



7th Year

April 3, 1978

Number 14

Wallenda Killed In Fall

Karl Wallenda, famous high wire artist was killed in San Juan, P. R., on March 22nd as the result of a fall while doing a "skywalk" between two luxury hotels. Wallenda fell 150 feet after being swept off balance by a gust of wind as hundreds of fellow circus performers and tourists watched from hotel balconies and the ground below.

According to Jerry Rosa, a Holiday Inn employee, Wallenda was about two-thirds of the way across the wire when the wind gust hit him. "He lowered the bar to regain his balance and then tried to sit down on the rope, hovering between heaven and earth for about 10 seconds."

Wallenda's bar went first and the performer missed a last attempt to catch the wire with his hands, then plummeted headfirst towards the ground. He struck a parked taxi and then crumpled onto the pavement.

Another spectator, Victor Abboud, of Montreal, told reporters, "I saw him go down on his knees on the wire and I thought he was kneeling to rest. Then I saw he was shaking. The wind blew him off and he went all the way down head-first."

Wallenda was in San Juan for the Pan American Circus which was playing a March 1st to April 1st engagement. He appeared each

evening in the performance, performing on a 50 foot wire. Working with him in the act was his grand-daughter Rietta, who said she did not know what she would do now.

The outdoor "skywalk" was arranged as a means of promoting the circus performance. The high wire was stretched between the rooftops of the Flamboyant Hotel and the Condado Holiday Inn.

Wallenda had performed many "skywalks" and had several such events booked for later this year. One of his most publicized feats took place in 1970 when he walked a 1,100 foot cable set 700 feet above Tallulah Gorge in Georgia.

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Despite predicted bad weather for opening night, good crowds turned out for all eight performances of the Lansing (Mich) Hospitaler Circus on Mar. 2-5. The show was sponsored by the Lansing Commander No. 25 Knights Templar, and was produced by Harold Voise.

The sparkling, well-balanced show was presented in two rings, which made for a fast paced rundown. The audiences were very responsive, and local press coverage was good. Visitors included Howard Schultz, who also represented many of the acts; Chuck Marine and Grace MacIntosh, of M&M Productions; clown Jack Healy and a number of fans, all from the Harold Voise Tent.

Clown Alley consisted of producing clown, Ricky (Irv) Romig, along with Chris Romig, Jack Liberty, Ed Curry and Richard Doman. George Voise was in charge of props and rigging; Al Vernon directed the 12 piece band, and Charley Van Buskirk was equestrian director/ringmaster.

The program featured: Al Vernon and band, overture; National Anthem, Lilli-Anna's leopards, the Cavanaugh Duo, cradle, Clowns in Rocket to the Moon, Adam's Canine Cavalcade, Scott's Unrideable Mule, The Cyclonians, unicycles, Erik Adams & Co., balancing,

PEOPLE

RICK LEGG (Harry the Clown) recently concluded his school dates and is playing some show dates with the Amazing Conklins. He will be with the Voorheis Bros. Circus for the summer tour.

STEVE WALLEDA and JOYCE McCOY were married on the Skyride, above the Oakland (Calif.) Zoo on March 19th.

BILL BRICKLE visited with the Bob Leonard Family at Manhattan, Kansas, enroute to join the American Continental Circus for its 1978 tour.

TITO GAONO achieved a quadruple somersault during a performance of the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit at Madison Square Garden

Clowns, Tug-O-War, Los Obandos, high wire. After intermission were: Erik's Chimps, the Clown firemen, the Carolos Duo, perch, the Scott's Royal Boxer Dogs, The Smaha Family, horses; Clown walkaround, the Gutis Family, Jungle Parody and the Flying Carrolls.

..... Charley Van Buskirk

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IN MEMORY

OF OUR FRIEND

KARL WALLENDÄ



TOM and PAT COOPER

Show Dates

BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS

April 3 Brawley, Calif.
4 Blythe
5 Cochella
7 Paris
8 Crestline
9 Lancaster

HUBERT CASTLE CIRCUS

April 4-9 Sioux City, Iowa

CIRCUS VARGAS

April 4-6 Montclair, Calif.
7-10 San Diego

GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS

April 5 Vero Beach, Fla.
6 Apopka
7 New Smyrna Beach
8 Tavares
9 Dunnellon

HAMID-MORTON CIRCUS

April 3-8 Harrisburg, Pa.

HOXIE BROS' CIRCUS

April 3 Stuart, Fla.
4 Okeechobee
5 Ft. Pierce
6 Titusville
7 Orlando
8-9 Melbourne

HUBLER INT'L CIRCUS

April 7-8 Dodge City, Kans.
7-8 Rock Island, Ill.

ISLAM SHRINE CIRCUS

April 7-9 San Francisco, Calif.

KAYE CONT'L CIRCUS

April 6-9 Wichita, Kans.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit

To June 4 New York, N. Y.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit

April 4-5 Charleston, W. Va.
7-9 Huntington

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS

April 7-9 Staten Island, N.Y.

ROYAL LICHTENSTEIN CIRCUS

April 3 Iowa City, Iowa
4 Dubuque
5 Beloit, Wisc.
6 Appleton
7 Milwaukee

SHRINE CIRCUS

April 3-4 Toronto, Ontario

---- OTHER DATES ----

DONDI, the Baby Elephant

April 6-9 Grand Forks, N.D.

FRED, the Cockatoo

April 5-9 Middleton, Ohio

HOLIDAY ON ICE - Int'l

April 5-9 Baton Rouge, La.

HOLIDAY ON ICE - Nat'l

April 4-9 St. Petersburg, Fla.

ICE CAPADES - Eastern Unit

April 4-9 St. Louis, Mo.

ICE CAPADES - Western Unit

April 4-9 Troy, N. Y.

ICE FOLLIES

to April 9 Minneapolis, Minn.

ILLUSIA SHOW

April 8 Attleboro, Mass.
9 Lowell

BOB JONES PET ZOO

to April 9 Lake Grove, N.Y.

KARI & TIKA, the Elephant

Mar 29-Apr 1 Phoenix, Ariz.
April 4-5 Tucson
9-15 Denver, Colo.

KING ARTHUR, the Lion

April 5-9 Cornwell Hghts, Pa.

LITTLE LION LAND

April 5-9 Elkhart, Ind.

MAGIC TIME USA - Prof. Miller

April 4-9 Manchester, N. H.

VICTOR, the Rasslin' Bear

April 4-9 Columbus, Ohio



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RED SKELTON, one of America's Greatest and certainly most beloved clowns is now on a cross-country tour of one man shows. His recent appearance in Columbus, Ohio, garnered RAVE reviews and sold-out houses. It's wonderful to see this marvelous performer back in action and a pity he is not seen often on TV. Red has a large following, is a sweet and gentle man whose humor is as sweet and gentle as he is. God Bless.

CAPSULE COMMENTS: Highlighting the Ringling TV Special was the incomparable **BARBARA WOODCOCK** in a series of sensational close-ups in both the large elephant display and in the terrific segment featuring Barbara, son **BENNY WILLIAMS**, and the super-talented scene-stealer **ANNA MAY** elephant. Coming in for a goodly share of exposure also was **ELVIN BALE** on the Gyro Wheel, swinging trap and with his new "Space Shuttle" a very neat and modern variation of the well-known cannon act. Others showcased were the fabulous **FLYING GAONAS**, tiger trainer **CHARLIE BAUMAN** and lion tamer **JEWEL NEW**. Host **DICK VAN DYKE** handled his task with more aplomb than most, was unobtrusive in his clowning bits. Of special note are the impressive floats in the Neptune spec. Remainder of the program was given over to the usual pot-pourri of Iron Curtain acts distinguished mainly by the number of safety lines used to hold them in position.

LIFE'S LITTLE IRONIES: Sick of the bitter cold weather in Ohio, **BILL** and **TRUDY STRONG** left for the Southland in early March to join Royal Hanford for a string of warm weather dates in Miss., and Ala. A day after they left, old man Winter's back was broken, temperatures zoomed into the 50's, and the fields of snow became lakes and rivers. **JOANNE** and **DONNA** will be with **Trudy** on Hubler's Kentucky dates in April marking the first time the sisters have been on the same dates in years.

BOUQUETS: To **FRANK** and **JANET BURGER** whose animal acts are first class in all areas: props, equipment, trappings, grooming and routines. Moreover, upon departure, they leave whatever areas they have used as clean as a pin.

SNAPSHOTS: **RON KILROY** was clawed in the leg by a tiger when he got too close to the chute at Detroit. . . **GUNNAR AMANDIS** was busy in January and February visiting the 8 Sports Shows where he had acts booked. . . When brunette beauty **KAREN NYCE** isn't standing on one finger she teaches mod-

ern dance. . . **GENE MENDEZ** flew into the Aut Mori Grotto Circus in Youngstown straight from Mexico, joining a strong line-up of acts including: Carmen Hall's baboons, Al and Joyce Vidbel, the Klementis, Elkins Sisters, Segura, Flying Ramos, Najvez, the Holidays, Pat Anthony, Vickinas, the Los Argentine Gauchos and Happy Davis. . . Ringmaster **AUSTIN MILES**, now an ordained minister, conducted two church services prior to the first Sunday show in Youngstown. . . Illusionist **ROY HOUTON** was a last minute addition to the Grotto Circus in Galesburg (Ill). . . **JOSELITO** is now doing his 'unicycle' (without a seat) thrill-crossing on the high wire. . . Biz was great for **BILL KAY**'s first stint as producer of the Albany (NY) Shrine date and the show broke records for the Sunday second show. . . **JOE SHERMAN** is renovating the old **KENNETH WAITE** stop gags, bend-overs, heads and legendary walkarounds for future use. . . **DON NORTHDORFF** is working phones for **HENRY BARRETT**. . . **GARY GRANT** called **GIL MILLER** and the two chatted for over an hour about this fall's Monaco Circus Festival. . . Concessionaire **WOODY WOODRUFF** has signed these divorce papers and is now footloose and fancy free and on the prowl. . . **AL** and **JOYCE VIDBEL** did a commercial in Toronto recently involving their precocious elephant Daffodil. Daffy walked the entire length of the mall unescorted, basket in trunk, to deliver film to a camera shop and was a sensation.

SPEAKING OF TV: **IAN GARDEN** begins taping the first two weeks of shows for CTV May 29th in Toronto. Among the acts taping the series are: Jo Ann and Sunny, Aerialetta, Prince Najvez and Ethel's Greyhounds. Ian kicked off his season at the Forum in Montreal Mar. 15th. Acts included: Gee Gee, Walt King, Flying Armors (also their cradle and motorcycle acts), Sensational Leighs, Alberto Zoppe's animals, Cimse's dogs, Verdus, Drougettes, Fornarsaries, Castro Bros., and Ian's new liberty act. The Coronas will furnish equipment for Garden's Atlanta Shrine date. Line-up includes: Walt King, Jack Cook's comedy car, Mike Rice with baby bull, dogs and chimp, Marcelli & Janis, Lucio Cristiani's trampoline, Gilda's leopards, the Swaying Stars, Vasquez flyers and probably Baron Von Uhl. Leo Mascitto is bandleader. Charlie Schlarbaum is handling musical chores on Garden's regular tour.

(Continued on Page 12)

Pot-Pourri

The Karinas' comedy trampoline act will not play the All American Circus in West Orange (NJ) reports agent Rose Adair . . . Kay Ro-saire and her lions made the Cyprus Shrine Circus in Albany (NY) for Bill Kay . . . Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy, now with the American Continental Circus, is using a lighted runway and mirrored archway for his classy canines.

Tibor Alexander, Mike Naughton and Louis Stern were among the visitors at the Cyprus Shrine Circus in Albany (NY) . . . Eugene Hughes is now assisting John Meyers with the Brickle's Poodle Fantasy . . . Fellow illusionist Dorian Blake and Senor Rai had a wild reunion when Royal Hanneford Circus played North Carolina.

. . . . Mike Naughton

IN MEMORIAM

REB RUSSELL (72) former football star and movie cowboy of the 1930's died at Coffeyville, Kans. on March 16th of a heart attack. He had entered the hospital less than 24 hours before his death.

Russell's film career started in 1933 after he was named to all Big Six and Big Ten teams. He also appeared with Russell Bros. Circus,

Special Day

Rickey the Clown (Irvin Romig) was contacted by Gold Coast Productions of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., to have 5 clowns at Detroit's Hyatt Regency Hotel on March 16th.

Comedian Jerry Lewis was performing there and Rickey and his clowns were scheduled to rush in during his act, surprising him, sing Happy Birthday and then present him with a telegram of congratulations from several Governors and Mayors.

The event was timed as a partial promotion for the soon to be released movie "Hardly Working" which stars Jerry Lewis, along with Susan Plechette. Lewis plays the part of a circus clown who tires of clowning and wants to take a serious mailroom job. After a long period of time his sense of humor breaks through and his sense of humor breaks through. By the end of the film Lewis is being offered the Dean's position with the Ringling-Barnum's Clown College.

Many of the circus scenes in the film were shot on the lot of the Beatty-Cole Circus.

. Georga Da Deppo

Downie Bros. and other shows and after retiring operated a 2500 acre cattle ranch in Kansas.

Survivors include his widow, a son Jim and a daughter Bette R. Simpson.

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PEOPLE

RAY CHANDLER, who works for LOUIS GOEBEL, was recently released from the hospital and is at home in Southern California.

VINCE CARMEN has taken delivery of his specially ordered 1 ton prop truck which will carry illusions. His show is now traveling on 2 trailers, an Int'l carrier, the prop truck and several personal trailers.

MAC and PEGGY MacDONALD visited the Carson & Barnes Circus last month at Schertz, Texas, shortly after the show opened.

ANTAR WAZZAN and Family visited with BOBBY GIBBS and JOHN FRAZIER at Hugo, Okla., enroute to a show date in Missouri.

BOB PELTON, assistant curator of the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Conn., was guest speaker at a recent (April 2) meeting of the Sells Floto Ring CMB.

RAY HARTZELL, organist, is working at the Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, Va.

MICHELE VLADIMIROV is at home in Florida awaiting the birth of her second child. Husband VLADO, close-up magician, is with the Vince Carmen Razzle Dazzle Show.

HELEN WILSON, show organist. Member AFM. Tel: 704-786-4563. P. O. Box 1167, Concord, N. C. 28025

Important Note!

Generally reliable news sources report the Canadian money situation is still bad, with no signs of improvements in the immediate future. The official rate of exchange has been varying between 9% and 11½% for some months.

Generally discounts are much higher except in Canadian banks or U. S. banks located close to the border. Other banks and most of the business firms charge exchanges up to 20% and one New England toll road reportedly has signs at its booths notifying drivers of a 15% discount on Canadian money.

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGE W. YUNGINGER (89), of Canton, Ohio, died on March 12th. He was a veteran vaudevillian and circus side show performer, known professionally as "The Human Frog." Survivors include two sisters. Burial was at West Lawn Cemetery in Canton.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$25.00

PEOPLE

WAYNE RAGAN, lion and tiger trainer, worked some dates for the Carden-Johnson Circus and will tour with the No. 2 unit of Carson & Barnes Circus. He works 4 tigers and 5 lions,

CAROL and RUDY JACOBI adopted a baby girl on Feb. 16th. The new addition to the Jacobi family is named "LaMonde Latishia Virginia".

BILL WILLIAMS (Cotton Candy the Clown) worked several Easter Party dates late last month.

LINDA PHILIPS, ventriloquist, performed at the opening of a Pizza Restaurant in El Sobrante, Calif., the night of March 25th.

BOBBY GIBBS writes that GEORGE HANNEFORD, Sr., has been hospitalized at Venice, Fla.

KEN SHERBURNE has been with the Radin's Vaudeville Revue in the east, doing his unicycle and globe act.

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Miscellaneous

The Kelly Bros. Circus opened their 1978 tour at Tulsa, Okla., on March 29th.

The Circus Vargas elephant "Toka" rode a big skateboard down Hollywood Blvd., in Hollywood, Calif., last month.

In Memoriam

LARRY BENNER (77) former clown and flea circus operator, died at Miamisburg, Ohio, on March 3rd. Several years ago he donated most of his show equipment to the Circus World Museum. Survivors include two brothers and two sisters.

GLENN M. JACOBS (81) booking agent and promotional director, died at Ann Arbor, Mich on Feb. 22nd. He promoted sporting events and grandstand shows in the U. S. and Canada and at one time worked with the Gus Sun Agency. His wife, Edith, survives.

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Tour Underway

The Original Dixiana Trained Animal Circus opened its 1978 season with a very successful date at Crowley, La., Despite cool weather the attendance was excellent, stated Peter Luvas, owner and manager of the circus. The entire six weeks tour is being booked and promoted by Jeff Chalmers of Breaux Bridge, La.

The Spring tour, as it is called, opened March 14th and will close May 20th at the Gugelüier Mall in Lufkin, Texas. Most of the tour is booked with only one or two dates needed in North Louisiana around their May 13th date at Ringgold, La.

Luvas states that most of their equipment was reworked but due to a concession date they worked in Flint, Mich., and bad weather, all of the painting was not completed in time for the opening date. Their equipment this year includes two Motorhomes, two Wells Cargo trailers, a 2½ ton Ford and the generator truck of the old Dixiana Shows. Another unit is a pick up pulling the concession trailer which was re-

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PEOPLE

STEVE WALLEDA walked a high wire at the Oakland (Calif.) Zoo each day during Easter Week. His final performance was achieved while blindfolded.

LE LISA, aerialist, is a featured performer at Circus Circus in Las Vegas. She works on a trapeze traveling along the roof of the room.

JORGE ROSELL (Jorge's Komedý Kar) will be playing Canadian dates with the Hubert Castle Circus this summer.

AL DAWLEY, announcer/ringmaster, worked the Wilkes-Barre (Pa) date for Hamid-Morton following the Canton (Ohio) date and will be with the Sam T. Polack Circus at Duluth and Little Rock.

built in winter quarters with hot and cold running water. Due to not enough time to finish the office and ticket trailer it was left in storage in Beaumont, Tex., quarters.

The show is sporting a new velvet backdrop very similar to one used on the Stebbings Royal European Circus. Their paper is now being furnished by Neal Walters of Arkansas. They are using posters, newspapers and radio as the media of advertising. They have five malls booked and all other dates are under sponsorship.

Fans will remember that Luvas purchased the Dixiana Circus from Charles Koehler of New Orleans and opened in 1977 under the title of Strong & Luvas Circus. When Gary Strong left the show, the title was changed back to its original name, which is so well known in the South.

The line-up of the show runs: Dovana, web; Slater's goats; Clown; Davana, juggling; John Daly, break away bike; Bill Slater, Lynn and Cissy, Roman-ladders; Intermission; Trudy's dogs; Tepa, iron jaw; Clown; John Daly, gorilla parody; Davana, single trapeze and loop walk; Bill Slater, slack wire; Clown; Kenya the baby elephant. Announcements are handled by Isobel Luvas.

Show prices are scaled at: \$2.00 and \$4.00 in advance with 50c extra charged at the door on circus day.

M. I. Dupont

SAWDUST TRAIL

Word has been received by this writer that Charley Stephens will have the band on one unit of the Carson & Barnes Circus. Fans will remember Charley as band director on King Bros. many years ago. He is originally from the Ruston, La. area.

Gene Christian, long-time high grass show advance agent is making his home in Bradenton, Fla. Gene is no longer traveling on the road as he feels his health isn't up to the daily grind.

Ken Benson, ringmaster with World Wide Jungle Circus reports that he has recovered from his injuries of Feb. when he was stomped by a camel. The show continues to draw $\frac{3}{4}$ or better houses, while playing in lower Texas and an old time parade is offered each day.

Mel Silverlake left the show to get his pit show ready for the summer season.

Earl Allen has been approached by a writer who is doing a book with a circus background for information. The author spend several hours with Earl taking notes for his book. Friends of Earl will want to know that he is

going to re-enter the hospital for medical tests. You can write him at: 516 So. New Madrid, Sikeston, Mo. 63801. This reporter is indebted to him for many years of news items and letters of encouragement while ill.

Harry Jenkins, Sr. retired Air Force Col. and former circus organist, is up and around with the aid of a cane after getting a plastic and steel hip replacement. He expects to discard the cane soon. Harry, Sr. makes his home in San Diego, Calif., while his son, Harry, Jr. and family live in Dallas, Texas.

Harry Rawls, former manager of King Bros. Circus will be back with the corporation show working on B-C with concessions.

With Mark Anthony, clown, joining the Carden-Johnson Circus it means the old timers on RBBB that this writer knew are getting fewer and fewer. Only Lou Jacobs, on the Red Unit and Prince Paul on the Blue Unit remain.

..... M. L. Dupont

ROMAN SCHMITT (elephant and rhino act) will be working for the Castle dates at Columbus, Indianapolis and Dayton.

GENE HOLM

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PEOPLE

RAY HARRIS, retired circus man, has been named "Publicity Man" for the Joseph Andrew Rowe CFA Tent of Los Angeles.

DAVE MERRIFIELD, helicopter trapeze act, will perform overhead for the opening of the Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Club, then will drop the first ball of the season to the pitcher.

FRAN BRIDWELL (Spunky the Clown) who last year appeared on Garden Bros. Circus has been in ill health and would enjoy hearing from friends. Write: Fran Bridwell, 4645 Sandy Lane, Apt. B., Columbus, Ohio 43224.

DAVE SMITH (Captain Circus) fell 35 feet while making his entrance during a performance of the Hubert Castle Circus at Missoula, Mont., on March 13th.

He has been hospitalized at Missoula with a crushed heel, broken pelvis and internal injuries.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

MEDIA MISH-MASH: The L. N. FLECKLES Circus made one of those horrendous jumps into Chicago resulting in opening night chaos duly and unfairly reported in the press with such blurbs as "Shrine Doesn't Shine" and making ridiculous comparisons to a 3 ring extravaganza. Nevertheless NORBU and MARTIN LAMBERTI knocked blase Chicago reviewers on their collective ears and the Medinah Temple Shrine Circus continued healthily on its way.

CUTTIN' UP JACKPOTS: One of the greatest times I've had in recent years was a "roundtable" drinking bout after a 3 show day in Decatur (ILL) with RED GATES and his crew of professional butchers and concessionaires, cutting up jackpots and waxing nostalgic about the good old days. The great concession departments, like the great prop and rigger crews, are a thing of the past and it is rare indeed to be able to enjoy such an outing nowadays. Red in caseya didn't know, was the gun boy for the legendary CLYDE BEATTY when Red was only 16 years old. Red capped the gala evening by standing on a chair and delivering the famous CLYDE BEATTY announcement with all the dramatic intensity and silver tongued finesse of the truly spectacular announcers like COL. HARRY THOMAS or ROSS PAUL. When he finished, patrons in the hotel bar gave Red a standing ovation and it brought a thrill to this "old timer" who has seen and heard it all!
See you down the road, luvs.

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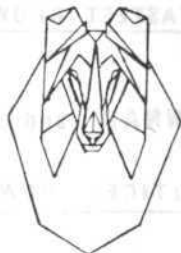
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TOWNS BOOKED AND NOW READY

PEOPLE

GENE HOLM is the musical director with the Royal Hanneford Circus.

ANGELA WILNOW and her collies will be on the Shrine Circus at Terre Haute, Ind. (April 21-23), booked by the Amandis Agency.

WANETA, REX and BOB LEONARD visited the Hamid-Morton Circus at Topeka (Kans) on March 4th, visiting with SYD MOORE, Jr. and brother TRACY and BOB ATTERBURY.

BENZINE, the Clown, was injured while performing with a circus in Palm Springs (Calif.) and is at home recovering, with his arm in a sling. You can drop him a note or card at: 12064½ Hoffman St. Studio City, Ca.91604.

DON (Whizzer the Clown) BRIDWELL has announced he is retiring from show business after having been a clown for some 30 years.

CARL BALLINTINE, from the Sgt. Bilko Tv Show, will be a guest at the Cavalcade of Clowns meeting on April 20th at 7 p.m. (the group meets at 12240 Archwood St., Hollywood, Calif.).

HARRY ROSS, clown, has joined the Henry Bros. Circus for the 1978 season which gets underway this month.

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IN MEMORIAM

NOBLE CARVER, (81) known as "Bozo the Clown" died on March 15th at a Tompkinsville (Ky) nursing home. He spent most of his life in show business as a clown and for several years he produced his own stage shows.

MIKE GASCA (67) died of a heart attack on March 2nd at Donna, Texas. He was born in Mexico City to circus parents and in his earlier years he was a wire walker, juggler, clown and rola bola performer and worked on many American circuses. He is survived by a brother and sister who live in California. Burial was in California.

DANNY DANIELS, comic and organist, and IRVING ROMIG along with several clowns helped star JERRY LEWIS celebrate his birthday during a show at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, Mich.

WANETA LEONARD recently received her Real Estate license from the State of Kansas.

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Drastic Move

All appointments to the California Contra Costa County Sheriff's Posse were suspended last week and the group was disbanded on orders of Sheriff Harry D. Ramsey. The action followed a series of complaints from local citizens about the operation of a telephone promotion underway in Martinez (Calif).

According to the complaints telephone solicitors who were selling tickets for a June 18th outdoor show, said they were representatives of the posse and that the funds would go to charity. It was also reported that citizens were coerced into buying the show tickets.

Gene Farlow, the posse captain said that as a result of the sheriff's action the show had been cancelled. He did not know if the group would try to stay together or what would happen in the future.

When Sheriff Ramsey came into office he called for an end to what he called "boiler room" operations in the county. However, about six months ago the posse signed contracts to sponsor an outdoor show at the county fairgrounds in Antioch.

The show's promoter and the posse had agreed to split the profits on a 50-50 basis. The posse had planned to donate 50% of its share to the American Heart Association. That organization had been contacted and said it would accept the donation.

Sheriff Ramsey says the posse also signed a "contract agreeing to provide traffic control and police

protection and to have an ambulance available." This, he added, amounts to committing the county to provide services without authorization by the county.

The Contra Costa County Sheriff's Posse was organized in 1935 by then Sheriff John A. Miller. "The posse," says Ramsey, "long since lost sight of the goals of Sheriff Miller."

MANCHESTER JACK, lion keeper at Wombwell's Menagerie in England during the 19th Century, is credited as being the first lion tamer, performing in 1835. The first tamer to perform with a mixed group of cats was the American Van Amburgh in 1838.

The first fatality occurred in Jan. 1850 at Chatham (England) when Helen Bright of Wombwell's was attacked and killed by a tiger.

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PEOPLE

JIM MORAN, BILL BACKSTEIN, MIKE and MARILYN SORRELL, NORMAN SCHULER, GIL MILLER and ALAN BABCOCK were seen visiting the Hubler Int'l Circus at Decatur, Ill.

BILL BURGER, who recently retired from his school teaching assignment, will tour with the Big John Strong Circus as Office Manager.

DAN OUGHTON writes that the Hunt Circus is one of the most colorful on the road with its well painted and lettered equipment.

MIKE WINN broke the world's record for the steepest inclined high wire walk on March 23, at Knott's Berry Farm in California.

DOUG HENNING, magician, opened yesterday (April 2) at the Las Vegas Hilton for an extended engagement.

THE MARCELLI'S, wire act, have been signed to work at the Shrine Circus in Manchester, N. H., and with the Shrine Circus at Atlanta, Ga. These dates will be followed by an appearance at the Sports Show in Quebec City.

W. E. (Shotgun) PAGE, retired circus owner, recently visited with GARY STRONG at his show winterquarters. Everything is being prepared, he said, for the 1978 season which will open April 23rd.

It's A Raid

Federal agents and members of the Metro Organized Crime Bureau raiders shut down a phone promotion operation in Miami, Fla., early this month. The phone solicitors were selling tickets to a concert for underprivileged children which was scheduled for June, and sponsored by the Dade County Council Fraternal Order of Police.

According to the federal search warrant issued for the phone room, mail being sent from the address bore counterfeit postage stamps. A small amount of counterfeit stamps were seized in the raid.

Officials report the phone room was operating without a license from the city, county or state. However, no arrests were made.

The counterfeit stamps were described "as better than average". They were spotted by a postal worker sorting mail at the local post office.

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