

Kelly Miller Circus welcomed by Mt. Vernon

Human and animal performers alike thrill local audience with a spectacular performance

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MT. VERNON — The Kelly Miller Circus rolled into town Saturday, attracting numerous families with children of all ages.

"It is a family-oriented show," said Chris Collins, airport director, "and of course that's what we're all about."

Two performances were put on by the Kelly Miller crew, offering ample opportunity for locals to make it out to either their 2 p.m. or 5 p.m. performances.

The show featured human performers of all kinds including popular clown Steve Copeland, aerialists the "North Starlets," Patsy Rosales, Fridman Torales and his impressive chair balancing act, as well as many more talented individuals.

The animals really seemed to steal the show with the variety of elephants, tigers, camels, llamas and zebras, especially once the children and other guests were given the opportunity to ride the enormous elephants and get a photo taken with the famous Liberty llama "Uncle Sam."

In addition to all the performances the event was finally kicked off with a "Festive Finale" celebrating their 75th anniversary.

The Mt. Vernon Airport was key in providing the venue for the circus, just another example of their many attempts to bring activities for the citizens of Mt.



Sentinel Photo/JESSE CANTRELL

HANGING WITH EASE — One of the most impressive performances of the Kelly Miller Circus which came Saturday to the Mt. Vernon Airport was the "North Starlets." Here the performer hangs upside down before sliding at a speeding rate to the ground and then stopping herself with ease just before reaching the bottom.

Vernon to come and enjoy.

The circus had already performed in Nashville and Carlyle prior to Saturday's performance and created a buzz, building the hype before the show.

There was some initial resistance to the circus by a group of small people who were concerned with whether or not the circus would clean up after themselves and how they treated the animals.

Those concerns, however, were quickly debunked as soon as the circus elaborated on the extent of the mobile spectacles efficiency. It was also made known that

their animal care was first-class.

"The circus people pretty much come in and set up... and tear down and leave," said Collins according to Sentinel Archives. "They have their own power generation and set-up crew. They'll bring dumpsters and porta potties."

Also, the circus has committed a minimum of 11 employees for the welfare of the animals alone. Not to mention, the animals receive veterinary check-ups monthly and the circus is regularly inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture under the Animal Welfare Act.

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Sentinel Photo/JESSE CANTRELL

NORTH STARLETS — Finishing their act to a room full of applause are the Kelly Miller Circus "North Starlets" impressive aerialist performers that really intrigued the crowd at the circus Saturday held at the Mt. Vernon Airport.

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