



AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year

Number 1

January 5, 1981



THE KLEMENTIS

Featured in "Bedazzle" at Harrah's, South Lake Tahoe

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Circus Report tries to be honest and correct in both its reporting of news and events and advertisements. We make every effort to avoid mistakes and will not assume liability for any typographical errors other than to run a corrected advertisement or statement in the earliest issue possible.

We appreciate all news items and reports on show activity. All articles and comments are the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of Circus Report.

We reserve the right to edit all material so it will conform with the general style of writing used by Circus Report.

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To avoid errors as much as possible it is best to mail in copy which is typed or printed, or better yet, camera ready copy. Some phoned in ads will be accepted but we will not take any responsibility for errors which may result via this system.

PEOPLE

AURELA NOCK reports that her mother, Eleanor Lintini, escaped injury and her home is intact after that late November earthquake at Salerno, Italy. Her bother and family, however, lost everything and are now staying with relatives in a nearby city.

CIRCUS REPORT is published and edited each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak Street, El Cerrito, Calif. 94530. (415) 525-3332.

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CARDEN-JOHNSON CIRCUS

BY KAYE SCHEIMAN

The Carden-Johnson Circus presented some 13 shows at Hammond, Ind., Nov. 25-30.

Featured with the show were: Cleo Plunkett, ringmaster; Paul Jackalone, music; Carol Sanchez, vocals; Bob Top and Edna, skaters; Joe Via, cat act (7 lions); Mark Pilger, trapeze; Kathy English and Anne Pike, roman rings; Cuccillo, trampoline; Bobby Gibbs, 7 white German shepherd dogs; Eddie Steeples Gypsy Bears (4); Gold Finger (Dino Medro) balancing; Clowns with Balloon Shoot (Maxo and Sandy); Olga Navarro, balancing trapeze; Anna Jems, double trapeze; Jimmy Joe and Anne Pike; Szmanski's Chimps (3); Bobby Gibbs, camel and llamas; Cuccillo, llamas(4); Aerial Ballet with Olinka featured and Edna Top and Anne Pike on webs; Intermission.

The second half included: Mark Pilger, cloud swing; David and Sissy Connors, juggling; Toto Navarro, ladder balance; Dino Medro, juggling; "Clancy" magic rings with Carol Scanez, vocal (beautiful voice); Toto Navarro, ponies (6); Cuccillo, mules (6); Bobby Gibbs, ponies (6); Cavanaugh's aerial cradle, Jimmy, Joe and Kathy English; Tino Wallenda Zoppe, lamp post high act; Kathy English and Marki Steeples with birds; The Dars, unicycle act, Mark Pilger, David Connors, Royce Top; Clowns and Safe-crackers; Bobby Gibbs with elephants, plus Kathy English and Anne Pike; Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire.

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Show Dates

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Jan. 1-4 Venice, Fla.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Flight Into Imagination
Jan. 7 Northridge, Calif.
9 Moorepark
12 Valencia

Galactic Dragons
Jan. 6 Barstow, Calif.
8 Victorville
10-11 Bakersfield

Notice

The composer broke down just prior to Christmas and we are unable to get a serviceman until after the holidays - as a result it is impossible to set type and as a result stories, ads and other material will be delayed from two to three issues.

If you sent in an ad and want a refund contact us at once and we will mail your money back.

.... Don Marcks

SAMANTHA



Hil! It's time to start an all new season and I'm just as excited as the day I first joined the circus. This is going to be a fun year and I'm hoping you'll visit as often as you can.

It's nice to be back on the circus. Those two weeks with the magic show were something else. Do you know, some of those guys are weird, wow!

Would you believe this is CR's 10th year? That's really super and it's nice that I can be a part of it.

There goes the whistle! It's time to get started on our 1981 season. Stick around we have some real surprises for you this year.

In Memoriam

DR. L. F. N. WALSH (92) veterinarian at the St Louis Zoo for some 50 years, and a medical doctor at a hospital in St. Louis, died at his home on Dec. 9th.

Survivors include his widow Ada K. Walsh and daughter Susan Walsh Dawley, wife of ringmaster Al Dawley.

HOTLINE

SHIRLEY, the Circus Vargas elephant that broke its leg earlier in the year, died at the medical clinic at Hinsdale, Ill. on Dec. 18th.

She was suffering from a severe case of arthritis and had undergone an operation for removal of her right leg (she broke the left leg) and was to have a new plate placed in the broken leg, when doctors feared she would be unable to survive the operation and put her to sleep.

SPECIAL**THE SHOW WILL GO ON . . .**

(The following item appeared in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune on Dec. 11, 1980).

The show will go on as scheduled, it appears, when the "big one" of the circus world previews its 1981 offerings with public performances at winter training quarters in Venice.

For a while there it seemed that the management of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows might go to the mat with the City of Venice over fire code violations at its arena. A number of specific citations of dangerous conditions, submitted to the circus in writing last January by the fire chief, were ignored for 10 months - until the city manager and the chief made it clear that they would shut down the shows, for which tickets were already being sold, unless the circus corrected a number of seriously unsafe conditions.

This the Ringling management has now agreed to do before the scheduled January performances take place. Until more permanent changes in the building can be made to provide additional emergency exits, the circus will e-

liminate about 700 of its 4400 arena seats to provide more and wider walkways. Other alterations and restrictions to eliminate conditions deemed hazardous under the fire code have been agreed to.

So the 11th annual edition of the biggest and most famous of American circuses will apparently be previewed by local audiences at Venice next month under suitably fire-safe conditions - because the management has now reacted responsibly to the firm and determined pro-public stand taken by City Manager Dale Reith and Fire Chief Ted Deming.

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BILLY BARTON

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Here we are off, if not exactly running, into season 1981. First thing we must remember to do is not to write 1980 on our checks and our letters!

After years of having just a few dates GRACIE McINTOSH has come up with a good route, following her Lincoln date with a complete route in Nebraska taking the show to the first of June. Then she plays Mount Clemens and Wheaton (also Denver in May), dates formerly played by SANDY DOBRITCH. The Wyandotte (Mich) date is back in for July and other dates are set for Sept. It couldn't happen to a nicer gal.

JIMMY DOUGLAS did a lot of production and things for the Beatty-Cole Circus, although he did not get program credits for the work. He dropped pff wardrobe boxes when the show played Cincinnati and said it was a real first class, well-paced performance. When I talked with Jimmy (early Dec.) he had just wound up a 5000 mile trek picking up antiques and pipe organs, etc. for his proposed museum.

SNAPSHOTS: Some of the clowns in Rochester will include BOBBY DAVIS, BUCK NOLAN, MIDDY STREETER, RICK LEGG, and MIKE NAUGHTON. VERN WOERNER will produce and Jimmie Douglas has created an old-fashioned circus days spec. . . Word is the RBBB powers were having problems with the Venice Bldg. concerning fire exits, etc. . . TOMMY HANNEFORD has his show inked into a park for the summer. He will replay the New Orleans and Baltimore Shrine dates. . . DR. W. STANDING of the Evansville Shrine date told me their attendance was down for the '80 show by only 30 persons! This past year they did not use a "star" with obviously no resultant loss in crowds. . . The Circus Odyssey engagements in Mexico City and San Juan and Mayaquez may be extended by a week each. . . CYNDY MIGLEY's baby was born prematurely with the doctor's greatly concerned about her welfare. Fortunately everything turned out a-okay. . . Making the Showman's Convention in Las Vegas were HERBIE WEBER and MARCELLA, GRA-

CIE McINTOSH and CHUCK MARINE. . . Immediately upon touching down in Florida SENOR RAI (Quasi Beasley) trekked off to do a date for GUNNAR AMANDIS. . . BUCKY STEELE and BARBARA TATA are with Circus Odyssey in Mexico City; ditto clowns DION and BEVERLY (last season with Bentley Bros). . . The ROCKET CAR and the FEARLESS BAUERS among the attractions at that big fair date, also in Mexico. . . SIEGFRIED & ROY's new contract with KENNETH FELD calls for a motion picture, 5 TV specials, one TV movie, a book and TV commercials. Now THAT's magic! . . BARBARA TATA and BUCKY STEELE are members of the American Assoc. of Zoological Parks & Aquariums, the very first circus folks to be admitted. . . Bucky's book (on animals, of course) is in the editing stage. . . THE WAIN WRIGHTS are out of the USA with Flintstone on Parade, the Yabba Dabba Do show for six months. Show opened Dec. 19. . . HAL HAVILAND played the Worcester Grotto Circus in Nov. along with the VIDBELLS, CYCLONIANS, ROGER DuBOIS & Co., JANET and FRANK BURGER. CHARLEY VAN BUSKIRK was ringmaster.

JIM SWAFFORD visited the Emmet Kelly, Jr. Circus at Knotts Berry Farm. . . Moma BETTY ESCALANTE's letter chased me all over Texas, finally caught up to me two months too late for me to include all the news (it had already been printed in CR). . . JIMMIE COLE opens his school circus Jan. 17 for 12 weeks. He and MARI JO COULS caught Beatty-Cole indoor circus and then he and EDNA ANTES and Mari Jo visited the Hoxie show. Later Jimmie visited the King show and reported a great 6 piece band led by CHARLIE SCHLARBAUM. On Jimmie's school until will be THE SIX LANGS, BILLY MARTIN and DORIAN BLAKE. . . In Oct., NANCY KELLY (Emmett's wife) underwent surgery, was on the operating table 2½ hours. She pulled through fine. . . TEDDY and LISA STEWART are both in school again, each going 3 nights a week. They fin-

thank you

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BILL RICE

for the tour with Wondercades

JOHN STRONG . . .

for the tour with the Big John Strong Circus

DAVE TWOMEY . . .

for the Tulare County Fair engagement

– You all helped to make 1980 a successful year –

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*

You are always welcome to visit us on our family circus
"International Circus of the Stars" playing Mexico City.

REPORT

THE WINNERS

BY JAMES A. CONLEY

Winners of the Seventh Monte Carlo Circus

The highest award, the Clown of Gold, was given to THE TROUPE PARVANOVI from the Bulgarian State Circus for their fast-moving teeterboard act.

The Mexican flying trapeze group, THE FLYING JIMENEZ from Circus Krone were awarded the Clown of Silver, the second highest award. They also received the prize of the junior jury of Radio Monte Carlo; the prize of the Henri-Thetard Club of the Friends of the French Circus, and the prize of the journal "Organ." The Clown of Silver was also given to DICK FRANCO, a juggler from the U. S. Franco was given, in addition, the Prix Andre-Rivollet, a cash award of about \$600.00 and the Prix du Club Suisse du Cirque.

The prize from the ville de Monaco went to the FORNASARIS from the United States for their trampoline act. The trophy Louis-Merlin was given to THE PUEYREDON, a perch act from Argentina-Brazil and Circo Atayde. The Prix de la presse associee des varieties et du Cirque went to "The Lady of the Circus" MARY CHIPPERFIELD from Great Britain. She had presented a number of acts with trained horses and ponies.

The Grand Prix de la Deutschland Halle Berlin was awarded to THE PERRIS, a foot-juggling act from Italy. The Prix de l'Association des Amis du Cirque de Monaco was won by DICKIE CHIPPERFIELD of Great Britain, for his lion act.

The journal Nice-Matin awarded its prize to

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the DUO VERESS, a cradle act from the Romanian State Circus. From France, the chimpanzee act of LUC and BELA received the prize awarded by the journal "cirque dans l'univers." The Prix de la revue, "scenes and pistes" went to the DUO KRISTO, of the Bulgarian State Circus, for their cradle act.

The Prix Tele Monte Carlo was received by the elephant act of JOSEPH GARTNER from Circus Finlandia. The Prix Andre-Rivollet, of about \$600.00 was also awarded to MISS LINDA from Switzerland for her single trapeze act.

Report

by A. F. House

THE SHOW BARNUM

Recently, Maxine (my wife) and I went to New York City to see the play "Barnum" with Jim Dale as the star. The play is a very delightful rendition of parts of Barnum's life. Although some incidents in it aren't really true (a love affair with Jenny Lind). The show, however, is excellent.

Many purists of circus complained when John North made the Ringling show a "Broadway" production back in the late '30s and '40's, and they should see "Barnum".

To see this play, a circus play, you can really see what Broadway can do to a "circus." There is a complete spell woven by the actors, musicians, and clowns, that no circus could ever do! The purists should see the show "Barnum" before another word of criticism is ever uttered or written.

Report

A TWO SHOW REPORT

BY CIRCUS JOE VALENCIANO

Two shows played Tampa, Fla., for a two day engagement, both on Nov. 28-29.

The "Great Ron Morris Circus" played at a Brandon shopping center on the outskirts of Tampa. Ron Morris presented the Roberts Bros. Circus which featured Carla Wallenda and her troupe. The show was sponsored by the center's merchants and shows were presented at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

The tent was a four pole top with blue and white striped canvas. Midway had a Moon walk, pit show and concessions. Rolling stock consisted of 5 trucks and a few travel trailers. Show was presented in three rings,

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with organ music. Program consisted of two dog acts, a magic act, roman ladders, two hanging perch acts, unicycles, webs, swinging ladders, wire act, 1 elephant and a could swing act.

It was a good 1½ hour show. The Roberts Bros. Circus is owned and operated by Robert and Doris Earl. Performers include the Earl Family, an illusionist and the Carla Wallenda Troupe.

Visitors seen on the lot were Dick Johnson and his son.

The King Bros. Circus was sponsored by the Tampa JC's with showtime at 4 and 8 p.m.

The show ran 1 hour 10 minutes and was a three ring affair. Several acts had left the circus by the time they reached here and those still remaining were: the Scott's Boxer Dogs, Senor Ray, spanish web, Mike Rice, animals, and there was also an aerial act and a trapeze act, plus a balancing act. The band was very good with seven men.

The midway included a five banner side show and pony ride on one side, a concession trailer and ticket wagon on the other side.

They used the old marquee, big top and side show top. Out of the five trucks only two of them were lettered.

Roberts Bros. Circus had two clowns, while King Bros. Circus had one clown.

REPORT

SOME QUICK SHOW NOTES

BY ALBERT F. HOUSE

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, CFA members from throughout the area were on hand at 7 a.m. at the Stewart Ave. yards of Conrail (the old NYC, Long Island, RR) to watch the unloading of the Ringling Blue Unit, in from Chicago.

The circus left the Windy City at 4:30 a.m. on Dec. 1, and arrived at the Elizabeth, NJ, yards about 2 p.m. on Tuesday. A feed and water stop had been taken at Harrisburg, Pa. and the show waited until after 8 p.m. to get transferred through New York City's Penn Station and out to the Sunnyside, Queens, yards, where another hour's delay ensued.

As night fell, a cold front passed thru the area, turning balmy 50 degree temperatures to the freezing 30's, with wind gusts up to 60 m.p.h., giving a wind chill factor of minus 5 degrees F.

By Tuesday, midnight, the train had been spotted and connected to water, while the stock, tunnel, bi-level and flat cars were placed in the rail complex of the old Mitchell Field, a former Navy base, but now a community college and headquarters for Nassau County government units.

At 7:30 a.m. in cold and very windy weather, Manuel Ruffin (Junior) drove off the flats the first wagon to mark the last 1980 stand of Ringling Blue. The entire operation was under the direct supervision of manager Bob MacDougall. All of the 16 plus workers fans and management shivered and huddled to ward off the bone chilling cold.

The only incident marring an otherwise routine unloading was the breaking of a cross-

over plate on the second cut of flats. A wagon broke through the plate, falling into the gap between the flats. To solve the problem the loading winch was started, hooked to the wagon pole and within a few minutes the wagon was back on the flats, on its way to be unloaded. Very quickly a jack was placed under the crossover plate and a spare piece of metal was used to replace the broken plate. The rest of the unloading was without further event.

At about 11 a.m. the animal march took place. Unloading from the stock cars was done without incident and the reporters and TV crews were frozen by the cold. Normally the show has 4 stock cars, but with the Richters and Donnert's extra stock, an additional car was carried, for a total of 5 stock cars.

The train crew has been hesitant about the condition of the piping of the water supply in the train. During the snow storm in Norfolk, Va., when many inches of snow fell, a railroad snow plow cleared a path to the coaches, but broke the water line to the coaches and the water line pumps froze. The repair required all new repairing, but the insulation was not replaced. Now, with cold weather in the north, the possibility exists once again. However, only two nights, so far, have been below freezing and then the temperatures haven't been but in the high 20's. So far so good!!

Miscellaneous

An exhibit of circus material - posters, tickets, models, etc., is on display at the Museum at Hatwick College, Oneonta, N.Y. thru Jan. 9th.

REPORT**SOME NEWS NOTES . . .****BY JEAN-JACQUES DESJARDINS**

Pierre Jean, the ringmaster of Gatini's Circus, is presently performing as a co-star in the Guilda Revue "Mon truc en plumes" taking place at Theatre des Varieties in Montreal, from Sept. 8th thru Dec. 14th. In this revue, Pierre displays his versatility as an impressionist, singer and comic.

John Kelly and Lorna Wayne are responsible for the choreographies, sets are by Jean-Claude Olivier and the musical direction is under Jacques Andre.

After Jan. 18th, the revue will tour Quebec and Canada. Meanwhile, Pierre Jean will be working in Port au Prince, Haiti, during the holidays. From March 17-23, Pierre will introduce "Le Super Cirque d'Amerique" at the Olympic Velodrome in Montreal. The musical director will be Marco Trigiano.

In a following report, we shall disclose more details and information concerning this show, and concerning a big exposition of Circus from the good old days and a side show.

IN LOVING MEMORY**OF****HEIDI (MONIKA) COLE**

Your Family and Friends
All Love You and Miss You

Your Parents . . .

PAULA and ROBY

and Husband . . .


JIM**Report****CHRISTMAS SHOW****BY BOB SWANEY**

On his annual holiday swing through the midlands, Big John Strong once again presented a fast paced, versatile line up of family entertainment, at Omaha's (Nebr) Music Hall on Dec. 10th.

John, himself, handled the emcee duties and in his inimitable way, wound up the audience from the start. Featured performers were the Countess Von Albert and her trained dobermans; The Rianos Duo, slackwire; Sugar and Spice, aerial cradle (Ron Pace and Chris Kennington); Mario Alberti, gymnastic balancing; and The Perrys, juggling. Clowns "Chryssi" (Rosa-Maria Douglass) and "Flippo" (Phil Kavanaugh) added to the festive atmosphere with their antics, magic and balloon animals. Last, but not least, was a visit by Santa.

Superb live music set the tempo for each act. Sponsor for the performance, which saw one of the best Music Hall houses in memory, was the Bellevue Police Officer's Association. Promotion was through Mark X Productions.

During his recent visit to Omaha, Big John disclosed that the organization for his tent show, which will open in March has now been set. Bill Schreiber will be manager, Red Johnson, superintendent, with Bill Burger and Chris Kennington handling the office.

In Memoriam 

PAUL BALODYS (74), a former circus performer, died Nov. 15th in New York City after suffering a heart attack. Known as The Two Balodys, he and his wife did an aerial act and perch pole act and toured throughout Europe, South America and the United States. He is survived by his wife.

COL. HARLAND SANDERS (90), the founder and symbol of the Kentucky Fried Chicken fast food franchise, died at a hospital in Louisville, Ky. on Dec. 15th. After holding a variety of jobs he settled in Corbin, Ky. in 1930 where he built a motel and restaurant and it was there that he developed his famous chicken recipe.

OUR SINCERE, YEAR-LONG THANKS TO:

LARRY COCHRAN, 6 Flags-Great Adventure, for the All-Star Circus International (April 3 - Nov. 2)

David McMillan's Flying Tigers
The Fearless Bauers, skypole trio
Les Lemoines, skycycle trio
Rene & Michele, slides-for-life
Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard
Flying Torralbas, trapeze quartet
Barry Sloan & Co., stiltwalkers
Javana's Jungle Jubilee, African Baboons
The Bertinis, unicycle-springboard
Bill Hamilton, Clown Corps.
George Benson, ringmaster-announcer

(Appreciative, too, for the 1981 season - April 11 - Nov. 1)

++++

KENNETH J. FELD, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus

Marguerita Michele, hair-suspension (Red Unit)
Fabulous Farrell Bros., high wire (Monte Carlo Circus)
Philip Anthony's Hollywood Liberty Horses (Monte Carlo Circus)

++++

JOSEPH CATES and MICHAEL MANHEIM, C & B Productions, for the "Daredevils" NBC-TV Special, Nov. 21

Dave Merrifield-Jim Grogan Helicopter Trapeze Act
The Fearless Bauers, skypole trio
Enrico Wallenda-Bogino, "Skywalk"
Dave McMillan's Flying Tigers presented by John Cox

++++

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THE KNIE FAMILY, Swiss Circus Knie, for a March-Nov. 30 season

The Sensational Leighs, giant space wheel

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MAXWELL ASSOCIATES, for a water show season (May - September)

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The World Champion Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Club for 9 years of field spectaculars

Kiteman III, 1980 season opener

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CARL HUGHES, Kennywood Park (May 3 - September 1)

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LaMothe Bros., "Pirates of the Sky"
Francarro & Estreleta, aerial perch
Maryse Begary, single trapeze
Winn Troupe, aerial motorcycle trio
James Zoppe Resinback Riding Troupe
Aria's Bears
Ricardos Trio, low wire
Cyclonians, unicyclists
Miss Diana, risley
Vickianis Troupe, risley-springboard

(Appreciative, too, for the 1981 season - May 2 - September 7)

++++

FRANCOIS BRONETT, "Nights in Copenhagen Festival"

Flying Cavarettas, trapeze quartet

++++

ROBERTO GERMAINS, Smart's Super Circus, London, England (June - September)

Aerial Paulsons, aerial motorcycle trio
Los Castros, high wire

++++

6th and 7th Monte Carlo International Circus Festival

Fabulous Farrell Bros., high wire
Flying Espanas, trapeze quartet
Franconi Duo, double trapeze
Plunketts, trampoline
Christopher James, low wire
Michael Chirrick, juggler

++++

Feijoo-Castilla, Circus World Festival, Madrid, Spain
Flying Espanas, trapeze quartet (1980 Circus Oscar Award Winner)
Franconi Duo, double trapeze

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REPORT

NEWS FROM FLORIDA . . .

BY MARJORIE J. HACKETT

We see a lot of circuses in Florida, Milonga Cline joined David and me for a visit to the Morocco Shrine Show, produced by Bill Kay, in Jacksonville in October. Enroute home we visited the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. winter quarters in DeLand. Had a great time chatting with Freddie and Ora Logan and their family and also Harry Hammond. David and I caught the closing of the Beatty outdoor season at Lake City the previous weekend.

Our good friends from Minneapolis, Eleanore and Gary Davison surprised us by coming to Florida and joining King Bros. Circus for the 3 month Southern tour. Eleanore playing her calliope on the front and Gary on the front door taking tickets. Gary is retired from the arson division of the Mpls. fire dept. and they always said they would travel with a show some day. It was their first trip to the Southeast and we have had many good visits with them, catching the show in Inverness and Dunellon, Tampa and the closing in St. Petersburg (Nov. 30). Business was poor and many acts left before the last date, it closed with a "whimper" not a "bang".

Davison's son, Pat and wife Gwen are well known in the circus world as is eldest son, Tim (he has worked on many shows) but is now with the Minneapolis Police Dept. and bought our last residence in Mpls. where he lives with Linda and their son Aaron. Third son, Scott, is a career Air Force Officer.

The senior Davisons and Pat and Gwen own land in Mission, Texas (home of Bobby and Rosa Gibbs). After the holidays in the frozen north they will head for Texas.

Need Immediately

— JAN. thru MAY 1981 —

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Grand Rapids, Mich - 49505

The papers are always picking up photo stories about the former wife of young Hugo Zucchini, she is now Faye Kerrigan and is a special resources teacher and principal of a Pinellas County School. She makes good copy as she utilizes her circus training with her pupils. Most recent shot of her was playing volleyball with the kids at Halloween and she is dressed as a Gorilla!

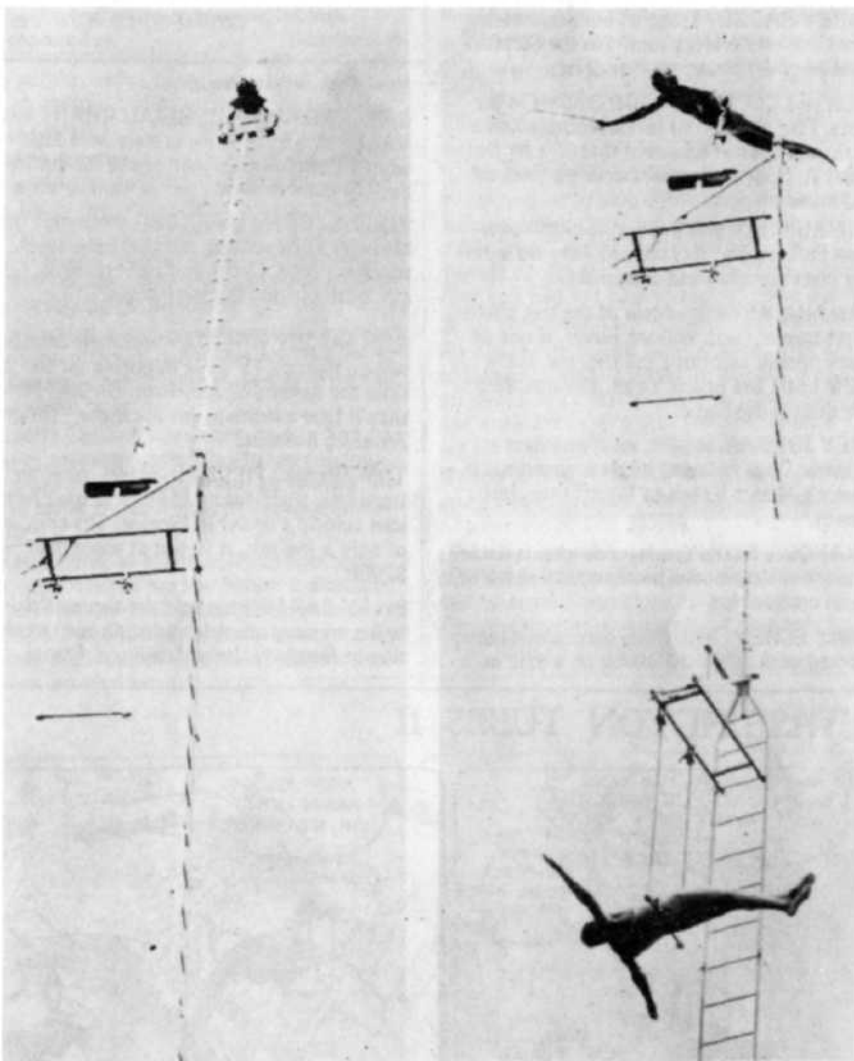
Speaking of gorillas, there were two newspaper stories recently about 14 year old Noby Kareisch of Longboat Key (Sarasota) daughter of the famous "Almost Human Gorilla" Norbert and wife Arden, who is a student at the most exclusive area girls boarding school, Adirondack-Southern in St. Petersburg.

Mae and Bob Noell with their (retired) Primate Farm are only 5 miles from us and are often featured in news stories as well as appearances on TV and over radio. Mae and Bob are delightful people and if any of you readers have not purchased Mae's book you are missing a real treat. I couldn't put it down.



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PEOPLE

ELEK and RUTH SEBESTYEN are working in Central America and expect to be there until August of this year.

LARRY BAGGETT, model builder, was featured in a photo story report in the Sarasota (Fla) Herald-Tribune on Nov. 21st.

LILA and CLYDE St. LEON'S home in Sarasota, Fla., was one of several included on a Christmas tour of homes in that city on Dec. 6 and 7. They are former circus performers and horse trainers.

THE RUWILLS will be touring with Showtime Follies again this season. They do a unique plate spinning and adagio act.

TAMARA HEYER, widow of the late circus horse trainer Capt. William Heyer, is one of many people without a job because of the big MGM hotel fire in Las Vegas. She operated a gift shop in the hotel.

JOEY JORDAN, juggler, worked a date at Atlantic City, followed by an engagement in Caesar's Resort Hotels at Lake Tahoe, last month.

FRANCOIS SZONY, adagio dancer, is back at work with two new partners, and is featured on cruise ships.

TONY ECHEVERRIA, fire eater and dancer, worked with JOEY JORDAN on a date in

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New York late last year.

DARLENE GILBERT, BRIAN GRANT and VALERIE LEVINE, ice skaters were featured in a Christmas program at the Manhattan Savings Bank in New York at holiday time.

CIRCUS JOE VALENCIANO celebrated his birthday in November and that same week saw King Bros. Circus and Roberts Bros. Circus, both playing the same town.

RON and JOY HOLIDAY and their animals will be seen on TV's PM Magazine for the 2nd time the evening of Jan. 14th. On Jan. 16th they'll tape a segment for the show "Those Amazing Animals."

TOM "Peppy" PICCARD, clown, recently traded his truck for an 1820 large bust American coin to a dealer in Florida. The coin, one of only a few left, is valued at more than \$2000.

BILLY BARTON has sold the overseas rights to his mystery novel for printing and circulation in Germany, Italy, Spain and France.

REVIEW

THE BOOK of CLOWNS by George Speaight
Published by MacMillan Publishing Co., Inc.
of New York City.

BY BOB STODDARD

A truly international book written by an English author, with a Canadian-American publisher, printed and bound in Spain, to be sold in 17 countries in four languages.

Author, George Speaight, a working clown with a lifelong interest in clowns and clowning, traces the history from the ancient Greeks through all of its phases to the clowns of today in an interesting manner that should become a standard textbook for anyone teaching the history of the art.

Three award winning photographers travelled throughout the United States and Europe to find and photograph the clowns who are covered in the story.

Malcolm Fielding was determined to find real clowns to photograph. His lifelong passion for clowns made this a dream assignment. He made many clown friends in America and in Europe.

Rolph Gobits, an award winning photographer from Holland has had his work displayed in many magazines including the American "Vogue". Homer Sykes is an internationally known photographer/journalist who has had

exhibitions in England and France. His work has appeared in many newspapers and magazines, including "Time" and "Newsweek."

Many countries are involved in this two thousand year history of clowning. There has only been 204 years of American history, and American clowns didn't enter the picture until Dan Rice in 1844 - only 136 years ago.

In spite of this relatively short history, American clowns are well represented. More than 20% of all of the pictures in the book and more than 20% of all of the full page photos are of American clowns.

The eleven Americans pictured on full pages in full color, include Jimmy Armstrong, Ernie "Blinko" Burch, Emmett Kelly, Rex "Count de Boxcar" Young, Felix Adler, Paul Jung and two full page photos of Steve Baker of the clown team of "Checkers and Patches"

An interesting format, well written, with excellent photographs, expertly laid out and printed; a book that you will be proud to own and show off - well worth the \$19.95 price tag for this large 9½ x 12½ in. book.

If there just has to be something wrong with every book, then this one is (sadly) missing a centerfold of Lou Jacobs.

(Don Marcks will be interested in knowing that back issues of The Circus Report furnished by some Texas clowns were used by George Speaight in research for his book, "The Book of Clowns.")

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

By Crane

WHY WEREN'T YOU HERE TO PRACTICE OUR VAUDEVILLE ACT? WHERE WERE YOU? SPEAK UP, SILLY!

WELL, ER-Y'SEE ROXIE ASKED ME TO —

WITH HER, AGAIN, EH? OH, YOU WRECK!

BAM

YOU INSECT!
YOU WORM!

SOME O' THESE DAYS I'M GONNA LOSE MY TEMPER WITH THAT KID AND GET **ROUGH.**

Roberts

REPORT

NEW YORK OFFICE OPENED

TAL World-Wide Productions, Inc., the Baltimore-based company, owned and operated by The Sikorskys, well-known juggling team, have announced that they have opened a branch office in the New York City area, at 411 Jauncey Ave., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071. The phone number is: (201) 460 - 1665.

In addition to booking and producing shows, at that address, as well as in Baltimore, they have now begun making feather flowers for magicians, both stock and custom made. Two lines are now available, economy and deluxe and hopefully they will meet competition head-on. The entire lines will be available at magic stores throughout the country.

The announcement was also made that Tom Cathro, a popular magician, is now associated with the company, and will manage production and sales in that area.

MAILBAG

BY WILLIAM WOTSCH

In reading about the recent deaths of Mae West and George Raft I am reminded of the time they appeared in Cleveland.

In Dec. 1936, the first of a series of Press Christmas shows for charity was held at the Public Auditorium. Each year a great entertainment star would appear.

I attended a few of these shows and remember seeing George Raft, Wallace Beery, Mae West and others. Unfortunately, my work at the Cleveland Arena kept me from seeing all of those shows.

In 1939, Mae West appeared at the Palace Theatre in downtown Cleveland. If you got there before 11 a.m. the admission price was a lot less.

I remember one scene where the maid entered Mae's room and said, "Mae, there are a bunch of fellows outside waiting to see you." Mae replied, "I'm kind of tired, send the last one home."

Happy New Year

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Entertainment Specialists

Miscellaneous

A CHRISTMAS SHOW

A special Christmas Show program was arranged for members of the Diablo (Calif) Country Club on the afternoon of Dec. 14.

Acts appearing on that show program were Bob Emerico, clown walkarounds; Jack's Marionettes, the Bay Street Reds, juggling team and Marvyn Roy (Mr. Electric) magician.

RBBB BLUE UNIT STOCK

Stock carried on the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit includes: 3 Richter elephants, 18 Ringling-Barnum elephants, all Indian including a 16 year old male named 'John'. He has a neck chain on at the picket line to keep him from swinging around and swatting the help. They also have 1 llama, 1 camel, 4 ponies, 20 horses (for Cossack riding) and 20 bigger horses for the bareback riding act.

REVIEW

AN EVENING OF COMEDY and MAGIC

BY FRANK HERMAN

(A 90 minute program for national release on Teleprompter Cable TV on Pay TV "Showtime" Channel).

Host/Emcee was Orsen Bean, featuring Judy Carter, Glen Falkenstein, Frances Willard, Larry Wilson and several un-named assistants.

It was a novelty to see a TV Magic Special preceded by the "for mature audiences only" disclaimer. Taping locale was San Francisco, the Earthquake McGoon Nightclub with large audience. Bean was an affable host, referring to his start in show biz with a magic act and did standard six card repeat in one spot.

First act was Judy Carter who ebullient style was like an enthusiastic Summer Camp recreation leader. Her patter and situation comedy was strictly adult. Opened with a bunch of celery that proceeded to Zombie routine with a single stalk. Torn and restored newspaper with comic finish (restored paper was taped with black plastic bandages)

Spectator up, borrowed dollar bill, burned and failed to return. Balls over head, sawing in half with spectator and skil saw, number prediction using closed circuit TV tape of Judy talking to spectator and self. Dollar bill produced from banana and closed with vanish and surprising double exchange using large trashcan, plastic liner and thumb cuffs. Judy uses a fresh timult style to good effect. Establishes strong rapport with audience and uses many quick bits like eggs from the mouth borrowed cigarettes, wallets and a running gag with audience member blowing a bugle. Risque patter was not offensive but could do without the "do you sniff?" line.

Glen Falkenstein with fast mental routine that quickly got to his eyeless vision with steel blindfold. Glen's act has now progressed to the point where spectators can only decide that he is a real psychic or uses a lot of stooges. Dunninger handled this plateau with an aggressive, bombastic style. Falkenstein plays it much more low key and gentlemanly. Audience response was terrific.

Frances Willard presented her flawless spirit cabinet routine assisted by Falkenstein, Bean and spectator. Same routine is a sensation in Andre Kole and Julie Virgil's hands, but Frances Willard brings a special aura to the session. Larry Wilson closed the fast-paced show. Opened by appearing from shadow frame cabinet, sequed into Sterling egg trick, giant card sucker effect, Grant's Victory carton girl production and closed with hilarious cutting a girl in six parts illusion.

Wilson worked in impeccable white tails and had the audience rolling with his combination Jack Benny, Peter Seller approach. Two comic male assistants and attractive girl added much to the turn.

With the exception of a few blue gags, which none of the performers needed, the show was a delight. Imagine, 90 minutes of good magic without a single dove fluttering, no endless fans of playing cards, no table cloths thrown over cages and no Zig Zag or Zombie Ball in sight. Stage was very small and the close proximity of the audience strengthened the surprise and effectiveness of all the illusions. A Great Show!

We don't mean to sermonize, but a CR subscription order from you sure would be a heavenly event!

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ally tore down their outdoor rigging, said it was gathering cobwebs from lack of use. . .

MARK KAROLY is now doing his horse-to-horse somersault with a rose in his mouth which he hands to a young lady in the audience when he takes his bow. . . New riding act wardrobe for the Hanneford riding act is white and turquoise, a stylized Aztec/Indian combination. Elephant number is in orange and black, a jungle theme. Costumes were designed by Quasi Beasley (Eee-yesss!), and music for the new production number was arranged by KEITH KILLINGER. . . STRUPPI's fire hoop jumping tiger, Japiur, underwent an operation during the Balto Shrine date. Doctors found fluid in the animal's lungs. Story made all the papers, radio and even TV.

EDGAR LANSBURY, brother to the new Miss Marple, ANGELA, visited the Hanneford Circus in Baltimore. He is the producer of Broadway Follies, 1981, the show in which GAYLORD MAYNARD will be featured. The

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contract was actually finalized during that date. Gaylord goes into rehearsals and preview shows in Feb., the revue opens in March. In the meantime Gaylord is scouting for a place in New Jersey to house his animals as they cannot be kept at the theatre overnight.

In Dec., I received a confirmation letter from Jerusalem Temple that they had not signed another circus for their 1981 Shrine date. They also said an "erroneous statement" was made in my Nov. 10, column. Correction, gentlemen, it was not "erroneous". I printed a "rumor", nothing more; at no time did I state the switch in dates AS A FACT. Better re-read that item, fellows.

NOW that ROSEMARY and BEV of BETTER BOOKING moved to Buzzards Bay (whataname!) they tell me they lost their ducks but gained a larger office and a flock of sea gulls. They also proclaim that their summer garden will be more fruitful - well, only if you plant pansies in it, girls!

This column, printed in January, is being written in early Dec. In that I am headed for Mexico at the end of the month it is my intention to stockpile columns for the entire month of Jan. I also have a hair-raising jump from Mexico City to Rochester for Gracie who will be chewing her nails hoping I make it through any possible snowstorm; don't worry, girl, I'll get there if I have to slide in on my rear on the ice!

As I worked on this column the phone jingled and ED MIGLEY called to say he is off to New York for a meeting with a company sponsoring his circus for a major 40 week tour beginning in the fall. Next year Odyssey will definitely have two units on the road; the one making the shorter tour (15 weeks) will play Shrine dates mixed with its out-of-the-USA route; the other will play a new route which must remain hush-hush right now. This will be a biggie.

Meanwhile Odyssey plays a 10 day date in Boston in August and also the Cape Cod Shrine date again.

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

Miscellaneous

LaLonde's "Ice Classics", a four member tank show, was one of the featured attractions at the Ski Show held in Anaheim, Calif., recently. Featured performers were Scott Henderson and Anne Vendetti.



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Miscellaneous

Four shows - Orens, Suarez, Bells and Atayde played in Tijuana this past season, each

ACTS

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, Hollywood based theatrical agency specializing in variety acts for revue shows, including:

The Jabczynski Troupe, teeterboard acrobatics in "Razzle Dazzle" at the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas; Ioni, the amazing French automaton, Leonardo, Italian comedy plate spinner and Johnny Lonn, Sweden's Clown Prince of Magic, all appearing at "Outrageous" Baly's Park Place, Atlantic City; John Baldwin's Charming Chimps at "Hello Broadway" at the Brighton Hotel, Atlantic City; Villanueva & Nari, acrobatic duo and Crazy Monroe, Spanish rola-bola acrobat at El San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Senor Wences, internationally acclaimed ventriloquist at the Condado Holiday Inn, Puerto Rico.

following the other in for a 10 day run.

Visitors in Mexico City can usually find the location of local circus engagements by checking the paper "Espo" in which almost all of the circuses advertise.

PEOPLE

BONES CRAIG and his elephants were playing at St. Helens, Ore., last June when Mount St. Helens blew her major volcanic eruption which caused wide-spread damage.

THE KLEMENTIS, bicycle act, worked Xmas dates in the Virgin Islands in late December. They are featured regularly in the show "Bedazzle" at Harrah's at South Lake Tahoe.

CIRCUS

... OF THE STARS

The 1980 edition of TV's "Circus of the Stars" was presented on Dec. 14th and featured the following film personalities.

RINGMASTERS - Lloyd Bridges, Rock Hudson, Angela Lansbury and Valerie Perrine.

PERFORMING ARTISTS - Marty Allen, Gil

Animals Available

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Gerard, Scott Baio, Barbi Benton, Christine Gordon, Marjoe Gortner, Linda Gray, Richard Hatch, Jayne Kennedy, Ted Lange, Mary McDonough, Michele Lee, Eddie Mekka, David Nelson, Randi Oakes, Dana Plato, Susan Richardson, Joan Rivers, Wayne Rogers, Bob Seagren, Connie Sellecca and Brooke Shields.

REPORT**NEWS FROM GIBSONTON**

BILLY RODGERS facilities escaped serious damage after a fire was spotted by **BONNIE BONTA** who lives just back of Billy's place. A workman started a trash fire, then wandered off and winds fanned the flames onto the home and shop. Only minor damage was caused to the building.

GEE GEE was so excited about moving to her own place that she left in a hurry and as a result forgot to make arrangements with the phone company to install a phone at the new place. So, she had to run back to Billy Rodgers to make her phone calls.

BILL and **CINDY MORRIS** left the Windland's winterquarters for a two day date at **BURT REYNOLD'S** Ranch in Florida with their elephant Jewel, for elephant rides at the ranch for the Sheriff's Boys Ranch Christmas Party.

JIM PARKER claims he has left the road and has moved his mobile home from Key West to the Windland Winterquarters in Gibsonton

SPECIAL**SPECIAL FEATURES . . .**

Two unusual and special numbers are expected to be featured with the Ringling-Barnum Circus Red Unit this season. Both, it is assumed, will be presented as solo numbers for full attention by the audience.

Aerialist **Dolly Jacobs** will offer a new finish trick to her amazing Roman ring act. She will be making a somersault from the rings to a web rope, a distance of about 20 feet.

Nadji Romaniuk will present her novelty act of hula hoop routines, which will surely astonish audiences. She does things with these hula hoops that seem utterly impossible.

PEOPLE

CAROL BUCKLEY and "Baby Tarra" the roller skating elephant were featured in the National Geographic World Magazine for Nov. 1980.