

# THE CIRCUS REPORT



"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

STARTING OUR 8th YEAR  
THANKS TO ALL OF YOU

January 1, 1979

Number 1



AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

*Paul V. Kaye*

## HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

Contact

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## Acts

The following acts were seen working Christmas show dates last month:

Dec. 9 - Ft. Wayne, Ind. - The Gilberts, balancing; Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; Vic Hyde; Laddie's unsupported ladders; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue.

Dec. 10 - Cincinnati, Ohio - Susan Sheryll's Royal Afghan Champions; The Gilberts, balancing; Tom & Sherri, magic; Welde's Bears; The Laddies, unsupported ladders; The Gilberts, knock-about; Clown balloon gag; Dieter Tasso, juggling and Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkey Revue.

## Program

The program for the 15th annual Showfolks of Sarasota (Fla) Circus lists the following acts:

Introductions by John Herriott; Circus Overture; The Circus Parade of all performers; National Anthem with 4 girls in mid air; Kay Rosaire, lions; Peggy Mills and Carlotta Espana, trapeze; Clowns (Alfredo Landon, Danny Chapman, Balila, J. P. Theron); The Bertinis, bicycles; Lilliana, foot juggler; Gaylord and Chief Barepaw, educated horse; The Jordanas, Up-side down unicycle; Zerninis, comedy table act; Al's Lemonzine, comedy car; Lee Silverman, vocalist (a song honoring the late Karl Wallenda); Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire act with Olinka; the Brama Bull with a beautiful young lady; The Fornasaris, musical clowns; The Flying Espanas; Katinka's Poodles; Can Can aerial ballet with 14 girls on webs; The Clowns; Deno & Anita, low wire; The Great Bruno, sway pole; Polack Bros. elephants presented by John Stebbing; The Showfolks Circus Band.

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## IN MEMORIAM

CHILL WILLS (76) film actor, died at his Encino, Calif., home on Dec. 16th. He made some 300 films in a career that started in 1935. In addition to his movie work he was featured in two TV series "Frontier Circus" and "The Rounders." He also did the voice for Francis, the talking mule.

Listed under the heading of credits were: Produced by Showfolks of Sarasota; Director Choreographer, Jenny Wallenda Anderson; Assistant Director, Andy Anderson; Announcer and ringmaster, John Herriott; Lighting effects, Searl Simmons and Frank Perry; Prop Boss, Ludwig Maschino and Producing Clown, Alfredo Landon.

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# SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Jan. 2-7 Miami, Fla.

Circus America  
Jan. 4-7 Largo, Md.

Circus Vargas  
Jan. 5- San Diego, Calif.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Jan. 2-8 St. Petersburg, Fla

---- OTHER DATES ----

Blackstone Magic Show  
Jan. 5 Oneida, N.Y.  
6 University Park, Pa.  
7 Atlantic City, N.J.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l Unit  
Jan. 3-7 Huntington, W.Va.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l Unit  
Jan. 3-14 Los Angeles, Cal.

Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit  
Jan. 3-7 Hampton, Va.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
to Jan. 7 Boston, Mass.

Ice Capades - Western Unit  
Jan. 2-7 Vancouver, BC

Ice Follies  
to Jan. 7 Philadelphia, Pa.



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**HAPPY NEW YEAR and GREETINGS for the NEW SEASON !!!**

**WALLY NAGHTIN** called to tell me that Ringling Red has created the most elaborate and ambitious spec ever with its new "Toyland". The wardrobe is spectacular and there are a number of special props and dazzling effects. There is also a Can-Can web number (with webs dyed red), a Gypsy Elephant Number, and an opening and a finale. Even all new ring curbs have been built.

Ringling Red premiered in Venice (Fla) Dec. 28th, went from there to St. Petersburg for its annual TV taping. New stateside performers on the show include (in addition to Naghtin's bears) **MARGARET MICHELLE** (hair hang), **MIQUEL AYALAS** (wire) and the **FRED CANISTRELLI** Family. Returning are **CARL WONG**, sway pole, and the **FARFANS**, having devised an excellent new Doberman Pincer dog act, adding that to their flying and poodle acts. The **NAGHTIN BEARS** appear in a display with **ANTALEK's** and **LENZ' Chimps**.

**ELVIN BALE** and **JEANETTE WILLIAMS** and the **FLYING GAONAS** will be with the **MONTE CARLO** unit and rumors are that **GEORGE CORONAS** is headed for Ringling Blue to perform the wheel and rocket numbers. Other Ringling Roundup news is that a "father" tiger and three male cubs have been purchased from a zoo, and that one of the cubs is a white tiger. (That's a switch! Whatever happened to "mama" tiger?). These animals are under the care of **GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS**. Scuttlebutt abounds that a Ringling unit will tour Australia in 1980 (the regular, full-scale production). From many sources, all saying the same thing, I suspect this to be more than mere rumor)

**SNAPSHOTS:** **AURELIA HALL** joined **BILL** and **TRUDY STRONG, DONNA** and **BILL BANNISTER** at the Mexican border and the acts traveled to Mexico City ala Caravan where they are appearing for Gran Circo Atayde. . . **PENNY SINGLETON** no longer the Prez of **AGVA**. . . **CEMON's** Chimps taped the **DINAH SHORE** Show Dec. 14th. . . Those pretty **BALE** sisters Nita, Gloria and Bonnie, head for Beatty-Cole. . . **GLEN HUNT**, of Circus Vargas, injured during the filming of "Side Show" . . . Those Xmas cards mailed out by **JIM** and **HEIDI GROGAN** were designed by **PETER GUTIS**. . . **IVY KELROY** recovering nicely. . . **HERBIE WEBER** to spot date Hubler and Hanneford dates, and will be with **BENTLEY BROS.** for its run . . . Also skedded for the Bentley opus is **PRINCE NAJVEZ** and **LAWRENCE GRANT's** lions. **VIRGINIA LEE FENTON** will be the organist. . . The **PLUNKETT** Family (Corky, June, James, Debbie, et al) are back in Texas prepping for a Sport Show Tour. . . Un-

derstand that three flying acts have split up - the **LAR-RAYS**, the **RUSSELLS** and **ROCK-SMITH** - how many will branch off into other flying acts, I haven't been told. . . **WALLY ROSS** looking good after a very serious operation and back working again. . . **JIM PARKER, BILLY McCABE, MARK ANTHONY** and two others will make up **Clown Alley** on **Circus Vargas** when it reopens in San Diego, Jan. 5th.

**SID KELLNER** is back in the thick of things again, phoned to tell me about a new partnership and corporation formed with **ROGER JOHNSON**, called **SPORTS ASSOCIATES, Inc.** Well, Sid talks 13 to 12 and so I asked him to put it in a report and mail it to me post haste, which he did, so here it is (in toto): A new exhibition football team called "Football Globe Gallopers" has been devised, utilizing tumblers and acrobats in an exciting "game" with a variety of spectacular new twists and unusual plays. The Globe Gallopers are dressed in old-fashioned uniforms of the 1930's and play against the **HULKS** togged out in modern-day uniforms. Naturally the game is "fixed" the scoring is "controlled". The Hulks are gaining during the first half, but in the last quarter the Gallopers overtake the rival team to win the game. The final few minutes contain somersaults over the heads of the Hulks and a preponderance of choreographed routines.

The National Tour bows in mid-April and each date is sponsored by civic and fraternal organizations. Circus acts, incidentally, will be used during half-time. Sid remarks: "We are now in the process of finding expert tumblers and acrobats as they are the key (to the show's success). We feel that with TV advertising we can make this so exciting that the media will pick it up and make the **GLOBE GALLOPERS** a household word. This is my "Last Hurrah" so lets hope this really turns into a winner. I feel it will."

Let's hope so, Sid. The former circus owner has had his share of ups and downs the past four years, so friends are hoping this time it's "up".

January sees the opening of **HUBERT CASTLE, L. N. FLECKLES** and **ROYAL HANNEFORD** circuses with the other indoor circuses following behind in February, by which time all will be touring, **M&M, HUBLER, SAM POLACK, HAMID-MORTON, CARDEN-JOHNSON, GARDEN BROS.** and **INT'L ALL STAR** to name a handful. 1978 was a good year for Shrine and Policedates, while the tenters had a checked season at best. Who knows what this year will bring? Certainly gas prices are spiraling upwards and one thing is for sure, it doesn't get easier, it gets tougher to be on the road and salvage a buck for the old "grouch bag"!

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# PEOPLE

THE SIKORSKYS, juggling and unicycle performers, report they kept fully booked this past year by diversification. In addition to their usual circus and fair dates they played engagements at schools, festivals, promotions, a disco hall, a Renaissance festival and even football halftime events.

After finishing a summer tour with the Rosier Players of Michigan's Jackson Community College, Ken and Roberta Griffin went into Detroit where they picked up a new truck. From here they headed for Alaska, some 1,296 miles away. Traveling with them were clowns Fred and Gaetane Crumbly, plus R. J. Soule, singer and dancer.

About 10 miles out on the Alcan Highway they had a window knocked out, by a rock thrown by a passing camper. Window cards and tape were used to keep the cold air out. While driving the car, Roberta struck a piece of metal which forced them to leave the car at a garage for repairs.

The group played Chudiak, Alaska, then left Anchorage for the 4,000 mile drive to play dates at Marion, Ill.

When asked if he would do it again, Ken replied: "Yes, we all like Alaska and we will go back again. Already

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we are getting bookings for future dates."

LARRY WILCOX, star of the TV show "Chips" is a rodeo performer when not working in front of the cameras.

MERV GRIFFIN is planning to make two 90 minute TV specials on the history of westerns. The shows will feature GENE AUTRY, ROY ROGERS, DALE EVANS, REX ALLEN, BUSTER CRABBE and also BOB STEELE.

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# The Giant

by James Madden MacIntyre

(Reprinted from *Coronet* magazine, Dec. 1948)

In a village named Englishtown, high in the hills overlooking St. Ann's Bay on Cape Breton Island, one of P. T. Barnum's biggest attractions is buried beneath a huge oval of neatly trimmed sod. The white tombstone does little more than tell the man's name and the number of years in his life. But deep in the gigantic earthen crypt lies all that now remains of one of the strongest mortals ever to walk the earth.

Angus MacAskill, the Cape Breton giant, whose prodigious size and feats of superhuman strength amazed thousands the world over, was the only man ever to stamp his foot at Queen Victoria - and then receive a gold ring and a smile of approval from Her Britannic Majesty for his effort.

At a command performance, the Queen requested MacAskill to show her and her assembled peers an example of his giantism. Angus glanced around the room, glittering with medals and diamonds. When he saw there was nothing heavy enough to lift, so the story goes, he raised his foot and stamped it on the floor of the reception hall. After he stepped back and bowed to the Queen, the outline of his huge show was visible in the wood.

Angus MacAskill, born in Scotland in 1825, was one of 13 children his average-sized parents brought to Nova Scotia. As a growing boy, he showed no evidence of being different from other lads in the little community where his father had opened a sawmill.

First evidence of his extraordinary power was given when Angus was still small enough to be rebuked by his father. In pioneer days lumber was cut by whipsaws mounted on scaffolds seven or eight feet high. As the logs were massive and heavy, three men were required to get them in position on the top rack of the saw pit. One day, the boy's father and three older brothers had just raised an exceptionally heavy timber when Angus came to call them to dinner.

When the famil was seated, the father poured wine for himself and the elder sons. But when 14 year old Angus held out his glass, MacAskill knocked it from the boy's hand. "If you are old enough to drink wine you're old enough to be with your brothers at the mill," he shouted.

The boy ran from the house in a rage. When the laborers returned to their work, they found Angus sitting on the log they had left at the pit. But the log was now on the ground and the father and brothers accused the lad of getting farmers to help him with his mischief. Then they were treated to the unbelievable sight of the boy picking up the heavy beam alone and tossing it back on the pit!

After this feat, the lad's days of roaming the woods with his Micmac Indian friends were ended. Under his father's instructions, he became a skilled farmer, but it was not until he was 16 that his stature began showing signs of the change which later would make him "The World's Strongest Human." At 17, Angus stood six feet, seven inches. Two years later his vertical growth stopped at seven feet, nine; but when his massive frame filled out, he tipped the scales at 425 lbs, of bone and muscle.

Unlike other famous giants whose growth is now attributed by medical science to a pituitary disturbance MacAskill had a normal appetite. He smoked a pipe and drank rum - but no amount of the latter seemed to have any effect on either his person or his manners. On his first visit to New York, he awed patrons in a tavern by picking up a puncheon containing 140 gallons and raising it to drink from the bung hole.

As a farmer he took great pride in his ability as a plowman. Once, while he was helping his father plow a field, a neighboring farmer bet Angus that the pair could not finish the field by sundown. When there were still many furrows to be turned, one of the horses gave out. With his father at the plow, Angus picked up the traces and proved himself more than a match for the remaining animal.

With a chest measurement of about 70 inches, the Cape Breton Giant had long muscular arms and hands six inches wide at the palms. One of his huge shoes (still preserved in his native village) once served as a bassinet in which a female cat bore and weaned her litter of kittens in ample comfort.

A devout Christian, MacAskill attended church regularly and took a healthy interest in improving his own and his friend's way of life. His dislike for rowdyism prevented him from accepting the challenge of a 250 lb heavyweight, but when the fighter openly accused Angus of cowardice, a match was arranged in the Giant's hometown.

Chartered boats from Sydney, 30 miles down the coast, brought in sportsmen and gamblers from Canadian and American cities. A piper's band with the multicolored tartans of Old Scotland led the parade to the barn that was to be used as the arena. But the Giant's loyal friends were hardpressed to cover the money of the gamblers, who were certain that Angus, in spite of his bulk and strength, would be no match for the scientific battler.

The mob cheered as the two men stepped to the center of the barn. Then there was tense silence as David and Goliath were told by the referee to shake hands. The antagonists clasped hands, and as they did, the heavyweight let out a cry of agony and fell to his knees. The fight was over. MacAskill had crushed his opponent's hand, leaving it a pulp of broken bones with blood spurting from the fingers.

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AERIAL THRILL and NOVELTY ACTS — FUNNY CLOWNS

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by  
DON MARCKS

A strike by employees of the west coast paper mills has been underway for quite some time. However, the real threat of the strike, a lack of readily available paper, is only now beginning to be felt.

Some supply houses have been bringing in paper from various eastern mills, but winter weather is going to cut down on those deliveries.

Adding to the problem is the new picketing of local outlets, with drivers refusing to cross those picket lines.

Last week we bought all of the paper available at one nearby supply house, enough to carry Circus Report through two weeks. We have always tried to keep a month's supply of paper on hand here, and we do have some at the moment. From the looks of things we'll have to increase our supplies and purchases, if that is possible.



RAY HARTZELL, circus organist, played several show dates in California for the Christmas holiday season.

EDUARDO's Gypsy Bears made an overnight jump from San Francisco's PAL Circus to work with the Paul Eagles Luncheon Club Circus in Orange, Calif.

No one seems to know what sort of progress is being made in regards to settling the strike, and there has been no indication how long it might continue. Hopefully it will be over soon, and obviously there is going to be a price increase when it is.

In the meantime we may find it necessary to cut back on the number of pages in each issue of CR. That will see us through a few more weeks of these troubled times. *Circus Report* may even be printed on a variety of papers, depending on what is available.

So, even if things get really desperate we'll figure out some way to keep CR going, even if it amounts to just a few pages per week.

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## From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Nov. 20 - Jerusalem Shrine Circus, New Orleans — We drove to New Orleans for the circus and combined the trip with visiting friends and a tour of the French Quarter, Garden Section, etc. and the new shopping centers and attractions of this historic city. The many performers who arrived early were also wandering about, sight-seeing, just as we were. They do a street parade with the Shriners before this show starts on Saturday morning. The show opened on Monday night in the Civic Center building. A hard building to rig, but great for seeing a show. We were guests of Jerusalem Temple, one of the few times that we accepted free seats, they refused our money.

The show was a fine one and has been previously given a run down in CR, so we can only echo that it was excellent, however, as stated before, that Herbie Weber was in the program, may we correct that statement, he was not in this show. Music under the direction of Kay and Bob Parker was good, they were augmented by local musicians. Bob also did his late Dad's (Slivers Johnson) comedy car. Jimmy Ille was visiting with Tommy, Struppi, Nana and little Nellie Hanneford at the show. Tommy and Struppi are to be commended for this engagement.

Dec. 9 - Showfolks Circus, Sarasota — We drive 57 miles from our home in Dunedin to Sarasota for many attractions and are members of Showfolks of Sarasota so wild horses couldn't have kept us from this show. We were guests for lunch and dinner with fellow Circus Fans Elwood and Emily Talley, of Windmill Village that Saturday.

The "come in" for the evening performance had to be the ultimate Circus Fans dream. To see that many

famous performers; famed former performers; musicians; agents; producers; designers; costumers, etc. was ambrosia. Just imagine Gunther Gebel-Williams, Charlie Baumann, Elvin Bale, Jeanette Williams, Johnny and Mary Ruth Herriott, Gee Gee Engesser, Barbara and Buckles Woodcock, many Wallendas, cristiani's, Rosaires, Stebbing's, Alexanders, and on and on. Children and grandparents of present performers. One's neck was just on a swivel trying to look everywhere.

Several young, new performers debuted this show which was produced by Jenny Wallenda Anderson, ably assisted by husband Andy, as a tribute to the late Karl Wallenda. It was a too-long show, over 3 hours, but for dyed in the wool circus buffs, still not enough. Unfortunately, a lot of the audience had enough and left even before the elephants came on. John Herriott did a magnificent job of announcing and did what every announcer should do, give credit and explain the acts, who trained the new young people. It heightened our insight into their background and what work it took to produce the finished act we were seeing. We who have had that kind of training know how much it takes to put the finished product in front of the public, but the public often does not know and such announcing could make for more real circus fans in the average audience.

Digressing from this marvelous show let me comment on the ultimate insult to performers. The TV Circus of the Stars, where movie stars appear giving the appearance of having really trained the animals or performed the tricks. I know that some of the actors can and have performed, for instance, the two sons of Ozzie and Harriett Nelson, who do flying trapeze, but even tho the acts might make money for being part of this fiasco I think they should re-

(Continued on Page 24)

# THANK YOU

ALL SHOW PERFORMERS AND FANS

King-Cole, Hamid-Morton, Hoxie Bros., Royal Hanneford, Carson & Barnes, R. W. Commerford & Sons, Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros., P. T. Barnum Museum, Ringling-Barnum's Blue and Red Units - - for your subscriptions and single issues to "SOUTHERN SAW-DUST" during 1978 and making it a banner year.

NOW ACCEPTING SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE 1979 SEASON — Don't miss the "Special Christmas Issue". A "MUST" for the Circus Minded from Sunny Sarasota. \$2.50 single issue. — Better yet subscribe for the year at \$9.00.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
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lots all through 1979.

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# PEOPLE

THE ROLLING DIAMONDS, skating act, taped the AGVA Entertainer of the Year Award Show in Las Vegas on Dec. 17th and the show will be aired later this month. The booking was handled by the Gil Miller Agency and The Sullivan Productions.

DARRELL FERGES, trampoline performer, and BOB YERKES, aerial producer, were seen on the recent TV special "Circus of the Stars." Also appearing on the show, in the flying act, were BETH NUFER and VIC HUNSBERGER.

PAUL KAYE's Hollywood Elephants were caught in a snow blizzard and delayed at Laramie, Wyo., and as a result were unable to make the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus engagement at Ogden, Utah.

JERRY BOOKER has been busy during the Holiday Season with his Santa arrival unit, which includes the giant horse, a sleigh, a midget horse, plus Santa and Mrs. Santa Claus.

JACK THUM, clown who is suffering from lung cancer and whom doctors say has less than a year to live, continues to work shows in the Chicago area. He is assisted by his grand-daughter SHERRY JACOBSEN who plans to carry on the clown work.

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## Miscellaneous

Equipment and tent of the Early American Circus was used for a "Tab" soft drink commercial which will be seen on TV soon. The ad's pie eating contest was held inside the show tent.

\*\*\*\*

Winterland, in San Francisco, former home of the Ice Follies and once the site of the Hubert Castle Circus for an extended engagement, and most recently a rock music show house, will be dismantled to make room for redevelopment work in the area

\*\*\*\*

A story about RBBB's Circus World appeared in the Nov/Dec. 1978 issue of the Wisconsin A.A.A. Traveler magazine.

# PEOPLE

THE LEE HENNEBERRY FAMILY worked a series of Christmas shows in December, including an IBM Family Christmas Party at Rochester, Minn., and the General Telephone Party in Chicago. Also appearing on this latter show were MARTIN LAMBERTI & BONITA, balancing/juggling; THE ELKINS SISTERS, acro/dogs.

# thank you

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## PEOPLE

**ETHEL JENNIER** and her Greyhounds were with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus for its Dec. 22-23 engagement at West Orange, N. J.

**HUGO MARQUARDT** visited the Beatty-Cole Circus and Hoxie Bros. during their last days of the 1978 tour. He reports that the flying act and teeterboard act on Hoxie were outstanding numbers.

**JAMES M. COLE** visited with **JOE McMAHON** and family when Joe was celebrating his birthday, on Dec. 3rd.

**KARIN and HAPPY DAVIS** have taken delivery on a new pick-up truck and custom designed cab for their "Rollis Rotten" comedy car. The car was originally modified to a length of 8 ft. so it could fit on ramps in the pick-up's bed.

**SID and GEORGE KELLNER**, formerly of the Great London Circus, and **HERBIE WEBER**, tightwire artist, visited the PAL Circus in San Francisco the weekend of Dec. 16-17.

## Show Date

On Saturday, Dec. 9th, the Amandis Entertainment Agency produced a special Christmas Circus for the employees of American Airlines, at the fairgrounds in Tulsa, Okla.

The program featured: Bill Golden, with the Carden-Johnson tigers; the Shrine Clowns; the Olmedas, juggling; Checkers & Patches, Gypsy Canine Revue; the Shrine Clowns; the Olmedas, bicycles; Checkers & Patches, present Sudan, the camel; the Carden-Johnson elephants, presented by Bill and Carol Golden; Bill and Trudy Strong with their Airplane act.

## CIRCUS ACTS

The following bookings were set late last month by Rose Adair, artists' representative of New York City.

Nov. 24-26 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Birmingham, Mich. - The Berans, duo trapeze; Therese & Teddy, balancing duo and T & T, high perch act.

Dec. 10 - Christmas Show at Kingston, N.Y. - the Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians.

Dec. 11 - New York City - Mike Monroe, comedy trapline; Charles Merrill, illusions/magic, and Zippy, the TV Chimp.

Dec. 17 - Long Island, N. Y. - Fanfare (puppet revue).

Dec. 19-31 - New York City - Charles Merrill.

Dec. 22-23 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at West Orange, N.J. - Vidbel's elephants; Al's Pets (liberty ponies); Les Lemoine Troupe, aerial motorcycle and trapeze; Renee and Michelle, slide for life; Crawford and Gloria, illusions/magic.

Dec. 30 - Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Washington, DC - Cimse's Russian Wolfhounds and Pomeranians; Crawford and Gloria, illusions/magic; The Cyclonians unicycles/adagio.

## IN MEMORIAM

**C. ARTHUR LANDES** (75), former co-chairman and lighting director of the Indianapolis Murat Shrine Circus, died on Dec. 10th. He owned and operated the Landes Costume Co., from 1922 until 1966 when he turned the business over to his son and daughters. He was a 33rd Degree Mason and the retired Dramatic Director of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Valley of Indianapolis. Survivors include three sons and two daughters, Diane and Mary Lou, both members of the CFA.

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**SAWDUST TRAIL**

by M. L. DUPONT

As 1979 takes off this columnist will attempt to bring you a better than ever column of news, News that will be a part of the history in the years to come. The remark 'better than ever' reminds me of an incident I heard that happened one year when the advance man of a railroad show told everyone that the show was 'bigger and better'. When asked how this could be since the show was still on the same number of cars, the agent replied, Oh, we have learned a new system of loading and can get more on the train. Well we're going to try and get more into the same amount of space.

The first route cards out for '79 were issued Dec. 6th for the Ringling units. The Red Unit with a new program opened Dec. 28th, while the Blue Unit opens on Jan. 26th.

Have you seen John Lewis, of Hoxie Bros., in that Timex commercial, which also features Mongo the gorilla. In a commercial for "Top Choice" Parley Baer is featured. He also does other commercials.

Last month Bobby Gibbs made a trip to Washington to get his camel, llamas and ponies that were left there when C&B went into Canada. On his return trip Bobby had a breakdown in Nevada.

As I stated in a previous column 1979 will be the "year of the clowns" and in line with that Prince Paul of RBBB was featured on the front page of the States Item (Nov. 29). Prince Paul has been clowning for 40 years. He stands 47 inches tall and his real name is Paul Albert.

In researching history on Shirley the elephant, now

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in the Monroe Zoo, I ran into some unusual information about the elephant and Kelly-Miller Circus. This reporter has located the history of the "Circus Ship Fire" in 1963. Our elephant was aboard the ship and was rescued, along with all of the other show animals

I received the new cap patch from C&B Circus. It's a most attractive and colorful patch. Yellow background with a gold and black tiger, with Carson & Barnes in red. Patches are available from the show at Hugo, Okla for the price of \$1.50.

The new Circus Vegas (Carson & Barnes No. 2) is wintering in Stapleton, Ala., just east of Mobile. Judy Rawls, a member of that show's front office, spent Christmas in Hugo with her folks. The show is prepping for a March 5th opening.

DoDo the Clown, finished his 78 season with a TG&Y promotion in mid-December and a final show for the children of employees of the St. Francis Hospital on Dec. 16th. DoDo would like to hear from all his show friends about their '79 plans.

Ken Benson, formerly with Fisher Bros., and C&B, has been spending the winter in Monroe, working at the local Zoo. Last month he appeared on a local TV Children's show with his whips, juggling and knives. Ken hasn't revealed his '79 plans as yet.

My thanks to Jack Bennett for lithos and clippings received prior to Christmas. Jack is still working in Miami, Okla., and his upcoming plans have not been revealed. Thanks also to Jim Forrest for news on the European shows that will become a part of this weekly column.

**Gary Thomas**

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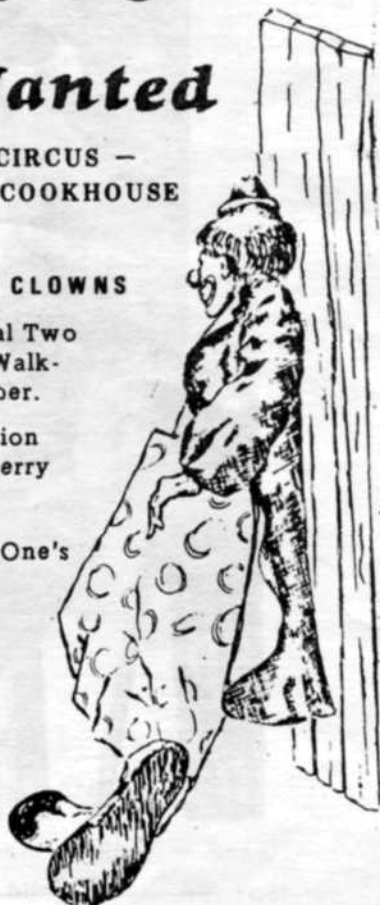
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## Show Acts

A special Santa's Christmas Variety Show played an extended series of dates in Central California last month, drawing good crowds for each performance.

The show was managed by Betty Wendany, who also did the announcing. Acts featured on the program were: Holveck & Co., magic/illusions; Julian with his trained chimp; the Henry's on trampoline; and Dolores on swinging ladder and dancing. Santa Claus was also a part of the show, appearing in the finale.

## PEOPLE

STACEY MOORE had his dog act at Disney World in Florida during the Holiday Season, while BOBBY MOORE had his dog act at Disneyland in Southern California.

FRANK DEAN recently completed his book "Cowboy Fun" and is already hard at work on a new one to be called "Charro Rope Tricks."

WILSON POARCH, editor of Southern Sawdust" escaped injury when his car was torn up by a motorist who ran a red light last month.



JOHN GOODALL, JR.  
Northbrook, Illinois

## Show Date

Acts appearing on a special Christmas Show set up for the benefit of the Blind are listed below. The show was held in San Jose, Calif., on Dec. 18th.

Dave Twomey, clown; Bob Emerico, magic/MC; Ken Card, vent act and Charlie Raino, juggler.

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WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS A

**Happy New Year**



by DON SANDMAN

The Playhouse in the Park brought Cincinnati, Ohio a Holiday Treat by presenting the first performances of the Big Apple Circus outside of New York City.

Artistic Director Paul Binder and the New York School for the Circus Arts presented a European style circus in a One Ring presentation which fits beautifully in the Playhouse Building. For this building and seats on three sides with the stage in the center.

The staff for the Big Apple Circus consists of: Artistic Director, Paul Binder; General Manager, Mary Kelley; Production Manager, Jan Kroeze; Company Manager, Karen Trott; Properties Superintendent, John Ronan; Costume Design and coordination, Debra Kosup, Nina Krasavina, Mei Ling, Deborah Shaw and Karen Trott; Chief Rigger, Philippe Ver-cruyssen; Ring Supt., Michael Cox; Driver, Craig Purinton; Treasurer, Carol B. Collins.

The show is backed by a fine band, directed by Peter Gordon, and featuring Bruce Coughlin, keyboard, David Van Tieghem, percussion, Rik Albani, brass and Peter Gordon, reeds.

The program was as follows:

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Ringmaster, Bob Dorian; Charivari, Maia Garrison & Co.; Duo Gandoff, aerial perch (Warren Bacon and Jessica Hentoff); Clown Juggling (Michael Christensen and Paul Binder); Tightwire (Debra Kosup, Le Thi Linh and Dale Scott); Vaulting Acrobatics (The Back Street Flyers); Zakahr the Magnificent (Zakahhr and Githha the Mole); The Double Trapeze (Donna Farina and Mia Wolff); Intermision; Flights of Fantasy (Magic with the Amazing Dorian); Lady Abridal and Her Dancing Horse; Juggling and Torch Swinging (Michael Mosehen); A Musical Trio (Michael Christensen, Paul Binder, Dale Scott); The Bruski Trio, high unicycles; Finale by the entire company.

The Back Street Flyers consist of: Darryl Hamilton, Steven Johnson, Wayne Jones, Abel Shark, Nathaniel Soares and Chris Thomas.

The Big Apple Circus is a presentation of the New York School for Circus Arts, Inc. A not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is the establishment of a permanent circus and training school for circus artists.

Clowning is in the hands of Paul Binder, Michael Christensen and Dale Scott. They work in the style of European clowns.

## PEOPLE

HOLVECK & CO., magic and illusion act will be playing a return engagement at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles this month.

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BILLY BARTON has announced he is suspending all but the most vital show business activities for the next few months as he finishes the final re-write on a new "biographical mystery novel," a non-circus book called "Past Murder Imperfect". The long novel (almost 400 pages) is written in three sections covering the years 1926 thru 1975. Two separate murder plots are intertwined in the complicated novel that chronicles the life of Adalaide Arthur, a fictional mystery authoress whose life parallels that of the late, great Dame Agatha Christie. Mrs. Christie actually appears briefly as a pivotal character in the book.

"Past Murder Imperfect" will be agented by the W. B. Agency of New York City and either a late summer or fall publication date is being scheduled.

**ACTS SET**

The program presented by the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at West Orange, N.J. (Dec. 22-23) featured:

Billy Barton, break-away cloud swing; Crawford and Gloria, magic/illusions; Al Vidbell's elephants; The Widjets, acro/balance; The Wainwrights, trampoline; Vidbell's Liberty horses (8); Ethel Jennier, leaping greyhounds; Jennier's sword balancing; Miss Carol, trapeze; Miss Rene, slide for life; and the LeMoyné Troupe, motorcycle on wire.



DORIAN BLAKE toured with the "Holiday Magic Circus" in Mass., and New Jersey last month. Dorian serves as both illusionist and announcer.

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## Turn Down

A group of citizens living in Newport, Fla., have successfully petitioned the Largo City Commission to turn down a request to rent city property as a circus winterquarters. Franzen Bros. Circus had hopes of renting a vacant lot that formerly housed the city's sewage plant, for its animals and trailers.

A circus spokesman said there would be an elephant, 7 tigers and lions and 12 ponies, plus a few house trailers. There wouldn't be any problems, he added, and most people would never know they were there.

Those who opposed the idea charged that renting the lot to the circus could result in bad smells and odors, possibly even bring in various diseases and that property value would drop considerably.

## PEOPLE

THE RUWILLS, balancing act, will be touring with the Beatty-Cole Circus again this year.

DENNIS LOOMIS will open his 1979 Magic Capades Show tour at Yuma, Ariz., on Jan. 13th.

## IN MEMORIAM

LOUIS "Hip" RAYMOND (98) who spent 50 years with Ringling Bros. Circus as a clown, died at River-view, Fla. on Aug. 22nd. He retired to Florida in 1958, was a Master Mason and a 65 year member of the F&AM of Brooklyn, N. Y.

### FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

fuse to do it unless each real trainer and performer is also shown and given full credit for their work. Don't you performers realize it makes you more of a nonentity than ever? Lets face it except for a few big over-publicized names in the circus who of the regular viewing public (except Circus Fans) knows any of you?

It is time to realize that the performers must start to protect their abilities as unique as they are from producers who want to capitilize on their talents and make the big money that should in reality be going to the actual performers. Insist on being given the proper credits for your unusual talents.



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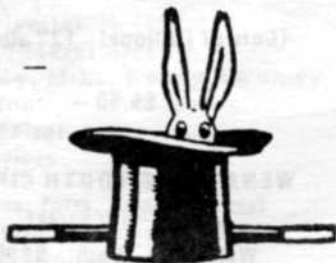
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7012 Farhills Avenue

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**THE GIANT (Continued)**

In 1849, when Angus was 24, Barnum brought him to New York. With Tom Thumb, he toured the country for five years, billed as "The World's Largest and Smallest Humans." At the climax of their act, the midget danced a jig on the Giant's outstretched palm.

If the Giant's mother had accompanied him on his tours, she would undoubtedly have lived to a ripe old age, for she was the only one who could induce him not to exert himself over a wager. It was in New York after his last tour of Europe, that he performed the feat which resulted in his death a few years later.

To win a \$1,000 bet, MacAskill hoisted a 2,200 lb. anchor above his head. In lowering the awkward lift, one of the flukes caught him on the shoulder, causing a wound that shattered his health.

With a snug fortune, he returned to Englishtown where he built two gristmills and a store which he ran for several years. His health broken, the Giant's favorite past-time was to sit on his favorite seat - a 140 gallon molasses puncheon - and tell his fellow villagers of the sights he had seen on his tours.

In the towns and villages of Cape Breton Island, rich in the Celtic folklore of the Scottish Highlands, the belief still persists that Angus MacAskill was the

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strongest man who ever lived. Year after year, people from miles around come to pay homage at his grave and gaze in silence at the simple inscription on his tombstone:

Erected to the Memory of Angus MacAskill, the Nova Scotian Giant, who died Aug. 8, 1863, Aged 38 years.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**JAMES W. CREWS (70)** a business agent for a circus advertising firm, died at Tampa, Fla. last month. He was a member of the Egypt Shrine Temple, the Greater Tampa Showman's Association and the Int'l Independent Showman's Association. For several years he had been associated with Royal American Shows. Survivors include a son, Jim, a daughter, Doree and a sister.

**CHARLOTTE ROSE MAXWELL (81)** a retired circus aerialist, died at St. Petersburg, Fla., on Dec. 8th. She had toured with Ringling-Barnum and after retiring went to work for the Van Sciver Realty Co. Survivors include a sister, Caroline Burton and several nieces and nephews.

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**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
TO ALL SHOW FOLKS

### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: GEE GEE ENGESEER dropped the telephone for ten minutes when WALLY NAGHTIN informed her that he was getting up at 7 AYEM (!) to rehearse bears and production while in Winter Quarters with Ringling Red. Yes, that's news, because Wally Naghtin never got up that early in his life before! He may have STAYED up until 7, but he never GOT UP at that time! And that ain't all, Wally is riding a horse in "spec". HEIGH-HO SILVER and see you down the road, luvs.

## PEOPLE

TOM PRINCE, magician, THRILLS ON WHEELS, roller skating act, and SHANNON O'HARE, clown, were featured on a Christmas Party program for Indo-Chinese refugee children in Oakland, Calif., on Dec. 16th.

TARZAN ZERBINI has purchased a 30 ft. yacht that is named for his youngest daughter. Tarzan, along with JACQUELINE, PATRICIA, SYLVIA and CHRISTINE sailed south from Sarasota last month to visit with JONI and COL. LUCKY LARABEE.

THE ELKINS SISTERS, with Afghans and Poodles, worked the Texas Shrine dates, the Three Rivers Circus at Pittsburgh and Christmas dates in the Chicago area.

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# Many Thanks to

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● ROBERT and IRMA DUNHAM

● EUGENE LAMBART

\*

FOR A SUCCESSFUL 1978 SEASON

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT 1979

..... COL. LUCKY and JONI LARABEE

## New Officers

New officers elected for the coming year by members of the Circus Model Builders Association are:

Maurice J. Allaire, president; James Caldwell, vice-president; Gaylord Hartman, secretary-treasurer; Charles L. Shaffer, Supt. of Construction; Lawrence D. Crocker, Lot 1 Manager; James I. Hassan, Lot 2 Manager; Howard Paul, Lot 3 Manager; Freddie Daw, Lot 4 Manager; Richard J. Natvig, Lot 5 Manager; Elbert B. Swerdfeger, Lot 6 Manager; James O'Neill, Lot 7 Manager.

Correspondence should be addressed to: Gaylord Hartman, secretary/treasurer, 1056 Jefferson Ave., Washington, Pa. 15301.

## Show Report

The 1979 show at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc., will feature an almost all new show with the Fernando Bautista Troupe of aerialists and acrobats who were with Carson & Barnes last year. Also set for the '79 Museum show are Ada Smieya with her lions and tigers, plus Mike Rice and Randon Sink with chimps, dogs and an elephant. Jimmy Williams (Hap the clown) will also be at the circus show.

## IN MEMORIAM

GLEN HART, known as Seacow the Clown, died after a brief illness at Phoenix, Ariz., on Dec. 10th. He got started in show business as an usher on the Ringling-Barnum Circus. He clowned on most of the major circuses including Cristiani, Rudy Bros., abd Beatty-Cole.

WANETA E. LEONARD (61) wife of the animal trainer R. E. Leonard died at Manhattan, Kans., on Nov. 25 after an extended illness. She assisted her husband in the business of training animals. Survivors include her husband Robert and son Rex, of Manhattan, and three daughters, Mrs. Frank (Carol) Connizzo, Wichita, Kan Mrs. Doyle (Sue) Danker, Manhattan, Kans., Mrs. Roberta Davis, Junction City, Kans., a sister Mrs. Jeanne McElmurray, Sarasota, Fla., and several grand children and one great grandchild.

BERT DEARD TARRANT (80) former circus performer died Sept. 12th at Venice, Fla. He appeared with Ringling-Barnum, Cole Bros., Sells Floto, Sparks and Russell Bros. Circus, doing a contortion trapeze Frog Man act and a slack wire act. For many years he was with the Orrin Davenport indoor Shrine shows where his wife, Corrine, also appeared. In his later years he worked as a rigger. Survivors include his wife, Corrine.

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 FOR YOUR GREAT SHOW  
 AND ALSO FOR BEING A  
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 GUIDO BRUNO  
 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

# PEOPLE

**CHECKERS** (Steve Baker) and **PATCHES** (Gary Ray) finished their dates with the Stebbing Royal European Circus, then played a series of Christmas dates in Texas and Oklahoma. They also appeared in the Six Flags Mall at Arlington, Texas. With their "Gypsy Canine Revue" they appeared before the employees of the "Six Flags Over Texas" park, where they return in March 1979.

**LINDA**, aerialist; **BILLY MARTIN**, rola bola; **THE AMAZING CHANDLER**, magic; **MACIAS**, balancing; **ELIZABETH**, one finger stand and the **GREAT OSCAR**, cloud swing, are some of the acts set to join the upcoming tour of the Cole All-Star TV Circus.

**HENRY SCHOERER**, assistant working with **GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS**, has left the Ringling show and is now working in Germany.

**VALENTINO**, high wire performer, worked at the Forum in Los Angeles last month for **BOB YERKES**. He was also featured at a soccer game in Hollywood.

**WALT** and **MILDRED STIMAX** have a new chimp which will work with their popular "Miss Jane" during the coming season.

**BARBARA I. ADAMS** has been named publicity coordinator for RBBB's Circus World in Florida. She will be responsible for organizing and implementing all publicity-oriented events involving the park. Prior to her present position she worked at Circus World as a marketing director.

**ANDERSON's** White Horse Troupe were one of the many acts seen at the Three Rivers Circus in Pittsburgh, Pa., last year.

Chiron's Magic Machine played dates in Florida and South Carolina last month to wind up their 1978 season.



WITH ALL GOOD WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL MY FRIENDS (BOTH OF YOU)!

JACK BENNETT

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