



9th Year

January 21, 1980

Number 3

Castle Bows for '80

(Special to The Circus Report from Ron Morris)

Word from Sarasota is that the Hubert Castle International Circus, which opened in Saginaw, Mich., Jan. 11th, for the Elf Khurafeh Shrine Temple, is the most refurbished major indoor show to debut in several years.

"Total outlay has been in excess of three-quarter million dollars," freely admits John 'Tarzan' Zerbini, Producer/General Manager, and now fifty percent co-owner with Hubert Castle, of the longest indoor tour outside of the Ringling organization.

Both Castle units wintered and rehearsed at Zerbini's four-acre wild animal compound on Packinghouse Road in Sarasota.

Zerbini says the Castle units will move on eight (seven are brand new) Kenworth tractor trailers. An all-new 40 foot, fifth wheel sleeper has been added to accommodate both showgirls and property personnel. Vehicles are painted white and sky blue.

Technical innovations for 1980 include 3, 40 ft. crane bars, weighing 600 lbs apiece. Built of square tubing by G & G Metals of

Venice, Tarzan anticipates these will eliminate extra guy lines and other obstructions and make for faster changes.

"Each bar carries five web girls," he notes, "plus two trapezes, one hand balancing trapeze and two cradles. A big advantage is that they can be spotted anywhere in the building and not just in a straight line." Bars are supported by 50 ft. aluminum

(Continued on Page 17)

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in the NEWS

LAST DIVING HORSES SOLD

The last of the famous Steel Pier diving horses were sold early this month after the pier's new owners, Resorts International, Inc., said it no longer had any use for them.

Stable owner Walter Hammell said "nobody wanted them. They were too old. Nobody could ride them."

The two horses "Gamal" and "Powder Face", each more than 20 years old, were the last of many horses that appeared in the "Water Circus" at the amusement pier.

"They weren't good for anything, only for diving," Hammell said. "That's all they knew. But there's no place for them to dive now."

The diving horses, with a young woman riding bareback, plunged from a 40 foot platform into a tank of water 12 feet deep. They dove up to six times a day, from morning until late at night in the busy summer seasons.

The diving horse became a symbol for the Steel

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Pier and for the resort area in Atlantic City, N.J. during the '20s, '30s and '40s.

Resorts International bought the 81 year old Steel Pier in Aug. 1978 for \$5.6 million and then closed it a month later. No one knows for sure what they plan to do with the old pier.

Hammell believes the two horses ended up as dog food. "The killers bought them. I know that," he said.

The diving horses were brought to the pier by George A. Hamid, Sr. after he had seen similar acts in the Mid-west in the mid-1920's.

Show Dates

Hubert Castle Circus
Jan. 19-27 Flint, Mich.

Circus Vargas
Jan. 21-24 San Diego, Calif.

Cole All Star TV Circus
Jan. 21 Lockhaven, Pa.
22 Muncy
23 Troy
24 Whitney Point, NY
25 Otego
26 Afton

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Jan. 22-Feb. 4 Miami Beach, Fla.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Jan. 24-27 Venice, Fla.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Jan. 22-23 Santa Barbara, Calif.
24 Bakersfield
25 Fresno
26 Merced
27 Palo Alto

---- MAGIC ----

Blackstone Magic Show
to Feb. 3 Chicago, Ill.

Andre Kole's World of Illusions
Jan. 22-23 Edmonton, Canada
24-25 Calgary
27 Moscow, Idaho

---- OTHER DATES ----

The Rolling Diamonds - Skating Act
Jan. 19-27 Washington, DC

James E. Strates Shows
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In Memoriam

INGE (Peterson) KLUGE (68) retired circus performer, died early this month at Sarasota, Fla. She toured with circuses throughout the world and came to the U.S. in 1949 to appear with the Ringling-Barnum Circus where she was featured in the center ring for three years. She also appeared with Polack Bros., Tom Packs and a variety of Shrine circuses.

Survivors include her husband Ray, with whom she worked a mixed group of animals.



MAE NOELL dropped a note in mid-December with information about her new book **THE HISTORY OF NOELL'S ARK GORILLA SHOW** which is a group effort. The introduction was penned by **CHAPPIE FOX**, author **EMILY HAHN** wrote a "first person" account, **MAE NOELL** herself worked on a section, and other parts were written by several newspaper journalists. An eminent artist designed the frontispiece.

EDDY and **JUL VENTURA** will tour with **Gatti** after they wind up their tour with **Royal Hanford** in March. They will then be with **American Continental** for the balance of the season.

AFTER editor **DON MARCKS'** confrontation with robbers last year he returned from shopping one day to discover the rear license plate had been stolen from his car. Guess what? He walked round to inspect the front and found they had stolen that one, too.

SNAPSHOTS: **GALLA SHAWN**, one of the world's best head-balancing trapeze stars, was in Florida in Dec. negotiating with **TOMMY HANNEFORD** for dates with his show this season. . . **GALLA** had been in Europe for years and years. . . **BILLY RODGERS** spent a number of weeks last year playing shopping centers with his bird act and running true to form, as he was enroute home to Florida, a drunken driver (with no insurance) rammed the back of **Billy's Airstream** - a ramming to the tune of \$5,900 bucks! In December his first batch of macaws were born. This in addition to baby cockatoos hatched last May on - of all days - **Mother's Day**. . . **GEE GEE** has been camping out at **Billy's place** (in more ways than one, says **Billy**) and is still looking for property in the **Gibtown** area. **Billy** reports that **ERIK ADAMS, Sr.**, is looking chipper since his prolonged bout last year with ill health. . . **STRUPI HANNEFORD** flew to **New York** in Dec., for a meeting with **ASCAP** to iron out any musical wrinkles for their new season. Her mother came over from Germany to spend Christmas with **Struppi** and her other daughter **ANNA**, also in Florida. . . **PAUL V. KAYE** is again taking a circus to **Japan**. . . **ELIANE SLONIN**, **Hanneford** showgirl, has recovered from her trapeze tumble and is back working. . . Those people who got Xmas cards from me had better frame them. It's the first time in at least seven years that I mailed any.

ON NOV. 11th, **CATHY FLETCHER** caught

her first triple in front of an audience at **Circus Circus** in **Reno**. **BILLY WOODS** was the catcher. On Nov. 20th, **Cathy** along with **LIZA HARTZELL**, **EVA DUNLEAVY**, and catcher **Woods** (calling themselves the **VOLARES**) went to England to represent the **USA** in the **Circus World Championships** competition on TV. While in **Great Britain** the troupe was scheduled to tape a circus Christmas special.

CLOSEUPS: The **ELKINS SISTERS** (with the old version of their act, not the new "Darnell" number) will play dates with **Hamid-Morton**. Also on the **Hamid-Morton** lineup are **CUNEO'S** animal attractions and **JIMMY HALL'S** bears. I'm told that **Jimmy** has a new 'skipping bear' in his act that is a scene stealer. . . The **HERRIOTT'S** as everyone must know by now, will be at **Baraboo** this summer. **JOHN** closes with **Atayde** in Feb. . **LAURA** gave birth to a baby boy Nov. 30th. His name is **Jason Nathaniel Caudill**. . . Ringmaster **JON FRIDAY** kicked off his season with **Castle** in **Flint**. . . **HEIDI** and **JIM GROGAN** dined with **SANDY** and **MICHELE DOBRITCH** during the **Las Vegas Convention**, then went to **Hawaii** for a vacation (flew also to **Maui**). In **Vegas** **Jim** and **Heidi** visited with **DIANA** and **JOHN HARTZELL**. **Diana** is in wardrobe at the **Tropicana** and **John** is a stagehand at the **MGM Grand**. . . The **GUTIS** spent Christmas with the **Grogans** in Florida. . . **RON KELROY** flew to **Australia** in late Dec., then on to **New Zealand**, **Japan** and **Africa** stopping finally in **Europe** before coming home. He and **DOROTHY WINN** will produce the **St. Louis Police Circus** again this year, also the **Rockford (Ill)** date. . . **BETTY ESCALANTE** flew to **Sarasota** over the **Holidays** to visit friends, stayed with **BOBBY JOHNSON**, went up to **Orlando** to see **BARBARA** and **BUCKLES WOODCOCK** and managed to visit with old friends from the **Cole** show days **WIN** and **MARION PARTELLO** who are on tour with the **JEAN STAPELTON** play. . . **CARMEN HALL** cancelled her **European** junket at the last minute. Too risky, She was fearful that her animals would be tied up and after working diligently 6 years to make the act the outstanding animal novelty it is refused to take the chance and I don't blame her. . . **AL ANTONUCCI** and **APRIL FOSSETT** were on the **West Coast** over **Thanksgiving** visiting **Al's** son who is a columnist for the **L.A. Examiner** . . .

(Continued on Page 20)

EARL TEGGE - "Mr. Circus"

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SPECIAL

JEWELL NEW, wild animal trainer featured at the Ringling-Barnum's Circus World, in Florida, coaxes 15 giant male lions to perform tricks that old circus hands had judged impossible for that species to master.

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where. These antics include an impressive hind-leg walk, and a spin around the ring on the back of New's bike, featuring the only cycle-riding cat in the center ring.

The lion extravaganza is a highlight of Circus World's daily live circus performance, making its return to the theme park after two years of traveling with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Born and raised in rural Tennessee, New's affection for animals stems from experience on his family's farm where he worked planting and picking cotton.

In his freshman year at the University of Tennessee, he hitch-hiked to Dallas and became a keeper at the Dallas Zoo. He was then employed at several jungle theme parks in Texas and was the wildlife director at one, where his duties included leash-breaking animals.

Was the novice trainer frightened during his first encounter with his new charges?

"No, I was more scared the first night I performed at Circus World and there were all those people out there looking at me. But everything worked, and it was the high point of my life."

New admits to having gotten generous advice and support from the Ringling Circus' wild animal expert, Charly Baumann, and he named a lion in honor of the tiger master.

New's Nubian lions, in their Circus World act, roll over, perform roaring sit-ups in unison, leap lightly from one pedestal to another, and embrace affectionately their trainer.

The big cats have been popular with American Audiences since the importation of the first lion into Boston in 1716. In those days, wild and exotic animals were exhibited in menageries which toured the Eastern seaboard. By the 1870's these small travelling shows were standard sources of entertainment from Maine to Alabama.

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REPORT

CIRCUS VARGAS by Bob Mc Call

Circus Vargas opened its 1980 season with a two week run in Arizona. The stands included Mesa, Phoenix and Yuma.

The show moved into Mesa, after a one-day stand in Merced, Calif. The 700 mile jump in two days saw six trucks disabled because of various breakdowns.

Because the truck carrying the show's small fork lifts was disabled, workmen had to manually unload the center poles and canvas, slowing down set-up operations considerably. But the familiar blue tent was up in time for the scheduled evening performance.

One of the two seat trucks failed to arrive in time for the first show. The available seats were set up on the front side with about 100 folding chairs placed along the backside. The ticket wagon did not appear until just about show time.

Several acts did not appear during the Arizona stand, but will join the show shortly after Circus Vargas moves into California.

Out in front, the show has a moon bounce, con-

cession wagon, restroom truck, ticket wagon and an animal display.

The program includes: Color book pitch; Opening Spec; The Knops, double perch; Osmani Sisters and Zunigas, juggling; Clowns; Circus Vargas samoyed dogs in rings one and three, with camels, ponies and llamas in the center ring; Miss Christina and Miss Rajeau, single trapeze; Liberty horses; Zultanas, high wire; Clowns; Venturas, Armand Duo, Kneisleys, cradle acts; Million Dollar Carlos Twins; Intermission with elephant rides and color book pitch; Flying Lar-Rays, flying trapeze; Wayne Regan, with six lions and three tigers; Clowns; Circus Vargas dressage horses, three rings and front track worked by the Rex Williams family; Miss Kathy, trick riding; Robert Hocum, cloud swing; Rolands, rola bola; Julian and Monique, aerial motorcycle; Elephants with Rex and Eva Williams.

Acts still to join the show include The Anastasinis and the Gonzalves, rola bola; Flying Espanas, flying trapeze; Henri Wagneur, horse presenter; Franconi Duo, double trapeze; Dione Paray, aerial and two rings of aerial ballet.

Ticket prices run from \$4.50 for grand stand seats on the ends to \$8.50 for box seats.

New in the backyard this year is a pie car. It did not make the early part of the Arizona run because of mechanical troubles on the jump from Merced.

Workmen who go into the ring this year are wearing dark blue jackets with a Circus Vargas emblem and animal handlers during the elephant number and helping with the elephant rides are wearing tan jackets.

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PEOPLE

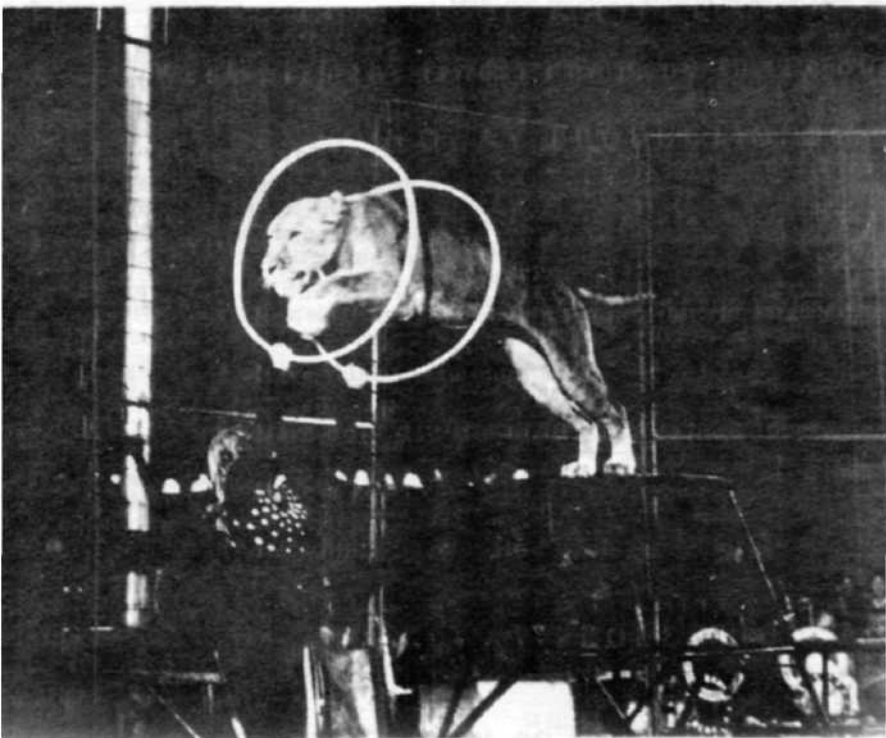
HAL HAVILAND and his animals will be with the Hamid-Morton Circus at Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 13-18.

BOB EMERICO, clown-magician, visited relatives in the San Francisco area recently and was also a guest at the Oakland (Calif.) Magic Circle's annual dinner and show on Jan. 11th.

GARY HOLVECK will return to "Showtime Folies" for the 1980 season where he will do magic and illusions, and also handle the show announcements.

DAVID HANSON has his show "The Best of Burlesque" at the Landmark Hotel in Las Vegas. Appearing in that show is the comedy team of **BOB** and **NIKKI KENNEY**.

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In Memoriam

MILLIE BOUTON (77), long-time Wardrobe Mistress on the old Blackstone Magic Show, died on Christmas Day at Centreville, Mich. She was married to Blackstone's brother, Pete Bouton, and trouped for 15 years, before retiring to Colon, Mich. She continued to work ice shows and other attractions playing southeast Michigan. She was the aunt of Harry Blackstone, Jr., whose program credits list her as "Advisor" for his currently - touring show.

PAT W. ROONEY III (70), retired showman, died Nov. 5th at New London, N.H. He made his first stage appearance at the age of 3, attended the Peekskill Military Academy and toured with his parents for 10 years, then with his father for 8 years. After serving in the Army during World War II, he worked nightclubs and theatres and appeared in several TV shows. He and his wife established "The Dog House" at Lake Blaisdell, N.H., and just completed his 32nd season. He was a member of AGVA and several other organizations. Burial was at Millwoods Cemetery in Sutton, N.H.

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PEOPLE

PHIL and FRANCINE, along with their elephant "Dondi" have been working at shopping centers and for some political rallies in Texas.

RICK LEGG, clown, will be working with JIMMY DOUGLASS this season in addition to taking out his own magic show. He has already set a Christmas date in Baltimore.

VICTOR GONZALES reportedly had his Vic Bros. Circus played dates in Texas late last year. He hopes to start a lengthy tour in the spring.

GEORGE "Slim" LEWIS and BUCKEY STEELE were recent visitors at the circus quarters in Hugo, Okla.

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HOTLINE

B. H. (Whitey) Black, who has been Concession Manager for the past two years with Hoxie Bros. Circus, recently purchased the Kelly Bros. Circus, and will tour the show this season.

The show will be completely overhauled and rebuilt. A new big top has been ordered and delivery will take place in March. The show's title is to be changed and that announcement will be made at a later date.

According to Black, the show will open in Florida and will play throughout the Eastern United States. Joe McMahon, who is General Agent for Hoxie Bros. Circus will book the new circus. Pati Antalek will be the show's Performance Director.

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REPORT

RBBB BLUE UNIT . . . by Llenray J. Yarnell

The 110th edition of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus (Blue Unit) is out and on the road. I saw the show at the Bayfront Center in St. Petersburg, Fla., where they filmed the Ringling TV Special, which will be aired Feb. 1st at 8:30 p.m.

The program is as follows: Opening Spec; Ursula Bottcher, polar bears (10); Danuta and The Yanchovi, aerial acts; The Cossack Riders, The Dimitrovi, The Ivanovi and The Donevi; Clowns; The Flying Farias and The Flying Segreras; the Clowns; The King Charles Troupe; The Richters, elephant act; High Perch, The Korin Troupe, The Polonia Troupe and The Georgiev Troupe; Charivari; Clown Charivari; The Grantcharovi, aerial act; The Main Spec - The Circus Galaxy featuring The Zoppes; Intermission; Karoly Donnert, tigers (6); Clowns; Karoly Donnert with two horseback riding tigers; Clowns; Bareback riding, The Richters, The Slavovi and The Romanovi; Clowns; Teeterboard, The Oblocki, The Kehaiovi and The Wozniak; Elephant Calypso featuring the Axel Gautier Family; Michu, as Superman; The Guerrero Troupe, high wire; The Globe of Death featuring Victor Urias and Douglas MacValley; the Finale Spec.

Acts

Several novelty acts have been booked by Simone Finner Enterprises, California theatrical agency specializing in variety acts for television appearances airing in February. They include: Charlie Charles & Co., comedy bicycle trio on "AGVA Variety Awards Special"; Senor Wences, international ventriloquist for RCA commercial; Rudy's Dogs, Wayne Ragen, wild animals and the Knops, Polish perch pole act, on "The Dinah Shore Show"; and Johnny Lon, Sweden's clown prince of magic, and Carlton & Co., magic illusions on "Like Magic" an HBO Special.

REVIEW

BLACKSTONE MAGIC SHOW

..... by DAN WALDRON

The Music Hall, Detroit, Mich. - Dec. 18-20.

It's always a pleasure to watch a performer grow in stature season by season. Current tour of Harry Blackstone, Jr., his second with a full evening production, reveals the show to have mellowed and matured over the past year. Pacing is better, mood pleasanter, magic sharper and overall tone assured and confident.

Blackstone himself comes across relaxed and friendly. Gone are the barbs which may have been needed to keep club-type audiences under control but which gave essentially family-oriented presentation a needless astringency a year ago. Now audience control is just as powerful, but delightful, entertaining and seemingly effortless. Handling of every situation is masterful - even when (as in one Detroit performance) two lads planted themselves onstage for the Boy-and-Rabbit trick instead of the requisite one.

Show vibrates with good humor, bright costuming, equipment and action. Smart-moving dance numbers accent its vitality. The cast is a pleasure to watch and Harry's voice surely is destined to become one of the legendary motifs of late 20th Century magic. It, too, seems showhow warmer, more expressive this season. There's a live orchestra led by veteran Milton Setzer, Savvy selection of contemporary tunes in rich, theatrical orchestrations, adds depth to production.

Show opens with Vanishing Birdcage done in traditional Blackstone style with kids from audience - a kind of prologue which quickly establishes his magical powers; then on to the big opening production number built around "Drum That Can't Be Beat" and colorful materialization of silks, flags, people, a donkey, and what seems to amount to the bare-hand production of an elephant. Cassedega Propaganda, Mysteries of the Orient (with new illusions), Boy & Rabbitt are also included in the first half, which closes with the neat Buzz Sawing a Woman in Half.

Second half opens with Garden of Flowers, staged anew (attractive dinner-dance setting), Blooming Bouquet, Floating Light Blub, Moorish Fantasies (again, new illusions), Rope Tie with Committee from Audience (a classic blackstone routine), and finally Circus of Mysteries which includes a number of illusions, and ends with "The Old Man With the Whiskers" as it used to be called on the old Blackstone, Sr.,

show. It's a switch finish that sends them out of the theatre shaking their heads and saying, "It can't be done!"

Among the standouts were The Dancing Hankerchief and The Floating Lightbulb, both flawlessly presented. The interplay between Blackstone and hankerchief; the smooth, bewitching - and gutsy - presentation of the lightbulb, caught the special mystery and beauty of magic in consummate way.

There's a good deal of Blackstone, Sr., in his son's show. No wonder. That show at its peak was the distillation of years of hard-won experience. You'd be crazy to throw it away. But with every performance the show becomes more and more Blackstone, Jr.'s own. The father's presence happily is taking on the character of an inner glow. It is apparent to those who knew the old show but is not essential to enjoyment of the present edition. To the hordes of youngsters who packed the house (and broke attendance records at the Music Hall in Detroit) "Blackstone" means this Blackstone - Blackstone, Jr. - only they will drop the "Jr." as Harry wisely did a year ago.

Last season's tour - over 130 cities in 36 weeks - was a considerable feat for a show on its first time out. It actually surpassed anything the elder Blackstone undertook in his prime - and he was no slouch at such things. This season will see fewer cities, longer runs in those played, but probably just as many total performances if not more. 1980 takes the show to Minneapolis, Chicago, Baltimore, Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Toronto to name a few, as well as a swing through the southern states in cities now being booked. Most exciting of all, perhaps, are plans for a run on Broadway. So look for Blackstone on the Great White Way this summer.

It is easy to become enthusiastic about this show. Here, for the first time in 25 years, is a full-scale, full-evening, full-time magic show, touring continuously, playing principal theatres in leading cities from coast-to-coast, on a hard ticket, no auspices basis, and doing it with style and class. The tremendous nut is apparent from just a glance at the list of staff, cast and crew. That such an undertaking can play successfully today is cause for rejoicing. That it also happens to be a first-rate show is cause for thanksgiving as well, for, God willing, it bodes a long life and a happy one.

Hal and Frances Fisher

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SPECIAL**MONTE CARLO CIRCUS FESTIVAL**

... by JAMES A. CONLEY

Having filmed the Monte Carlo Circus Festival for the past three years, I found the article about this year's winners very interesting. However, it has two small errors. The name of the hand-balancing act from Italy who won the Silver Clown is The Nicolodis, not Nicolo Distroup. While the Flying Oslers had a very fine act, they did not win a Silver Clown but rather, one of the lesser awards. The Kovatchevi Troupe from the Bulgarian State Circus with their teeterboard act won a Silver Clown but were not mentioned in the CR article.

The Festival of the Circus is four nights of shows consisting of approximately 40 of the outstanding circus acts from around the world who are competing for the awards. In previous years, there was very little duplication of acts on the first four nights; however, this year's program was marred by excessive duplication of acts. The fifth night is the Gala Show consisting of the acts to be awarded trophies.

The first night, Dec. 6, show in order of appearance: the Star Lords, acrobatic clowns from the Keith Anderson School of Circus in South Africa; the Grantcharovi Trio from Bulgaria composed of two adults and a small boy in acrobatics

from a single trapeze; the Pironkovi Troupe, also from Bulgaria, with a teeterboard act; the horses of Lucien and Phillipe Gruss from France; Alexix Brothers, one of 12 and the other of 14 years, in a hand balancing act on a high table; Christopher James from the U.S. with his low wire act which is more polished each time we see it; the Great Fattini from Germany with a sway pole built to look like a very tall lamp post; the Sallai from Hungary, a teeterboard act with the catcher working on top of a rolling globe; the Gherard Quaizer Elephants from East Germany with 3 elephants who walked rolling globes freehand from one side of the ring to the other; Intermission; Erich Leuzinger, Switzerland, with six tigers; Sorin Munteanu from Russia, juggling clubs, large and small balls, and boomerangs; the Pompoiff Family from Spain, three musical clowns, one of which looks and acts like Harpo Marx; and the Leonid Kostiuk Troupe, the perch act from the Moscow State Circus.

The second night's show was: the Star Lords; the exotic animals of Gherard Quaizer (East Germany) which included oxen, water buffalo, yaks, camels, mule/zebra, llama and monkey; the Sammaras (east Germany), tumbling and human pyramids; the Gruss Brothers (France) with 16 liberty horses; Take Watari from Circus Figure, Japan, hanging ladder with break-away finish; the Nicolodis (Italy), acrobatics on a table; Star Lords (So. Africa) with clever marionette and balloon breaking

WASHINGTON TUBBS II

routine; the Kovatchevi teeterboard act from Bulgaria; from the U. S. Jeanette and Elvin Bale with a new aluminum space wheel constructed to come apart so that it can be shipped by air. They were announced by Ringmaster Sergio as doing the "Wheel of Death"; Intermission; Dieter Farrell from Germany with his cat act; Duo Franconi, Mexico, scored unusually well with the audience; Kraml's five bears from Austria; Georges Carl, a comedian from the nightclubs of Paris whose antics adjusting the microphone for his harmonica playing and whose eccentric dancing were very pleasing to the predominately French audience; Gruss' dressage horses; and the Pironkovi (Bulgaria) with a Russian type swing act.

The run-down for the Dec. 8 show was: Star Lords; Duo Bucur (Rumania) with novel rigging that looked like a giant umbrella with one man suspended by a loop around his foot from a pole and iron jaw trapeze to partner; Barry Lappy from Great Britain, unicycle and juggling; Gruss horse dressage act; Troupe Constantin, from Rumania doing an unusual trampoline act, using a net as used in flying acts, for the trampoline; the Recktons (East Germany) with a bar act; Alejandro Ibarra, from Mexico, on the bounding rope; Leuzingers tigers again; Intermission; the Flying Oslers from South Africa doing the triple; Mimo Di Lello from Italy with a fascinating comedy car; Remo and Jenny, single trapeze; the Nicolodis (Italy) on their hands; the Farrell Brothers

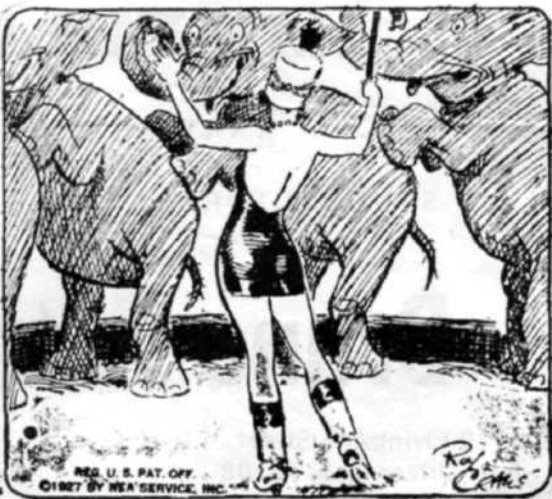
from the U.S. did a good job on the high wire; and the Quaiser elephants doing the same routine they did the first night.

On Dec. 9, Sunday, the show was a matinee: Star Lords, doing the same routines they had done on each of the previous nights; Gruss dressage with the act seen twice before; Take Watari, with the act seen on the second night; The Fudi team from Hungary, a terrific, very rapid juggling team-man and woman; Jeanette and Elvin Bale with the "Wheel of Death"; Dieter Farrell with the act seen the second night; Intermission; The Flying Espanas from Mexico, who experienced one of those unfortunate nights when things go wrong - they failed to catch the triple but the act shows a lot of class and polish; the Poppoff Family in the same act already viewed; the Kovatchevi in the act seen on the second night; and the Kostuik perch act seen on the first night.

The Fifth Gala Show was composed of the winners selected by the jury members: Prince Rainier III, John Ringling North, Michael York, Enis Togni (who supplies the tent, etc. for this festival), Madam Jacqueline Cartier, Madam Liana Orfei, Madam Irina Bougrimova, Albert Sordi and Rof Knie, Sr. Cary Grant was listed as a judge, but was not present.

The running order was as follows: Troupe Constantin, the Star Lords, Sorin Munteanu, Duo (Next Page Please)

By Crane



MONTE CARLO FESTIVAL (Continued)

Franconi, the Nicolodis, Jeanette and Elvin Bale, the Flying Oslers, Intermission, Dieter Farrell, the Farrell Brothers, high wire act, the horses of Lucien and Philippe Gruss, the Alexix Brothers, the Troupe Kovatchevi, Georges Carl, and the Leonid Kostuik perch act. Each of the acts in this Gala Show was awarded a prize, although only seven of the acts were awarded clowns.

All of the performances were ringmastered by Sergio who is one of the most effective in the circus world. It is particularly difficult to keep a one ring show moving with the set up and striking of acts when there is not another ring in which to perform. Apparently, it is considered a courtesy to competing acts not to set up or strike while another is performing. This puts a heavy demand on the ringmaster to keep the show moving. This Sergio does with a great deal of personality and ingenuity. He was the ringmaster on the Feld's Monte Carlo Spectacular in the United States.

The orchestra of Zygmunt Michalek from the State Circus of Poland played all five shows. While they are not as brassy as some American circus bands, they played on cue for a tremend-

in the NEWS**PRICE BOOST**

Eastman Kodak Co., one of the nation's largest manufacturers of printing plates and film supplies has announced an immediate price increase. The new higher prices are blamed on the soaring cost of silver and replace the prices which went into effect early this month.

Prices for printing plates and negative paper were increased 75%. Prices on other film material for the printing industry went up 50%.

ous variety of performers, a tremendous variety of musical styles, and added greatly to the overall effect of the shows. Music from motion pictures seemed to be popular with the acts, and the prologue each evening was heavy with Glenn Miller type music.

Among those attending from the United States were Carson & Barnes owner Dorey Miller and his wife, the Trevor Bales who saw their son win a Silver Clown, and the Joseph Bauers, scouting talent and checking on the European shows with which they have placed acts.

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... And a Fish in a Fir Tree

Christmas shopping got you down? Too much tinsel and ticky-tacky? The Chicago area's Brookfield Zoo has the answer: give your loved ones a Siberian tiger, or perhaps a rhinoceros. Under the scheme, the zoo has put up all 2,000 of its animals for "adoption," although they stay in the park. You can make someone a "Brookfield parent," or become one yourself, by donating money to help the hard-pressed zoo keep going. Prices vary. Parental rights, of a sort, to the Siberian tiger go for \$1,800 a year; the rhino costs \$2,000. Says Joyce Gardella, a Brookfield official: "Right away we were out of hairy-nosed wombats." Price per wombat: \$25.

The biggest fund-raising effort at Brookfield has been for Olga, a 19-year-old, one-ton Atlantic walrus, who likes to squirt water at visitors. Because she is so expensive to keep, Brookfield is letting anyone share Olga for a donation of \$15. So far the zoo has raised \$13,000, enough to feed Olga 55 lbs. of herring and mackerel a day throughout 1980. It also covers the expense of Olga's Christmas tree: a fir decorated with fish.

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This advertisement appeared in the San Francisco papers on March 11, 1911.

The Ringling photo on the reverse page was taken by Frank Dean in 1938.

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SPECIAL

NEWS FROM P. C. SOCAR, Jr.

..... by Lloyd E. Jones

The Souvenir Program detailing the naming of a Calcutta street in honor of the late P. C. Socar has been changed to the birthday of the late great magician, Feb. 23rd, Magician's Day in India.

Mail to P. C. Sorcar, Jr. should now be addressed to: Indrajal, Jadu-Samrat, P. C. Sorcar Street, Calcutta, 700 019 India.

His show has just finished a 3 month season in Hyderabad which brought record houses and sales. His Excellency the President of India, Dr. Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy with his family attended one performance and following it came back stage to praise the show and P. C. Sorcar, Jr., and said he was glad that Sorcar had not entered politics since rising to the top as he certainly would, many would go down. An honor indeed for the head of a nation to do such.

On Sept. 20th, Jayashree, Sorcar, Jr.'s wife, gave birth to a daughter and she has been named, Maneka. The name being given by Mrs. Indira Gandhi who has just returned to power in India.

SPECIAL

RARE GIR LIONS BORN

A pair of rare Gir lion cubs were born at the national zoo at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, early this month. The event was greeted with enthusiasm by wildlife experts who hope to preserve this rare species.

There are only about 250 Gir lions in the world and the Kuala Lumpur Zoo has seven of them, all bred from a pair presented to the zoo by the Indian government in 1962.

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CASTLE BOWS (Continued)

poles good for indoor as well as outdoor use.

Tarzan works his cat act (15 lions, 3 tigers) in a newly-constructed 40 foot cage of stainless steel cable which drops and folds into the ring curb. He figures to reduce cage teardown to "less than two minutes."

This year's edition offers a disco/space theme featuring twelve characters designed by Robert Weaver of Indianapolis and manufactured by Philip Morris. Costumes for the twelve web girls (and boys) are new, as well as the wardrobe for the five show-owned elephants presented by Gary Thomas. Wardrobe expenditure for all departments tops \$80,000.00.

Castle sports an impressive lighting assemblage with 20, 2,000 watt ground spots ("They can pinpoint a mirror ball up to 100 feet," claims Tarzan), twelve beacon lights for the space production, twelve 2,000 watt overhead clusters, and eight towers, each carrying 3,000 watts.

Equally ambitious is the all-electronic sound system devised by veteran bandmaster Clement Toca. Working with his son Greg (who also conducts the second unit) and wife Elizabeth, the trio features a synthesiser, electronic percussion, and a new B-200 Hammond organ. Peavy amplifiers have been added along with two 400 watt acoustic amps.

Toca has written an original score and orchestral tapes will be utilized "to give a complete dimension in sound," he says. He estimates the cost "at about \$60,000" and notes that sound equipment will be hauled in a special Wells Cargo trailer. Toca adds that, with local musicians, "the band averages about fifteen men throughout the season".

Completing the show's appearance are three 45 x

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50 ft. custom designed floor mats to cover the entire surface; a 300 ft. backdrop with a dark velvet curtained performance entrance; plus 1,200 ft. of matching light blue vinyl to cover the hockey dashboards.

New acquisitions for 1980 include a cannon act as well as a self-propelled Flying Saucer routine for Jacqueline Zerbini. Once raised to a working level a trapeze appears and Jackie performs her act. Another novel feature is a "disappearing" lion.

Key personnel are: Lucky Larabee, announcer; Sampson Timmerman, performance director; Gary Thomas, animal supt.; Gene Randall, with a four man clown alley; and Bob Dunham, business manager.

Although the burly 37 year old Tarzan (a workaholic if ever there was one) has known his share of critics through the years, few can doubt his enthusiasm.

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HAL HAVILAND Sez....

JOE PENNER, a famous comedian of bygone days, was a master of absurdity and so preposterous was his wit that audiences howled at such banter as: "Riddle - What do elephants have that no other animals have? Answer - Baby elephants"

A baby elephant, in those days, trained by Will H. Hill, was appearing in a circus show at Philadelphia's Mastbaum Theatre. And, this event coincided with the opening of a pioneer soft ice cream parlor in downtown Philly, near the City Hall, so long ago that soft ice cream was then a big novelty.

While Circus show clowns struggled on the Mastbaum stage for laughs, an outside publicity tie-in had been arranged whereby the baby elephant would participate in the official soft ice cream store opening with the Mayor from City Hall doing a ribbon cutting ceremony as newsreel cameramen recorded the event.

A good crowd was on hand and everything went according to schedule. Naturally, the baby elephant was rewarded with a huge helping of the new soft ice cream from a gigantic serving bowl. And, the little bull enjoyed it - until she was rudely cut off and hustled to return to the circus stage show. Having no cares about performance schedules and being pulled away hastily from the new taste treat, the baby threw a tantrum! She threw back her trunk and plastered and sprayed the mirrors, the windows, the cash register, the counters, furnishings, waitresses, onlookers, barely missing the Mayor.

The newsreel camera never stopped. The resultant national publicity was an unexpected windfall that spread the popularity of the new American summer favorite, soft ice cream, from coast to coast.

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In Memoriam

MRS. GWEN W. CARSEY, widow of the late circus band director Bee T. Carsey, died at San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 5th. She had been a performer appearing with Sells-Floto, Sparks and other shows, and at one time managed the concession dept. on the Polack Bros. Circus. A sister, Margaret J. Winks, survives.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

Understand Circus Vargas hired a European Horse trainer. . . The MARCANS wintered at the Gatti winter quarters near Palm Springs and they bough a lion cub from Marine World/Africa USA where RON and ROXANNE WHITFIELD have a lion and tiger act.

DOWN RUMOR ROAD: That DIETER WICHERT is the new trainer working for JOHN CUNEO with a second wild animal attraction. . . that DOC HENDERSON and LLOYD MORGAN are no longer with the Ringling organization.

NEW FILMS: The ROSE starring savage BETTE MIDLER. She is sensational. . . the movie is not my cup of tea but I endured it just to see a magnificent performance by a unique actress . . . and singer. . . and a highly individualistic personality, borrowing nothing from anyone. A complete original.!

TIT FOR TAT: ELFIE KLEMENTI severely sprained her ankle in the bike act and was invalided for four weeks. The act was dropped from the show meanwhile until both Egon (on crutches) and Elfie (on crutches) mended and could return to work. Helmut made use of the time off by flying to Boston to visit his girlfriend. Elfie says they hope to get through 1980 without any more accidents! I hope so, too, kids.

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weddings



GEORGE CARDEN and GINA MEDRO were married on Nov. 10th at Springfield, Mo. George is a manager with the Carden-Johnson Circus and the son of Betty and Larry Carden. Gina is a member of the performing Medro family and does a balancing act. The couple honeymooned in Las Vegas and now makes their home in Willard, Mo.

TOM "Popcorn" SINK and his partner ETCET-ERA the Clown, were married early this year. They worked Christmas dates in New Jersey and some Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus dates. The couple is now residing in Howell, NJ.

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CIRCUS QUIPS by **KARL J. BISCHOFF**

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PEOPLE

KATIE SEGER, RBBB Clown College graduate, who has been teaching clown classes in the San Francisco area, is now in England on a student exchange program. She expects to return to the U. S. late this year.

ANGELA WILNOW had her Collies will be at the Home Show in Albuquerque, N.M., the week of April 7th (booked by Amandis Entertainment), after which she jumps to the Shrine Circus in Indianapolis, Ind., for the week of April 21st, (a date booked by Howard Schultz Agency).

HAROLD HIATT, a computer expert, recently retired from the Valley News (Calif.) computer systems. He has been a lifelong circus enthusiast and is married to a former Ringling circus star.

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SPECIAL**SMITH GIVES TIGER SKIN TO MUSEUM**

Roger Smith, wild animal trainer and one-time cage boy for Clyde Beatty, has given the skin of a Beatty tiger to the planned Clyde Beatty Museum. The young female tiger died as a result of a truck wreck in 1964, Smith reported. She had been one of a litter of three born to Princess, the roll-over tigress, and Prince, a long-time Beatty performer.

Dale Price, former circus advance man who plans to open the Beatty Museum in the late trainer's hometown of Bainbridge, Ohio, in 1980, stated that the skin is in excellent condition and had been made into a rug with a full head mount while in Smith's possession.

Price plans to exhibit the skin with a chair used by Beatty that was donated by Dave Hoover.

"The amount of support we are getting for this project is most encouraging," Price said. "It's as if a number of Beatty-related items had been sitting around in trunks and scrapbooks just waiting for the right time to come out."

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Nov. 27-Dec. 23 - El Supergaucha; Paradise On Ice; Hotel Nugget, Sparks, Nevada

Dec. 27-28 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Washington, DC - Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians, The Dynamic DeMille, tightwire, Ken Sherburne, unicycle/juggler/globes, The Amazing Mr. Rhythm, dancing horse, Zippie, TV Chimp, Alfie Comedy Cockatoo and Macaws, Satani Demon, novelty fire act.

Dec. 29 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Vineland, NJ - Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians, The Dynamic DeMille, tightwire, Satani Demon, novelty fire act, Ken Sherburne, unicycle/juggler/globe, Crawford & Gloria, illusions.

Dec. 31 - New York City Disco - The Dynamic DeMille, tightwire, Satani Demon, novelty fire.

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AMERICAN LEGION CIRCUS...

.... by Kaye Scheiman

The annual American Legion Christmas Party at Delphi, Ind., was held on Dec. 20th, with a single performance presented at 7 p.m.

This performance was a joyous occasion for the Zoppe Family, as it marked the debut performance of seven months old Justino Zoppe doing a balance act as a portion of the Laddies Unsupported Ladder Act.

The program featured: Clowns, Johnny Zoppe and Chris Helt; Christmas Music by Gerry Scheiman; "Jolly" balancing act (Heinz and Linda Pichler); The Laddies, unsupported ladders (the Zoppes); Clowns with Apple Gag; Prof. Shappie, comedy piano (Heinz and Linda); Clowns with balancing the bottle; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghans (Susan Zoppe); Santa Claus.

Francis Sanders was the announcer; Gerry Scheiman handled the audio; and Wendell Sanders and Frank Loudermilk handled the electrical work.



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