



Karl Wallenda, celebrated star of the high wire, center, flanked by Louis Murillo, left and Tino Zoppe, a grandson, open a week's engagement at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk bandstand Saturday. Wallenda, builder of the ill - fated seven - person pyramid during his circus career, will appear twice daily with a matinee at 3 p.m. and an encore at 8:30 p.m.

The Wallendas To Walk Here

High above the Beach - Boardwalk bandstand, the Wallendas will walk again.

The famed family has etched its name among the great high wire performers with the great circuses of America and over the years has lost members through death and injuries.

Starting Saturday, Karl Wallenda, Louis Murillo and Tino Zoppe will perform two shows daily during a week's engagement. There will be a 3 p.m. matinee show and an 8:30 p.m. show.

The wire will be above the bandstand. There will be no safety nets.

The Wallendas are famed for shunning these nets.

Karl says he "doesn't want to kill himself," but he keeps on doing crazy stunts like standing on a chair balanced on a pole held by two men riding bicycles.

Karl and his brother, Herman, brought the Great Wallendas to America from Europe in 1928. When the circus opened in Madison Square Garden that year, they stopped the show cold for 15 minutes of applause for their pyramid act.

There were two falls from the pyramid, but no one was hurt until 1962 in Detroit.

A seven - person pyramid collapsed, fell 40 feet, and killed Dieter Schepp, Karl's nephew, and Richard Faughnan, Karl's 34 - year - old son - in - law. His son, Mario, was crippled.

Following the Detroit episode, the rest of the Wallendas carried on, because, as Karl says, "life must go on, and to us, this is life."

Skip Littlefield, beach publicist, predicts that "the Wallenda show will produce the greatest crowd - thrilling entertainment of its kind on the Santa Cruz shoreline since the memorable Slide For Life performances from the dome of the Casino to the end of the Pleasure Pier by Don "Mighty Bosco" Patterson in the 1930s."