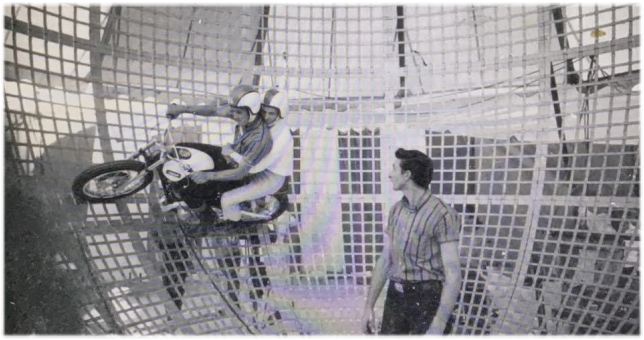
GLOBE OF DEATH

In 1953 the 'Daredevil Durkins' came to town with their 'Globe of Death'. Herb Durkin was a noted South Australian speedway rider. Following his retirement from the track he travelled Australia with his motorcycle show which also featured his wife and brothers.

In the mid 1930s, Herb and his brother Frank designed and built the globe itself, which was constructed from 8,000 ft. of latticed iron and weighed 2.5 tons. The cage stood 12 ft. above the ground and the riders and machines were drawn into the globe through trapdoors by an electric winch.

The troupe would perform various tricks including riding side-saddle, loop-the-loop and with their hands off. The climax to the show was a double loop in which one performer would ride around the globe horizontally, and the other vertically.



Images from Herb Durkin's Globe of Death facebook page.