



5th Year

January 5, 1976

Number 1

Killer Gets Life Term

After pleading guilty to two counts of murder and waiving all rights to an appeal, Dennis Wright was sentenced on Dec. 19 to two life terms, running concurrently. He will serve the sentence at the Huntsville, Texas prison.

The 32 year old Wright shot and killed both Emma Duke and Janice Ruth Radcliff during a robbery of their home on the night of Sept. 7th. Both victims lived at the Donna, Texas, win-

terquarters of the Fisher Bros. Circus. Emma's husband, Raymond, is an advanceman and booker for the circus.

Shortly after the sentencing a police official reported that Wright could be eligible for a parole in 20 years.

COMING

Highlights of the Ringling Barnum Circus will be telecast on Feb. 18 (NBC-TV) with Johnny Cash as the host.

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Contact

JUDY JACOBS KAYE

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PEOPLE

RUTH and HENRY DUNCKLEE report they had a very successful season in 75 with their show.

VIRGINIA FENTON had an accident near Denver (Colo) last month which totaled her truck. She escaped uninjured.

DEL GRAHAM and his All Gal Flying act have moved to the Cave Junction (Ore.) area.

PAULETTE BRAUN and RON PERRY were with a Christmas unit of John Strong's show. They presented both wire and baton numbers.

WINNIE MCKAY has a new portable rigging unit for her aerial number.

Magic Plus

About the middle of last month Kramien's Magic-Capades made a short trip into Northern California for a few sponsored dates. The show is a full magic program with numerous illusions and specialty magic and includes a company of seven people.

The show program featured:
Kramien & Co. - magic/illusions
Los Latinos - tightwire
Togo, the Clown - chicken cannon
Stu Scott - vent

HISTORICAL FACT

Sands & Astley's Circus, of 1895, was playing in Oklahoma that October, using 2 coaches, 3 box cars, 3 stock cars and 5 flat cars.

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Original Music available for Circuses and shows - written by an experienced song writer and a member of ASCAP.

Marches, waltzes, specialty numbers. Two beautiful Bi-Centennial songs "200 Years of Liberty" and "America Forever Free."

Tapes sent on request. Write:

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Christmas SHOW

An exciting and well attended Christmas show was produced by John Strong for a Holloway Production engagement at Vancouver, BC on Dec. 20th.

Acts on the show were:

Peter Ralston - TV star and MC
Robbie Googal - unicycle/juggler
John Murdock - stomach whistler
Don Brien - ventriloquist
Don Arthur - magic/illusions
Don George - marionettes
30 piece Scotch band

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Kohler Co. Has A Christmas Circus

.... by NORMAN WILBERT



Although the Wisconsin winters prevent some of the more famous circuses from visiting this area during the winter months, the Kohler Co.'s annual Children's Christmas Party (Dec. 13) was truly an exception.

The children of Kohler employees were treated to some fine circus acts at the beautiful Kohler Memorial Theatre, which seats 1,200 people. Four performances during the morning and afternoon drew straw houses, with a total of 5000 in attendance.

Santa Claus was also in town with his Elves and so was the famous clown Percy Rademacher, of Hagenbeck-Wallace fame. Mel Hummitzsch and his well-known circus clown band provided the background music for the acts.

Six exciting acts thrilled the kiddies and parents this year, and included:

The Claytons - acrobats, hand balancing and whip and rope acts, from St. Louis (Mo.) They've been on the Ed Sullivan Show and numerous circuses and sport shows.

The well-known Carmen Del Molino on the high wire and web act. The talented Carmen and vivacious crowd pleaser also combined with her husband to present four black bears in some unusual routines.

Joe Frisco and his amazing "Black Jack" a trained pony de-

lighted the children and answered their questions. Joe's trained elephant "Donna" added cake to the frosting and the kiddies howled with delight.

It was a gala circus treat for all concerned. The Christmas Party was sponsored by the Kohler Co. (in business since 1873) who manufacture plumbing fixtures, light plants and pottery fixtures. They employ some 6,000 people.

Season's Greetings

to

All Our Friends

Also

Polack Bros., Clyde Bros., TNT & Royal Olympic, and the Howard W. Schultz Agency for a fine season

from

BILL BRICKLE and JOHN MEYERS

Brickle's Poodle Fantasy

Santa's Show



An indoor circus billed as "Santa's Christmas Show" performed at Redlands (Ca) on Dec. 19th, in the University Chapel. The show, presented before enthusiastic audiences ran about two hours and featured Big John Strong as ringmaster.

Included in the show were: clowns, acrobats, trapeze artist, jugglers, trained white German shepherd dogs, wire walker, a magician and illusionist and old Santa himself.

University officials refused to allow the performing elephant, trained camels, llamas, ponies and Texas mules to work inside the chapel. As a result they were presented in front of the chapel at the conclusion of the indoor program.

..... John Lenker

SHOW ACTS

Acts seen working at the Old Chicago Mall on Jan. 1st included: Saul Shafton, The Crazy Sailors, Mr. Bell, Loreli, Arturo Segura, The Burketts, The Walters Johnny Luxem, Mario Alberti, The Kellys, Antonucci's chimps, Cleo, Venio Venito, Miss Cheri, Arwood's dogs, Ms. April, Stagg McMann, Coleman's puppets, Ken Benge and Tony & Chris.

In Memoriam

PHIL BONTA died of a heart attack on Dec. 8th. He and his wife Bonnie appeared with King Bros. Circus last year.

JENNIE M. FELD (89) mother of Irvin Feld, of Ringling-Barnum, and grand mother of Kenneth Feld RBBB executive vice president and co-producer, died at Washington, DC on Dec. 12 after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage. Born in Hungary, she came to the U.S. at the age of 16 and lived in Washington, DC for 35 years.

JESSE H. GOOCH (85) retired show trouper, died in early Dec. in Oklahoma. She and her late husband had rep shows and they brought the first movies to Oklahoma. Survivors include two grand-children, Jack Bennett, a circus man and Jody Miller, a country-western singer.

LOU WALTON died on Nov. 6 after a long illness. He was buried at Showman's Rest in Hugo, Oklahoma.

WANTED

Family acts to tour with show on Capell Bros. Shows & Circus. Show opens Jan. 28th for 36 weeks.

Contact:

IVAN HENRY
P. O. Box 1175
Coolidge, Ariz. - 85228

CIRCUS SENTINEL

..... by BILLY BARTON

Happy New Year and a Yankee Doodle Dandy 1976! This is the Year of the Circus Super-Star Hero! JIMMY CAVARETTA has the centerfold spread in Playgirl which is causing shock waves and, look out, World, here comes BEN WILLIAMS, the most electrifying new Talent to thunderbolt the circus scene in years! This dashing young giant thrills the arena with verve and excitement in a bravura performance with an elephant, leopard and teeterboard.

The first social event of magnitude in Sarasota was the Showfolks Circus (at Roberts Arena Dec. 6), the second was the DUBSKY bash on Dec. 19. The Dubskys, who have their own circus now, made a special journey from New Jersey for one day to see an Aunt and Uncle, newly arrived from Hungary, whom they hadn't see in 25 years.

Performers donate their services to the Showfolks Circus which is part of a charitable program of activities including two scholarships a year. KARL WALLEDA, who produced the show, collected over \$3,500 by personally knocking on doors!

TAJANA's cage act will be seen on MIKE DOUGLAS the week of Jan. 12th. JACKIE GLEASON went into the cage with her. BERTINI-MASCITTO wedding takes place today (Jan. 5) and CLAUDE REVLON's daughter Janet marries a policeman Thursday (Jan. 8).....Madcap CARLA WALLEDA, I am happy to report is STILL a Madcap! ... BARBARA WOODCOCK, lovely as ever with DON FOOTE in tow (he makes all those marvelous costumes for

Ringling).....GEE GEE ENGESESSER has her Cossack Elephants at REX WILLIAMS', who has 10 bulls there, some of which he is training for zoos. Gee Gee's son, Billy, is now a promoter for Ringling.

CORONAS, currently in Caracas, return to the newly revamped Circus World when it opens in March, and TREVOR BALE is training animals for that Event.JOHNNY HERRIOT, who waxes enthusiastic about this column in particular and CR in general, is also in Caraccas working the Hoxie bulls. He has trained a new pony drill for Hoxie as well.... THE QUASSARS (Bill & Trudy) start their season at Saginaw.....FLYING MEDALLIONS to Polack....JORDANAS added bubbles and blue lights to their aerial act - beautiful!

SANDY ZOPPE broke her foot - falling over her own shoes! HERBIE BENSON, last of the Keystone Kops, visited with Dame KATE HANNEFORD on a recent Mike Douglas taping.....JOHN HALL spent three weeks in Europe, visited

(Continued on Page 14)

The first performances of the 1976 season for Polack Bros. Circus will take place at the IMA Auditorium in Flint, Mich., where the show plays Jan. 17-25. The program features a Bi-centennial cover and center spread by artist George DaDeppo. He has also made up a new coloring book and other material for the show.

The 1976 show staff includes

Louis P. Stern - Mgr/Dir.-Ex.Pro.
Sam T. Polack - general agent
Parley Baer - publicity/ringmstr
Opal M. Paige - auditor
Arthur Barrett - concessions
Viola Macleod - office secretary
Robert Hynds - superintendent
Henry F. Barrett, Kris Krendel,
Joseph O'Donnell, Sam T. Po-

Fall Kills Performer

French highwire performer Eugene Alexandre Bugler, who won international publicity when he walked a wire across Niagara Falls a few years ago, fell to his death while performing at Portoscuso, Sardinia, on Dec. 19.

A crowd of some 1,000 was watching the highwire artist as he performed in an open air show when he suddenly lost his balance and plunged 100 feet to the ground. Officials report he was killed instantly.

lack, James Rison - promotions

The program will feature:

Circus Overture - Russell Darr
Tarzan Zerbini - wild animals
The Young Troupe, The Fredy Troupe, The Teddy Troupe - aerial display
George and his Phunny Ford
Miss Sandra Fullbright - ponies
Circus Aerial Lovelies - ballet
The Clowns
Sebastian's Poodles
Miss Young, Miss Francesca and Mlle. Tibi - single trapeze
Tom and Pom Pom - elephants
-- Intermission --
The Clowns
The Flying Medallions
Willy Lenz - performing chimps
The Villams - juggling
The Fullbrights - Dressage
The Clowns
The Canestrellis - trampoline
The Rosell Troupe - high wire

Buys Animals

The racing animals and petting zoo that made the late Gene Holter famous were recently purchased by Jonny Rivers, of Camdenton, Mo. Both the zoo and animals will be toured this year by Bill Cody Rivers and his wife, Margene.

The camels, ostriches, dogs, chimps and other movieland animals, along with Jonny Rivers Diving Mules, will be offered on a separate basis or as a package by the Rivers Enterprises.

\$3.5 Million for Park

A recent report that Mattel, Inc., has allocated \$3.5 million for remodeling work at Circus World Park in Florida should dispell any doubts about the park's reopening in April. The revamped park will offer a live theatre, plus do-it-yourself circus numbers, under the guidance of expert teachers.

Circus World's new manager Michael Downs, came to the Mattel operation from Nashville's Operlyland USA. He admits that the park was never a major nor a successful venture, but promises everything will be different starting in April. "We're playing a fast game of catch-up ball," he says.

Veteran circus performer Victor Gaona has been appointed head teacher for the audience participation circus. There'll be a variety of events that visitors can participate in such as trapeze work, trampoline and on down to petting the elephants.

According to Downs, a crowd of 2,000 was a big day for Circus World in the past, but after its second debut in April "our peak days will mean some 7,000 people."

In the meantime 150 workers are preparing Circus World for its April opening. In February an additional 50 men will be added to the crew to assure that the park reopens and is back in business.

Eyes '76 Tour

Plans for the operation of a promotional circus were recently announced by Charles Germaine of Medford, Ore. The announcement followed completion of negotiations with Cliff Vargas, of Circus Vargas, who had purchased the Miller-Johnson Circus from Germaine in 1972. That show was later renamed Circus Vargas.

Germaine has continued to be active in the promotional field through his California Entertainment Enterprises, Inc. He has booked and scheduled name stars for a variety of shows and plans to continue this work.

NOW AVAILABLE

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ROUTES

American Freedom Train
Jan. 6-11 Anaheim, Calif.

Circus Vargas
Jan. 3-7 Alameda, Calif.
8-12 Fremont

Patterson Bros. Circus
Jan. 10 Battle Creek, Mich
11 Kalamazoo

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Jan. 2-4 Venice, Fla.
6-11 St. Petersburg

Soviet Circus
Jan. 6-11 New Haven, Conn.

John Strong Circus
Jan. 10 Simi, Calif.

TV DATE

"The Killer Clown" a Streets of San Francisco TV Show will be aired on ABC-TV Jan. 29th. The show features production numbers from the USA National Circus and many individual performers including Luanne Jacobs, trapeze; Unique McPeak, high wire; Ironberg's Pony Parade and the circus elephants under the direction of Pauncho Magana.

Featured actors in the show include Parley Baer and Will Hutchins, portraying a ringmaster and clown.

Simone Finner of the USA National Circus is the circus producer for the TV show.

SAWDUST TRAIL

Word received by this reporter is that the Oscanian Bros Circus may not go on the road in '76 as planned. The problem is finances, they say.

Do Do, the Clown, has been contracted for the '76 season by the La. Purchase Gardens & Zoo in Monroe. During Christmas-time Do Do switched to play Santa.

A new wild west show is advertising plans for the coming season and will feature Tex Maynard, Jr.

Among the circuses not listed in the current Cavalcade of Acts & Attractions are Rudy Br., and Fisher Bros.

The Flying Terell's - 3 gals and a fellow were recently featured on Howard Coswell's TV show. Mrs. Terell is featured as the only woman performing the triple somersault.

The Circus Committee for the 1976 CFA Convention in Dallas has been picked by Dr. Wm. Hooper, chairman. I'm proud to report this reporter has been asked to serve on the committee. Thanks Bill!

A unique Christmas card sent out by John Kunzog has Santa, a circus tent and clown Dan Rice - it's a real collector's item.

..... M. L. Dupont

Garden Bros. Circus

Approximately 60% of Garden Bros. dates for this year will be sponsored by Shrine Clubs in both the U.S. and Canada. The show is expected to open at Allentown (Pa.) on March 5th and will be out for at least 27 weeks. A second unit is planned for parts of May and June, with two full units working in 1977.

TV Special

Acts featured as a part of the Billy Smart's Christmas Circus, shown on a TV special the evening of Dec. 26th included:

Walter Galetti - comedy wire
 Wilson Smart - elephants (10)
 Coudoux Bros. - contortionists
 Baron Leoni's high wire troupe
 The Sallay Troupe - rolling globe

PEOPLE

CHESTER SHERMAN, clown, has completely recovered from his recent eye operation. He worked "Breakfast with Santa" at the Shelleto's Dept. Store in Cincinnati (Ohio) last month for the 5th year.

MEL LARSEN, public relations director for Circus Circus Casino (Las Vegas) was recently named Vice President of Marketing for the Hotel-Casino.

This year's program will be almost completely new and will include:

Manuel Ruffin - lions
 Merle Cook - comedy car
 Remo Cristiani - elephants
 Tino Zoppe - high wire
 Miss Olga - single trapeze
 Les Robertsons - balance/juggle
 Klara Bertini - wire/unicycle
 Roy Huston - illusions

The show staff includes:

Treva Bachand - contract. agent
 Ray T. Foley - road manager
 Ron Morris - concessions/press
 Frank Dailey - boss prop man
 Leo Mascitto - musical director

In Memoriam

JOSEPH WILLIAMS (63) a circus buff and historian, died at Evansville, Ind. on Nov. 29th. Survivors include his son, a brother and sister.

A PROSPEROUS 1976 TO ALL

My Friends and Enemies

HERBIE WEBER & CO.

Making Plans

A proposed opening of April 1st has been announced for the all new Hoxie's Great American Circus, which will be the second unit operated by Hoxie Tucker in 1976. The show is expected to be on the road about 28 weeks, covering the southern and eastern states.

The new circus will travel on about 12 trucks, all will be painted red, white and blue in keeping with the show's theme. The new top, 80 ft x 160 ft, will

FOR SALE

3 Arabian geldings; liberty act matched dapple greys - have just come off the road.

More look alike available

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also be red, white and blue.

The side show will feature a variety of caged animals as well as several lead stock animals. The show's band will be directed by Charles Moyer.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1976



APR
22
→ TO ←
MAY
15

ANIMAL & VARIETY ACTS WANTED

"BIG TIME" ACTS

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you must take a look

....by KAYE SCHEIMAN

The "Show Time Follies" produced by Garden Int'l Circus, played Mishawaka, Ind., on Nov. 30th for a matinee performance only. Music for the show was provided by Coco's Musical Comix with Byron on organ, sax and guitar; Bruce on guitar and Jim on the drums.

The program included:

Overture and Introductions
Band - I Believe in Music
Clowns - one hand stand
Band - country-western medley
Martin Lamberti - juggling
Clowns - the funnel gag
Johnny Laddie & Co. - unsp.lad.
Clowns - long tall glasses
-- Intermission --
Martin Lamberti - balancing
Clowns - the ballet
Coco - rope trick
Band - Color My World
Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue
Band - Allmon Bros. medley
Clowns - stilt walking

Visitors seen at the show included Gerry and Kaye Scheiman, the Holloways and Bob Fancil.

Readers Please Note!

It has been impossible to answer all the mail and Christmas cards that have been received and we hope you will understand. We appreciate your kind thoughts and good wishes and hope 1976 will be good for you.

Don

Added Notes

Bernie "Ko Ko" Kallman of the Clyde Beatty Circus, is with Jimmy Harrington's Circo America in Venezuela.

Mike Naughton's "Santa Claus Magic Circus" played two performances for audiences of 500 each at the Bergdorf Goodman store in White Plains (N.Y.). Pat Bissonette played Santa

Don "Sparky" Washburn is in Texas getting ready for Don Francisco's Pan American Circus, opening in February.

The Fearless Bauers recently appeared on the Mike Douglas TV Show.

CFA's Felix Adler Tent celebrated their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 14th and all had a marvelous day.

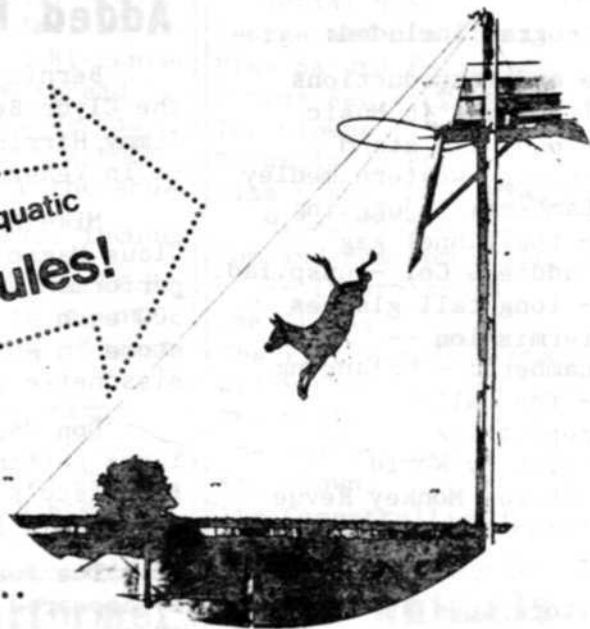
The Beatty-Cole Circus will not open in the Long Island Arena (Commack, N.Y.) instead the Royal Hanneford Circus will play there.

Bobby Kaye with the RBBB's Red Unit for a few weeks, to see that the new clowns work out.

... Mike Naughtin

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Ask about Petting Zoo

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Xmas Party

The annual Christmas party and show for members of the Carpenter's Union and their families, at Sacramento (Calif.) was held in the local Masonic Hall on Dec. 19th. Acts were:

The Wal-Tims - risley
Linda Phillips - vent
Mr. Tim - magic
Prize drawings
Hi Fi, the clown - magic/comedy

In Memoriam

OSCAR KONYOT (78) former circus performer, died at Sarasota, Fla. on Nov. 10. He was born in Rumania and came to the Ringling circus in 1910. Later he developed various animal acts then returned to Ringling in '52. In 1954 he toured with a chimp rodeo show and rejoined Ringling in 1966. Survivors include his wife, Patricia.

'76 Tour

The 1976 tour has already gotten underway for Big John Strong who reports he is currently playing dates in the Los Angeles area. Because of a blowdown last year the show will move into Simi on Wednesday (Jan. 10) to replay that date.

Last year's tour ended on an upswing after several rather poor months. The three Christmas units did very good and John reports that four bookers - William Burger, John Lenker, Millie Raede and Bill Birchfield - are all out setting dates for what is hoped will be the longest tour ever.

The 1869 Circus will again play under the exclusive direction of Holloway Productions. The first engagement, featuring a Bi-centennial theme, with John as "Uncle Sam" will be at San Diego.



Circus Sentinel (Cont'd)

Circus Knie (his favorite show) and the Moscow Circus in Budapest Driving through Yugoslavia he was astonished to see posters for a Circus Vargas.....PHIL & FRANCINE (The Appollos) are doing a class comedy drunk act with their baby elephant, broken by the Master: MAC McDONALD.

IRENE & TONY FOSSETT are breaking three kangaroos for a major Vegas fun spot.....HERNANDEZ perch act, with young Randy holding sister Sylvia in a handstand in his teeth is a standout.....FAY & ROSIE (Alexander)make Orlando for JOE BAUER.....TONY STEELE debuts his new flying act in Detroit.....BRAD FRANK (son of Tama Frank & Patsy) takes his three horses, whips and rope acts to Hoxie....that show will have its own lion act and, incidentally, is looking for a single high wire act to feature.

HERBIE WEBER returns to G-M Circus but plays Sports Shows first.....ROCK SMITH FLYERS are coming out with a Cannon Act....BERTO ZOPPE went to Italy for a hip operation. His package of acts will be with Hoxie and this year he is featuring a lion riding a horse.....It is reported by those who were THERE, that MAREK MECNER's death was a suicide.

One wonders sometimes about the professionalism of Big Name Stars! On a recent TV taping one boisterous name comedian did his

utmost to disrupt the performance of a big circus act. What can you expect from this same star who, several seasons past, tried to put down the great MAE WEST on a late-night talk show and was roundly booed for his efforts!

The Showfolks party, following the circus, had EVERYBODY who is ANYBODY at its function and, when it was over, one was left with the good feeling that there really is NOTHING like show business and NOBODY like show people!

See you down the road, luvs.

In Memoriam

LAWRENCE WELSH (61) a musician who traveled with circuses as a calliope player, died at Saginaw, Mich. on Nov. 4th. Survivors include his father, a brother and other relatives.



Terry and Camille O'Brien are the parents of a son, Liam, born on Nov. 28th at Winter Park, Fla. They toured with the Int'l All Star Circus this past year, with Terry's wire and juggling acts. He also handled concessions.

PEOPLE

DOUG HENNING, magician, was recently featured on the Captain Kangaroo TV Show.

MAC MacDONALD is currently breaking a young elephant for work at Pontrarchain Beach in New Orleans, La.

HAL HAVILAND recently left Circus Vargas for previously contracted engagements.

EMMA and ARLO WACH live at 8111 East Garvey Ave., Space 5, Rosemead, Calif. (Not the previously printed address).

BOB EMRICO has returned to Oregon to start his tour of school magic show dates.

D. W. WASHBURN (Sparky) has been working with the side show on Circus Vargas, doing vent and magic.

THE VOLANTES, unicyclists, are working the Sports Show at Anaheim (Calif.) Jan. 3-11.

FOR SALE

COLLECTOR'S ITEM - Only 400 Left "Red, White and Blue" Centennial colored herald - 4 page newspaper size.

THE 1976 CFA CONVENTION CIRCUS - plus one used ticket of the "Han neford Circus"

\$1.50 postpaid

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P. O. Box 6131

Monroe, La. -- 71201

UNIQUE McPEAK was arrested on Dec. 16th for trying to walk a cable across the Golden Gate Bridge.

JIM ELLIOTT has a new Merry-go-Round, which belongs to the W. G. Wade Shows, at a shopping mall in Detroit, Mich.

HENK LUYCX, of Holland and formerly with JOHN CUNEO has a new cage act working in Europe.

