

# BACK YARD

Volume IV, Issue #61

February 15, 1999

Ruth & Matt Laurich  
1930

## SCHELL BROS CIRCUS, 1929

*By Carl M. De Vere, Sr.*

(From "For Our Eyes Only" \*Published by Bud)

I spent a lot of time on the road with my parents when they were agents. Dad hitched the trailer to our sedan at 9 or 10 o'clock each morning. The jumps from one town to another were normally less than a 100 miles. We usually arrived at the next town before noon. Dad found the circus lot, unhitched the trailer, & he and Mom went to work. Sometimes I remained in the trailer. Other times, I rode to town with them.

Many times I played in the back set of the car while Mom spoke to a prospective customer in the front seat. She gave a pitch in her front seat office while I listened. I heard her repeat the talk so many times, I entertained my folks during a jump by giving her entire presentation. I played the part of my mother & that of the buyer. So my parents declared me a full-fledged banner salesman at age six. I felt big!

We loved to sing in the car. I thought it sounded beautiful. My parents harmonized, & they tried to teach me. However, I was better in the lead. The only song I understood for harmony was "You Are My Sunshine." We sang it several times each day to give me a chance to shine. We played many road games. One was "Auto License Plate Alphabet." My favorite was a game Dad made up, called "Popular Cars." Each of us selected a brand of car to look for on the highway. The first person to discover 10 of them won.

One time when I got to pick the brand first, I chose Cord. Usually I picked Chevy or Ford. I surprised them when I selected the Cord. It was a unique automobile even in those days. A truck, carrying a load of them had passed us 15 or 20 minutes earlier. They hadn't noticed. I secretly bet we would see the truck again, either stopping for gas or a lunch break. We did see it again & I won! Mom & Dad suspected trickery, but snickered at the way I bamboozled them. We laughed a lot. Dad was the



Schell Bros. Circus

funniest story teller I had ever heard. He could duplicate any accent & change the pitch of his voice when a female character appeared in his story.

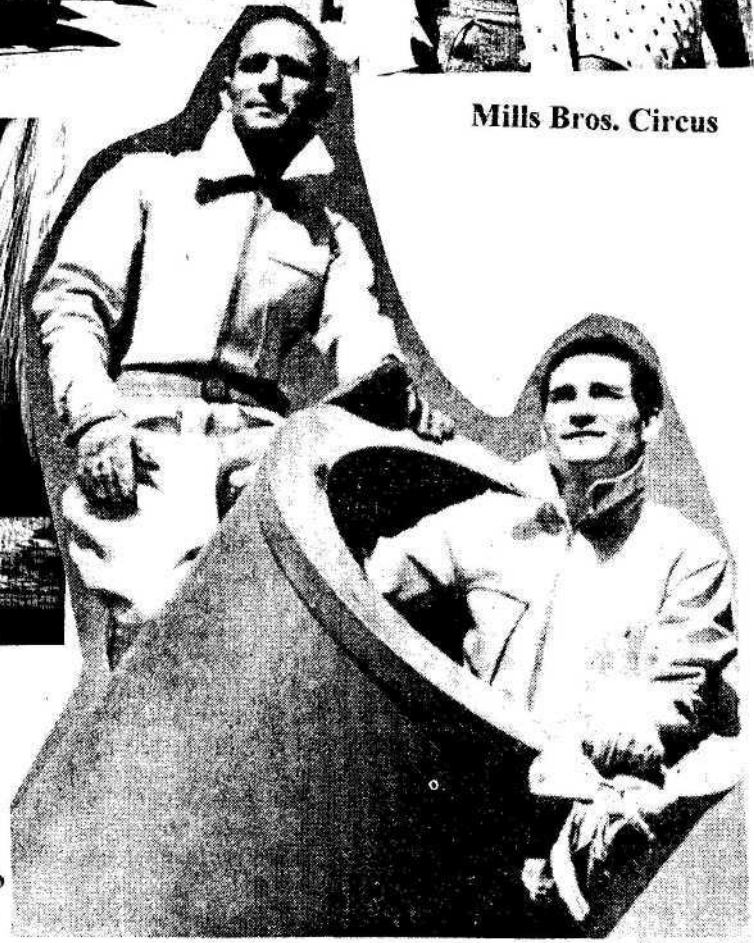
(Continued on Page 4)

Schell Bros. Circus  
Lidgerwood, ND 1930



Mills Bros. Circus

Les Blocks  
Clyde Beatty-1973



Clyde Beatty 1958

Mario Zacchini, right, of Ringling's getting ready to be launched at a speed of 90 miles an hour in a dual act with his brother Hugo, in 1935.

Circus World Museum

# \*THE EMIR OF THE ELEPHANTS\*

*By Mike Cecere*

There is no name more connected with top elephant management today than Gary Thomas. Gary, son of legendary circus ringmaster Col. Harry Thomas & brother of well-known tiger trainer Harry Thomas has been at the center of the most organized & best kept elephant herds for years. He currently has the largest elephant act on tour of Shrine dates & is captain of the excellent Hawthorn Corp. herd of John Cuneo.

Mr. Cuneo, who prides himself on hiring the top people in the field to work with his animals, long ago sought out Gary's services. Long one of the top trainers of my generation, he came up on the mud shows like the best of us, first coming to prominence as right-hand man of no less than Cap Fred Logan on the old Beatty-Cole show. By old, I mean when they used to up & down that huge opera on one night stands, on and off muddy lots for 9 months a year.

In fact, one season he worked in one side ring while he his best friend, Ted Svertesky worked the other side with Cap Logan in the center. I doubt you'll ever see that much elephant talent in one place again.

Even at one point then, while still in his teens, that Cap was downed by an accident & young Gary ran the whole department for several weeks. No small feat. He was the first of us mud show guys to strike into the "Big Time" following the Great Bert Pettus to take over the Hubert Castle Circus elephants at the time the top elephant act in America.

The rest is history & now he has the awesome responsibility of overseeing the large Hawthorn herd. Besides his own act, he sees to the health & welfare of the other elephants lending his vast experience to the other Hawthorn trainers, all top people to do the best job possible all within the very high Hawthorn standards.

A real bonus is that Rex Williams, the Dean of American elephant trainers is Hawthorn Winterquarters Supt., so Gary is able to draw on his endless storehouse of experience. Combine that with Mr. Cuneo's total support for his people & animals and the sky is the limit!

It just goes to show, hard work & determination is the key to success. Here's wishing Captain Gary Thomas many more seasons with his elephant friends. He's a credit to the industry. Good job Gary!

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## **CARNIVAL HISTORICAL BUILDERS ASSN.**

Carnival historian & model builder, Fred Heatley of

Laurens, SC, has announced that the Carnival Historical and Builders Assn. is in the process of reorganization & will start operating as a club again in 1999.

Although the organization has been dormant since 1989, Heatley has been successful in getting a number of former members to serve on a steering committee & he will guide the initial efforts for the 1st year & then call for a proper election of officers according to the club's original by-laws. Fred stresses that the organization will once again become a club using a slightly different title & will publish a required financial statement yearly so members will once again know how their money is being used & where it is going. Members will also receive an annual roster of membership & new members names will be published in the new club's publication on a regular basis. Fred feels it is important for members to know who else belongs to the club so there can be an interchange & discussion among members regarding all matters of collecting & studying carnival history, along with model building plans & ideas.

Plans call for a publication, plus national & regional gatherings on carnival midways & other interesting locations where members can see & enjoy carnival equipment, models & memorabilia. Other special events are in the works. The original Carnival Historical & Model Builders Society of America was formed in 1966 by the late Art Speltz, along with Bill Hall, Bill Curtin, Chet Vradenbur & others. The club held many interesting gatherings on carnival midways, published an informative newsletter & annual roster, offered photos at special prices to members & provided the basis for considerable interchange of material & information among its members. "Carousel," the name of the club's newsletter, was taken over by its present editor as an alleged private business venture so rather than get into any kind of legal battle, Heatley states that a new name will be selected for the club's publication. "Carousel" no longer represents the original organization & is presently positioned to compete with "Amusement Business." Bob Goldsack, publisher of many carnival books & "Midway Journal Illustrated," has agreed to serve as editor of the publication. Dues are \$25 a year & should be sent along with all inquiries to Fred Heatley, 1922 Neely Ferry Rd, Laurens, SC 29360-9537—(Phone: 864-575-2110)

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**Dale Riker reports Peggy Williams** is in charge of the **Ringling** display at the Florida State Fair, with a little bit of everything & good display on the elephant breeding compound. Rumor is one elephant is pregnant!

## "SCHELL BROS CIRCUS".....

He knew endless jokes & limericks. Mom thought he was hilarious. Sometimes her laughing caused tears & hiccups. When she began to hiccup, my Dad & I laughed even harder. Our morning trips were so special, I hated to arrive at the next town.

September was "let-down month" for me at the end of every summer. I had to leave the show for my return to school. I looked forward to seeing my grandma, but knew I would miss my folks terribly.

1929 was different than most years. The shattering news about the "Crash" came during October. I was attending grade school in St. Peter, MN. Grandma kept her ear glued to the radio. No one explained it to me, but I knew something really bad was happening. It was the beginning of the Great Depression. Many lifestyles were due for a change.

Grandma Block worked several jobs. She needed money for food, clothing, utilities & taxes. She worked as a phone operator, a county assessor & a tax collector. Many political solicitors asked her to run for county offices. She rejected the idea. Her house was large with 12 rooms. My grandfather built the house on a corner lot in the 1800s. She was a frugal lady & thoroughly believed in the old adage, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Nora, Grandma's closest friend, lived in the downstairs part of our house. She paid a small amount of rent, but was like a member of our family. She ran a boarding house for 15-16 students from Gustavus Adolphus College. The boys came to lunch every noon. When I came home from school for lunch, I worked as a runner & table setter. I earned 25 cents a week.

The mouth-watering aroma of Nora & Grace's cooking surrounded the whole neighborhood. My parents came to St. Peter from the road just before Christmas that year. They looked tired & had worry lines I had never seen on their faces before. They told Grandma how tough it would be for Uncle George the following season. He would have to operate the circus on a shoestring. I didn't understand that term until years later.

When I returned to travel with the show again in June of 1930, it was a much smaller circus. There were less trucks, fewer acts, & no live band. A sound truck played march records for the performers & animal routines. Everyone on the show hated the canned music. Daily cash receipts took care of items that demanded immediate payment, such as food, fuel, licenses, & land rental. Employees received very little pay. Some, like my father, even

loaned money for operating expenses. Our trips from town to town were not as carefree as they had been in the past. Despite that new change, my parents never pleaded "poor mouth." If they did complain, they never did so in front of me. Previous years we had eaten in restaurants often. In 1930, & a few years after that, Mom prepared food in the trailer. My parents claimed, "It is more fun that way." We dunked peanut butter sandwiches made with day-old bread into hot chocolate. That was real special. Some evenings we had an extra treat-crackers & milk, or bread & milk with ice. When Dad saw an ice truck nearby, he gathered all the free loose chunks & filled our bowls with pieces of ice. That was an extra bonus meal. "A feast for the gods," he declared.

Banners became a system of barter. They paid for cook house groceries or gas for the vehicles. There were continual bartering agreements for clothing and merchandise, instead of buying anything. One year Mom got an idea that she said might save the circus & she traveled to Detroit. She wanted to test her sales ability. The idea was to sell the Chevrolet company a contract advertising their cars on the side of parade animals for the entire season. She was successful. Later, the same idea worked with Texaco gas company. The advertising of those 2 companies saved the circus that year. The companies supplied beautiful custom-made banners, which added color to the parades.

Mom repeatedly thanked the Lord for the idea, expressing her appreciation for the advertising. The money kept the show on the road. I made a secret pledge to use only those products when I grew up.

People who survived the bad times were cautious with their money from then on. My parents always displayed a very brave front for me. I thought of them as modern pioneers. They faced hardships-and won. The stark years produced giants as well as those who took the easy way out and jumped off tall buildings. My parents were giants.

(Next issue: "The Rest of the Story!") Anyone knowing George Engesser knows that he was a flamboyant circus figure, always wore a 3 piece suit with a lion-claw watch fob in his vest, rattled silver dollars in his pocket & tipped his straw hat to the ladies. He loved to have his picture taken with the animals. Photos of the Engesser ladies! Check out the Jan.-Feb. 1979 Bandwagon issue to see more about Schell Bros. Circus and more photos of the circus. Article by Art Doc Miller, "George Engesser's Shows-Highest Class Motorized Show in America.")

## **"Mario Zacchini, Sensational Human Cannonball, Dies at 87 in Tampa."**

(NY Times by Glenn Collins 2/3/99)

"Mario A. Zacchini, the last surviving member of the original generation of human cannonballs, whose routine employment was being explosively propelled from a cannon across a circus tent into a net, died of kidney failure Jan. 28 in Tampa, his wife of nearly 59 years, Lydia, said. "He was a fun guy. He loved everybody. He loved to entertain, to make people laugh." Mario, who was customarily launched at a speed of 90 miles an hour while accompanied by a fanfare from the circus band & a roar from the silver-painted cannon, took flight several thousand times, usually three times a day.

He often said that "flying isn't the hard part; landing in the net is." He was the next-to-youngest son of the 9 children of Ildebrando Zacchini, a gymnast who ran away with a circus & subsequently created the Circus Olympia in Italy in the early 1900s.

Eventually, 5 of the 7 brothers flew from a cannon; Mario was the last survivor of the 9 children. In addition to being 3-ring fodder, he spent years performing an Argentine gaucho act in his father's circus & later in the Ringling Circus. "Mario was one of the world's most foremost rope twirlers, a terrific gaucho who actually did a back somersault through the lasso," Mario's nephew Hugo said in an interview.

Hugo Zacchini said the family came up with the idea for the act & built its first cannon in 1922 on the island of Malta. The attraction created such a sensation that soon 2 teams of flying Zacchinis were criss-crossing Europe. John Ringling discovered the Zacchinis performing in the Tivoli Gardens in Copenhagen & brought them to the Ringling Circus in 1929, Hugo said. Two of Mario's older brothers, Bruno & Hugo, introduced the human cannonball act to the Ringling show.

In 1934, Hugo & another brother, Victor, began performing a double cannonball act, being catapulted nearly simultaneously. Mario put aside his lasso to replace Victor that year. After the Zacchini family's contract with Ringling expired in the late 30s, Mario continued to be a human cannonball at circuses & carnivals & at the World's Fair in NY. At times he was blasted over 2 Ferris wheels before landing in the net. He retired from cannoning in the early 40s & put together his own carnival, which toured the country for years. A decade later the next generation of Zacchinis took up human cannonballing, performing with the Ringling

Circus from 1958 to 1963, said Hugo, his nephew. In 1965, there were five different Zacchini cannon acts performing around the US. Hugo, who is a son of Mario's brother, Edmondo, said he was the last Zacchini to be a human cannonball; his final flight was on Aug. 29, 1991.

While the Zacchinis always acknowledged that their shattering cannon blasts were purely sound effects (achieved by igniting half a cup of black gunpowder), Mario & his family never revealed the secret of the Zacchini launching mechanism, to deter copycats.

But other circus performers have said that the propulsion was accomplished by a jolt of compressed air that moved a platform upon which the performers stood. These days, many human cannonballs from other circus families are launched with elastic bungee cords. Mario Zacchini is survived by his wife, Lydia; a daughter, Yvonne & two sons, Mario, Jr. and Tyrone, all of Tampa." (Thanks to Prof. Moody Simms, ISU, for giving me this notice.)

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**\*Jackie LeClaire reports** that his Dad said the Zacchinis were so terrific. As they were flying through the air, they would actually salute the audience. "All of the Zacchini family were fun people!"

**\*Nicole Wright reports** that Wayne & Carol Wright, her in-laws, were both shot out of Papa Zacchini's double cannon. They are very proud of all their life experiences that Papa had taught them over the years. Every time Carol makes a dish that Papa taught her, she bows her head in reverence before the meal & says, "Thank you, Papa, wherever you are."

## **A REAL SHOWGUY By Turtle Benson**

Here's a story that bears repeating: Evel Knievel, the motorcycle daredevil, has been in poor health and has been on a waiting list for a liver transplant for a long time. The other day, a donor came up, at the same time he heard of a younger man, with a family, that had also been waiting for a liver. So, Evel gave up his turn in order for this other person, who he didn't even know, to receive a liver. Does this make you proud to be a showguy??

**\*Turtle says "Boo" is now with him.** If you have time Turtle, please write and let us know how Lisa is doing and how you are "adjusting" to having Boo. Any pictures you might take of you and Boo would be appreciated! Cherie.

\*\*\*"CIRCUS FRIENDS REPORT".....\*\*

Frank Thompson says the Showfolks CFA Tent Meeting was so big that the room had to be opened to make it bigger! There were a lot of fans from up North attending. Frank talked to Hub Hubbell, Turtle Benson, Fred Logan, Bill and Bob Commerford and a lot of others. Buckles Woodcock was their speaker and his daughter was there with him. As reported earlier, Wayne Pilz, Al's son, was seriously injured in early January when his van was hit from behind. It rolled over a number of times and Wayne was tossed out and landed under the rear half of his van, (It broke into two pieces) causing burns to his leg from the exhaust pipe which laid on him. He also had a broken neck, plus a broken arm. He is now in a rehab center, with his head in a "halo" until his neck heals. Both Hub Hubbell and Bill Commerford have been to see him and said he is improving. Wayne called Frank a few days before the CFA meeting. He said he will be in the rehab center several weeks more. He also said that his dog, a cute Yorkie, was not with him, fortunately. Frank went fishing with his brother-in-law and had a great time, in spite of the sunburn. Best of all was that they did not have to clean the fish when they got home! Frank got two, his brother-in-law got four - all too small to keep!

Phil Thorick, Binghamton, NY says Circus Krone finally has a web-site and it is a beauty! Many pictures of animals, the tent and winter circus buildings, as well as individual write-ups on performers. You can also e-mail the performers from the web-site. The color & variety of pictures is great. He spent over an hour reading the history of the Krones & downloading pictures and articles. Their address is: [www.circus-krone.de](http://www.circus-krone.de) Also, the Sterling-Reid Bros. Circus is in Scranton this weekend & in Utica, NY on Feb. 15th. The kids ticket coupons are colorful and enticing!

Vern Mendonca, Redding, CA says Circus Chimera is now in the Los Angeles area for about a 6 week stand, but advertised under another name, Circo Domingo, he thinks. They have a Mexican comedian who does a lot of the show. They did very good in their first week in Pomona. They will be in Anaheim Feb. 18-21; San Fernando Feb. 25-28. Most of the performers are back doing the show.

After this session is over, first part of March, the Ramos family will go to Knie in Switzerland.

"Circus Fun" On Nationwide Network TV: Nikolas and Katerina, the world's youngest professional juggling team, are currently featured on the W.B. Network, demonstrating their skills to a nationwide audience. Nikolas, age 14, and Katerina, 10, perform with "Circus Fun" at fairs and festivals. Warner Bros. network executives selected the two youngsters to lead off an on-going campaign to showcase young people of outstanding achievement as positive role models for America's youth. The spots will air daily, through February, on the W.B. network, & can be seen during kid's programming, 3-5 p.m. Mon-Fri & 8 am-noon on Saturdays. Nikolas is a former gold medallist at the International Circus Festival & was voted "Best Young Performer, 1997" at the age of 12. The young siblings performed at a returned engagement at the Kissimmee Jaycees Circus on Feb. 5, where in addition to their juggling duo, they performed as the "Mulligan Kids", trampoline acrobats. Joined by their younger sister, Anastasia, age 6, she made her debut in what was her first public performance!

Nicole Wright reports that Alida Zoppe married Robinson Cortez in a private ceremony in Florida. She knows Joanne Wilson (who had a poodle act) retired from spot dates last year & has set up a dog/animal training center at her place in Florida. Nicole thinks Joanne is back into costume making. "Anybody that has ever seen her costumes knows that they are well worth hunting her down for some!" Ads are now running for the Gamma Phi Circus summer camp, in Normal, IL. Last year they had quite a boom in kids from the previous years, so word is starting to get around. If anyone is interested, contact: Wayne Wright, 309-438-5008, or Jerry Polacek, 309-438-2690 at Illinois State Univ., HPR #5120, Normal, IL. Nicole & Shane are heading out the end of April for two months in Quebec and some of Ontario. She wanted to let circus fans know that if they go on-line to any of these sites, they can find a variety of circus posters, memorabilia, tickets, etc. all about the circus for sale. They are all auction sites, so you just have to sign up for free and then start bidding. They are really easy to get around in. Just type circus in the search category. They are: [www.whitesguide.com](http://www.whitesguide.com) (Go to the auction site.); [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) (Now, this is your editor's site, so beware! Don't you DARE outbid me! Do you hear me, Mr. Pfening?); [www.up4sale.com](http://www.up4sale.com); [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) (Thanks, Nicole.)

### \*\*\*Newsflash From Heidi Herriott\*\*\*

The Outdoor Amusement Business Association (OABA) overturned New Jersey's Fish & Game decision to ban elephant rides and exotic petting zoos (no contact.) This decision went into effect on Jan. 1, 1999. OABA's executive director, Bob Johnson announced at the IISA Trade Show on February 6th that this ruling has been overturned with the help of OABA's lawyer and lobbyist. "You see, we can make a difference!!" OABA offers an occupational accident insurance plan for on the job coverage at \$22. per week. They also offer group health insurance w/ RX. Contact Heidi Herriott at (407) 656-4340 or e-mail her at circus4u@gdi.net.

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### \*\*\*Harvey Esto Remembers\*\*\*

It was 5 am on a chilly July morning. The smell of new mowed grass & cinders and coal smoke was in the air. Dad and I were down at the railroad yards waiting for a special.

A train of silver ribbons of steel. That's what we all were waiting on. Suddenly, a lonesome steam whistle could be heard. All eyes were looking at the curve. Then the sun shone against a long line of silver ribbons of steel, with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows lettered in blazing red on the sides. The Greatest Show on Earth. The flying squadron first section was pulling into view. Workers were already jumping off the cars, getting ready for a hard days work. The steel runs were set.

Then began the unloading. The dining dept. was first. Menagerie cut also unloaded at the same time. Number 08 dining dept. canvas, heavy drop frame wagon was first. It kept the steel runs in place. A D-4 Cat pushed 08 off, unless the gas truck was there to pull it off. Then the rest was easier. The menagerie cut & the gas cut were unloaded at the same time. By now, the 2nd section was pulling into view. The side show fronts & the big top & some of the seat wagons were on this section. Wagons of green, bright red & silver filled our eyes with wonderment & excitement. ANOTHER WHISTLE and the 3rd section of all the seat wagons rolled into view.

Soon, it was off to the lot, where the cookhouse was fixing breakfast already. Oh, the smell of hot cakes, bacon & coffee was everywhere. 100 cooks & waiters were under the direction of George Blood, cookhouse boss & John Stahley, head steward. The lot was busy with 100 jobs a minute to do. No time for rest. Stakes were

being driven to anchor the big top & all the rest of the tents. Soon, the menagerie was up, then the big top. What a sight! Red wagons, spotted. Ticket wagons were lined up. Banners unfolded for the side show; the midway was readied. A beehive of Mack trucks of Catpilars growling & pulling wagons into place.

Then, first call & doors. We entered the menagerie & what wonderment to behold. Then, into the big top and to our seats. Merle Evans hit the fanfare & the show started. Three rings of action; our eyes were everywhere at once! "Hurry, Hurry, Hurry! Get your peanuts, popcorn & pink lemonade. Coke-Ice Cold Coke!" The cry of the candy butcher was heard all thru the big top. But, alas, too soon it was over. At 10 pm, it was almost an empty lot, save for the big top that would be down in an hour. At midnight, we were at the rail yards to watch the loading of the trains and to say good-bye to those silver ribbons of steel till next year. These are my memories of a summer day gone by. Oh, to hear that lonesome whistle once more. For 50 years, I have been building models of these memories, in 1/4 inch scale. (Thanks, Harvey!)

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Nicole Wright reports the line up at the Hamid Morton Circus in Indianapolis went like this: Come in by Scott O'Donnel; Introduction by Peter Sturgis; Sponge plunge by Jamie Miser; Roman Rings with Raphael (of the Dalton's), Alex & Christina Cortez; Clowns; Rola Bola by Dayton; Shane & Nicole Wright on the trampoline as the Jolly Jumpin Jesters; Ponies presented by Jenny Vidbel; Miss Maritza, traps; Dalton juggling. Intermission. Pony & elephant rides, balloon bounce & photos with Shrine clowns in their funny car. The Flying Cortez with Edmundo, catching, Alex, Christina & Robinson; Scott O'Donnell, comedy canines with pony to finish; foot juggling by the Daltons, Raphael, Jill & Raiana-3 rings; Single horse by Jenny Vidbel; The Wrights on the comedy revolving ladder; Gary Thomas elephants with Janet, riding the elephant; Clowns; Brian Miser finishing the show with the Cannon to an airbag. Jimmy Junior was there overseeing show; Mike Poteete was assisting with light cues; Alita Zoppe was there helping out with the ponies. Visitor to the show was Wayne Wright, trainer of the Gamma Phi Circus at Illinois State Univ. The show ran two hours and 30 minutes. Crowds were pretty good, considering it rained terribly and then started to freeze up. What a mess! Thanks, Nicole. Maybe next time we can hear from Wayne about how the Gamma Phi Circus is coming along for the April shows!

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**128TH EDITION RINGLING BLUE UNIT:**

Charlotte, NC-Coliseum-2/17-2/21  
Fayette, NC-Crown Coliseum-2/25-2/28  
Cincinnati, OH-The Crown-3/3-3/7  
Baltimore, MD-Balt. Arena-3/10-3/21  
Wash. DC-MCI Center-3/25-3/28  
Wash. DC-DC Armory-3/30-4/13  
Landover, MD-US Airways Arena-4/16-4/18  
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**ALL NEW 129th EDITION RED UNIT !!!!**

Richmond, VA-Coliseum-2/17-2/21  
Norfolk, VA-Norfolk Scope-2/24-2/28  
Hampton, VA-Hampton Coliseum-3/2-3/7  
E. Rutherford, NJ-Contl. Airlines Arena-3/9-3/14  
Uniondale, NY-Nassau Coliseum-3/16-3/22  
NYC-Madison Square Garden-3/26-4/11  
Philadelphia, PA-1st Union Ctr-4/15-4/25  
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**BACK YARD**

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**Vidbel Circus:** Fayetteville, NC-3/9-11; Whiteville, NC-3/12-13; Jacksonville, NC-3/15-16; New Bern-3/18-19; Williamston, NC-3/21-22  
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**Garden Bros. Circus:** Toronto-Skydome-3/11-14; Guelph-3/16-17; Brantford-3/20-21; Winnipeg-3/30 & 4/3; St. Paul, MN-4/8-11. More to follow.  
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**UniverSoul Circus:** Atlanta, GA-3/5-14; Miami-3/17-21; Jacksonville-3/24-28; Norfolk-4/9-18; NY-4/21-5/11; Newark-5/14-23; Philly-5/28-6/13; Boston-6/16-6/20; Wash. DC-6/25-7/11; Baltimore-7/14-18; Pittsburgh-7/21-25; Nashville-7/29-8/1; Cincinnati-8/4-8; New Orleans-8/11-15; Birmingham-8/18-22;

Cleveland-8/27-9/5; Detroit-9/8-19; Chicago-9/22-10/4; St. Louis-10/7-10; Kansas City-10/13-17; LA-10/22-11/3; Houston-11/9-14; Dallas-11/17-21  
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**Medinah Shrine Circus:** Chicago-3/5-3/21  
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**Royal Hanneford Circus:** East Lansing, MI-Breslin Ctr.-3/26-28. (Thanks, Fred Logan Tent.)  
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**Duggan Bros.-Arnold Maley Tent 29th Anniversary Celebration:** Atlanta, GA-2/27 at 7:15 pm  
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**Wonderland Circus:** Dalzell, SC-2/16; Sumpter-2/17; Cottageville, SC-2/18\* (Thanks to Duggan-Maley Tent)  
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**Tarzan Zerbini Circus:** Marietta, GA-4/30-5/9 (Thanks again to Duggan-Maley Tent-and the following.)  
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**Clyde Beatty Circus:** De Land, FL-3/15 (Opens)  
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**Great Milwaukee Circus Parade:** July 12  
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**Ringling's Barnum Kaliedoscape-5/20-Los Angeles**  
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**Peggy Williams reports** Ringling Bros. has a 5000 square foot circus display at the Florida State Fair in Tampa. The display consists of wagons, costumes, ring curb, many elephant and other blankets, a selection of RBBB program covers, clown life casts, a miniature clown alley, and tons of pictures of baby elephants and other elephant information from Ringling's Center for Elephant Conservation. The display is prominently positioned in the Expo Hall and is seen by thousands of people each day.  
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**Gary Thomson reports** he recently received a 1998 Cirque du Soleil full colour catalog, 20 pages. They also have an excellent web site. Anyone wishing a catalog, go to [www.cirquestore.com](http://www.cirquestore.com) and they will send you one free. Gary is trying to track down a picture of Lorraine Valentine that was taken in 1952 on the Garden Bros. Circus and appeared in the Daily Press in Canada. Hears hoping he can. I would love an original copy of this photo. Cherie.  
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**Any Route 66 Circus Stories you'd like to share with your editor? I am writing an article and would love to hear your memories. Please contact me!**

As I write this from sunny Sarasota, there is a flurry of circus excitement at the start of the New Year. The Ringling Red and Blue units opened in Tampa and Miami, respectively. Their new unit, P.T. Barnum's Kaleidoscope is setting up the tent at the fairgrounds getting ready to start rehearsals. The Circus Producers Association will hold their annual meeting at the Hyatt hotel. The National Circus School (Dolly Jacobs and Pedro Reis) are holding performances on weekends. The Hermann family with their Lippazzaners are holding their, now famous, winter quarters training sessions; ditto Kay Rosaire inviting the public to animal training demonstrations at her compound. Costumes are being created and refurbished and humans and animals alike are polishing their skills for upcoming performances in 1999. The Showfolks of Sarasota Club is hopping on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The New Year's Eve Gala held there was a terrific party with a full house of over 300. Certainly, this is the time of year Central Florida, Southern CA, the Dallas area and Hugo are bustling with circus activity.

This is also a very exciting time for me personally, as I have just accepted a position as a Circus Representative with OABA (Outdoor Amusement Business Association). OABA would like to extend the benefits of their association to the circus industry and I will be the circus liaison. It is a logical step for our industry as there is strength in numbers. The circus is under constant siege by animal rights groups as well as legislation regarding traveling shows, trucks, liability, etc. I applaud those of you who pursue these challenges individually. An individual can make a difference and a group united can do even more. OABA currently has a membership in excess of 4,300. Our industry has been mainly reactive to allegations and charges made by activists. It is time we become proactive. Let's fight the legislature while it is still a proposal, not when it is already a law. Let's distribute positive publicity before we are forced to. Let's get involved with the USDA by attending their meetings and stating our side of the issues as they have indicated they would like more involvement from our industry.

OABA can help with these issues and more on behalf of its' members. Membership is not costly, especially when you consider the various benefits. Some of you have indicated you belonged to OABA but felt they didn't meet your needs as they are an organization for the carnival industry. The fact is, a group of carnival owners founded OABA more than 30 years ago because they believed they would be a stronger force if united. They were all facing the same challenges. The organization has been successful and now they want to extend the same benefits of a strong association to our industry. They know that we have specialized issues and are willing to go to bat on our behalf. OABA is an organization for the Amusement Business at large, founded by some visionary carnival owners. There is no magic bullet, however, it appears to be a great starting point. The start of a new century and new millennium are months away. Some naysayers (and activists groups) say the circus is dying. I choose to believe that is wishful thinking on their part. The circus is alive and well. With the help of OABA let's move into the next century with our heads high and our pride intact. I am proud to have grown up in an industry that is for "Children of All Ages" and refuse to be ashamed by association. Let's show Kim Basinger (whose work is not family oriented) and the others what we are made of. Let's adhere to, or improve, the current standards and carry on a tradition that dates back to the last century.

I wish you all blue skies, grassy lots and prosperity in the New Year!  
Heidi Herriott (407) 656-4340 e-mail: circus4u@gdi.net

## \*Young Americans Bring Home The Gold\*

(From the Peru Tribune, February 2, 1999)

The Young Americans keep making Miami County proud. This time they brought home the gold. Their high wire was one of three 1st place winners at the amateur circus competition in Monte Carlo.

Victory came with the group overcoming a fall during practice & illness when half the performers came down with head colds. The act received 2000 francs prize money, a 14" golden sculpture, a golden cup awarded by one of the circus sponsors & a participation trophy. "It was all done in French, so I'm not sure what all this is," said trainer Randy Wallick. Their glory was not achieved easily, Randy said.

It was 3 a.m. Monte Carlo time & he was trying to figure out how to pack the group's trophies. It had been a long day & a long week that included many ups and downs. It was almost midnight when they first got to practice & they were the last to train. The act had not been able to practice for several weeks & inside the tent things were different.

The band played loudly & sat a close 8' away from them. The lighting was also different. "The 8-person pyramid fell. Everything came down," Wallick said. Safety mechanics kept everyone from harm, but a couple of the performers did reach the net. They decided their best chance to win would be with a 7-person pyramid. A performance just for the judges began at 9:30 a.m. "They went up and nailed a perfect routine," he said. Their act brought a standing ovation, complete with "Bravos." Prince Ranier gave the girls a kiss on each cheek. The judges had a hard time coming up with the winners, as competition was fantastic. "Hopefully, we've made Miami County people proud," said Wallick.

**Rick King reports** work has begun on the Hanneford Tableau at Circus World Museum, with the paint all stripped & repair of the carvings started. The Royal Italian Bandwagon has been restored & paint is going on. RBBB #102 has been disassembled & restoration of the metal & wood parts is well underway. Also, #12 has been given a fresh coat of paint & a new lettering job. Both these wagons will go on the 3rd flatcar that has just been added to the Flying Section display in the Wagon Pavilion. The Lion & Mirror Bandwagon has come into the shop & restoration will start later this year. The museum recently acquired Royal American's owners car. It has gone to Northern Rail Car in Milwaukee for

evaluation. Contractors are working on the roofs of the elephant barn & the Ring Barn. A new recording was made this week of all the circus musical instruments. The recording should be available by opening. The new book by Fred Dalinger & Stuart Thayer, "Badger State Showmen," is now available exclusively from the Gift Shop for \$29.95 + tax & shipping. Recently, the Museum made a film in cooperation with Wisc. Public TV and The State Sesquicentennial Commission about the early days of the circus in Wisc. The film is called, "The Worlds Greatest Showmen" & is being offered to PBS stations around the country. Watch for it! It is also available from Gift Shop.

**\*David Orr reports** Ringling Red was fantastic! The "3-Ring Adventure" is a must for everyone to get there an hour prior to the show. He arrived in Sarasota to catch Dolly Jacobs & Pedro Reis' "National Circus School of Performing Arts." This production is a must for every circus lover. It's worth the price of admission just to watch Dolly. A number of circus producers were in attendance & gave standing ovations to a number of the fantastic acts that Pedro & Dolly put together. No doubt this group of performers need our help & support.

**\*Gary Thomson sends Paul Butler's report** on Tarzan Zerbini's Holiday Circus. Circus Overture, under direction of Larry Solheim. Show opened with the Flying Vargas & Flying Lunas-this is the first time in 30 years that I have seen a circus open with flyers. Then, Satani Demon did a knife & fire act in 3-rings. Then a comedy show by "Music Box" Poppy. A juggling jubilee was next with Igor & Tatiana, Dino & Luis. 3 rings of Magic by Xena-3 illusions, a girl production & a girl vanish. Giant Holiday Circus elephants trained & presented by Mike Donoho. 1 large bull & 1 small African for show; 2 large bulls for rides. Then, 3 rings of Rolly-Bolly with Eduardo-Delilih-Manuel; 3 rings of precision archery by Alter Archers; 3 rings of cycling by Zoppies, Esquedas & Blondins; a high-diving act with Don Otto-great comedy. Intermission. A cradle act in one ring by Soaring Lunas; more comedy by Poppy; Exotic Cats of the World with Yaro & Barbara Hoffman, with lots of animals; Grande Finale. The show was a good 2 hours & one of the best shows that Tarzan has put on. Well worth the money!

**Feb. 27, 1956: Jackie Gibson**, Bloomington, of the Flying LaVals, fell twice into the net at the Shrine Circus in Minneapolis. She missed a mid-air catch with **Bill Valentine**. The 2nd time, being knocked unconscious.

## \*CIRCUS EXPRESS FESTIVAL TOUR\*

By Harry Gordon of Bangor, Maine

I just returned from the Circus Express Festival tour where I saw an amazing amount of circus in the last 3 weeks. The big news is that clowns from 2 American circuses won gold prizes at both the Monte Carlo & Lausanne Festivals.

At Monte Carlo, David Larible won one of 3 Gold Clowns awarded. David presented all of his familiar routines during the several nights & also received more standing ovations than usually occur in several years. As befits his talent, Larible also garnered 7 other awards at the festival.

It was a family affair as David's mother, Lucina, was awarded the Prize of the Swiss Academy of Circus. Mrs. Larible appeared in 4 performances in the role of an audience member & soon became an audience favorite.

Gold was captured by Anatoly Zalievsy for his equilibristic routine. The act is a gymnastic exercise presented on a 10 ft. sq. platform & exhibits breathtaking examples of strength & flexibility. Anatoly also won 4 additional prizes as well as more than one standing ovation. A troupe from Cirque du Soliel's Quidam claimed a Gold Clown. The act is the Banquine which features 12 people who with great strength & agility create an unique combination of hand balancing & casting, achieving awesome results. Using no mechanics, 2 performers are cast across the stage in an amazing over & under between 2 three-highs. 4 more prizes went to the group. Swiss Rene Strickler won special mention for his presentation of an act of caged cougars. The unusual act was very fluid & though the routines were rather predictable, the cage equipment was not. All pedestals & seats were molded of fiberglass to create the effect of natural rock formations. Planking attached at half cage height around 1 side of the arena gave cats an opportunity to climb & display their natural grace. Strickler also presented a spirited tiger act on alternating nights. Both sets of felines were displayed outside the festival's top for the circus-goers to observe. The cougars were in a special cage with a fiberglass wall, resembling a mountainside, giving some cats places to perch & sun themselves. Others enjoyed exercising on the many natural objects in the cage. One cat was fascinated by dogs passing by, following the canine the length of the enclosure & sitting & staring if the dog's owner stopped to watch a while. Tigers, too had a large enclosure for their exercise and nap time.

In the premiere of the Festival in Lausanne, attendees were to the sight of 6 tops on one lot. Organizers put together an imaginative festival in their first outing. At the left of the lot was the exhibition & boutique tent containing displays of Swiss shows with lighting & animation. The centerpiece was a large display covering the life of the legendary clown, Grock. The boutique was well stocked & happily raking in the francs & snapping the plastic of the crowds. The next top was a restaurant & bar, which proved immensely popular. The menus changed daily & were reasonably priced & of good quality. Diners were entertained by students from the Lausanne Circus School during the evening meals. Ballots at each table were provided for selecting the best acts of the evening. The 3rd top was a lounge for promoters & performers. 4th was the performance arena, seating 3000. 5th was the rehearsal top, and last was the performer's dressing & preparation area.

4 prizes were awarded at Lausanne. The Golden Lion was awarded to Bello Nock who dazzled the crowds with his trampoline, bungee & inflatable man routines & who worked as the reprise clown, covering delays like cage removal. The Silver Lion was awarded to the duo Flug Zug. They were comic jugglers of moderate juggling skill, but possessed lots of funny lines & great timing. One of their funniest bits was having to pay the other for any dropped prop. Not a lot of cash exchanged hands, but when it did, it was an entertaining way to cover a miss! Bronze was awarded to the Troupe de Guangzhou, a large group of women who performed 2 different routines exhibiting balance, strength & agility.

Of the many observations one could make about 3 weeks of circus in Europe, this circus fan was impressed by the youthful performers observed in both festivals & in other shows we saw. The level of skill & development, even among some of the pre-teens, gives one hope for the future of the circus. (Thanks, Harry. Great report.)

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### \*\*\*Passing of Our Circus Friends\*\*\*

Rita Block, 79, of Sarasota, Florida, passed away Jan. 30. She was born 3/20/19 in Algeria, North Africa & came to Sarasota 30 years ago. She retired after 62 years as a circus performer, working with a number of circuses, including Beatty-Cole, Gatti Circus & Shrine Circuses. She performed on the high wire, the trapeze and was an acrobat. She was a member of St. Martha's Catholic Church. Survivors are Gerhard, her husband and a brother, Julein Zerbini. Our sympathies to her family.

Al House reports that he and Maxine just returned from Europe with a trip with Circus Express. He said the "tiger-lady" is Joan Byron-Marasek, of Jackson Twp. (where Six Flags Great Adventure Park is located about 2 miles west of her) on Rt. 537. The state Div. of Fish, Game & Wildlife have jurisdiction over the matter. State authorities killed a 431 pound Bengal tiger on Jan. 27, that supposedly escaped from her compound. The authorities obtained a search warrant to obtain access to her records & to count the tigers now on the premises. The compound is called Tigers Only Preservation Society.

State officials now do 3 counts a day to see if all her 17 tigers are accounted for on her 11.7 acre property. A heavy gauge chain-link fence, about 16x20 feet tall surrounds the property. The owner received a civil summons from F,G & W because her 6-ft.-tall wire mesh outer fence, about 100 ft. from the inner compound was in disrepair. The owner is a state licensed handler of tigers & meets all Federal regulations. The owner denies the tiger was hers, but all authorities believe it was hers that somehow escaped. They took samples from the dead cat to see if any of its samples match any residues left within the animal compound.

The question remains as to why a tiger would wander from a compound where it got a good home, food & go jump a high fence to get away from it.

Maxine & I were at the Monaco Circus Festival. David Larible of RBBB got a gold clown. Ken Feld was one of the judges, but David was so good that not to vote for him would not be fair. We were at Lausanne, Switzerland, International Circus Festival, too. There, Bello Nock, of NYC's Big Apple Circus, won the top prize of a Gold Lion. The Festival was fairly well attended & the acts were all pretty good. On the last night, there was a Chinese act that was a risley act using basketball sized balls to juggle & to throw them around between 4 women. It was very skilled & very pretty. On the last night, they won a 3rd place & I was amazed. If they were 3rd, what was the 1st? Well, it was Bello. He deserved it.

The Americans stayed at the Hotel Aulac, just 4 blocks from the circus site. As promised, there were 5 major tops on the premises. Major tents were from Nock, Starlight (Gasser), & Monti, with a huge festival tent, which was a plastic tent over an aluminum frame. In it were the souvenir shoppe & a fine display of circus material from all the Swiss shows. The Swiss went all out to make the festival a big hit.

The Americans in attendance were Bello Nock, who won the top prize, Rob Lang and Susie Vidbel, of Vidbel's Circus and Angelo Yodice, a Western ropes and whips performer as well as a western rider. (He was on Circus Flora with me, Cherie.) From Sarasota came Fred Menke, Susan Kowalski. Circus Express tour members were Harry Gordon, Matt Bourque, Bill Rector, Al and Maxine House. The country was quite expensive. The food was excellent, the land pretty and the festival well run. A good time was had by all. (Thanks, Al.)

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**"Animals Cherished At Ringling Bros. And Barnum & Bailey And Will Always Be Part Of The Greatest Show On Earth" by Catherine Ort-Mabry.**

2/3, Vienna, VA: Certain extreme, activist organizations are using the closing of a circus in Great Britain as a new tactic in their political campaign to deprive millions of Americans of the opportunity to witness the awesome majesty of the animal performers at Ringling Bros. This activist organization will use any means possible-no matter how absurd or contrived-to further its fundraising agenda and extreme positions.

Animals are an integral part of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey experience and to suggest a future without them is inconceivable. Performing animals have been a part of Ringling Bros. for 129 years and always will be. We are experts in their well being. At Ringling Bros., we are committed to the highest quality of care and training of all our animal performers. We are also fully committed to sharing our expertise with the millions of American families who attend our shows each year as well as other animal care professionals worldwide.

Ringling Bros., like all animal exhibitors in the United States, is governed by a variety of animal welfare laws. We gladly work with our regulators to ensure the health and safety of our animal performers and meet or exceed all federal, state and local regulations. Not only is proper animal care the law, but it is the right thing to do. For additional information about the care, training and performances of our animals, please visit the "Menagerie" and "Center For Elephant Conservation" areas of Ringling.com.

(Reprinted with permission of Ringling Bros. Circus. Please visit their web site at [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) for this article and more very interesting articles. The elephant center is especially fascinating. They also have their routes, photos of the performers and a great P.T. Barnum e-mail system, that I can't figure out how they do it!)

By Mike Cecere

Lately, one question that many of us involved in professional elephant management get asked by friends and fans of circuses, is where are the future herds of elephants coming from? Almost totally homeless in all environs of Asia, despite their religious status & forced into dwindling areas on the Dark Continent of Africa, captivity in North America & Europe is their only safe future. And the breeding programs, small at first, are really turning out quite a few babies. Some nay-sayers say it's too slow, but it's usually people who know little about elephants. Since importation stopped of Asians in the early 70s & Africans in 1989, the old circus method of discarding troublesome or old ones & just getting new ones was finished. During the 70s & 80s, a lot of young bull elephants came of age but there wasn't the species survival system set up as it is today. Thus, a lot of genetic material was lost. But now with the set up nationwide of zoos & parks working together, along with Gary & Kari Johnson's, "Have Trunk Will Travel", excellent Feld/Ringling facility, Hawthorn Corp., also Carson & Barnes program headed by Bucky Steele on line, the future has become very bright for elephants and our friendly cousins to the north, in Canada, Bowmanville Zoo & African Lion Safari, are both top elephant facilities.

Everyone needs to understand also that any non-profit public zoo, or facility, involved in something positive for elephants can apply for & obtain permits to import elephants. But, it's got to be more of a reason than just dragging them around the country & have them handled by inexperienced help. They have to be involved in bringing new blood to the present captive population, or doing something positive for them. However, with the old animal trading routes gone, it would cost 20 times what it used to to import elephants. More importantly tho, the future holds a bigger challenge in the feeding of these huge creatures. We are in the last days of cheap hay, grain & other foodstuffs. As climatic changes ravage formerly abundant croplands & more farmers quit & leave the land fallow, the price of feed will sky rocket. Within 5 years, it will cost as much to feed one elephant as it does to feed 5 today. So there will be a lot of changes, some we'll like, some we won't. The important thing is not to panic, thinking "The sky is falling," and when you look at what's happening, think it over, reason it out. You'll see elephants aren't gong to pack up their trunks and leave!

Paul Holley, Racine, WI, reports about 60 circus enthusiasts attended the annual Delavan Circus Winter Mixer in Delavan, WI, Jan. 23. Gordon & Dorothy Yaden did their usual great job in organizing the evening. Here are some "tidbits" from the program:

\***Medinah Shrine Circus**, Chicago, won't have elephants or cats because of animals rights group pressure. Show runs March 5-21. Fans may address comments to: Patrick Delaney, Circus Chairman, 600 N. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

\***Circus World Museum** opens May 8. The Barreda elephants, the clowns and the band will all be back. Juggling whiz, **T.J. Howell** is returning after a 4-year absence.

\***The Great Circus Parade** is set for 2 p.m., July 11 on the streets of Milwaukee.

\*The Great Circus Train will run 4 days between Baraboo and Milwaukee. Extra stops this year include cities in the Fox River Valley.

\***Royal Hanneford Circus** returns to Milwaukee for Circus Parade Week. They will put on 17 performances, 7/6-10.

\***Walker Bros. Circus** is getting a new one-ring big top, designed by the same people that developed the Beatty-Cole big top.

\***Carson & Barnes Circus** returns to Wisconsin in '99. Only confirmed date is Sheboygan, July 17.

\***Patch Adams**, the real-life doctor behind the hit movie, will receive the "Lifetime of Laughter Award" from the International Clown Hall of Fame." (Thanks, Paul.)

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 "How Time Flies"-From the Bloomington, IL **Pantagraph**:Feb. 16, 1931: Lillian Leitzel, who died Sunday in Copenhagen, came to America in 1908 & joined the **Barnum Circus** when Clyde Noble was performing in the same circus. Mrs. Noble was a companion of the star when they were children in Europe.

\***Feb. 23, 1932**: Details of the filming of "Tarzan of the Apes" were related by **Bert Doss** before the Young Men's Club at the Illinois Hotel. He was cast as one of the apes. He is an aerial performer. In the film, 17 members of the foremost aerial acts in the US were used. Jungle scenes were made at Sherwood Lake, about 40 miles from Hollywood.

\***Feb. 16, 1932**: **Mrs. Tom Mix**, formerly Mabel Hubbel, of Bloomington, was in Mexico on her honeymoon. Known professionally as **Mabel Ward**, she was with the **Flying Wards** for five years.

# RUMBLINGS FROM THE CRUMMY

By Brian Nunn

\*My favorite time of day was always early in the morning. The critters are asleep or snoozing. It's very quiet. There is always one of the female elephants up & awake, quietly feeding. They take turns keeping watch so no one can sneak up on them. I'm well known to them & pose no threat. It's peaceful and calm as I walk down the line. An elephant flops an ear or lifts the end of her trunk for a sniff. It stays this way until some of the crew wakes up & stirs around. This is a sign that it's time for feeding, watering and cleaning up.

One of the hardest parts of the job was keeping an eye on the help, as some of the elephants are dangerous. It seems there's always a new kid that doesn't believe, after being told many, many times. There is always one that will test his luck. One time I came around the corner & in the middle of the picket line, where the toughest elephants are kept, a 10,000 pound, 20-year-old female had the new kid by the ankle, upside down, and was 'bonkin his head on the ground, not real rough, but not gentle either. I said, "Hey, you!! Unhand that man. She gently set him on the ground, let go with her trunk and sniffed at him apologetically.

\*I remember all my life thinking there has got to be more to life than this. Now it seems I take what I've got. I may not like it much, but I'll take it. I worked for a horseman who in the heat of the moment, when he got angry, his cus word would be, "Gosh, 'O' Friday!", "Horse, would you stand still!!", or "Truck!! Would you start!" And then he'd say, "You're gonna drive me to drinking and if I have a hangover, you'd better watch your step."

He was the best animal behaviorist and horseshoer I ever saw. Out of the hundreds of horses, there was only one failure. That was a thoroughbred filly, named Peaches. He broke her to drive (queuing her to drive with saddle and long lines, but behind her, not in the saddle). As soon as you ("anyone," we all tried) got into the saddle, she'd rear up and run backwards into a wall or if no wall was near, she'd throw herself over backwards to try to smash you. After some good time doing this, she was added to the brood-mare herd. She was a pretty little paint, with excellent confirmation. And a good mannered horse on the ground (leading and such.) She just didn't want anyone on top of her.

\*There was a circus horse that Rex Williams has that was fine riding bareback, with just a halter and lead rope.

I liked riding the horse so much that Rex started calling

me a horse thief. But, ...if you put a saddle and a bit on this horse, you'd better know what you're doing.

He'd test and challenge you, and not a few times, would give you flying lessons. Rex used him in the big act working elephants. That horse was not afraid of anything.

He could also kick head-high, without letting you know it was coming, real quick.

\*The Magic Elephant Named Gyp: I swear if you took your eye off this silly elephant for two seconds, she would levitate and disappear. Then she'd reappear someplace else, getting into trouble, like picking someone's pocket or stealing hay, just about any manner of mischief.

She would play up to you, real cute like, then be off stealing candy from kids. She would not hurt anybody and that was a good thing. But, she would drive you crazy. A short trip, in my case, (like Hawgjaw used to tell me.)

I was working for Rex, playing the Shrine date at Busch Stadium in St. Louis and the Diano herd was there. Gyp liked the boys and she was spotted right next to Big Tommy (the monster tusker.) They played like junior high school kids. She would nuzzle up to him and he would act all bashful and hold his head up real high.

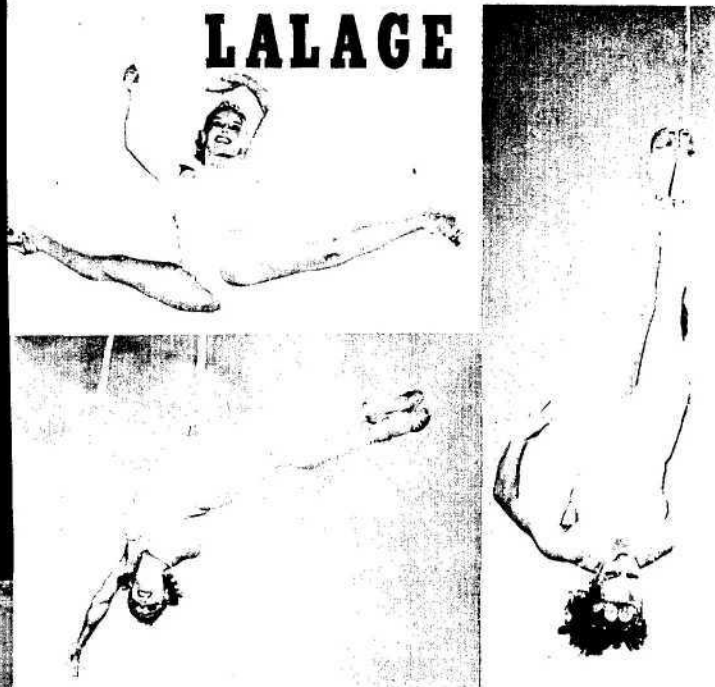
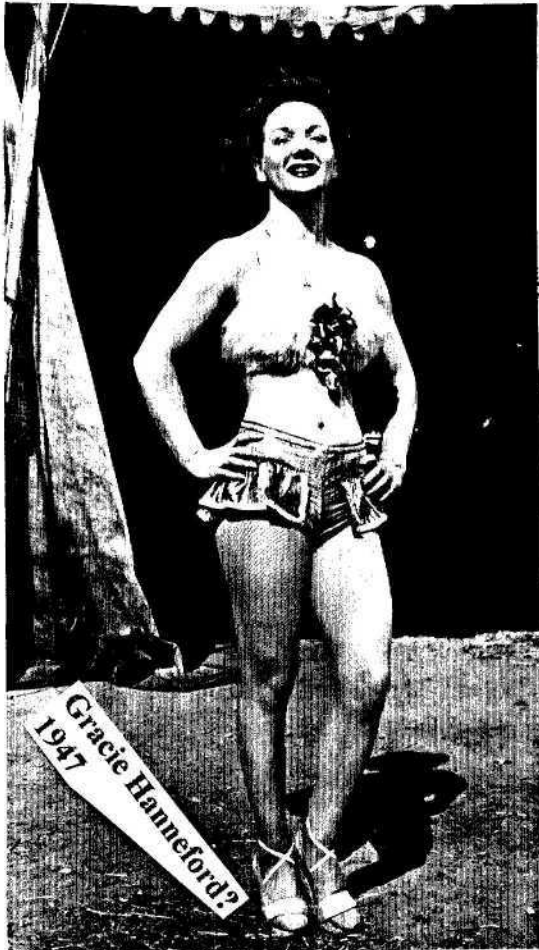
I think if anything would have gotten Tommy to breed, it would have been Gyp. I have a Polaroid of them, but it is blurry 'cuz they were always screwin' around. Gyp's baby, the Brat, was real impressed with Tommy and he would go over to visit a lot.

Tommy did not care much for the four-foot high, fresh little heathen, but he tolerated him. The females in Tommy's herd like the Brat a lot so he spent a lot of time with them. I think Gyp was grateful. When he was one week old, he would run around real fast in the corral Rex had made for them and run into things; his mom, people, the wall.

Once he slipped, tripped, did a somersault and landed upside-down in the big rubber feed bucket, just like an upside-down turtle. He was hollering like a scalded cat. All the elephants are alarmed. It seems major panic is in order, so Gyp calmly walks over to him and boots him out of the bucket. He jumps up and starts running around again!

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**Feb. 26, 1908:** The Flying Fishers, Bloomington, with Clyde Noble & Edward Foreman & their assistants will leave for New York City, where they will begin their engagement with Barnum and Bailey Circus.



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**Schell Bros. Circus**

**1930**



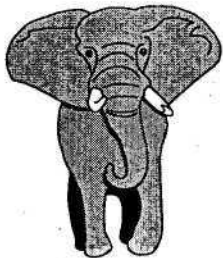
**Roger Boyd  
Clyde Beatty Circus**



Schell Bros. Circus  
Lidgerwood, ND 1930

Lower Left Is Clarence Hedy,  
Layout Man, Telling Bud De Vere  
To Look At The Camera

Back Yard  
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