



4th Year

December 15, 1975

Number 50

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

It's true, the Bugs Bunny Show, currently on tour in California, is a family entertainment program, for the small fry that is. However, it's a disappointment for those who have come to expect a full stage variety show program for the holiday season.

The show opened with Temple, the Magician, doing some good magic and illusions, with a novel opening bit. He has some comedy, works with kids from the audience and

'76 Plans

"People are going to say I have sold my show, but it's not true," says Howard Suesz, of Clyde Bros. Circus. "Don't call it a merger either, because that's not what we are doing."

However, Clyde Bros. Circus and the Carden-Johnson Circus will work together for promotional activities and bookings. This will provide stronger and bet-

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ends with a flash production of two giant flower trees, then leaves the audience waiting for more exciting things to come.

Alas, the latter part of the program, the Bugs Bunny Show, slows down to a walk as its MC urges the kids to shout and scream until the auditorium echoes with the noise. Someone has the idea the only way kids can be entertained is to keep 'em

(Continued on Page 7)



Holiday Show

The Stebbings Circus is an impressive show and one that audiences always enjoy. Their big top, now four years old, is still in mint condition.

On Thanksgiving Day, the show was set up on a grassy lot at Safety Harbor (Fla.) where they drew well. Larry French had Oscar Cristiani's elephants on the midway, offering rides for the towners.

The program included:

- John Stebbing - pony/chimps/elephant
- Karen Cristiani - iron jaw
- Princess Tiana - single trapeze
- Don and his spinning plates
- Gus, Ursula and Don - juggling
- Carl Linares - Poodles of Paris
- Gus - two European bears
- Forest Fought - organist

..... Hugo Marquardt

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SURPRISE... IT'S CHRISTMAS!

Well almost anyway. If you hurry there's a chance you can still get a Greeting in the big Christmas issue due on Dec. 22. Rush your order now, the deadline is Dec. 17th.

xmas party

Bentley's Christmas Chorus will serenade show folks wintering in Southern California over the Holiday Season. They plan to offer carols at circus folks' homes over a two week period.

Members of the group include: Tom Bentley, Harriet Wagner and Chuck Clancy.

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ADVERTISING Rates: Single Page \$2.50; Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00

Miscellaneous

The famous carved replica of John Robinson's Circus is available for lease from W. T. Dickey, Jr. of Beltsville, Md.

San Diego (Cal) officials are looking for the owner of a lion they found loose in La Mesa.

The current edition of the "Rapidan River Farm Digest" and "Professional Equine Publications" have a reprint of Frank Dean's article "They Need a Permit to Ride."

RBBB's Blue Unit opens at Venice (Fla.) for three days on Jan. 2-4. Ticket prices are \$3.50; \$5.00 and \$6.00.

CIRCUS VISITORS

Visitors seen at the Wallace & Rogers Circus, playing at Chino (Calif.) last month were: Robin and Tom Bishop, Warren C. Wood, Norm Van de Burgt, Darrell Medley, Rene Felty, Pam Feenstra, Jack Mester, Jane Felty, and the Dave Twomeys.

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NEW CFA TENT

Several guests and friends were on hand to assist local CFA members at Little Rock (Ark) in the raising of the CFA's newest tent - No. 128. On hand for the occasion, to present the group with it's tent charter, was CFA President Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick.

The new tent is named for Harold Ronk, the celebrated singing ringmaster of the RBBB Circus, who attended the ceremonies and told the gathered crowd about his circus experiences. He is currently with the show's Blue Unit, which is now in rehearsal.

The Shows

Circuses playing in the immediate New Orleans (La.) area this past year include: Sells & Gray, Polack Bros., Dixie Bros George-Matthews, Mid-America, John Strong, Diamond S Rodeo, Carson & Barnes, Beatty-Cole and the Shrine Circus.

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AND A

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CIRCUS SENTINEL

..... by BILLY BARTON

The rumor hitting Sarasota like a hurricane is that (A)-Howard Suesz has sold his show and that (B) he has not sold the show. On top of this we learn that Carden-Johnson have Milwaukee and Atlanta Shrine dates, both former Suesz majors. Do the pieces of the puzzle fit together - you figure it out for yourself!

PRINCE NAJVEZ, who taped the Mike Douglas Show from Miami Beach airs Jan. 5th, and TOMMY HANNEFORD who taped the second show with his riding act and mechanic, starring MIKE DOUGLAS airs Jan. 6th.

The current BIG TOP vogue sweeping the country must be more than just a passing fancy when POLACK BROS - a pioneer of the indoor shows - played three dates under canvas this year, one of which was Tampa for four days.

Are Wedding Bells to Chime for Mauricio Drouette's daughter, Juliana and a member of a famous aerial bar act?Empressario ART CONCELLO will take his show to Brazil...KATHY GOFORTH, star reporter for the Akron Beacon-Journal (Oct. 26) did a story on the GM Circus that covered an entire Sunday Supplement. The story was handled with wit, whimsey and style - one of the best I've read. Congratulations!

Musical Genius KEITH KILLINGER cannot rave enough about the youthful new group THE FERGES who do, in addition to a comedy trampoline, an updated version

of the classic WILLY, WEST & MCGINTY house building routine, without doubt ONE of the greatest comedy acts of ALL time.

JIMMY HERRINGTON will be the first circus to play the new Arena in Caracas, Venezuela. The run is for 25 days with a seven day option. Booked there are Edmondo Zacchini, The Ferges, Ron & Mitzie, John Herriott Family, Hoxie Tucker's elephants, Baron Julius Von Uhl, Guzman & Monique, Le Blocks, and a Victor Gaona flying act. The circus will feature multiple 3 ring displays, among them 3 rings of hair hangs, teeterboard, elephants.

One of the first marriages of the New Year will be the Mascitto-Bertini wedding, now planned for Jan. 5.....Animal man WALT KING returned from the Park Convention in Atlanta with a new trackless train for his own park.....HERBIE WEBER is now at his California home after playing Mexico City where he did 3 TV shows with his foot slide and a commercial with his wire act.

Evidently SID KELLNER has had second thoughts about the
(Continued on Page 9)

Lost - A Friend

....GLEN & ETHEL HENRY

A few times in our lifetime something touches us so deeply that it inspires much thought. We are speaking of the accident and untimely death of a good friend of some 30 years standing - Jimmy Troy, "The Comedy King of the Air," who fell from his trap-eze to his death on Dec. 1st. He was truly a comedy king and a great humanitarian.

In his private life and we had close personal relations, he was a 5 foot giant of a man.

We never heard of him ever meeting a person that he didn't like or try to help.

He loved his fellow men and his audiences; had no bad habits - in that he didn't smoke or drink and excelled in taking care of his body - eating proper food and exercising. He came through two major falls to succumb to the third one.

He will be sadly missed in show business and we are sure if he had to go, this is the only way he would have wanted it to happen.

Jimmy, you may be gone, but you'll never be forgotten.

WANTED

Am trying to locate a copy of the book about Doc Henderson's experiences on the RBBB show.

Contact

HERBERT FRIERSON

Box 1425

Birmingham, Ala. - 35201

Family Plans

For the very first time the Pio Nock Family has separated into two groups, each to go on their individual ways. The family hopes to be reunited here in the states in about two years.

Pio Nock, his wife Alexandra, daughter Isabella, son-in-law Mario Cort and grandson, Sasha Cort, loaded their trucks and trailer aboard a ship at Jersey City (N.J.) on Dec. 5th and then the next day at New York boarded an Icelandic Airliner for Europe. They'll meet the ship upon its arrival at Amsterdam.

Pio and the family will be in Paris for three days of TV work, then go to the Circus Festival in Monaco for two weeks, then to Vienna for three weeks, followed by a two year tour with Circus Knie.

Pio Nock, Jr., his wife Cathy and daughter, Allerandra, and brother Tony Nock, plan to tour with a large indoor circus during 1976. They will present a dog act, sway pole, tripe trap and high wire numbers.

HOLIDAY Shows

A variety of acts have been signed to appear at a new facility in Burlingame, Calif., for the Holiday Season. Booked for appearances at the "Avenue Arcade" from Nov. 28 to Dec. 23 are:

Ken Karter & Rocky, Sweet Fire, Thomas Nahwold, Jim Rinehart, Franeli, the Magician, Ben & Goldie, Happy, the Clown, Star, Dawn & Eve and The Campbells.

Xmas Show

The program featured on the Mid-America Christmas Circus on its Mid-western December tour featured:

Sparky, the clown - come-in
 Emil Hahns - organist
 Ramos - hand balancing
 Mel Silverlake - Jargo number
 Ramos - juggling
 Brownie Silverlake - monkey
 Mel Silverlake and Eddie Lutz -
 whip cracking
 Brownie Silverlake - magic
 The Anden Poodles
 -- Intermission --
 Ramos - foot juggling and risley
 Sparky - cane and hat number
 The Oscarians - Arab tumbling

PEOPLE

PAUL PUGH, of the Wenatchee Youth Circus, recently returned from Australia where he appeared as a guest on a TV show honoring Mervyn and Nikki Ashton.

FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT (Cont'd)

noisy, but that isn't the case at all.

All of the favorite Warner Bros. cartoon characters - Bugs Bunny, Roadrunner, Yosemite Sam, etc. - are included in the show. They have a few gimmicks and generally dance to recorded music, with some voice work, which all seems to please the kids.

The show runs about an hour and a half and by that time some folks are leaving and for those who've stayed the chairs have gotten pretty hard. If the show was tightened up and there was a little less noise it might improve things immensely.

'76 PLANS (Continued)

ter schedules for both shows in 1976.

"It's important," says Suesz, "that everyone know the two shows will continue to tour as in the past. They'll operate as independent organizations and under their own management."

The plan, he added "will make both shows bigger and better with stronger promotions. This will result in better business for the show and sponsors."

FRANK DEAN, western performer, has copyrighted his latest western song "Mr. Cowboy Meets Miss Fortune."

GENE and DORIS McDONALD are on a freighter voyage to Hong-kong over the holidays.



Betty Acevedo is shown above with the twin elephants "Moe" and "Joe" with the Arthur Bros. Circus of 1945.

ROUTES

John Strong Circus - Red Unit
 Dec. 15 Colorado Spgrs, Colo
 16 Albuquerque, N.M.
 17 Off
 18 Phoenix, Ariz.
 19 San Bernardino, Cal.
 20 Orange County

John Strong Circus - Western Un.
 Dec. 15 Oakland, Calif.

16 Salinas
 17 Santa Cruz
 18 San Jose
 19 San Bernardino
 20 Orange County

..... OTHER ROUTES

American Freedom Train
 Dec. 16-18 Fresno, Calif.
 20-28 Pomona

Bette Midler Show
 Dec. 21-22 Berkeley, Calif.

ROUTES

Belle Vue Circus

Dec 15-Jan 31 Manchester, Eng

Circus Vargas

Dec 18-23 Salinas, Calif.

Clownaround Show

Dec. 15 Broken Arrow, Okla

16 Sherman, Texas

17 Temple

18 Austin

19 San Antonio

20 Seguin

21 Victoria

-- End of Tour --

Paul Eagles Lunch Club Circus

Dec. 20 Pomona, Calif.

Hanneford Family Circus

Dec 17-Apr 20 Sarasota, Fla.

Pickle Family Circus

Dec. 20-21 San Francisco, Ca.

Soviet Circus

Dec 16-Jan 4 New York, N.Y.

Stebbins Royal European Circus

Dec 20-21 Bradenton, Fla.

-- End of the Season --

John Strong Circus - Blue Unit

Dec 15 Mississagua, Ont.

16 Hamilton

17 Cambridge

18 Windsor

19 Toledo, Ohio

20 South Bend, Ind.

21 Gary

Wallace & Rogers Circus

Dec 20-Jan 4 Laguna Hills, Ca.

Circus Sentinel (Cont'd)

unpredictable spring weather in the east. He will open his season between the 1st and 10th of April.....Have the HERNANDEZ TROUPE abandoned the idea of a riding act? Apparently. Reliable sources tell me they are selling their horses.....The TOM MIX film is not the only one on the Hollywood agenda. Two more are in the offing.

PRINCE NAJVEZ opens at the Onstage Night Club in New York area for 4 weeks on Dec. 19.... HOXIE TUCKER's elephants play dates for TOMMY HANNEFORD when WALT KING leaves to fulfill previous commitments.

Sherlock FROG (our famous Kool Kat) is now a darn cold one! He's up north investigating snow drifts while Mommy and Poppy Stewart (The Commancheros) work to keep him in tuna fish and milk.....BILL RODGERS Tropical Bird Fantasy is also in the northern climes.....EASTWOOD FAMILY and WALLY & CHERYL making Xmas parades in Georgia.

Long distance phone calls inform yours truly that the night club he invested in (and lots to the tune of thousands of dollars) is going bankrupt. It is alleged that the book-keeper absconded with all the money. That will teach me to stay in my own field, won't it?

See you down the road, luvs

Interview --- Circus V.I.P. ...BILLY BARTON

HOXIE TUCKER came up the hard way - by blood, sweat and tears - mixed with the sort of iron determination that is often lacking in our present day generation of showmen. He's the Last of a Breed - truly an endangered species! Like many of his kind, his sense of humor is wry, his words blunt and to the point, his moves carefully thought out with an economy of action.

We are happy for this opportunity to report his future plans in his own words.

CR: Is it true that you're putting out a Grand Old Opry type show

HT: (Nodding) It's an idea I want to try. Opens North. August. Runs ten days.

CR: If the format's a success will you extend the operation at a later date?

HT: That's the idea.

CR: How large is the top?

HT: 160 round

CR: Similar to the current Hoxie top?

HT: Bigger.

CR: What are your plans for the Hoxie Show?

HT: Oh...It'll stay pretty much the same.

CR: We understand you're building Spec floats.

HT: (Nods) Well...I guess they're building them. They're SUPPOSED to be building them. But...depends on the gas if I haul 'em or not.

CR: Could you tell us which acts

you've engaged for 1976? Will John Herriott be back?

HT: I don't know. John Hall handles all that. He's away from the show just now - due to his mother's health. (IT IS OBVIOUS BY THE MANNER IN WHICH HIS INTEREST PERKS UP THAT HE IS VERY FOND OF AND CLOSE TO HIS MANAGER). John's like a son to me, been with me 11 years.

CR: No doubt you've heard that John Cuneo has leased a lion act to Ian Garden and that Junior will work the act. What are your views on this?

HT: No Comment.

CR: It's rumored you're giving up the Lewis show. Is that true?

HT: No...no... It'll go out as Hoxie's Great American with a new top - an 80 with a 50 middle... red top with blue & white walls.

CR: Then you're giving the show a complete face-lifting?

HOXIE NODS - ONCE.

CR: Will you manage the show?

(HOXIE'S FACE DARKENS. OBVIOUSLY THE MANAGEMENT SUBJECT OF THE LEWIS SHOW IS A TROUBLE SPOT. I DIDN'T

(Continued on Page 12)

Xmas Special

An entertaining stage show was produced again this year by the Haiman Agency of San Francisco for the Caterpillar Tractor Co.'s employee's Christmas Party. The show, held in Bancroft School, at San Leandro (Calif.) was presented to a big crowd on Dec. 7th.

Featured in the show were

Hi Fi and Jim Dandy - clowns
 Bill Weir - musical director
 Fernando Castaneda - lighting
 Phil Temple - magic/illusions
 Bob Baker - marionettes
 Sebastin's trained dogs
 Jim Dandy - unicycle/juggling
 Poojie Alstrand - Santa Claus
 Billy Grant - MC/magic

Xmas Acts

The annual Caterpillar Tractor Co.'s employees Christmas party, at Decatur, Ill., was held yesterday (Dec. 14) and featured a variety of circus performers.

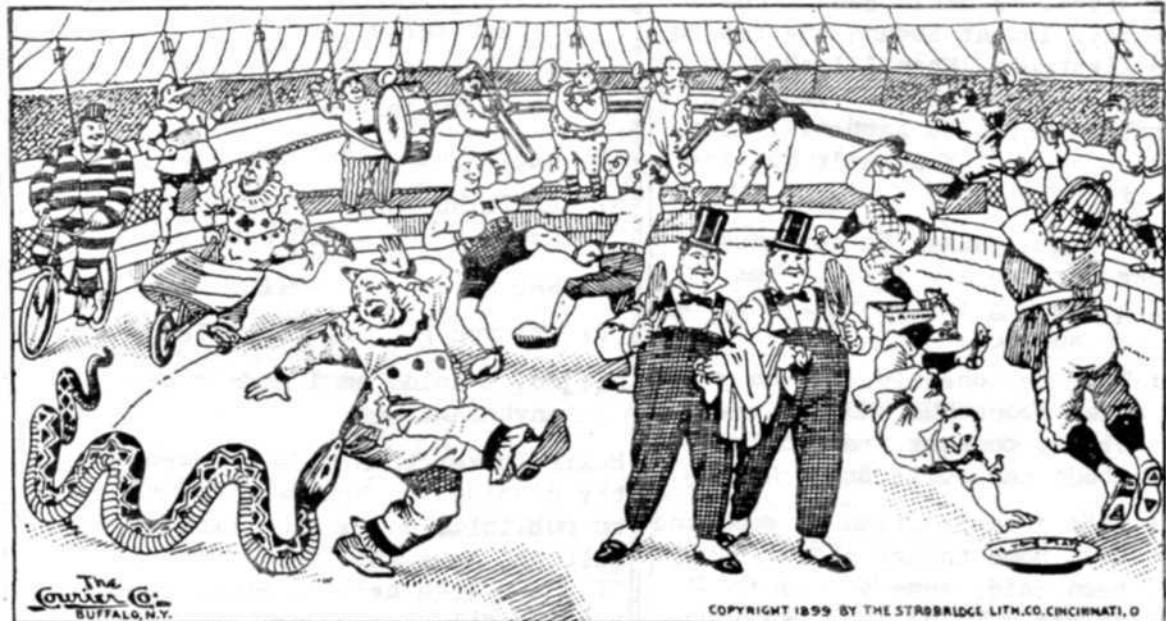
On the show were:

Otto Berosini Co. - balancing
 Miss Gallosso - single trapeze
 Lang Family - trampoline/juggle
 Jim & Janine Summers - magic
 Erv Lang - trained chimps

..... Allen Babcock

PEOPLE

DON COVINGTON, was recently promoted to the rank of Lt. Commander USN.



HOXIE INTERVIEW (Continued)

PRESS IT).

CR: However...you DO spend a lot of time on that show?

HT: Yes...but I have this heart condition, you know. (MY TURN TO NOD). Crowds bother me at night. Too much excitement. I get shook up...

CR: ..if you get over-involved?

HT: Right. Say! Are you writing all that down?

CR: Yes. Don't you want me to?

HT: Don't dwell on it.

I didn't realize, but - inexplicably - Hoxie began to loosen up at this point. He leaned forward. "I was in the Big Top. There was this bad storm. We could see it comin' all day. I went around the top to the Airstream. When I looked in everything went black. It was a terrible thing to happen. I'll never forget it! You can't imagine how it felt!

There was a pause. He sat back, looked at me, and I could see it all happening in my mind. I changed the subject.

CR: Tell me honestly, how do you feel about MUD SHOW (a new circus book by Fred Powledge about the Hoxie Bros. Circus).

HT: It's a combination of good and bad. Some things should have been said, some shouldn't. I didn't like all the bad language.

CR: I reviewed MUD SHOW and objected to the author's preoccupation with the fringe people, who are NOT circus people and whose opinions have no depth or validity within the framework of such a book.

HT: That's the bad part of it.

CR: I saw your show and was impressed. When I read the book I felt as if I was reading about some other show.

HT: They should have let me see it before it was published. Fred's a nice boy. Did a profile on me for PLAYBOY (April 1973). Nine pages. I liked that. He arranged TV commercials for my show in New York.

CR: A nice guy I'm sure he is ... still, I hope the book is NOT a best seller.

HT: I just got another hundred or so in my garage.

CR: Well, then...is it selling?

HT: (SMILING FOR THE FIRST TIME) I sold about 4,000 copies.

(IT WAS MY TURN TO SMILE)

CR: Are you getting royalties?

HT: No. I told 'em I didn't want anything.

Hoxie Tucker then made a newsworthy disclosure that he asked me not to publicize until such time as he felt the news should be released. "I don't like talking about anything until it happens," he said,

(Continued on Page 13)

PEOPLE

BOB YERKES produced a variety show at Phoenix, Ariz., on Dec. 13-14.

BILL PRUYN, bandleader is going to stay off the road and write music at his home.

THE FLYING VALENTINES and NAPOLEON ZAMPERLA's riding act will tour with Hamid-Morton for the 1976 season.

HUGO MARQUARDT, JACK JOYCE and TREVOR BALE were among those attending the recent RBBB Clown College graduation program.

HOXIE INTERVIEW (Continued)

standing up.

The interview was over. We shook hands, he touched his hat brim and left. Inasmuch as his hat brim was neither UP nor DOWN I couldn't gauge his mood, but of onething I was certain, here was a Gentleman Showman, one of the legends, a man whose name would be inscribed as one of the circus world's immortals.

IVAN HENRY has his chimps out on some mid-west Christmas dates.

BONNIE M. BALE and ERNST HERRMAN plan to be married on Dec. 23rd.

FOR SALE

MISC. CHOICE POSTERS - Great for Xmas Gifts!

- Circus agent's old synopsis report sheets, or
Circus advance booking mailout folders (your choice)
(each is priced at just) \$ 1.00
- 4 different flashy show letterheads (mint) each . . . \$ 1.50
(all four only \$5.00)
- ½ sheet old fashioned midway poster - shows girl in an
Uncle Sam costume \$ 4.00

LARGE POSTERS FOR HOBBY ROOM WALLS

- 2 sheet clown \$ 4.00
- 2 sheet agricultural fair (girl and horse) 1925-ish . \$ 6.00
- 3 sheet midway scene - just 3 of these - 1935-ish ea. \$ 7.50
- 6 sheet midway scene - Art Lewis, Eneydy Shows, etc ea \$10.00
- Old Baseball one sheets \$15.00

Order Now for Christmas Arrival

Art "Doc" Miller, Rte. 3 - Box 323-C, Starke, Fla. - 32091

PAL CIRCUS

The staff for the recent PAL Circus at the San Francisco Cow Palace (Nov. 22-23) included the following:

Simone Finner - USA National Circus producer and director
 Parley Baer - ringmaster
 Allison Bell - musical director
 Lee Noblitt - stage manager
 Chip Davies, Rick Brown, Glenn McAthberg, Dave John, Jeff Wagner, Glen Askey, Nick Bengor - Stage Crew
 Dave Harrington, Will Hutchins, Don Washburn, Danny Ashley, Billy Leland, Harry Ellis - circus clowns
 Fly-Hi Company - aerial rigging
 Terry Shepherd - technical dir.
 Golden Gate Costume Co. - costume design

Show Stars

Acts seen working at the Old Chicago Mall between Nov. 30 Dec. 7 included:

Mario Alberti, The Kellys, Antonucci Chimps, Cleo, Venio Venito, Arwoods Dosg, Arturo Segura, Saul Shafton, The Crazy Sailors, Mr. Bell, Loreli, The Burketts, Johnny Luxem, The Walters, Polack Bros. elephants, Stagg McMann, Coleman's Puppets and Tony & Chris.

NOTICE

All Bandwagon and Southern Sawdust magazines have been sold

PEOPLE

BOB PARKINSON recently visited the Don F. Smith Home, in Clinton, Mich. and was presented with some lithos and other items for the Circus World Museum. They also discussed donations of other Don Smith circus material.

JAMES M. PARKER, a Navy man serving aboard the Coral Sea, treated many RBBB people to a tour of the vessel when the show played the Los Angeles area.

MIKE HARTZELL, senior ringmaster at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, was the subject of a recent newspaper story feature.

CARLOS MARTIN (21) is the international tour director for the Spanish Boys Circus. He books dates and checks on last minute details before the show troupe arrives.

ADEN LOWRY was recently a guest on "The Cavalcade of Clowns" in Hollywood, Calif. He worked with ROBIN HARRIS and her Magic Piano.

DAVE TWOMEY will have his Happy's Fun Circus at Westlake (Calif.) through Jan. 4th.

TOM UPTON had a fire in his home while he was off visiting Circus Vargas on Dec. 7th. Damage was generally confined to his Hobby Room.

Acts Set

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, West Coast Theatrical agency specializing in circus and variety acts, for network TV appearances.

Scheduled to be seen across the nation in December are:

Lance Link Chimps, presented by Darrell Keener and Bonnie Sue Gordon, on the Merv Griffin TV Show; The Great Andre, assisted by The Madsen Bros. - A Standard French Poodle who performs magic tricks on the Merv Griffith TV Show; Barbara and Sylvester Braunn, knife-throwers on "Monster Mash"; Lance Link Chimps and Toni Madison's Poodles on the "David Steinberg Special."

YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. June 21, 1925
Sells Floto Circus

The Sells Floto Circus went through here at 11:30 a.m. jumping from Boston into New York where they'll play at Amsterdam.

At 12 noon a short train of extra supplies used at the Boston garden went through heading back to Peru, Ind.

All the cars were painted white with red trimming.

SHOW FOLKS

MAUDIE FLIPPER, a 5 year RBBB veteran clown, will not be with the Big One in 1976.

The FORNASARI FAMILY Italian Musical Clowns, are touring Mexico for 16 weeks. They've had no trace of their instruments which were stolen in New York.

GRAN PICASO, ping pong mouth juggler, is a real show stopper in Las Vegas.

FROSTY LITTLE will be back as Boss Clown for the RBBB Red Unit in '76, after subbing for MIKE GORMAN as Ass't Performance Director. Mike is now with Circus Vargas.

MIKE "Kosco" NAUGHTON has been named Performance Director and Clown Captain for the Pan American Circus dates in 1976.

PEGGY WILLIAMS and RICHARD "Beanstalk" MANN, RBBB clowns are planning a major magic illusion for next season. Peggy is recovering from a freak leg injury, suffered in Chicago.

ERNIE and CYNTHIA LANTERMAN, clowns, are now sporting a new camper with plenty of head room for heightful Ernie.

D. W. "Sparky" WASHBURN is heading East in February for the Pan American Circus opening.

..... Mike Naughton

