



9th Year

January 14, 1980

Number 2

Charges Filed

The State of Connecticut has filed charges against the Connecticut Conference of Police (CCP) and Shay Productions, of New Jersey, for violations of the state's Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act. State Attorney General David Ormstedt says that CCP failed to register as a charitable organization and that Shay Productions failed to register as a professional solicitor. It has also been charged that the organizations failed to explain which needy children's group would benefit from their solicitations.

The two organizations have also been charged with violating the Unfair Trade Practices Act by misrepresenting their affiliations with and endorsements from the International Brotherhood of Police Officers. Locals in four cities were named in the complaint.

Both organizations were to produce a "Christmas Fantasy 79" show for the benefit of needy children. Tickets were sold on the telephone approximately four to six weeks before the show was to appear.

At the Central Connecticut State Col-

lege in New Britain, site of one show performance, some 75 ticket holders arrived for a show that never materialized. They waited there until a security guard explained that no one had even rented the hall.

A spokeswoman for the Howard Johnson Conference Center in Windsor Locks, said about 20 people came out for the program there. The show, she added, included animal acts, jugglers, a trampoline act, acrobats, clowns, singers and a tight-

(Continued on Page 25)

Joseph C. Reisinger

ATTORNEY AT LAW

Entertainment Law — Civil Trials — Immigration

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REPORT

RBBB BLUE UNIT OPENS

The all new 110th edition of the Ringling-Barnum Circus (Blue Unit) opened its 1980 season with a four day stand (Dec. 27-30) at Venice, Fla. Eight performances were presented.

Featured acts with this year's new show include: Ursula Bottcher, polar bears; Karoly Donnert, tiger riding a horse; The Richter Family, bareback riders; Grant-charovi, mid-air adagio; Axel Gautier, elephants; The Zoppe Family, aerialists; The Guerrero Family, high wire; Danuta, the Spider Woman; The Urias Troupe, motorcycles; Michon, the 33" tall midjet; The King Charles Troupe, unicyclists; The Flying Farias, The Flying Segre-ras; Teeterboard artists, Dimitrovi Troupe, Ivan-ovi Troupe and Donevi Troupe; The Yanchovi, aerial cradle; Perch Pole acts of Polania, Georg-ieus and Korin; bareback riding by Romanovi and Slavovi, and many other acts.

The show's special specs are: "An Odyssey Into Circus Space", "Circus World" and "Jamaican Calypso."

Miscellaneous

The Westgate Mall at Bethlehem, Pa., has filed a suit against the Beatty-Cole Circus to recover money the Mall says is owed them for advance ticket sales.

The Rajah Shrine Circus Committee at Allentown (Pa) reports their annual circus will be held at the Muhlenburg College on Feb. 29-Mar. 2.

Rumor has it that an all new circus will debut in Southern California this spring.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530 — Phone: 415-525-3332.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$15.00 per year. Over-seas via surface mail is \$20.00 per year.

AD RATES (first come basis): Minimum ad \$5; Quarter Page \$10; Half Page \$20; Full Page \$35.

Read the "BANDWAGON" the Journal of the Circus Historical Society.

For details about joining the CHS write: Edward L. Jones, Secretary/Treasurer 800 Richey Rd., Zanesville, Ohio 43701

CIRCUS QUIPS.....

.... by KARL J. BISCHOFF

ON SOME sub-zero mornings, like a lot of show people, we get spring fever . . . innerspring that is.

A GOOD SHOWMAN knows that people depend on his show and his show depends on people.

SOME SHOW PEOPLE get the JUNE BUG and loose it with JACK FROST.

SOME SHOW GIRLS may be shocked if you flirt with them, but they are sometimes disappointed if you don't.

FOR SOME office managers to err is human but when the eraser wears out before the pencil you might be overdoing it.

In Memoriam

TOMMY MORRISSEY (74), founder of the Har-ld Ronk Tent No. 128, in Little Rock, Ark., died on Dec. 4th. Tommy was a loyal and dedi-cated Circus Fan . He had been both a musician and composer and retired from the music busi-ness in Little Rock.

WE WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO HELPED US AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO GET BACK INTO THE BUSINESS

The Goodwin's Chimps finally made it to Showtime Follies on Dec. 3rd, just in time for its Florida dates. We closed in St. Pete on Dec. 9th.

We are now wintering in Gibsonton, along with Don Phillips & Co., Bonnie Bonta and Sharon Vidbel's Chimps.

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Show Dates

Hubert Castle Circus

Jan. 18-27 Grand Rapids, Mich.

Circus Vargas

Jan. 2 Merced, Calif.

4-8 Mesa, Ariz.

9-14 Phoenix

15-17 Yuma

18-20 Imperial, Calif.

Cole All Star TV Circus

Jan. 14 Herndon, Pa.

15 Shamokis

17 Allenwood

19 Milton

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Dec. 27-30 Venice, Fla.

Jan. 1-8 St. Petersburg

10-14 West Palm Beach

22-Feb. 4 Miami Beach

---- MAGIC ----

Blackstone Magic Show

to Feb. 3 Chicago, Ill.

Andre Kole Illusion Show

Jan. 17-19 Vancouver, BC

---- OTHER DATES ----

Harlem Globetrotters

Jan. 18 Stanford, Calif.

19-20 Oakland

The Rolling Diamonds - Roller Skaters

Jan. 19-27 Washington, DC

Sports Show

Jan. 19-27 Washington, DC

James E. Strates Shows

Jan. 18-27 Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Woody Herman Band

Jan. 20 Hayward, Calif.



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KICKING THE NEW YEAR off right was the engagement of CIRCUS ODYSSEY at the Soap Factory Disco in Manhattan with one gala circus performance New Year's Eve. Featured were DE MILLE, SATANI DEMON, MISTER SENSATION, THE ROLLING DIAMONDS, BURGER with dogs and chimps, and FRANK's tigers.

LEE MALONEY, playing Xmas dates in my area, called to fill me in on the latest happenings. Enroute north he caught RON BACON's show playing in Kentucky and reports the show was top notch and the most successful of all Ron's tours. Ron will tour a unit this spring from Mar. 12 thru Apr. 9. The unit, called "Magic Holiday Fantasy", featured DORIAN BLAKE, BILLY MARTIN, BONNIE BONTA, ROGER DuBOIS, the LANG FAMILY, and DAVE MILLER, organist.

THE HILL FAMILY with three Xmas units touring the east from Nov. into late Dec. racked up hefty grosses. On Bill's Unit were JOE and GEORGI SMILEY, DIANE WILSON and JIM JACKSON. Musicians BOB and KAY PARKER and CONNIE WELDE, were some of the talent with Allan's Unit. Allan, incidentally, purchased a \$175,000 Greyhound Bus which had been customized for a major recording star who didn't take delivery. The bus is 40 ft. in length and super-luxurious.

SNAPSHOTS: Joining TOMMY BENTLEY and CHUCK CLANCY as "weight-watchers" is LEE MALONEY who's already dropped 90 lbs. Lee returns to Hoxie (the tenter bows in late March) and almost had a heart attack when his new 31 ft. Airstream was backed into on the Hoxie lot on closing day. Damage was estimated at \$1,200 . . . The ARIA bear act bought a new Avion . . . Talked with BETTY ESCALANTE recently, she's L.A.'s hostess with the mostess - and she says that she and Phil are fine. . . The Royal Hanneford Circus bows this month. . . Off and running already is Circus Vargas. . . Plus Ringling . . . and Castle bows in Flint. . . Like great bears the circuses, one by one emerge from hibernation. . . GREAT MANZINI appeared on the Guinness Records TV Show with a suspended strait jacket escape, breaking all existing records. . . AUSTIN MILES has released a number of circus background true-life stores to a variety of Religious periodicals. The Circus ring-master, also an ordained minister, contrives to keep one foot in both worlds. . . Word is that Hox-

ie will not carry a wild animal act. . . LEE MALONEY will have a three piece band. . . WALT STIMAX will not clown but will be property-super. He and MILLIE will present their chimp act and have the floss joint on the midway. . . JOE and ELIZABETH BAUER and family returned from Monte Carlo and other European haunts Dec. 12. . . EGON KLEMENTI hopes to return to their marvelous bike act sometime this month. Released from the hospital on Thanksgiving and hobbling about on crutches he nevertheless managed to attend SAMMY DAVIS' Jr. gala birthday bash . . . NITA and BONNIE BALE will troupe as a duo on Beatty-Cole. They recently took delivery on a horse trailer (to be pulled by a pickup) and will only carry three horses. Bonnie, of course, will be featured with her splendid cloud swing. Meanwhile Gloria will remain in Florida and I don't know what Trevor's plans are other than to report that he is hale and hearty and sun-tanned and energetic and we are tickled pink to hear it! . . . JACK and KAYLETTA report a very profitable 1979 season with the Thomas Shows. . . CHUCK MELTZER is now living in New Smyrna Beach (Fla) where he and JIM WATSON bought a home. . . HINES RUCKER will not have that knee operation after all, has been taking therapy and feels great. In two years time he may undergo a highly specialized new treatment which will be unavailable until then. . . VERN WOERNER suffered severe arm burns when he was burning trash and a paint can exploded. . . Midget clown JUNE DEWSBURY, confined permanently to a wheel chair (and taking this confinement with her customary healthy sense of humor) sends greetings to her many show biz cronies and is appreciative of the beaucoup cards and letters and phone calls received. . . HERTA and JOHN CUNEO back after a Christmas vacation in Hawaii. Recent guests at their home included CARLOS FARFAN and JIMMY HALL.

ONE OF the more interesting TV programs seen of late was the DAVID SUSSKIND Sunday Night Show featuring a coeterie of old-time burlesque queens - GEORGIA SOUTHERN, ZORITA (who undulated with boa constrictors) and pin-up girl SHERRY BRITTON (studying now to be a lawyer). The air turned quite purple at times and some of the dialogue was definitely X-rated but

(Continued on Page 24)

NICK ROBERTS

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REPORT

CIRCUS MARANTHA

Circus Marantha, which means "the Lord is coming" in Greek, played a series of dates in Florida during November and December and has additional dates planned for this month.

The show is produced by Tino Wallenda Zoppe and is a blend of religious teachings and circus performances. The program includes about 20 people who present a variety of show acts.

The circus troupe has appeared on the PTL Club and 700 Club television religious shows. They have also been featured in a cover story in the Christian Life magazine.

Last November, Zoppe walked a high wire across a ship at Kuwait. The passenger vessel has been converted into a hotel and is operated by the Marriott Hotel chain.

PEOPLE

JOSEPH "Robby" SZOCZY, retired circus performer, who with his wife PAULINE, had an acrobatic balancing act, is now the manager of Palms Memorial Park in Sarasota.

HELEN WALLEDA reportedly spent the holidays in Mexico City where members of her family were performing with Circus Atayde.

STASIA KELLY, daughter of the late famed-circus clown EMMETT KELLY, Sr., is writing an autobiography about her famous father. She is a broadcaster working for station WOSA-AM in Florida.



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Miscellaneous

The Cabaret Room at the Show Folks of Sarasota Clubhouse was dedicated to the late Karl Walenda on Nov. 17th.

The Town and Country Plaza, with shopping center and condominiums, now covers what was at one time the estate of horse trainer WILLIAM HEYER, at Sarasota.

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Introducing

MICHELLE MARIE was born to Tom and Robin Bishop on Dec. 1st, and weighed in at 8 lbs. 5½ ozs. and measured 20½ inches long. The Bishops perform a cradle act as the McKay Duo and most recently have been assisting the Great All American Youth Circus constructing equipment and training.

SHANNA MARIE was born to Kathi and Darrell Medley on Dec. 16th and weighed in at 7 lbs. 13½ oz. Darrell, who began his circus work with the Great All American Youth Circus in Redlands, Calif., is now head trainer for the Peru (Ind) Circus City Festival. Kathi, a long-time performer from the Peru show, met her husband while performing in Circus Fantastic at Marriott's Great America in Santa Clara, Calif.

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REPORT

The following excerpts have been taken from the Mattel, Inc., report to stockholders for the nine month period ending Nov. 3, 1979. To fully understand the Mattel financial picture one should read the full report.

"... Further, current year's results were adversely affected by several factors not expected to recur. Included in the current nine months results are losses approximating \$5,300,000 from Metaframe Corporation which resulted from Mattel's earlier decision to terminate its operations in the pet products industry. In addition, the current nine months includes planned costs related to the expansion of the Entertainment group by the acquisition of the Ice Shows in March, 1979 plus the losses resulting from the introduction of the one-ring International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo, which did not meet expectations. The combined Ice Shows and Monte Carlo Circus operations contributed approximately \$12,000,000 to the increase in sales, but reduced income before taxes by approximately \$3,300,000."

"... The Monte Carlo Circus is currently enroute to Australia where it will perform in 1980 under a fixed contract assuring a profitable operation for that unit in the next fiscal year. The Ice Shows, which are not yet profitable, continue however to perform above expectations."

"... In March 1979, the Company acquired substantially all of the business and assets of Shipstads & Johnson Ice Follies, Inc. and Holiday On Ice, Inc. ("Ice Shows") for approximately \$12,000,000 cash and the assumption of certain obligations. This transaction has been accounted for by the purchase method. Approximately \$7,700,000 of the purchase price has been allocated to cost in excess of net assets acquired which is being amortized on a straight-line basis over 40 years. The results of operations of these businesses since the date of acquisition are not material to the Company's consolidated results of operations."

"... Selling and administrative expenses increased \$48,764,000 or 47% over the comparative fiscal 1979 period. Approximately 55% of the increase resulted from the acquisition of Western. Approximately 24% was due to increased marketing expense and the remainder of the increase was due principally to the higher salaries, research and development, and administrative expenses required to support the Company's expanded electronic games, international operations and Ice Shows."

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Miscellaneous

San Francisco's Fine Arts Museum Downtown Center is featuring a display of magic equipment and posters. The exhibit is open daily thru Feb. 22nd.

The City Historical Museum (formerly known as the Emmett Kelly Museum) at Sedan, Kans., has been closed due to the World situation, a lack of tourists and the gas shortage.

"... The Entertainment group sales were higher than the prior year by 57% because of the addition of the Ice Shows and increased attendance levels (18%) and increased average visitor spending at the Circus Theme Park."

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SPECIAL

BILLY BARTON will revive his Prince Najvez Aztec Spectacular production for a 12 week engagement (with an option of two additional weeks) in London for David Smart's new circus which will be presented under a big top at Battersea Park, an area well within the city limits of London.

The contract, arranged personally by Joe Bauer of the Bauer-Hall Agency, during his recent European jaunt, provides for the circus to furnish the aerialist with living quarters and a quartette of girls for the opening presentation of his act.

The engagement begins on either the 15th or 20th of June and Barton will fly to England a week in advance of the opening for production rehearsals.

Joe Bauer reports that his recent European trip has resulted in tripling the amount of American talent the agency will be sending to Europe in 1980, making that agency the United States' foremost exporters of domestic talent.

Mr. Barton will follow his British engagement with other European bookings not yet decided upon. All such engagements will be handled exclusively by the Bauer-Hall Agency.

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Potpourri

... by MIKE NAUGHTON

PHIL and **LINDA CHANDLER** working East Coast Christmas shows played two dates for Mike Naughton in upstate New York.

DORIAN BLAKE and **JANICE**, illusions and magic, are getting ready for their second year with Jimmy Cole's All Star Circus.

Organist **JESSIE GRIFFITHS** playing sports shows in early spring.

JOE SHERMAN to Chicago for Tommy Hanford.

MIKE NAUGHTON to Albany and Syracuse for Bill Kay.

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PEOPLE

THE KING CHARLES TROUPE of unicyclists, were featured in a special photo report in the Sarasota (Fla) Herald-Tribune on Dec. 21st.

JIMMY COLE, whose winter show is now out on tour, reports this is his 42nd year with the indoor circus and his 63rd year in show biz.

PEG and DICK HEMPHILL are looking for material for their "Show & Tell" exhibit about the circus which is displayed at churches, senior centers and other such locations. Anyone wishing to contribute items may contact them at: 2317 Linden Drive, Hagerstown, Md. 21740.

ROGER G. MOORE has been named Marketing Director and Promotional Director for the Carden-Johnson Circus.

ROY HUSTON, illusionist, is currently at the WARD HALL winterquarters in Gibsonton, Fla.

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THE RUWILLS, balancing act and plate spinning number, will be touring with the Showtime Follies this year.

ADEN LOWRY is recovering at home after a long hospital stay. He would welcome mail and you can write him at: 206 North Douglas, Sedan, Kansas - 67361.

THE VOLANTES, unicycle act, was featured on the MERV GRIFFIN TV show on Jan. 1st.

MERLE EVANS opened a special performance of the Beatty-Cole Circus at Sarasota late last year when he directed the Sarasota High School Sailor Circus Band in a pre-show concert.

DOUG MORRIS, of DeWayne Bros. Circus, is working as head stage technician at CBS-TV for such shows as "Mike Douglas", "3's Company" and "The Ropers".

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PEOPLE

SAM POWERS, retired rodeo performer, lives in Wichita, Kansas, where he builds toys for handicapped children.

LOUISE LaROCHE is the lady who presented the bird act at Busch Gardens in Virginia, during last year's summer season.

JODY BARAN, magician, is reportedly working west coast school dates for the National School Assembly organization.

RUDY FRITZ, contortionist worked at Bradenton, Fla. (Manatee County Central Library) with **JOHN YOUNG** who showed movies of contortionists while **JON NIELSEN's** contortionist paintings were displayed on Jan. 4th.

WAYNE RAGEN and his tigers recently taped a **DINAH SHORE** TV Talk Show in Las Vegas. He opened the show with the cat act.

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ANDRE KOLE, illusionist, starts his new tour at Vancouver, BC, with a three day engagement for Jan. 17-19. Watch for his route in CR.

KEN and **BETTY WILLER** played Christmas dates in the Los Angeles area.

By Crane



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PEOPLE

JESUS FUENTES, of Mexico, has reportedly purchased a five elephant act from the Carson & Barnes Circus.

ROD MCKENZIE, aerialist and circus producer, worked Christmas dates in the Chicago area.

MIKE CROWLEY, who managed the U. S. tour of two Russian circuses and produced the 1973 "Circus America", has been named vice president of administration for the Houston (Texas) Sports Association.

COUNT DESMOND, sword swallower, was featured in a three photo report released by Associated Press late last year.

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— SOME OPEN TIME IN 1980 —

VANCE JERNIGAN, horseman, who with his friend **CHARLES ROARK**, operated "Politics Bros. Circus" some years ago as part of an election campaign, is retired but still works malls with his "Surrey With the Fringe" ride. Roak is also retired, but manages to work some small shows in the Arkansas area.

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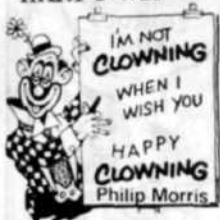
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REPORT**SANTA'S XMAS REVUE**

..... by Kaye Scheiman

The John Strong/Holloway produced Santa's Xmas Revue presented one show at 7 p.m. here in South Bend (Ind) on Dec. 12th.

Rolick Montbanc was the show's MC, while Lee Reynolds was the organist, with Michael Fleming on drums.

The program featured: Christmas Music as an opening, followed by the Clowns with "It's Time to Start the Show"; Lenny Mazel, juggler; The Clowns with "Funnel and 50c piece"; Mindy & Henry Crowell, trampoline; Clowns with "Long Distance Telephone"; Rolick Montbanc, fire eating; John and Darla Lohner, magic; Clowns with "Watch Repair"; Rolick and Roulette Montbanc, sword swallowing; Grinn & Barrett, comedy trapeze; Santa Claus.

Clowns on the show were: Bob Owens (Spiff), Rosa Douglass (Crissie), Phil Kavanaugh (Flip-po), and Chris Kennington (Shorts).

Collector Buys:

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PEOPLE

BOB WELZ, juggler, is currently being featured with the Marjorie Chase Ice Revue, playing at Durban, South Africa.

Rick Legg reports that his "Show-Time USA" will open its new season Jan. 30th at Ottawa, Ohio.

JERRY DIGNEY, former circus publicity man, has started work on a new lecture circuit offering "Kissed But Not Forgotten By A Herd of Circus Elephants." He is also working on a book about circus press agents.

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We would like to thank all those mentioned below and everyone we worked with this past season for making 1979 one of our best years.

Tibor Alexander
Gunnar Amandis
Floyd Bradbury
CFTO-TU "Circus"
Garden Bros. Circus
Ian M. Garden
Holiday Hippodrome

Bob and Lois Lorence
Martin & Downs Circus
Wayne Oler
Howard and Marc Schultz
Al and Shirley Stencil
WGN - TV "Bozo"
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AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO BILL
GARDEN FOR PART OF 1979 AND
ALL OF THE 1980 SEASON WITH
HOLIDAY HIPPODROME.

THE BEST TO ALL OF YOU

.....DANNY and RANDA CAREY

P.S. Hello Hines Rucker and Jimmie Cole

HOTLINE

B. H. "Whitey" Black has just purchased the Kelly Bros. Circus, of Tulsa, Okla. More details later.

SPECIAL

Circuses playing in the San Francisco Bay Area during 1979 included: Lani's Mini Circus, the American Continental Circus, Carden-Johnson Circus, Big John Strong Circus, Circus Vargas, Happytime Circus, Bentley Bros. Circus, Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, Europorama, Ringling-Barnum Red Unit and the annual PAL Circus

Magic shows appearing in the area during the past year were: Kramien the Magician, Holveck & Co., the Blackstone Magic Show, Chuck Jones, Paul Fiddler, Kim Dixon and the PCAM Convention.

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MAIL-BAG

... from PAUL HORSMAN

I would like to take exception to an article in the current issue, under Pastor's Column. I realize the article doesn't necessarily reflect your own ideas, and does have content of a circus nature. However, I feel compelled to comment on some of the statements in the article, and you can either print them or disregard them, whichever you prefer.

The Communion service presents the fact that Christ's flesh was broken and His blood shed to cover all the sins of all mankind. Only Christ's blood could do this, as He is God, and it was God's blood that was shed, not the blood of a mere man or human. Although Christ is all man, He is also God. Only God can forgive sins.

To equate any human with Christ is blasphemy, as it is bringing Christ down to a human level, when He is God. He is the sacrificial Lamb represented by the Passover Lamb. The first Communion service Christians celebrated was the last Passover, for the real Lamb of God was to be offered. To attribute redemptive powers to a human, or to infer that love redeems, is false, for only Christ, the Creator, can redeem.

Some time ago, the National Council of Churches had a film made, which portrayed Christ as a clown, but the film had no basis in Scripture. I have no argument with the statements in the article in reference to clowns, but those in reference to Christ have no Biblical basis.

MAIL-BAG

GUNTHER GEBEL-WILLIAMS, animal trainer with Ringling-Barnum, became a naturalized American citizen late last year in ceremonies at Tampa, Fla.

EDDIE ZACCHINI will produce the Feb. 6-17 Grandstand Show for the Florida State Fair.

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PEOPLE

DANNY CASTOLDI, LISA FLOYD, SCOTT FLOYD, SCOTT LAND, GREG MEDLEY and DAVE OLSON, all members of The Great All American Youth Circus, performed hand balancing and rode unicycles in the "Very Merry Christmas Parade" at Disneyland, Dec. 21-31. They were booked by Warren C. Wood & Associates.

JIM LITTLE TRIO, Christmas Medley, ROD JAMES and Basil, ventriloquist, BOB EMERICO Hi Fi the Clown, DON GEORGE & Co., Strings of Humor and the DON LES' New Harmonicats worked a Christmas program in the Portland (Ore) area late last month.

EVEL KНИЕVEL, daredevil motorcyclist, was a featured guest on the DICK CLARK TV Show "The Sensational, Shocking, Wonderful, Wacky 70's" (Jan. 4th).

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in the NEWS

NO HOME AVAILABLE - LIONS KILLED

Five performing lions, which circus owner Hoxie Tucker said had become "outlaws" and couldn't be controlled, were shot and killed at the Hoxie Bros. Circus winterquarters last month.

"I was afraid of them," Tucker said. "I convinced him (Cecere) that he was going to get killed. He was scared to death of them, too."

Tucker said he also couldn't afford the lions' food bill of \$350 a week.

Tucker says he has never had to kill lions before and that the whole thing upset him greatly. He even offered to pay the freight bill if someone would take them. "You can't give them away," he added.

African lions are very prolific in captivity. They are not considered an endangered species and there is no law prohibiting owners from killing them "as long as it's humanely done."

Tucker also blamed a new state law for his failure to find the lions a new home. As of August, the State of Florida no longer licenses individuals to own potentially dangerous exotic animals like lions, tigers, baboons and chimpanzees.

Notice

TO the Party or Parties that have been charging long distance phone calls to my phone.

You have just won an extended free vacation with room and board in beautiful Texarkana, Texas, for five glorious years. To receive the necessary details, charge another call to my phone, or contact Mrs. Buttorf, c/o Southern Bell, Miami, Fla. (305) 442-4477, or contact me:

JOHN LEWIS, Box 331302, Miami, Fla 33133

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

what memories were rekindled for those of us who worked in burlesque and virtually every novelty act worth the name did. . . I was one, and loved every bit of it!

BOOK NOTE: The test of a truly entertaining and successful book is one which remains in the reader's mind for months after the book has been read, which believe me, is not always true of highly promoted so-called "best sellers". (I can remember two such books - **BLOODLINE** and **THE HOLCROFT COVENANT** - which bored me to death and I left unread after a few chapters). Unfortunately some of the really well-written, well-plotted books never find their way onto the manipulated best-seller charts and are often overlooked or ignored by the critics (whose opinions don't always sell books anyway) Highly recommended as good reading in this column have been such dynamic books as **Raise The Titanic**, **Interview With A Vampire**, and the **Scarlett Inheritance**, to name only three. Well. . . add to the TOP of that list the memorable **THE SAVIOL** (in paperback) by Marlin and Mark Werlin. An unforgettable book, highly original, beautifully plotted that reads as though it were only 100 pages instead of the 476 pages it is. **DON'T MISS IT.**

IN DEPTHS: A night club near Toronto has been featuring aerial acts. Two to play there recently were the **GREAT JOSELITO** and the **BE-RANS**. . . The title of the arena spectacle to be produced at **GREAT ADVENTURE** by Bauer-Hall is "Stars, Spangles, and Thrills." Show opens in late March and runs thru late Oct. Featured will be the **BAUERS**, and **DAVE McMILLAN** with his tigers. . .Globe galloping **FRANK CURRY**, in Europe since Sept., finally touched down in the USA before Xmas. . .The **FARRELL BRS.** are with Ringling. . .What's this I hear about **TONY SMAHA, Jr.** having "Technical zipper difficulties" during the Evansville Shrine Circus which created no amount of hubbub and which required emergency procedures? . . .**ED MIGLEY** has come up with a unique new circus format already signed, sealed and sanctioned for this coming Dec., when his all new **CIRCO ITALIA** preems in Providence - backed and sponsored by a Prominent Italian-American Group in Washington, DC. If the preem is successful this all-Italian production (well, not a 100% Italian because I am booked on it) will play cities with heavy Italian populations, including Boston and New York. Meanwhile Ed has set a lengthy schedule of colleges in the east and some fair dates for Circus Ody-

MAILBAG

. . . from **DOADY FORNASARI**

I'm writing in reference to the Dec. 10th issue of **Circus Report** - "Talent Set" section.

It states that Bauer-Hall Agency booked two Italian-American trampolines acts - The Cristianis and Fornasari Family.

Well, I am a Fornasari and I would appreciate an immediate retraction of that statement, as Bauer-Hall had nothing to do with it what-so-ever. Also you made no mention that we won the competition with a score of 97%.

Please, don't misunderstand, Bauer-Hall did book Cristianis, but we booked direct with Mr. Roberto Germainis.

sey. . . **HERTA CUNEO** had to dash out to capture her swans when the harsh Illinois winter set in for the duration of the season. The birds were not too thrilled with their frozen version of the Swan Lake and Herta sighs that poor Seigfred and Brunhilde were skating instead of swimming.

ANOTHER Myth shattered - **GYPSY ROSE LEE** did NOT write those two muder-mysteries with burlesque backgrounds (The G-String Murders/Mother Finds A Body). Those books were written by the clever and witty **CRAIG RICE**, a successful author in her own right. Miss Rice died in 1957 and we will never see her like again.

THE STREETS OF EL CERRITO: Imagine editor **DON MARCKS'** consternation when, in late November, he walked out his back door, down the steps, and turned to go through his back gate to the street, when a man with a drawn gun holstered "Freeze!" The moment the man shouted his warning police came running from all directions, also with drawn weapons. They paid no attention to our somewhat shaken editor, however, but proceeded to run through the yard towards the house next door.

As it turned out a young man and his girl accomplice held up a shoe store at the Plaza two blocks from Don's house, and escaped into the Oak Street area where the cops had quickly sealed off the entire block.

The denouement is that when the first cop called "Freeze" he had spotted the culprits hiding in the far corner of Don's backyard, under some shrubs, and Don, upon emerging from his house, had almost met them face-to-face!

The possible consequences are just too dire to think about!


SEE YOU down the load, luvs.

HAL HAVILAND Sez.....

WILL ROGERS, probably America's greatest performer-humorist, made a famous remark that's one of my favorites:

"My little jokes don't hurt nobody, but when Congress makes a joke, it's a law. And sometimes when they make a law, it's a joke."

So, with all due apologies, I sincerely hope my friends find it excuseable if right here I add a similar quip of my own because if Congress ever really tries to stop bureaucracy and cut the number of bureaucrats, they'll probably start another bureau with even more new bureaucrats to get rid of the old bureaucrats.

In Memoriam 

JOY ADAMSON (69), *conservationist and the author of "Born Free"*, was attacked and killed by a wild animal, probably a lion, near her home in Kenya (Africa). She had almost completed a rehabilitation project with leopards, which was similar to the work she did with lions.

CHARGES FILED (Continued)

rope walker.

Representatives from both groups were to have appeared in *Hartford Superior Court* to show cause why a court injunction ordering them to stop soliciting should be lifted. However, that hearing was postponed until Jan. 14th, and the injunction has been continued. The court also attached the show's bank account.

The court injunction was modified on Dec. 6th, to allow the groups to solicit for two additional show dates.

Both groups have told the Attorney General's office that letters were sent out to those who purchased show tickets, explaining that the performance at Bridgeport was cancelled.

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SPECIAL**"DOC" HENDERSON RETIRES**

After 38 years of traveling with the Ringling-Barnum Circus, doctor J. Y. Henderson, the circus vet has retired. The modern day "Dr. Doolittle" was the man responsible for the health of the circus' hundreds of rare and exotic animals.

Doc Henderson joined the circus in 1941, when he was recruited by John Ringling North with the help of a mutual friend. Now, at 72, he says he won't mind staying at home while the circus moves on without him. He's recovering from recent open heart surgery and "damn near every operation you can think of."

Henderson was taking an engineering course at Texas A & M when he was persuaded by the school's dean to enter veterinary medicine. After his graduation he started a practice in Shreveport, La., and gave that up to join the circus.

Horses were always Henderson's first love and he learned to ride almost as soon as he could walk on a ranch where he grew up in Texas.

Every animal has its own personality, he says, and they suffer from star status just the same as hu-

**NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW**

The annual New Year's Eve Show at the St. Petersburg, Fla., Coliseum was produced by Bill Kormpates.

Acts appearing on the show included: Ethel Jenner with her sword balance act and dog (Bridgett & Fifi); Pedro Morales, foot juggler; Al Medro and his dogs; The Bertinis, unicycles and Jo-Ann Jenner (Aerialetta), aerialist.

mans do. With the circus, he adds, the animals eat better than the average person and because of diet and medicine they live longer than if they were out in the wild.

"The main thing is to keep them healthy," Henderson said. "An animal is not much good to us, you know, when it is sick."

Henderson says he refrains from making personal attachments with the animals. "I don't want them to see me coming and know me," he added. "I try not to get too close with favors or pet them."

THANKS TO

Jimmy Silverlake and everyone on the Great American Circus for making it possible for me to win the coveted Otto Ringling Jump Rope Tying and Canvas Sewing Award.

The first time it has been awarded since 1956.

A special thanks to Texas Don Strong and Bad Lands Betty for their help and encouragement and to the many other friends who aided me in obtaining my "Otto".

Thanks also to the many little people on the Ape Show.

..... (M. T.) JOHNNIE MARSHALL



by

DON MARCKS

What with the Holidays and an unusual start for the New Year, there has been some copy and advertising that has not yet found its way into the pages of Circus Report.

This situation should be cleared up soon. We certainly appreciate everyone's patience and understanding and help in this matter.

One thing that is obviously going to be a problem in 1980 is the listing of show dates. Some show owners have already expressed their concern that show dates might be published in CR and they have indicated that they will not provide any such information.

As a result we're going to need your help to be sure that there are listings under the "Show Dates" column each week. Any help at all, will be appreciated, even just one date now and then.

Here's hoping that 1980 will be a good one for each and everyone of you!

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Miscellaneous

A musical called "P. T. Barnum" is expected to debut sometime late this year on New York's Broadway.

The clown team of Townsen & Yockers played December dates for Ed Lester, Gunnar Amandis and Tibor Alexander in the Northeast including Resorts International in Atlantic City. With clown Peter Hoff, they also produced 20 Christmas shows for hospitals in New York. On Jan. 19th, Townsen and Yockers and Peter Hoff will open in Flint, Mich., with the Hubert Castle Circus.

KELLY BROS. CIRCUS

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