

BACK YARD

Volume III, Issue #52

September 30, 1998

BIG BERTHAS OF THE BIG TOP

****BY CHEERFUL GARDNER****

(From Illinois State Univ. Circus Archives)

Did You Know That:—

Although an elephant's hide is one inch thick, a pin prick will draw blood?

An elephant's trunk is said to contain 40,000 muscles & that it may be used to breathe, carry water, pull nails, hammer, as a balance, a flail and a rope?

Many elephants sleep standing, sometimes falling down while sleeping?

Part of their respiration takes place between the toes, which must be sponged carefully and often?

Too many peanuts will give even a big bull a stomach ache but many enjoy tobacco?

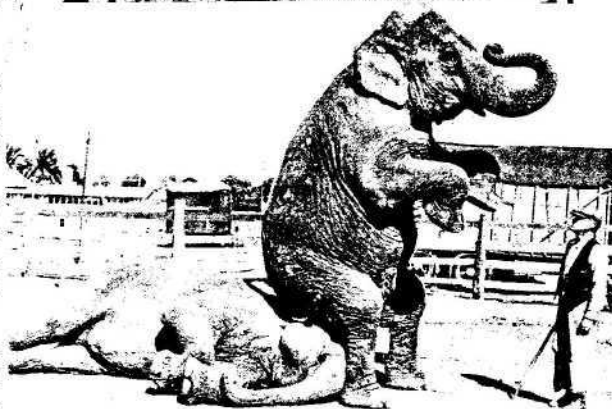
Their memory, contrary to popular opinion, is short?

HEADLINES scream: "Mad Elephants Stampede!" "Crazy Elephant Kills Keeper!" "Trainer Tracks Elephants Escaping In Canadian Wilds!" "Elephant Turned Criminal Frightens Town!"

Those great beasts are not criminals at heart. They may be frightened or sick, but they seldom hold while sane any malice against a human being. I know, for I have broken & trained more than 150 elephants for vaudeville & circus acts during the last 40 years.

From Tusko, The Great, who stood 10 feet, 4 inches in his unstockinged feet, to Mabel, the 20-year-old youngster in my herd today, all have been lovable monsters. True, Tusko became a killer. But, Tusko was a victim of confinement & resulting disease. Years ago, circus men thought it was good business to include a killer among their herds, keeping them in chains to prevent mass murders. But, those elephants were not naturally killers. I'll show you why as we get along.

You'd be surprised at the tricks we can do with elephants. You wouldn't think, as you see 5 huge pachyderms turn & twist during an 8-minute circus sketch that they crowd 32 individual tricks into their act.

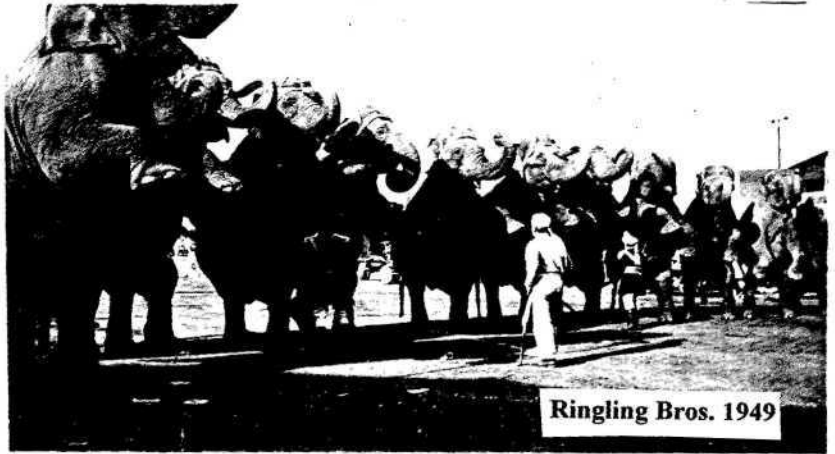


Well, they do; and we have worked years perfecting the act, bullying & coaxing them, keeping their spirits high as we bring them along in an unaccustomed routine. If you've never tried balancing from 3 to 5 tons of quivering-animal flesh on its head & 2 fore feet or standing one erect on its 2 hind feet, you will not understand much about our troubles. Yet with main force & hard work, a good trainer can cajole an elephant into doing almost anything his huge bulk & weight permit.

(Continued on Page 5)



The Smahas



Ringling Bros. 1949



Clyde Beatty 1965



Hagenbeck-Wallace 1938

RHINO RECORD by Mike Cecere

A few weeks ago, I entered a quiz contest in "The Rumblyngs From The Crummy" column and thought I'd give the answer here while I wait for my prize to be sent. Anyway, the man who trained that Rhino for the old "Tarzan" movies was Mr. George Emerson. Emerson was a great trainer in the old school style & headed up the famous MGM studios zoo for many, many years.

The MGM studio owned every kind of wild animal including a famous trio of Asian elephants, "Happy Queenie" and "Sally" who eventually became The James E. Strates elephants.

My favorite MGM "Tarzan" movie is 'Tarzan's New York Adventure', which goes from the jungle to a circus lot in New York.

Rhinos, now quite common in European circuses, performing in the ring rarely have been shown here due to the changing nature of the circus layouts, whereas in Europe the basic lot layout with nearby menagerie stable is the same daily.

In my experience, I've witnessed 2 exceptional rhinos working open in a circus ring. A beautiful black rhino shown for years by Roman Schmidt & a huge white rhino trained & presented by Rex Williams, the Dean of America's Elephant Trainers. Both of these were shown in the 1970s.

The most recent attempt was by Italian master trainer, Flavio Togni on the Ringing Bros. Circus, Blue Unit, several years ago. Show in the cat arena, it was a valiant effort, handicapped by the constraints of the buildings the show plays which are built for basketball, not circuses.

This is no fault of the Feld Corp. as they have always done their best to provide the top conditions & care for their animals.

So, if you want to view great animal training of days gone by, rent "Tarzan's New York Adventure," pop some popcorn & have a few laughs. Meanwhile, I'll check the mailbox for my prize!

PORKY'S RETURN by Mike Cecere

As I related in a previous article weeks ago, having African elephants has pegged me as the "Marlin Perkins" of Farm Country. Well, it happened again.

Increasingly in America these days, slowly but meaningly, we've been getting more & more yuppies, ("townies" to my show-biz friends,) moving out amongst us. And I had one of them roar up our driveway the other day in a huge Ford "Explorer", sport utility vehicle that

was just above her level of safe operation to drive, (and they complain about us semi-truck drivers!), ranting at the top of her lungs that our pigs were eating her herb garden!

Which would not have been so bad except she lives 2 miles down the road, & we have no pigs here.

It must have been too much tofu that got her that upset & my suggestion (once I stopped laughing) was to say she should make a cross out of bacon strips & perhaps that would ward off the pigs. (Hey, it works in vampire movies!)

I did tho make several calls around to see if anyone was missing any porkers to no avail.

Then, one of my neighbor volunteered that a mutual neighbor with poor fencing repair must be the guilty party. Later in the day, while doing cow count, I astoundingly came upon the errant pigs who were walking down the road!

They were a pair, a huge sow & her companion, a small pet-size pot-bellied pig. With some effort, we managed to herd them up into one of our holding pens & proceeded to give them some much needed water & a good feeding, which I'm sure they appreciated.

One of my more senior farmer neighbors happened to be passing by & volunteered to inform the errant owner to come get his pigs.

And in short order, he arrived with a trailer to pick them up, grateful that their reign of garden raiding had been stopped as it was getting expensive for him.

So, out of the trailer trooped his crew that worked in his construction business & trust me, they were a real cast of characters. I hadn't seen a crew like that since my days touring on tent circuses with the wino tribes.

Then the fun began. If it only had been a little muddier, it would have been hilarious. As it was, the pigs outsmarted them for the better part of an hour, until I lent some gates & advice, which turned the tide. So, you can see, it's never a dull moment out here in the country!

NEW WORLD by Mike Cecere

In the ever changing world these days, it's very hard to decide the best course for our industry to take. There are lots of ideas, some work, some don't. And there are many for sighted show business families, that chart a successful course year after year, generation after generation.

One of the most notable is the Tetzlaff family. In their second generation, led by world famous wild animal trainer

(Continued on Page 4)

NEW WORLD ORDER...Mike Cecere..

and zoologist, David Tetzlaff. They operate the highly accredited Caribbean Gardens, in Naples, Florida.

The Gardens is an ecological paradise & one of the oldest tourist attractions in the sunshine state. It was David's father, the legendary, Jungle Larry, who first thought of combining their huge collection of wild animals. The family used at their Jungle Larry's African Safari, a feature at Cedar Point for 30 years, as well as numerous television shows.

A pioneer in mixing education with entertainment, their presentations have always been on the "cutting edge" of our industry.

David has over the years, trained & presented spectacular attractions such as a huge group of mixed leopards, both black & spotted, lions, tigers & any kind of big cat you could imagine. And all of them in the highest level of training not seen since the days of the Hagenbeck's in Germany.

In addition, under his guidance in the truest tradition many young people have studied wild animal training with him & found their life's work. One of the most notable of which is John Illig, currently touring Europe with James Clubb's huge mixed wild animal act.

And several other students now working in America's top zoos and parks. Only a couple years ago David & his family were the feature of a best selling book, which is rumored to be in development by a major motion picture studio.

Yet, despite all the attention by the press & public, David, with his brother Tim by his side & a loyal staff of dedicated, long-time employees continue to put the animals first & foremost, as it should be.

You can bet as we enter the new century in a couple years, these folks will be in the forefront in how to do it right. Good Luck Guys!

THE WHALE TALE by Mike Cecere

As a lifetime animal trainer I'm always interested in media coverage, not only of big cats and elephants, but other mammals as well.

One of the most interesting has been the ongoing saga of "Keiko", the Killer Whale of "Free Willy" movie fame. And as an animal lover as well as a zoologist/farmer/animal trainer, I find the huge outlay of cash, as well as incredible popular support from people the world over interesting. Moreover,

it's a real far out idea to return a whale to the wild! It's been done with a variety of animals, but sadly for most, their old homelands are gone, destroyed by over-population or climatic changes.

Plus, a majority of animals used in circuses and zoos, particularly big cats and bears, are several generations captivity born. Now a certain number of my colleagues are quite skeptical and a few even fearful that "Keiko's" adventure will encourage the more radical fringe of the animal rights movement to call for all wild animals to be released from captivity.

Truthfully, I doubt that would happen. The huge costs involved is the biggest barrier but moreover, the ocean is one of the last places you could possibly have the same or larger area as when the animal came from there.

In fact, if it's true, the polar ice caps are melting. Whales will have even more habitat. The big hurdle they still are trying to solve is to teach "Keiko" how to catch his own fish after being hand-fed for years. Having over 20 years experience around large mammals, I can relate to that problem. Our elephants have always had great freedom to roam the property here on the farm and avail themselves of the abundant fresh grass and tasty tree branches.

However, after a couple hours of grass pulling and tree munching, they'd stop and say, "Hey, who needs all this work? Let's go eat hay in the barn."

But above everything else, I know the people involved with "Keiko" are just like those of us from the circus/zoo business, that they know by their efforts the creature(s) has enough food and the right care and it has to be in their minds that they will always wonder, (if the experiment succeeds) if he's alright. That's something our critics will never understand, but any parent would.

So here's to that lovable whale "Keiko", his life has been one hell of a tale!

Patty Brainard reports that she has a photo of Johnny Weismuller, Maureen O'Hara & 6 "chimps" that were really 6 midgets. They have their heads off so you can see what they are. She will scan it and send it to Back Yard.

****BIG BERTHAS BY CHEERFUL.....**

I like to start with an unbroken elephant about 3 years old, preferably one fresh off the boat from Burma or Ceylon. As soon as she reaches my training quarters at Venice, California, I begin to teach her her new name & to "tail up." (I prefer females to males, largely because of their better dispositions.) The 5 stars of my herd of 16 are females. In a few days, all will learn to respond to their names. As for "tailing up," this means that when they're moving in line, each grasps the tail of the one ahead with its trunk. This serves 2 purposes. It prevents them from picking up grass & dirt and slapping at dogs & stray animals, & keeps their minds occupied with the business at hand. Once they demonstrate they can walk around the farm & highways without being frightened by sizzling tires & screaming brakes, they're ready for their high-school lessons, & soon will be lying down, sitting up, trunking, mounting, standing on their heads, making head carries, walking on 2 feet and dancing to the strains of a phonograph record. In 2 months, they'll be ready to perform a simple routine under the circus "Big Top."

While large & powerful, an elephant may be strained by overwork. So we bring them along slowly, rehearsing from 1 to 2 hours daily in a ring of 42 feet diameter, the same size as those used in the circus. They start by learning to sit on a tub. Sometimes it is necessary to use some rigging to help lift their fore quarters into position. In a few days they associate the commands, "Mabel . . . Trunk . . . Sit . . . Uppp," with gentle proddings.

We shout at them constantly, both during training & in the circus performance, for the band always plays loud & hot, covering our remarks effectively.

Elephants become creatures of both obedience & habit. Otherwise, I could never get one to do a 2-legged hop. Training for this stunt progresses through 3 phases. First, I get the actress to stand on 3 feet by giving the command, "Jessie . . . foot," "Hold . . . foot," I repeat several times. Now, while that monster extremity is held aloft, I move to the front & call for her to lift the opposite front foot. She's standing on the right front & left rear.

Several days of this, & I note she's balancing herself well. I take a position about 8 feet in front of her trunk. I hold out an apple & call the elephant. Without thought of lowering the raised feet, she hobbles a couple of steps & takes the fruit. Gradually I move away until we are separated by half the width of the ring. When I reach that distance, she actually lopes along at a fast gait when called. It always amuses audiences to see an elephant first

sit, then rock forward to stand on her head. The secret of this trick lies in 2 things, wide-spread feet & strong muscles. As her muscles become stronger, her ability to balance becomes more pronounced. At last, on command she will sit & literally roll forward from her rear haunches to head stand when I give the order.

Sometimes, the performer takes his life in his hands. More than once I've brushed death, but fortunately have escaped with no more than a cauliflower ear to show for my close calls. Take the walk-over, for example. Elephants have notoriously poor eyesight; they can't see very well toward the rear & not at all directly underneath. You stretch out & permit 3 tons of ghostly gray flesh to step across your chest. None will consciously crush you, but you touch each foot as it glides forward, helping its owner make certain how far the padded ground-gripper must be lifted to clear your body safely.

How does an elephant stretch out to lie full-length over a performer? Again, simple if you know how & remember to duck! Fact is, the cover-up, as we call it, may safely be practiced only with an elephant long of body & flat of stomach. You take your position directly between her front quarters, spreading your legs as he sinks down.

Every trick is pointed toward the public. That is, being a showman, I must make it interesting and, if possible, spectacular. Things are not always what they seem, either. Take the tight rope act, for example. I've had several elephants walk the tight rope, but it wasn't a rope. Rather, we used a pole 3 inches thick & 6 inches wide, by 12 feet long. Reinforced on the sides by steel plates, it was painted to resemble a rope. From a platform the elephant would step gingerly onto the narrow contraption, walk serenely to the center, turn around & return to the starting point. This demonstrates they have a marvelous sense of balance. Too, since the "rope" is suspended only 30 inches above the sawdust, the performer knows she can step down with safety. Only the folks sitting high in the grandstand can see it really is a board.

From the elephant's standpoint, the most difficult trick I know of is the stair climb on the hind legs. Julia, a 3000-pound star, has climbed the stairs many times for me. The real secret lies in the construction of the stairs. Because an elephant cannot lift the left leg as high as the right, the left half of each step is 1 inch lower than the right. By stepping upward with the left foot she actually lifts herself 1 inch less than it appears.

(Continued on Page 7)

GUNTHER GEBEL-WILLIAMS RE-ENTERS THE GREAT CAGE!!

The Ringling Bros. Circus homepage has this new announcement: "In the true spirit of family dedication & showmanship, Gunther Gebel-Williams reclaims the mantle of "The World's Most Famous Animal Trainer" as he returns to the circus ring in Indianapolis on Sept. 16th.

Mark Oliver Gebel, son of the legendary star, is taking a temporary leave to be with his wife & fellow performer, Cristina, as they await the birth of their first child & the probable 3rd generation to enter the Three Rings. For most animal trainers, this would present quite a dilemma, as unlike Broadway shows, there are no understudies who travel with them-unless, of course, your dad is Gunther Gebel-Williams! The soon-to-be-grandfather gladly took back the reigns to provide the needed support, while at the same time giving his legion of fans a rare chance to see this larger-than-life performer back at work in the ring.

Gunther retired from the spotlight in 1990 after passing the torch to Mark. "The circus is a family, and I'm glad I can be of help to mine. I'm also thrilled to be able to have this opportunity to perform for audiences once again-if just until my son returns to the show," said Gunther."

NEWS FROM CIRCUS FRIENDS

Bill Botkin, from Muncie, IN reports that it was exciting to see Gunther Gebel-Williams, temporarily out of retirement from the ring. Ringling's Red Unit put the great animal trainer back in the ring for the run in Indianapolis, taking son, Mark Oliver's place. After an 8 year absence from the center ring, Gunther was wonderful in the tiger act, a little rusty with the liberty & elephant acts, but still great on such short notice.

Bernie Babal, from Brook Park, OH reports that the Diano Ring #88 and the Pat Kelley Ring #118 of Indiana, will co-sponsor a Lot 3 Gathering June 11-13, 1999 at the Trolleyville Museum in North Olmsted, Ohio.

Phil Thorick, of Binghamton, NY, reports that after an absence of a year, the Circus World Museum is again presenting a circus music display at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. Several volunteers from New York State and Museum staff erected a large tent prior to the Fair's opening. Included are various instruments from the museum-air calliope, shaker & rub chimes, hand bells and The Gavioli Band Organ. The Ringling Bell Wagon & 2 other wagons from the

museum's collection are also on display. A history of circus music is presented in a wall display & music demonstrations are given each half hour. A gift shop & museum information can also be found inside the tent.

Jim Harshman, of Hagerstown, MD reports that the 55th Anniversary dinner of the Emmett Kelly Tent #41 will be Oct. 10th. The guest speaker will be Barry Lubin, creator of GRANDMA, most beloved clown character of contemporary times. Barry will relate the development of the irrepresible, sometimes irascible and feisty, but always indomitable little old lady. (Have a great time guys. Wish I could be there with you. Tell Barry hello for me. Cherie)

Al House, of Oakland, NJ, reports that Beatty-Cole broke in a new lot in Tannersville, PA, at the Camelback Ski Area parking lot. The new lot was rock based, topped with dirt. No trouble putting stakes into the ground. The lot's location caused a spread out back yard. Almost every foot of cable was used to connect power to the back yard. Show entered Jersey at Freehold to fine business. Show experienced successful business all through the Jersey-Delaware tour.

Vidbel Circus returned from its New England tour. They played some dates in Maine that weren't too strong. The show returned back into Conn., NY, Jersey & to 1 day in Penn. for Labor Day, in a town that couldn't remember when it had its last circus. The show returned to Jersey the next week & headed north again with its first return date to NY state on Sept. 25. Susan Vidbel's bird act is out until her golf cart-mounted pirate ship, made by Elmo Gibb, is repaired. The cart got mired in a hole & refused to work. Daily, repairs are being made.

Business so far this year has been termed satisfactory. If it is satisfactory as one of the other regular east coast shows, the season will be a winner!

Lonnie Sewell of Shoreline, WA reports that the Circus Model Builders election results are in. They are: President-Clair Lovelace; Vice-Pres.-Gary Thomson; Sec/Treas.-Frank Torre; Lot 1-Walter Hendrickson; Lot 2-Don Erlenbush; Lot 3-Theo Davis; Lot 4-Fred Covalt; Lot 5-William Klamerus; Lot 6-Frank Rawson; Lot 7-Clarence Ward; Lot 8-Vacant; Lot 9-Bev Gemeinhardt. Best of luck to each new officer. A request on the CMB Web Site: Joe Barney, boss clown for the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital in Conn, wants to know if anyone has a large miniature circus for display during the Christmas season. His e-mail address is: BAMBOOZELE@aol.com

BIG BERTHAS BY CHEERFUL....

Keep them happy, feed them plenty & pet them...and elephants will work their heads off for you. And how they can eat! I feed each of my herd 120 pounds of hay every day, to say nothing of the grain they get.

Of course, they make they make trouble sometimes, but I don't think there's any such thing as a criminal elephant. Most males die from ulcers of the brain, brought on by being denied a normal sex life. Too much power becomes stored up in the brain, & the disease results. I don't say elephants go crazy, but that's quite different from plain criminal intent. Ulcers & fright cause most of the runaways & rampages you read about.

Several years ago, while showing at the stadium in Cleveland, I got a call from the Cleveland Zoo to end the life of Nemo. This elephant had led a fairly peaceful life, but recently had taken to tearing up scenery, attacking his keepers & raising hell in general. At last, he went completely crazy.

"There's only one cause," I muttered to the copper with whom I rode 90-miles-an-hour, through downtown streets, hurrying to the zoo, "Ulcer." Nemo had to be put down and sure enough, the post mortem exam revealed a brain ulcer big enough to send any elephant crazy.

Another time, dispatches told of 16 "crazy elephants stampeding through Canadian wilds." They weren't crazy, they weren't even mildly insane, unless fright qualifies as insanity. I was in Wichita, playing a show, when a telegram came asking me to fly to Cranbrook, B.C., to round them up & bring them back to the circus.

On reaching Cranbrook, I asked what caused the stampede. "3 days earlier, a goat scared them at Edmonton. When we pulled into Cranbrook, a team ran over some tin cans along-side the track." That was the answer. All 16 had simply fled from fright. 4 weeks later, with the aid of Indian trackers & several plane survey flights, we rounded up the last one.

As for Tusko the Great, I bought this grand creature for the Al G. Barnes Circus from the M.L. Clark wagon show for \$6000. He never ran away while we had him, but he could walk backward as fast as some elephants could move forward. He was so big-he weighed a little over 5 tons-we carried him in a special oversize car built by the Erie railroad. Tusko finally became unmanageable. He killed his keepers. He uprooted railroad ties used to pen him up. Finally, he was sold to an exhibitor in Oregon for \$200, & died in disgrace 7 years ago at the comparatively young age of 50. But I don't blame Tusko for his criminal

acts. I haven't the slightest doubt that the fact he was denied a mate caused an ulcer to form on his brain, & the pressure drove him crazy at times. Of course, elephants can mate in captivity but this means that both the bull & the mother will be away from the act nearly 2 years, for they stay together until a few weeks after the youngster is born. It's cheaper to import 3-year-olds from the jungles, & so long as this practice is followed, you'll read occasionally of killers goring their keepers and running berserk.

THE END (No date or Magazine noted)

HARLEY AMAZES FAIRGOERS* SEPT. 14 NEW MEXICO STATE FAIR

Albuquerque Journal: Harley, 1050 pounds of pink Yorkshire hog-"The Biggest Pig You'll Ever See" was at the state fair. It has been 5 years since the New Mexico State Fair brought an honest-to-goodness-pickled-two-headed baby-in-a-jar freak show to the midway. The days of fire-eaters & the Alligator Woman are passe. Harley, although freakish in his girth & his peep-show presentation, is not a freak to his handler, Steve Frabott. Steve says Harley is "a livestock exhibit." "If we were on the midway, I'd get in a fight every day. I don't like people throwing stuff at him & slapping him." No, Harley is no Man with the Body of a Spider (last seen on the midway in 1995). Nor is he Bimbo, the Elephant Skin Dog (not seen since 1993).

Still, there is an element of freakish curiosity in seeing an 8-foot-long, 4-foot-tall pig whose moist snout is the diameter of a salad plate & whose other body parts are proportionately as large.

Harley's large tusks & the equipment on his other end attract the most attention from onlookers. "That's a selling point, for sure. That's worth 50 cents alone," said Steve. Kids love him for his absolute piggishness. He lies snoring for much of the day, then dunks his head in water & snorts deliciously. He is amazing even to 31-year-old Albuquerque millionaires who are running for Congress. A man named Phil Maloof, borrows 2 quarters from an aide & bee-lines right for Harley's pen. "Dang," says the would-be congressman. "That thing's HUGE!"

127th EDITION RINGLING RED UNIT:

Buffalo,NY-Marine Midland Arena-Sept. 30-Oct. 4
Detroit, MI-Joe Lewis Arena-Oct. 7-11
Boston, MA-FleetCenter-Oct. 14-25
Pittsburgh, PA-Civic Arena-Oct. 28-Nov. 1
St. Louis, MO-Kiel Center-Nov. 4-8
Chicago, IL-United Center-Nov. 17-29

128TH EDITION RINGLING BLUE UNIT:

Salt Lake City, UT-Delta Center-Sept. 30-Oct. 4
Denver, CO-Denver Coliseum-Oct. 7-18
Cleveland, OH-Gund Arena-Oct. 23-Nov. 1
Rosemont, IL-Rosemont Horizon-Nov. 4-15

BIG APPLE CIRCUS: Washington, DC-Lake

Fairfax Park, Reston, VA-Sept. 24 thru Oct. 12
New York City-Damrosch Park, Lincoln Center
October 22 thru January 10

Carson & Barnes Circus Comes to Illinois:

Rockford-Oct. 1-2; Aurora-Oct. 3-4; Park Forest-Oct. 5;
Morris-Oct. 6; Rock Falls-Oct. 7; Princeton-Oct. 8;
Lincoln-Oct. 9; Macomb-Oct. 10; Quincy (Mall) Oct. 11;
Jacksonville-Oct. 12; Mt. Zion-Oct. 13; Salem-Oct. 14;
West Frankfort-Oct. 15; Carbondale-Oct. 16

KELLY-MILLER CIRCUS: Louisiana, MO-Sept.

30; Elsberry, MO-Oct. 1; Hermann-Oct. 2; Warrenton-
Oct. 3; Owensville-Oct. 4; Cuba-Oct. 5;
Richland-Oct. 6

**Hanneford Shrine Circus: Springfield, IL (Prairie
Center), Nov. 14-15**

BACK YARD

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unless otherwise identified as to author. Reprints from other
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writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect the
opinions of the publisher. Back Yard is a pro-circus, pro-
animal publication, which supports the use of animals which
are legally held and properly cared for, in the American
circus.

**USDA CHARGES TOPEKA ZOO WITH
VIOLATIONS OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE
ACT-SEPTEMBER 18, 1998**

"This is a case where animal handlers & attendants who
are supposed to be knowledgeable & provide
professional care & handling did not," said Ron
DeHaven, acting deputy administrator for animal care
with the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service. "In
this instance, we believe that employees at the Topeka
Zoo grossly mishandled several animals in a manner that
put their health & safety at risk."

APHIS investigators found that the zoo failed to:

*Handle an elephant as expeditiously & carefully as
possible in a manner that avoided trauma, excessive
cooling, behavioral stress, physical harm & unnecessary
discomfort;

*Provide a suitable method for the rapid elimination of
excess water from the outdoor elephant area;

*Employ enough people to carry out the level of
husbandry practices & care required for non-human
primates & assure that employees were trained &
supervised by an individual with sufficient background &
experience in proper husbandry & care of non-human
primates to supervise others;

*Maintain an adequate program of veterinary care in that
the respondent failed to have sufficiently trained
employees observe animals & make accurate & timely
reports of the animals' condition to the attending vet."

**From the Topeka Capital-Journal by Mike Hall:
City Has 20 Days to Respond to Complaint-9/19/98:**

"City officials can acknowledge the charges, deny them
or ask for more time to correct them. Should the zoo deny
the charges, several outcomes are possible, including an
administrative hearing or an out-of-court settlement.

At worst, the city could be facing fines of up to \$2500 a
day per count & the possible suspension or revocation of
its license to operate a zoo.

One complaint (in layman terms, edit.) was that the
elephant exercise yard was muddy, with no provision for
rapid elimination of water. There was also an allegation
that an orangutan was subjected to "behavioral stress &
unnecessary discomfort. Mike LaRue, zoo director since
1993, couldn't be reached for comment. LaRue has
resigned, effective Sept. 25, for "personal reasons."
Neither he, nor his superiors at city hall, have commented
on whether his departure is related to the USDA
investigation & other public criticisms by former zoo
employees.

A DISTURBING REPORT from the Topeka Capital-Journal editorial board- Sept. 23, 1998

"Topeka has always taken great pride in its zoo. It always ranks high on the list of favorite places in Topeka. The city has 20 days from receipt of the USDA report to respond. The charges are serious. In recent months, some former zoo employees have been vocal about their concerns about the way animals have been treated at the zoo, including a letter to this newspaper. The response from zoo officials at the time was to dismiss the complaint. That no longer is acceptable. In investigating the charges, zoo staff must take a hard, critical look at their operation & make an honest assessment of their procedures. If mistakes have been made, they must be acknowledged & steps taken to correct them. To achieve that, the commitment must be there, not only among zoo staff, but also from city council members, the mayor & city administrators. They owe no less to the zoo's many visitors, to the Friends of the Topeka Zoo-and most importantly to the zoo's animals.

ANIMAL EXHIBITOR FACES USDA ANIMAL WELFARE CHARGES-SEPT. 22

The USDA recently charged licensed animal exhibitor Anna Mae Noell, doing business as Chimp Farm, Inc. in Palm Harbor, FL with violations of the Animal Welfare Act. "While all of these charges are serious, there is one that involves the mishandling of 2 chimpanzees. The mistreatment of animals whether by intent or oversight, will not be tolerated by this agency & when we see it, we will act on it," said Ron DeHaven.

APHIS is charging she also failed to: *Maintain programs of disease control & prevention, euthanasia, & adequate vet care under the supervision & assistance of a vet; *Maintain complete records on the premises showing the acquisition, disposition & identification of animals; *Provide sufficient distance and/or barriers between the animals & viewing public during public exhibition; *Keep a responsible, knowledgeable & readily identifiable employee present at all times during periods of public contact; *Maintain primary enclosures that allow primates to remain dry & clean; *Construct an enclosure for a brown bear that allows sufficient space for normal postural adjustments; *Keep food in the goat pen free of contamination; *Provide rabbits housed outdoors with an artificial cooling system when the temperature exceeded 90 degrees." (There are many more charges on the USDA list).

2 VISITS TO KELLY-MILLER CIRCUS BY CHERIE VALENTINE

I learned that on Sept. 6th, a baby girl was born, weighing 240 pounds. That is Dory's new baby elephant. I heard that Dory wants to make an amusement park at Hugo, along with the elephant compound and have a school for the training of circus acts. Wouldn't that be a nice place to visit. A few fans had written me about a second unit going out next year, but I heard that has fallen through. Too bad. This is such a nice show that a second one would be most welcome.

I visited with my former bosses, Harry and Mary Rawls, and helped them blow up vinyl. Harry asked me if I wanted to see the show. I said no, I'd rather help them and visit. This is the last year for them on the road, so those of you that get the chance to visit the show, stop by and say hello. Harry & Mary had the concessions on the Beatty show when I was there and they taught me everything I know about concessions. I was too shy to go into the seats to sell the novelties, so Harry took me into the big top and took a furry monkey from my pole and went thru the audience, showing me what to do. "I sell fuzzy-wuzzys," he'd say. I was more comfortable staying at the stand or selling programs on the winter tour Beatty did one year. Besides, Mary taught me how to crochet at the stand, when we weren't busy. Mary's mother was the fastest crocheter I have ever seen!

News: Rosa Perez is out of the air & on the ground, waiting for the arrival of another little Perez. Stephanie Darr looks beautiful in the air. I remember going to her house when I was on the Beatty show. Her father was Russ Darr, the band leader. Susan Vonderheid works in the ticket office and is the show's certified school teacher. She teaches about 6 kids from 9-11 every morning. She is studying cloud swing. How about trying a hair hanging act, Susan? Dick & Theresa Buhl work at the front door, but next year they will be on the front end. They also do the purchasing for the cookhouse. Speaking of cookhouse, Dave Brandt does an excellent job of feeding the circus! I had 2 meals there and the food was great. I was talking to Harry Rawls about the old shows & he said the people used to sit at assigned tables and they had their own waiters that brought the food to them, serving family style in bowls. The Good Old Days! Myrna Silverlake helps out on the Snake Show and has a dog act. Bill & Jodi Rawls have a new baby, born 9/10/98. His name is Devin William. Best wishes to all of you.

(Continued on Page 10)

KELLY-MILLER VISITS.....

Papa Perez is in charge of the moon bounce and Mama Perez sells the programs. Their son, Gustavo, is the Supt. of the show, Oscar is the concession mgr. and is married to Lillie, a former Beatty performer-she did rolling globes with the Verdu act, Guillermo & Samuel do the double wheel. Roy Wells takes great care of the elephants, Nina, Viola and semi-retired Libby. Cindy Herriott Wells has a great liberty act. Harry & Mary Rawls' helper at the novelty stand is Hector Tehran. Mary is trying to get him to voice, "Circus Toys, Circus Souvenirs!" I remember her trying to get me to be more boisterous on the Beatty show! Gasper Melchor's wife Consuello, who worked in the cookhouse, is now in Mexico, awaiting the birth of their first baby. The music was great, provided by Alan Thompson & Tom Tomashek. David Rawls was away on the days that I visited. I would like to thank all those that were so nice to me. What a great, friendly show to visit. They close about Oct. 25th, so visit if you are near.

Peggy MacDonald reports: Hanna Pallenberg was in an auto accident a few weeks ago. She is improving & will be staying with her daughter for awhile. She also told me that Jo Madison is living in Sparks, NV. I WILL be writing to her! I hope Peggy will write some stories about her memories soon.

Bucky Steele reports: The photo that was on the back page of the last Back Yard was of Gee Gee Engesser & Maudie Moore Adams. Maudie passed away 5 days ago. Unfortunately, she didn't get to see her picture in Back Yard. Bucky also told me that Bobbie Peck used to break diving horses! I sure wish there was a way to find performers that we used to work with, or know about and let them know how much we appreciate what they did in the circus business!

VALENTINE VAULTS-FROM 1954 -THE GOLDEN YEARS OF THE BILLBOARD

Terrell Jacobs has discontinued his balloon lion finale on the Kelly-Miller show. Slivers & Jo Madison & Frenchy, of the Tom Packs elephants, visited Fred Logan at the St. Louis Police Circus. Tony Diano's tractor was used to aid Mills Bros. in the mud at Canton, Ohio. Dory Miller is towing a farm trailer behind his car to puzzlement of Kelly-Miller troupers. The Flying Hartzels will be seen on "Super Circus". The Emmett Kelly book, "Clown", is in its 4th printing & has been

listed as a best seller. Prof. George Keller, wild animal trainer with Polack Western, has added 2 black leopards to his act. Cats were flown from Asia & purchased thru Louis Goebels. From Polack Western, Harry Dann reports that the girl's dressing room gave stork showers for Brenda Brysch & Jean Jacobs. Pinky Madison has a new wardrobe & June Madison is rehearsing the girls in a new medley. Harold & Eileen Voise have a new TV. From Ringling, Mary Jane Miller reported the Belvedere Hotel gave a party for troupers who stayed there, that the final week in the Garden brought rain & that the show arrived in Boston during rain. Dolly Copeland celebrated a birthday with a party in New York & soon after returned to Sarasota to await the stork. The Emmett Kelly Tent of Hagerstown, MD gave a party for Emmett & others. Charley Bell's dog, Peanuts, died, as did Fannie McCloskey's parrot, Smokey. From the Clyde Beatty show: Larry Cross reports that The Clines & the Gallaghers have new trailers. Elizabeth Clarke spent a week visiting her brother, George Hanneford. Kay Francis Hanneford & Ida Mae Curley are doing lady principal riding in the big show. John Staley served chicken in the cookhouse on Mother's Day. Visitors included the Parley Baers, Don Marcks, Don Francis and Bobby Kaye. Visitors on Hagen Bros. Circus included Del & Babs Graham & Willie Rawls. Mike Piccolo caught Ringling in Pittsburgh with this brothers Silvius & Charles. They visited Charlie Schuler. From King Bros show, Col. Harry Thomas reports that Harold Johnson, old time trouper, Dutch & Dorrie Orton & Blondie LaBlonde & his troupe caught the show. Matt Laurish gave a thrill in the Roman chariot race when his chariot overturned at the front end & Matt took a header into the menagerie. He ran back into the tent, caught up with the empty chariot & finished the race. Frank Scallion, Ernie Burch & Charlie Crowley have been on the sick list but are back in clown alley now. The Milt Herriotts & Whitey Havens leave with horses & elephants soon for fair dates, while Johnny Herriott & the Bert Pettuses return with elephants from picture-making in Hollywood. The Aero Stilites have joined & the "Goddess of the Moon" is being featured in the web number. From Clyde Beatty: George & Vicki Hanneford are working out a new perch routine. From Polack: The Boginos & Wallendas gave parties. Alf Landon's dog Pasha works come-in with Gene Randow. Spreads in movie magazines on Clyde Beatty Circus are beginning to appear.

THE 1998 SCHAGHTICOKE, NY FAIR-SEPT. 3, 1998 by Paul Horsman

In New York State, the County & other prominent Fairs begin early & before Sept. ends, the fairseason is over. This generally coincides with the opening of school, whereas in New England, the fair season is just beginning, and continues into October, especially in Northern New England. Even the Big E starts its run after the New York State Fair, which always ends on Labor Day. One thing that makes New York fairs outstanding to circus enthusiasts is the fact that most have major attractions relating to the circus & animal exhibition business, as well as midway attractions. One attraction that can be seen is Commerford & Sons Petting Zoo and Animal Rides, & all 3 units played three different New York Fairs during the same time span. At Schaghticoke, Billy Commerford was in charge of the Commerford attraction, assisted by the Kleinfelters. A very unusual display was an exhibit of Lionel trains, including many scale models of buildings & trackside features. It was mounted in a semi-trailer with folding sides, reminiscent of Mechanical Cities once seen on midways, & the Beechnut Circus units. The display was free, push button operated & viewers could purchase books on Lionel trains & model railroading. Reithoffer shows provided the midway, featuring a heavy arsenal of spectacular rides & an array of colorfully decorated trucks. Pig races were also provided & an animated display furnished by Storyland of Glen, NH. Dairy & other agricultural displays were also prominent, including judging of oxen, a disappearing feature of today's fairs. Though the oxen were well groomed, the judge noticed a spec of dirt on an animal's horn. Several pair of young oxen were included in the judging. There was one big feature of the fair that in itself made the trip of 4 hours, each way, worthwhile, and that was the Royal Hanneford Circus, giving its usual stellar performance. The blue & red big top was visible from the road & from about any point on the grounds. As always, Tommy and Struppi offered a line-up of acts for the one hour free show, which would be difficult to beat. Dwight Hanson was Supt., Kay Parker, co-manager & Royce Voight boss props. The performance was one of class, spear-headed by Ringmaster & announcer, John Herriott. A special feature of the show is the live band with Kay Parker as leader & keyboardist, Bob Parker on drums, & Tom Brown on trumpet, flute, tenor sax, and saxophone. The show opens with an exciting Wild West extravaganza, introduced by announcer John Herriott,

riding a beautiful Appaloosa. Participants are Tommy Turvy, Roman Riding and Natasha Karoly with whip cracking & lariat spinning. Other feats include Western riding, spinning a 50' lariat while standing in the saddle & breaking balloons with whip lashes. Other acts in order of presentation were as follows: Cloudswing-Chava LaRoyce; 3 Asian elephants presented by Mark & Natasha Karoly, with showgirls participating & a lecture on the Asian elephant & its care in captivity, by John Herriott. Then came Benito-Juggling; Vital & Company-American Indian-themed act of archery & cross-bow manipulation by a male archer and 2 ladies-sorry, but this one is indescribable, & must be seen to be believed. Herriott's Tally Ho-Mary Ruth Herriott with an assemblage of highly trained dogs that arrive in a circus cage wagon. Participants include 3 ponies & a pony riding goat. Highly visible is the Herriott stamp of perfection & it's pure circus at its best. The big feature-the Karoly Riders with Mark Karoly & his highly trained Rosinbacks & talented troupe of riders. Finale-flag drop, flag waving, introducing all performers including Baby Tina and an elephant. Though the fair is large for a county fair, Tommy & Struppi provide a high quality performance that would do credit to any fair regardless of size. All acts were of high calibre & well received by the audience. Seating was comfortable, sound was good & that live band capped off an outstanding show. Those fortunate enough to visit the Big E can look forward to seeing the best under the Royal Hanneford Big Top. During the time Schaghticoke Fair was on, the NY State Fair in Syracuse was also in progress. Features were Peter's Live Shark Show, Serge Corona's Circus, Commerford Petting Zoo, Rix's Bear display & midway show & the comprehensive display of circus models by the Hoxie Tucker Ring of the Circus Model Builders. The State Fair exceeded attendance of other years & always ends on Labor Day. That is, until 1998, when the last day was lost due to devastating storms that hit the area, ripping through Central NY in the early morning of Sept. 7. Concession stands were demolished beyond recognition & the roof of the Dairy building was torn off. Other buildings suffered severe damage, flag poles were bent over & shrubs uprooted. Worst of all, 2 people were killed, 1 a neighbor & friend of Back Yard correspondent, Mike Cecere. The State Fair director announced on 9/11 that activities planned for that weekend would take place as usual. This area was without power for 2 1/2 days & with trees down, & cleanup, this article has been delayed.

**TO KISS A CLOWN-DEDICATED
TO DANNY CHAPMAN*Part IV
BY SARAH KATE CHAPMAN**

At this point I want to introduce quotes from Danny's novel, Circus Buffoon, written in 1963 when he was recovering from his paralyzing fall & published in 1983. It is part fact, part fiction, but all truth about the circus & clowning as seen from his point of view, a view that stayed constant throughout his lifetime as evidenced by countless newspaper, magazine, radio & television interviews. Danny Chapman was literate, which for a circus performer is rare. He capitalized on this & used the media as a way to flatter the world of clowning.

In early interviews, he seldom directed attention to himself, but spoke in generalities as found on page 134, when the protagonist is giving a speech to a civic organization.

"I would like to give you an explanation of clowning. It is a rare person who has no part of the clown in his make-up. We all enjoy buffoonery & some have a talent for expressing themselves in this direction. A lot of clowning is directed to the burlesquing of the acquired dignity of mankind. You are amused when you watch a chimpanzee act & they really are only giving a poor imitation of the things we do every day.

There is a great deal of difference between a clown & a comedian. You are acquainted with many comedians whom you see every day on television, in night clubs & on the screen. A comedian operates on only one emotion-laughter, and by voice. A clown seeks all the emotions, laughter, sorrow, grief, pity and so on. He must be adept at all these & to evoke them must use voice, gestures & facial expressions. Pantomime is essential. There are very few real clowns & many imitations. Most of the so-called funny men you see are poor clowns who overdo their emoting with a lot of action & grotesque facial contortions. A real clown can do more with a raised eyebrow than all the grimaces there are. A lot of you remember some of the old-time clowns-Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, Lupino Lane. One of the greatest was W.C. Fields. Some of those you took for actors were really clowns, such as Wallace Beery. Today we have excellent talent like Red Skelton, Ben Blue & Danny Kaye. One of the greatest is Victor Borge.

Clowns are in the greatest demand, but the entertainment industry is swamped with comedians & imitation clowns. Clowns in form of jesters have headed states & some of the most famous men in history were clowns at heart.

A clown in his philosophy can see the unimportance of the individual man in the general scheme of things."

Well done, Danny. Bill Ballantine in his 1982 book, Clown Alley, looks at Danny's character through the eyes of an illustrator turned author as he recounts his experiences as the head of the Ringling Bros. Circus Clown College from 1970-1977. Danny was included in this history book because he & Mel Miller originated the Clown College in 1968.

Bill says on page 45, "Danny's garrulousness had sometimes rubbed circus denizens the wrong way, but everyone admired his goodheartedness. He was willing to help & offer advice to anyone who needed it. Danny was an expert rigger, could fix just about anything using practically nothing, with or without proper tools; he could do wonders with a bent hairpin or a Popsicle stick." He continues with the European tour, the tragic fall & then says, "It was a full year before Danny could walk again, & then only in a stiff, jerky manner-okay for a clown, but the legs were no longer up to aerial work. So, Danny became a funny man, drawing on his observations of European & Latin joeys (clowns) & applying all the tips & advice he'd picked up on how to get laughs. He developed into one of the most resourceful & clever hobo clowns in the business."

Danny's teaching methods excelled during clown college years. He told Ballantine, "Newcomers could be taught from the bottom up, the works' about make-up, costuming, stop & come-in gags, comic bits, & ring entrees. (p. 46)" And Danny could do all the teaching himself, even down to the make-ups. Mel Miller artistically drew each clown's face over a black & white photo of their face, but Danny changed these clown faces "to fit the real ones, which as you know is the only way it ever can come out right. (p.47)" Danny is making 2 points here. The first is that make-up is necessary for a circus clown & that no 2 people can share the same make-up because no two faces are the same. In Clown Alley Ballantine praises Danny's clowning with the following words, "Chapman's clown character is a tramp with dignity, a somewhat aloof fellow temporarily on his uppers but still a gentleman, though at times a mischievous one (p.88)."

The December 2, 1968 issue of "Newsweek" magazine gives a review of the first Clown College. Danny says in this article, "When we teach you something (at Clown College), we only teach you the mechanics-how to fall or hop. But we can't teach you that indefinable something

that is your personality." Delevan, Wisconsin is the home of the rather new Clown Hall of Fame & research center. A large poster on the wall says, CLOWNS ARE BORN NOT MADE. Another way to put this is to let the clown grow inside of oneself & to be free of inhibitions.

Easier said than done for many of us & especially Danny Chapman, who escaped reality by masking his face with theatrical paint while at the same time opening up the world of the unreal for hundreds of thousands. He let people truly enjoy themselves if only for a second.

He went out in front of thousands of people & got them excited about what he was doing. He became engrossed in how far he could excite the crowd to a climax & then turn the show over to the ringmaster, calmly walking out satisfied that he had done his job. That's saying a lot for a person who did not face his own emotions. Like a doctor who performs life-saving open-heart surgery, but also smokes cigarettes.

Danny was a master propagandist about his own philosophies. Take for example his own immortality. A 1971 article in the "Miami Herald" said "Danny Chapman has been a clown for 'about 3000 years'." Then Danny said, "I've always been a clown-I AM a clown. Your trouble is you don't believe in clowns. You probably don't believe in Santa Claus either."

Later in the season that same year, Jack Sheridan, a reporter from Lubbock, Texas was interviewing Danny about the death of the famous German-American clown Otto Griebling. Danny chided Sheridan saying, "Don't you know, that Otto is here this afternoon? Clowns never die, they simply move into bodies of the younger men & thus continue the tradition." Danny also told Sheridan that clowns communicate with trolls, fairies and elves.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Denny Younger reports: Carson and Barnes Giant Circus was here in Ironwood, MI on Sept. 10th. This is the latest in the year that any circus has ever been here in history. The weather approached 80 degrees as over 400 children were bused in for the tent raising. Acting 24-hour man, Dana Fulton, squeezed this 5 ring giant onto a nice, flat grassy lot. I was very happy to see some old friends on the show, as years earlier I had worked the C&B cat act...and not many years ago, filled in as 24 hour-man. Jennifer, producing clown, and John Moss III, announcer, are both looking and sounding well and

very professional.

Long overdue is some back-slapping for Geary Byrd, for a job so well done all these years. Long unsung & maybe even a bit unappreciated have been his devotion & efforts to keep this show moving. I feel he has taken a back seat to the place D.R. Miller has occupied for many years. When in fact, I feel he has been more influential and instrumental in the success of Carson & Barnes than many give him credit for. This year's show may be the strongest ever. Adding to the international flavor are the Russian performers. I noticed that even after some 200 performances for the season under their belts, they still appeared happy to be performing for the audience. I inquired about the transportation used for the shows dog act and was assured that this circus had a "dog-semi". Sure circuses of the past had dog wagons and even trucks. Rest assured folks, this must be a first in circus history-Carson & Barnes Circus owns and operates a "dog-semi". To be honest, I must say that the dogs do share this beautiful truck with the 3 performing bears. All in USDA approved cages. Talking with these warm and friendly folks makes me want to give up the home and picket fence & get back to trouping. As corny as it sounds, once you get sawdust in your shoes, you really can't get it all out.

THE GREAT CIRCUS REUNIONS

Reunion Christmas Party for Circus Bartoc:

Thursday, Dec. 10th.

Reunion for Polack Bros. Circus:

Monday, Dec. 14th.

Reunion for Tom Packs Circus; Daily Bros.; Mills Bros.; Clyde Beatty/Sells & Gray; Hamid Morton; Orin Davenport; Floyd King; Clyde Bros.; and Cristiani Bros. Circus-A combination of a lot of shows will be Thursday, Dec. 17th.

Contact Jenny Wallenda, 2708 DeSoto Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234 if you'd like to help her and please pass the word about these reunions.

RUMBLINGS FROM THE CRUMMY BY BRIAN NUNN

Got to spend a day at the Kelly-Miller show. I was wandering around and saw healthy stock, a zorsy (horse-zebra) I remembered from the Vargas show. She was called Fancy. She's got bay coloring with stripes, real pretty animal.

I remember one time I was real tired and a customer was asking dumb questions, like, "That's not real ivory on that elephant is it?" So I had to say, "Yeh, you're right, we put rebar in him & put white plastic pipe over that." He says, "I knew it!" So he says, "That woman that hangs by her hair. How do they do that?" So I couldn't help myself. I say, "Yeh, what she's got is an eye bolt screwed in the top of her head." He says, "I knew it was something like that!"

I'm tired of this now, but he says, "That dark striped horse-lookin' thing, that's painted on, right?"

I've had enough, so I say, "No, what they did is get some tiger sperm and put it into a mare and that's what comes out." He says, "How did they get the sperm?" Says I, "That's the girl with the eyebolt's job." I guess he figured out I was putting him on, 'cause he got mad, said a cuss word and left. Some peoples children.

Anyway, back to the show: I heard someone drumming, figuring it was Alan, I went in the top to visit for a while; hadn't seen him in six years. I always thought Alan Thompson was a credit to the business. He mentioned he liked being on the Kelly-Miller show a lot.

I talked with Harry Rawls and he was telling me about spending time on Bucky Steele's father's Wild West Show. He was on the Daily show and knew Rex before Rex went in the Marine Corps for the war. He said he saw Rex after the war and asked him what he was going to do now? Rex said, "I'm goin' to work for Ben." Louie Reed had the elephants. I believe Louie Reed and his men routined, in 1947, a lot of Asian punks. Big Tommy was one of them. A lot of good elephant men, (trainers) came out of that bunch. I believe Rex and Smokey were there. Anyway, back to the Kelly-Miller show. Cindy Herriott Wells has a real nice liberty act that she's put together. A real cute comedy trick, plus an Arab lead horse that works solid; does a strong hind leg walk, with turnaround. Roy's got Nina, (from Big John Strong's show) in a single act, first half of the show. I enjoyed watching. Roy ques. her from far back. He's got himself a nice, push-button elephant. The three-act is smooth and polished, they're big elephants, 9000 pounds plus. I hope to see all

of these people somewhere down the road again.

*A trick I learned was when I was on the lot, or en route, and I needed feed. I'd call a feed store and tell them I was a horseshoer, transporting horses from Bumpkinville, CA to Bodkinville, KY, or wherever. A few times when I had said circus stock, they either didn't have any feed or the price went up. I had to pay \$12 a bale in Nashville one time and we had 4 elephants, a pretty expensive week.

Now on the most part, people that work with animals go out of their way to help other animal people, no matter what kind they are. But like all humans, they're unreasonable, callous jags, that only think of themselves in every walk of life. I wonder who wrote the line what's-his-name used, "Can't we all just get along?"

BOBBY HAKES REPORTS: Phips and I went to the Royal Palace Circus in Sarasota Sept. 21 and had a wonderful time. The show was very good. We got to see people that we do not see all year long. Everybody goes to see any circus that plays Sarasota. I saw Jim Parker and Tommy Bentley. Daviso, Pete, Benito and Cosetta Cristiani. Tony and Irene Fossett; Julie and Mariso Drougett, Ian Garden, Ron Morris; Hans, Rosie and Marlene Rodes, Charlie and Kitty Smith, Jackie LeClaire, Jenny Wallenda, Frank Gallambo; Joe and Clara Bettini, Norma Davenport, Gee Gee Powell; Mary Ruth Herriott and a couple of her daughters; The Bannisters, Ervin Hall, The Dubskeys; Dale Longmire, Barbara Fulbright, Bobby Wyman; Jeanette Williams, Dante and Barbara Morrotto, Frank and Dora (Ragona), Lucie Toth, Tiany, Tibby Alexander, The Winns, The Scotts and ALL their children and grandchildren. And many more that I did not get to see. A Who's Who of Circus people, many that I have known for over 54 years. Time flies when you are having fun!

Bobby reports that the 1st meeting of the Showfolks of Sarasota Tent will be Oct. 7 at 7:30 pm at the Club. Frank Cain will be the guest speaker. There will be a Ringling Circus Reunion Christmas party on Dec. 11 at 6 pm at the Club. Dinner at 7 pm. Cost is \$15. per person. Get in touch with Jenny Wallenda, 2708 DeSoto Rd, Sarasota, FL 34234 if you'd like to attend.



1945 Amazonia Ringling

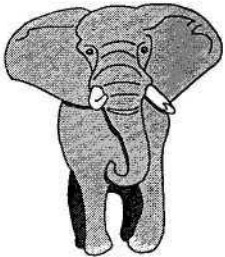
Back Row, Left to Right: Joyce Seawell, Lucretia Darney, Martha Wallenda, Pat Walsh, Irma Irwingo, ?, Edith Wallenda, Dolly Copeland, Mary Jane Miller, Yetty Wallenda, Yvonne. Front Row, Left to Right: Vally Naito, Madeline Kreis, ?, Marjie Geiger, Valerie Antelek. Thanks to Mary Jane Miller for sending in this photo.





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