Sally and Jim an agonizing few hours. Thankfully no one was hurt, the lions were eventually captured and worked by Jim in the matinee performance.

For the 1981 program, James Clubb is presenting his new group of six Bengal and Siberian tigers which he trained last year. The beautiful animals perform a full routine: pyramids, jumps, all six sitting up,

(Continued on Page 19)



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In the Mail

from 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

I just had a very nice visit with Mr. Arturo, who has just come back from a successful tour of Europe. There he visited five countries where he saw Roberts Bros., in England, Circus Krone in Germany and the very impressive Sarassani in Austria.

Mr. Arturo's first circus visit was made to Roberts Bros. Their sons worked with his sons in Blackpool at the Tower Circus. They worked three acts: elephants (6), the animals practically worked themselves, 8 Arabian liberty horse act and a cage act consisting of 8 male and female lions.

Mr. Arturo mentioned that he scouted and booked acts for his son in Australia. By the way, his son, Cooky Arturo, is a single trapeze and high wire artist.

Arturo also reports about a unique new under canvas circus which he saw in Munich. This show has a totally new concept. It was a combination of circus acts and pantomime production. The young people very much enjoyed this new concept, Ar-

turo said. They had SRO crowds, he adds.

The show is called 'Circus Roncalli.' It has a solid blue top with blue and white side wall, four center poles. Among the circus acts Arturo singled out were - a wild animal mixed group of lions, tigers, black panthers, spotted leopards, pumas and a couple of Great Dane dogs.

Another outstanding act was a Chinese display with very beautiful wardrobe, and the third was a hanging perch act done by two males.

The band of 8 to 10 musicians, was multi-colored with each musician wearing a different uniform. Clown alley consisted of three clowns, one of whom was the 34 year old owner of the show, from Vienna.

Arturo showed me the nice souvenir programs these shows have. They make very nice collector's items.

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CHIPPERFIELD CIRCUS (Continued)

roll over, fan walk-around, rolling a globe, Jim will book some of his animals out to other circuses in the future for, in addition to his lion group, he is training a group of small cats, leopards, jaguars, black panthers and pumas - a considerable training challenge indeed which, if all goes according to plan, will produce an act unique in the world today.

Sally Chipperfield has her own poodles and rhesus monkeys and she is also currently preparing a new dog act. Also included in the current show: four grey Arab liberty horses, the four Shetland ponies, and Clubbs exotic group - camel, llama, zebra, Dexter and Ankoli bulls.

The 1981 show at Sally Chipperfield's Circus is also notable for its human acts. The Berondini Troupe (seven people) from Czechoslovakia present their high wire pyramids and unicycling; two of the men also work on the revolving mast as the Berousek. Eight Hassani tumblers close the show with an exciting display.

Clowning is in the hands of Jimmy Scott and Frankie Paulo and Co., The Kendellos present a colorful balancing act as Los Pedros, and their daughter, Sally, is an accomplished and attractive young performer on the trapeze and corde lisse, giving her presentation plenty of panache and drive.

The highly experienced ringmaster is Ken MacManus, correctly attired in red tailcoat white tie and black top hat. His wife, Clara presents her own magic act with pigeons. Ken and Clara are both expert riders, formerly working as the Mohawks. Leading the band of trumpet, organ and drums is Pete Burrell, who has been with Sally Chipperfield's since it started.

Sally Chipperfield's Circus is a smart, clean show and the directors' love of the business shines through in the close attention to detail. The animals are in the pink of condition superbly cared for and housed in well-appointed wagons and a stable tent with its own stalls, with the animal's name on each arch.

Sally Chipperfield and her husband retain close links with the original Chipperfield's Circus, of course, and they share the same winterquarters at Heythrop, Chipping Norton, near the historic University City of Oxford. After the close of their touring

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People

REVEL FOX, a former aerialist, is trying to obtain material on the life of Alfredo Codo-no and would appreciate any information or suggestions that might be offered. Write to him at: 72 Princes Sq., Flat 4, Bayswater W2 4NY, London, England.

JOHN STRONG reports he will enlarge his big top to a traditional four pole, three ring unit for the 1982 season.

MIKE MARTIN, magician, has been working dates in the mid-west area and plans to be in the Southern states during the holiday time.

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season, they return to this winter home then to Bingley Hall, Birmingham, for their second Christmas show there.

Sally Chipperfield and James Clubb are an ambitious young couple who have ploughed back the money they have made into making their circus bigger and better.

It's early days yet, but their young son, Jamie, also seems to share their interest in animals and the circus! Now in its fourth season, it will be very intriguing to watch the progress of Sally Chipperfield's Circus over the next few years.

TRAIN WRECK (Continued)

no in the central time zone. The train was enroute from Indianapolis to Des Moines.

About 2:10 p.m. the back part of the train was pulled away from the cars that were derailed and then the highway was once again opened to traffic.

When we first arrived at the wreck it was about 2 p.m. and performers were gathered around that part of the train which was derailed, but they soon went back to their own part of the train as there was word the back section would be moved out.

There is a 'Y' just south of town that connects to another railroad and the cars still on the track were pulled down to that point and then sent on to Des Moines. It was just about 3:30 p.m. when they finally left the 'Y' yard and another half hour or so before they connected the stock cars and pulled out to continue on their way.

The workers and performers living in the derailed cars were put aboard chartered buses and taken into Des Moines and they left here about 4:40 p.m.

That left only circus trainmaster and a few

workers who were staying with the cars for security purposes.

Unfortunately, the pie car had just been stocked with food and since there was no power all the perishable food was given away or thrown out. Both circus people and townspeople were carrying food that would have spoiled had it been left in the car.

It looked as if there was quite a bit of damage to the cars, especially to the sides and all. I imagine it will be hard to find replacement parts for all of the damage done.

The railroad people thought they could have a good part of the track cleared by midnight and would take the cars to a local shop for repairs. They had five cranes, including a large railroad crane working to get the cars back on the good track. It's amazing how they are able to clear up a wreck.

The mosquitos were as thick as anything I have seen and as the sun went down they got worse, and so we left for home.

One thing for sure, there will be a lot of folks in Gibson City who will remember the day the Ringling-Barnum Circus train was derailed in their city.

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CFA Notes

The Show folks of Sarasota Tent No. 112 CFA, is starting its 1981-82 season of meetings with an impressive list of guest speakers

The first speak will be Tom Robin Edelson, who did the first ever Triple Twisting Double Somersault from fly-bar to catcher. He is a graduate of the Sailor Circus and his own act "The Flying Robins" is currently thrilling audiences at RBBB Circus World. In addition to talking to the group he will show video tapes of his unique accomplishment.

At the group's Annual Dinner, Nov. 14th, La Norma, former aerialist and now creator of the beautiful Circus Ceramic Portraits, will be the guest speaker. She will explain how she creates the "Portraits."

On Dec. 2nd, the group will have master clown Lou Jacobs, as its guest speaker.

People

JOHNNY FULGHUM visited with BOBBY GIBBS when they were appearing at the Virginia State Fair in Richmond, Va. Bobby and Rosa then jumped into Dallas for that fair date.

BILL BRICKLE will be working with the George Carden Int'l Circus for the 1982 season, where he will present his Poodle act and also serve as producing clown.

Clown Day

by BOB STODDARD

Six Flags, the popular theme park between Dallas and Ft. Worth recently had their own Clown Day, which they advertised as "Clowns, Clowns, Clowns."

Twenty-six clowns were featured throughout the day, mostly from the two area Clowns of America Allies, Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85 and the Cowtown Alley No. 135 of Ft. Worth.

The clowns were dispersed in various areas throughout the park.

Four shows were presented in the Music Mill Theatre, featuring Annetta (Jingles) Moerbe, Poppy (Poppy) Benner, Jimmy Waddell, Paul (Scrounge) Lawrence and Michelle (Bubbles) Moerbe.

The event was produced by Annetta Moerbe's Fun Company of the Southwest.

Clowns who participated include: Susan (Bo Bo Brown) Corona, James Jim-Bow Decker, Martin (Lancelot Goodperson) Reeves, Rosalie (Superstar) Perryman, Elizabeth (Sunshine) Cooper, Carl (Squeeky) Smith, Toddie (Happy) Bridges, Edna (Crackers) Flanagan, Becky (Lady the Tramp) Eskew, Patty (Cuddles) Horton, Dorothy (Miss Birdie) Yates, Archie (Dingy) Darr, Scott (Joco) Sailor, Jimmy (Sunshine) Griffith, Sandy (S'mee) Parker, Mark (Marko) Mitchell, Steve (Ottono) Edwards, Fiddlesticks and Short Change.

People

WILLIE TYLER and his ventriloquist figure were featured guests on TV's "Good Morning California" show, a live program from the west coast which aired on Oct. 9.

People

TRUDY STRONG and her troupe of Dalmations were featured in a photo story in the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News on Sept. 20.

JOHN STRONG, FRED REED and EDDIE HENRICKS visited the American Continental Circus when the show played Phoenix. They report that **DAVID HARRINGTON** was a guest clown at the engagement.

Acts

Great Barrington (Mass) Fair booked by Tibor Alexander. Acts included: Circus magician Harry Albacker, Buttons the Clown (Carman Sgarlata), Puppet Shows by Richie (Richard DiPasquale) and The Great Gold finger (Dino Medro).

Tenn. State Fair booked by World Wide Attractions, Inc. Acts included: Miss Constancia & Co., uncaged leopards and jaguar, Dixie Harrison, country-western singer, Dorian Blake, illusionist and Col. Jerry Lipko's performing chimps.

People

HELEN BILLETTI Warburton writes that she has been appointed to the Board of Governors of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Showmen's League of America and will be installed at the National Convention at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Nov. 30.

BILL WOTSCH writes he enjoyed the Aug. 31st issue of CR which had the story about BETTY BROADBENT. He remembers seeing her with the Ringling Show when it played Cleveland's Lake Front.

CIRCUS ITALIA (Continued)

geared to the aristocratic sophisticates of top contemporary entertainment.

Alberto, who backed up Martie Allen and Susan Richardson in the CBS spectacular "Circus of the Stars" in 1980 and re-run recently on Aug. 20th, hails from five generations of Italian circus tradition going back to 1842. As a veteran equestrian himself on the GSOE in the 50's, he has been featured in Cecil B. DeMille's "Greatest Show on Earth," Walt Disney's "Toby Tyler," "Trapeze" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie" He has engaged Susan Richardson star of "Eight is Enough" as guest star in his Little Rock opener of Circus Europa. Susan will display her talent as rock singer in her Arkansas debut.

Austin Miles will serve as ringmaster and Mike Pike will direct the band, while Al Leonard will be the singing ringmaster, with Tino Wallenda joining the greatly expanded format for the new Circus Europa.

Photo identification listing:

- 1 - Zoppe Troupe - l. to r. - Carla, Tosca and Nino.
- 2 - Carla up on Appaloosa, Tosca
- 3 - Alberto Zoppe's lioness
- 4 - Circus Italia's Animal Fantasy

May I Say Thanks

My name is Shelley R. Bonus. I am the mother of 12 yr. old Rain and I support her by being a comedic actress and a photographer, but I always wanted to be a clown, and run away with the circus!

This past year, with the help of Master Clown Bobby "Smiley" Kay, I prepared for the "Clown College" auditions held at the Forum in Los Angeles.

I auditioned, but waiting for an answer seemed an eternity . . . so with the help of some magic friends, I realized part of my dream . . . I "ran away with the circus" . . . my camera became my "unofficial passport", I entered the world of dreams.

My clown friends took care of me, they coached me in juggling, they taught me to begin walking 3½ ft. stilts, the showgirls helped me prepare for the showgirl auditions to be held at the Cow Palace, in San Francisco. I was determined to be in the circus, (Bobby "Smiley" Kay told me to do the showgirl audition so I had as many options as possible, if I wasn't accepted to "Clown College" at least if I was a show-

girl I could still work on my Clown skills. . . and maybe one day the Felds would see "my 'clowning light'" . . . however, to give me a logical reason for being around, I was photographing clowns!

Well, the night before move-out in the Oakland Coliseum we had locked my camera, (a Cannon F1, Sunpack 411 Strobe, and an 85mm portrait lense) in Skeeter's trunk in the alley. Someone broke into the trunk and stole my camera . . . my tool for feeding my child.

Everyone on the show told me how sorry they were as we moved to the next town, San Francisco, the Cow Palace. . . where I was going to do the showgirl audition and then leave to pick up my daughter and wait for word from Clown College.

But my reality was being the mother of 12 yr. old Rain and a working photographer, now unable to earn a living.

Then, in the Cow Palace, the night before I had to leave, after Clown come-in. . . just before opening, Red, one of the showgirls asked me to walk toward the ramp with her, . . . as I did, a wondrous sea of grease painted faces, funny noses, sequins and giant fluttering eyelashes engulfed me and the elegantly gloved hand of King Richard reached over this magic al sea and presented me with an envelope.

I couldn't believe my eyes . . . I reached out for Skeeter . . . everyone yelled, "don't cry . . . open it!"

And, in it was a letter that had a clown and a showgirl drawn on it by Mike "Muley" Cowboy Keever and Mushy, and the words, "Why? Because We Love you." It was signed by all the clowns and showgirls, along with a special input by Skeeter. They had gathered enough money to replace my camera.

I hugged Skeeter . . . Serf said that I was finally family, not an outsider. I have never been so loved, my heart just bursts when ever I think about it.

I was not accepted to Clown College. But I still dream of one day being a circus clown and returning to the family I love.

But, I pledge that at least through my photos I can pass on the joy and tradition of love, humor, dignity and humanity that true Clown geniouses have stood for!

God Bless Skeeter and All the Clowns and Showgirls . . . For he has truly blessed this dreamer!

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They're Married

Two clowns, who met while working as laughmakers at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World, were married in formal costume and clown make-up on Sept. 25th, in the center ring of the tourist attraction.

Irene (Reni) Garza, 27, of East Northport (NY) was married to James (Jimbo) Hackworth, 28, of Haines City (Fla) in a double ring ceremony by the Rev. Rene Pare, minister of Christ Church Unity in Orlando.

The bride was attired in a white pierrot costume with a double ruffle around her neck. It was trimmed in the same black and white sequines that bordered her white veil. Her shoes were of white satin.

Her groom was attired in a gold top hat, a dark green velvet jacket with tails and lapels of light green satin, a gold bowtie and trousers of yellow, green, red and blue plaid, with cranberry socks and gold tennis shoes.

The private ceremony, attended by friends and park employees, began with two janitor clowns cleaning the area in preparation for the wedding. While taking a break, they turned their mops upside down and sang lovingly to the mops "When I'm Sixty-four". Then a cupid clown, swinging in webbing high above the center ring, sprinkled love-magic sawdust through-out the area.

The bridal procession, which began at 10 a.m. was a circus spectacle with showgirl dancers and entertainers in brightly colored costumes, elephants, horse-drawn wagons and 18 colorfully attired clowns.

Throughout the procession ringmaster

Norm Riggins sang "I'm Getting Married at the Circus" to the tune of "Get Me To The Church on Time."

Another ringmaster, Jim Sandridge, sang "If We Only Have Love" as the bride entered the center ring on the arm of her father, Frank E. Garza, of Denver, NY. He also was attired as a ringmaster.

Following the ceremony the bride and groom left the center ring in a Circus World wagon, pulled by two prancing white ponies wearing silver blankets trimmed in red with everyone saying "may all your days be circus days."

The couple said they decided to get married in clown make-up and costume because their life is the circus and their profession is that of being clowns.

The Strong Man

by BILL WOTSCH

It was in the early 1930's. I can't remember the exact year. The Strong Man would appear in the neighborhood. Posters were put up on telephone poles, telling where he would perform.

Sometimes it was at a picnic on a farm or an empty lot somewhere near the neighborhood.

We kids would see the Strong Man walking down St. Clair Ave, on Cleveland's East Side. Large broad shoulders, a black beard

and dark fiery eyes. He wore a suit coat and leather leggings, with a wooden walking stick in his hand.

We would gaze at him as he passed by and hope we could see one of his performances.

It wasn't long afterwards that posters announced another neighborhood in which he would perform and I saw him this time.

The Strong Man appeared on a small raised platform. He sold some sort of medicine but I don't remember what it was for. After that he would bend iron bars in his mouth. He even bent a horse shoe and was capable of lifting up huge railroad wheels, and then with the aid of a special harness he lifted a platform with people on it. His finale was pulling an auto with his teeth.

After that the hat would be passed and people would toss in coins. We dropped in coins too.

This was just one kind of entertainment that was available to the people in those days.

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1 - Aerial view of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey winter quarters in Sarasota 1926 - 1960.

2 - Winter quarters scene 1926 - 1960

3 - Winter quarters scene inside practice building 1926 - 1960

4 - Aerial view Ringling Fire (1944) at Hartford, Conn.

5 - Ground view of Ringling Fire at Hartford, Conn. (1944).

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The Oakland (Calif.) Magic Circle held its Annual Spaghetti Feed and Interclub Competition on Sept. 1st with a crowd of over 100 in attendance. The contest had six competitors with Janet Kelly representing SAM No. 94; Hank Vlcek the Mystic 13 of San Jose; Charlie Cardeen, the Jongleurs SAM No. 60; Clarence Schaupp and daughter Nancy, the Oakland Magic Circle, Dean Hankey, Ring 216 of IBM and Rick Mang of Ring 38, IBM.

The acts were so good the three pros acting as judges could not pick a winner. Their scores showed three different acts in first place and no act on all three ballots. The initial decision was to call it a no award, but clamor arose for a decision, so the OMC President and the MC who was Steve Dawson, of the Magic Touch, went over the list working on a point system and thus decided that Hank Vlcek was the winner.

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Incidentally, all six acts were on at least one judge's score card.

Hank now receives a trophy of his own and his name will be engraved on the big permanent trophy, along with all previous winners.

Visitors included Petra and Mia who took a bow and presented a brief routine of his linking handkerchiefs. They've been lecturing locally and appearing at conventions.

Craig Snader, Jr., of Mexico City, publisher of the "Magic Sounds" devoted to magic on tape, records, films, etc. has been appointed distributor for the Ken Brooke Series by the American distributor, Stevens Emporium of Magic in Wichita, Kans. Five items are the first to be distributed, those being the Magic Box, the Chop Cup, the Nap Hand and the Multiplying Bottles, plus the popular Sidewalk Shuffle. Snader's territory is Mexico and the Latin American countries.

The Smithsonian Magazine is preparing an article about the Le Grand David Show of Beverly, Mass., which has set records for the number of performances presented. Also, the National Geographic is said to be doing an article on the show, too.

COMMENT (Continued)

that says if an act or show doesn't play New York, Las Vegas or Los Angeles, it can't be much good. It's automatically Hicksville and small-time. Beverly isn't Broadway, so ergo, Le Grand David is an amateurish production. Whoever heard of Beverly before Le Grand David? If the show was of professional caliber, this fallacy goes, it would vacate the boondocks of Beverly and move to New York or Vegas. That notion is nonsense, but it has been around longer than Variety's classic front-pager, Stx, Nix Hix Pix. The only thing that can be said about the attitude that everything in the hinterlands is second rate is that it

reflects the puerile thinking of those big town bucolics.

I used to regret I wasn't around to see Houdini, David Devant, Maskelyne and Devant and that I missed seeing Thurston and Willard, although I was around in those days. I lament no more. I'm glad I live in the time of Le Grand David, the greatest, grandest, most imaginative magic show I've ever seen.

People

V. C. ARIVETTE, long-time canvas boss on Circus Vargas recently left that show during the show's run in Texas.