

8th Year

February 5, 1979

Number 6

TOUR CHANGES

As a change of pace and a means of varying his operation, Big John Strong has altered his usual circus tour in the west. Instead of routing his circus through California and Nevada in the early part of the year the show will open in Southern California on March 19 and is to move directly east. The circus will return to the west coast for an Oct. 23rd closing date.

The circus winterquarters at Yucaipa, Calif., are already busy in preparation for the upcoming season. A new program and additional animal acts will be featured.

An open house with a special show will be held at the circus winterquarters on March 10th and 11th. Circus Fans will be invited to a picnic and a sneak preview of the circus that weekend.

The usual California and Nevada spring dates have been scheduled for an early presentation of the "This Is Magic" show, under the direction of Big John Strong. This show opened in early January and will continue to tour through March 17th. The program features Holveck & Co., with magic and illusions, plus the Brauns, with their western acts. Chris Kennington is managing the show and handling concessions with the assistance of Ron Pace.

The "This Is Magic" show has been drawing good crowds and good response from the sponsors. It is also winning plenty of newspaper space, including photos and stories on the front pages. Three experienced advance men are in front of the show, Tom Beckman, Bob Johnson and Bill Burger.

At the conclusion of the magic show tour the advance people will jump out ahead of

(Continued on Page 4)

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PEOPLE

GLENN DANDROY has recently signed with **CARL** and **JIM CONLEY** to head up the concession department of Circus Williams for the 1979 season. Also working in the department will be **MIKE COLE**.

JOE DRICK, musical director/circus coordinator at the Int'l Circus at Old Chicago, has resigned from that position to work and travel with an Arlington, Texas, based show band. He will be musical director, arranger and composer with the band.

PAT DERBY and **ED SHERWOOD**, of Howling Wolf Lodge & Wild Animal Park, Legget, Calif., have completed taping of TV commercials for Lincoln-Mercury. They now go on tour appearing at auto shows throughout the country.

THE EASTWOODS - Howard, Chona and Wally, have returned to their home in Texas after playing dates with Bell Bros. Circus in Mexico. They will join the Carson & Barnes Circus for the '79 tour, starting on March 16th.

DOUG LYONS, of the Beatty-Cole Circus visited the Circus Vargas at its opening in San Diego, Calif., early this month.

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HARRY CHIPMAN, former circus pressman, celebrated his birthday by attending Circus Vargas which was appearing in Burbank, Calif. Harry also reports that **JOHN MCGINN** and his wife, of Prescott, Ariz. recently visited him, while enroute to San Francisco.

RAY MAREK's new flying act "Les Mareks" will be touring with the Hamid-Morton Circus this season. The show opens in Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 15th and will close in Late June in Norfolk, Va.

DALE and **LOIS MADDEN**, former show people, keep active with the Senior Citizens Program at Gainesville, Texas. They would like to hear from old friends, who can write them at: 735 Cole St., Gainesville, Texas 76240.

LUCY and **LACY TOTH** (Lacy is with the Sheriff's Dept. in Sarasota), **WES WESTBY**, horseman, **TOM INABINETTE** and **DOUG LYONS**, of the Beatty show, **MIKE GORMAN**, performance director with the Monte Carlo Circus, **CIMEON MARTINEZ**, chimp trainer, **WALLY NAGHTIN**, bear trainer, held a backyard meeting on the Ringling show during that show's dates in Florida.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$15.00 per year. Overseas subscription via surface mail is \$20.00 a year.

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Acts Wanted

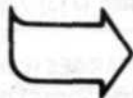
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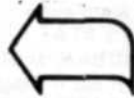
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SHOW DATES

- Circus Calico (TNT Circus)
Feb. 10-12 Buena Park, Calif.
- Circus Vargas
Feb. 8-11 Hawthorne, Calif.
- Cole All Star TV Circus
Feb. 5 Susquehanna, Pa.
6 Downsville, NY
7 Margaretville
8 Franklin
10 New Hartford
11 Oriskany
- Liebel Family Circus
Feb. 5-6 Kissimmee, Fla.
7-8 Orlando
9 Kissimmee
- Sam T. Polack Circus
Feb. 7-11 Louisville, Ky.
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
Feb. 7-18 Atlanta, Ga.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Feb. 6-11 Birmingham, Ala.

--- OTHER DATES ---

- Blackjack Championship
Feb. 8-10 Reno, Nev.
- Blackstone Magic Show
Feb. 5 Gulfport, Miss.
6 Baton Rouge, La.
- Vince Carmen's Magic Revue
Feb. 7 San Marcus, Texas
7 Lampasas
8 Lockhart
10 Houmea, La.
- Holiday On Ice -
Feb. 8-11 Lake Charles, La.
- Holiday On Ice - Nat'l Unit
Feb. 6-11 Cincinnati, Ohio
- Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit
Feb. 6-11 Erie, Pa.
- Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Feb. 6-18 Washington, DC
- Ice Capades - Western Unit
Feb. 6-11 Champaign, Ill.
- Ice Follies
Feb. 7-11 New Haven, Conn.
- Kramien's Magicazam Show
Feb. 5 McMinnville, Ore.
7-8 Crescent City, Cal
10-11 Eureka
- Lipko's Comedy Chimps
Feb. 10-11 Rock Hill, S.C.
- Loomis' Magic Capades
Feb. 6 Levelland, Texas
8 Lamesa
9 Odessa
11 Kermit
- John MacKay - Clown
Feb. 7-11 Louisville, Ky.
- Oberammergan Passion Play
Feb. 5-7 Hayward, Calif.
- White House in Miniature
Feb. 8-20 Orlando, Fla.



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TOUR CHANGES (Contin'd)
the Big John Strong Circus for
its summer season. The Brauns
will play west coast dates and
Holveck & Co., will go east to
start a summer tour with a
Florida-based show.



Billy Barton

THE YOUNGSTOWN (Oh) Aut Mori Grotto Circus will this year be half-circ and half-circus. A 30 x 50 ft. rink of real ice will be used, elevated one foot (so air currents will prevent warping of the basketball floor). A total of thirteen production skaters will be in the cast, including six production girls, a comic, an ad-gaio team, two specialty acts, and a girl-into-tiger special opening sequing into the SCHMITT tiger act.

CIRCUS VARGAS opened in the pouring rain. Reports from those on the scene say the opening was rough (which is normal). The top was 3/4 capacity. Neither the spec nor the new top was used owing to the inclement weather. Program ran as: Harry Thomas, tigers; Clowns with Jim Parker - tiger chase; Cradle display with the Rolls Duo and The Burketts; Clowns - pumping iron, with Billy McCabe, Mark Anthony and others; Antonio, one finger stand; Rings 1 and 3 - dressage with John and Mary Ruth Herriott; display of traps with Miss Lydia, Mr. Robin Medina and Lorelei; Clowns - serpentina; the Eight Tangiers - Arabian tumblers. Second half opened with Horace and Moe - Gorilla parody; Flying Lantons; Miss Janet with Samoyed Huskies; Mark Anthony's midget car; Liberty horses by the Herriott Family; Sr. Antonio, head-balancing trapeze; Los Argentine Gauchos; Albullet Bros. - high wire; Eleven elephants in all three rings under the direction of Rex Williams. To be added are a second flying act, The Carlos Twins, 10 horses, the spec and an aerial motorcycle. Visitors included: Harry Ellis, Rex Horton, Wally Ross, Tommy Bentley, George Coronas and Jim Swafford. The band included an organ, drums and two horns.

AT THE Indianapolis Shrine Seminar in Sept. the Circus Producers Ass'n put up several thousand dollars, which was matched by various temples. This money has been used to hire a permanent Washington Associate (not a lobbyist) to investigate and keep tabs on all upcoming laws pertaining to Animal Welfare, Copyright Laws, Immigration, etc.

THE MENTOR PTA Circus at Mentor (OH) Feb. 17-19, will feature EDDIE SCHMITT's tigers, VENTURA's cradle, CHSE & PARK, ROMAN SCHMITT with rhino and elephant, ELKINS SISTERS, SCOTT with Unrideable Mule, Aerial ballet with NANCY GIORDANO, FLYING LAR-RAYS, GREAT HUBERTO, VERDU TROUPE, LOS LATINOS, CHARLIE VAN BUSKIRK, ringmaster.

CORONAS CIRCUS makes the following dates of their own: Orlando, Atlanta Shrine dates, plus the annual stint at West Orange (NJ). Reports are the family returns to the Texas Dates this season.

Neither SELLS & GRAY nor KING BROS. will tour this season. The BEATTY show, using the

same format as the past two seasons, hits the road in March. **WHITEY BLACK**, former King Mgr. will be concession manager with **Hoxie WILLEY STOR-EY** has an office job with the Beatty Show.

SNAPSHOTS: **HUBLER INT'L** has July Shrine dates in Hagerstown and Cumberland (Md). Already signed are the **VASQUEZ TROUPE**, with flying act and three head-balancing trapeze acts. . . **THE RAY DIONNE FAMILY** make the Detroit Shrine date and have ten weeks of fairs in Canada. . . The annual **KEN BREWSTER, BERNIE BERWIN, BILL BRICKLE** New Year's bash was held again this year in Gibsonton and, from all reports, was a rollicking success. . . **GEORGE DaDEPPO** and **ART BARRETT** have redesigned the color books as well as the iron-on T-shirt patches. The new items debuted in Flint. . . **AERIALIETTA** opened her season in Saginaw. . . **BILL KAY** has picked up Parkersburg, Wheeling and Clarksburg Shrine dates this summer, formerly played by the Wallenda Circus. . . **LOU ANN JACOBS** made an impressive appearance as an actress on the Monte Carlo Special; is very photogenic, and spoke her lines well. Wouldn't be surprised if some TV or Movie Exec doesn't snap her up for films! . . . **DAVID EPPERLY** is bandleader with Vargas. . . New bandleader on Int'l All Star is **LEIGH KETCHEM**. . . **BONNIE & CLYDE** opened with All Star Jan. 26th with their Musical Comedy and Vent acts. . . Rumor hazzit **JIM NORDMARK** is trying to buy into a major circus. . . **EVY KAROLY** sold some horses and dogs to **PATTI ANTALEK**. . . **JIMMIE COLE** flew to Dallas to spend the Holidays with his son. While there visited with **MYNA MOON, BARBARA TATA** and **BUCKEY STEEL**. . . Hoxie Mgr. **JOE McMAHON** bought a home in DeLand (Fla). . . Managers of the Nordmark shows are now equipped with Radio Telephones (Glad I'm not, I'd NEVER get out of debt!). . . Jubilee On Ice goes out in March for a short tour. . . **WALLY & CHERYL** are now fronting the Parker Comedy Car on the new Hanneford edition. . . Thanks **VASHEK** and **KATHY** for those wild glasses! . . . **BOOM BOOM BROWNING** starts his season with M&M, then goes to **POLACK**. . . Talked to the **DROUGETTES** just before they left for sunny Florida to Castle in KKKold! Michigan. . . **RBBB Blue** is out on 39 cars and has the **URIAS** globe act.

CORRECTION: The name of the author in my Jan. 15th column is P. D. James. There was a typo-error, mixing up this talented gal's name. Sorry about that P. D.

LAUGH OF THE WEEK: **BOBBY YERKES** had a number of the Vargas performers as guests New Year's Day and ran the movie "Earthquake." Meanwhile the L.A. area was shaken up by a real one. How's that for **SPECIAL EFFECTS!**

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JERRY BENSON, California magician, is appearing at west coast department stores in conjunction with a seminar presented by NICOLE SCHAPIRO, president of Creative Women, Inc.

Mr. and Mrs. PETROVICS, rola bola act, have joined the Liebel Family Circus for dates in Virginia and Florida. He will also do booking for the show.

MARIA PILAR and HARRY C. RAWLS were married at DeLand, Fla. on Dec. 24th. Maria is the daughter of TOMMY and MARIA CLARK, concession operators, while Harry's folks are also in the concession business.

GARY THORTON, dog trainer, is putting an act of trained white huskies together for a Florida based circus for the coming season.

BARBARA FULTON is reportedly out booking dates for Circus Genoa, while PAUL HUDSON is in charge of the winterquarters operation of the show.

Mailroom.

The Post Office says they have no forwarding address for the following people and as a result have returned mail addressed to them.

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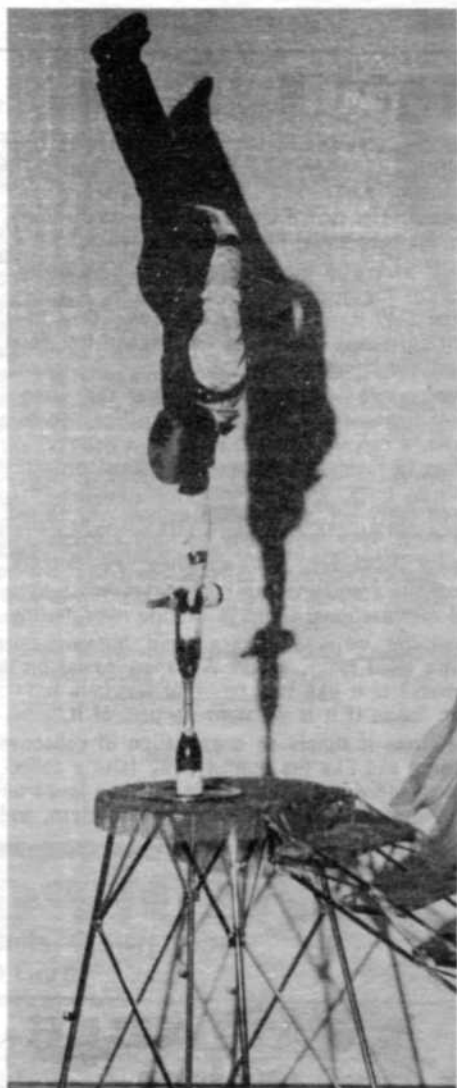
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MAIL BAG

The Big John Strong Circus is preparing to open again. In fact right now I'm booking dates for the upcoming season, and will soon be starting the advance. The tented circus survives, precariously, like the bald eagle, but still it survives.

Yet if people in the circus business have no regard for the quality of their show, for the reputation they leave behind, for the way they treat their customers, than how can anyone feel good about the circus?

Townsppeople need a circus less than the circus needs townsppeople. These "towners" can go to a movie, a play or watch TV. When a "circus" comes to town with games (flat joints) on the midway, dirty, drunken employees, pitches between every act, why should anyone pay to see the show. Why should anyone have a special feeling for circus day. There's nothing special there.

From the presidents and representatives of clubs and organizations, I always get the same feeling. "Well, yes, we would like a circus, but is it clean? Is it a good family show? Are there games on the midway? Is it like that one that was here last year, 'cause if it is we want no part of it."

The circus is simply an organization of collective entities, and like the human body (also a collection of individual entities) it cannot be loved until it loves itself enough to be honest, clean, and the best it possibly can.

Robert (Red) Johnson

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PEOPLE

GEORGANNA and PAUL OSBORNE, former concessionaires, now live in retirement at Gibsonton, Fla. They make food aprons for concession people as well as costumes for both people and animals.

THE STEHPENSON FAMILY have their dog act at the Circus World Park in Florida.

Miscellaneous

The Oakland, Calif., Shrine Temple has announced their annual circus will be held in late April at the City Auditorium, while the San Francisco Shrine Temple reports their circus will be held in early May at the Cow Palace.

Shows playing in the Central/Northern California area last year were: TNT & Royal Olympic, John Strong Circus, American Continental, California Circus, Circus Vargas, Pickle Family Circus, Bentley Bros., Circus Carol, Emmett Kelly, Jr., Happytime Circus, Europorama, Lani's Mini Circus, Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit, Funs-A-Poppin Circus, PAL Circus, Santa's Christmas Circus.

Magic shows playing the same area included: Kra-mien's Magicazam, Lee Grable, McGill, Holveck and Wally Lee.

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MAGIC

by Prof. STU MILLER

We are wintering Magic Time USA in Gibsonton, Fla., this year and certainly were surprised at the magic activity in what is generally known as a carnival town. Bernie Berwin and Ken Brewster have been working several months on their new magic circus act which will feature big cats and they just left to join Bill Brickle's circus unit in the Carolinas. Floyd Bradbury, resident magician and manager of Bill Garden's Holiday Hippodrome, is in town and jack-potting with magician-builder-showman Dick Johnson. Circus illusionist Roy Huston is laying over at Ward Hall and Chris Crist's winterquarters. Hall and Christ are framing a very large full evening magic revue called Wondercade. It will have several full stage illusions, a chorus line of 12 girls and lavish production numbers, and will show exclusively in legitimate theatres. Vince Carmen will be the magician. Hall & Christ are investing heavily in this show and will own it and operate it in its entirety and we certainly wish them success with it.

Blackstone's road show was in Lakeland last week and is due in Sarasota next week. Ron and Joy Holiday are featured in Jack Mansell's "1002 Nights" review at the Showboat Dinner Theatre in St. Petersburg.

From NYC: Larry Weeks 50th One Day Magic Convention will be held on March 4th and it will be a gala affair according to all reports. The magicians magazine "Hocus Pocus" has caught on. The 3rd issue is out and it has a pic of yours truly on the cover and a 4 page spread on Magic Time USA inside. Executive Editor Dick Brooks is to be congratulated with the success of the only publication of it's type in the world today. The Richiardi show still running at the Village Gate in the village. Broadway's Magic Show closed Dec. 31st, leaving the legitimate theatre without a magic show for the first time in 5 years, however, that void may be short lived as it is reported that Richiardi will move to the Town Hall in the near future.

When we open Magic Time USA on April 1st, for Mearl Johnson, we will have some new faces: Kurt Szmanski's Chimps (through Bauer-Hall), stage manager Peter Sturgis, juggler Mike Wudki and show girl Patti Wudki. We hope many of you will be able to visit this summer as you are always welcome... watch for our route in CR.

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WE ORIGINATE OTHERS IMITATE

On Page 16 of the Jan. 22nd issue of Circus Report we noticed the following ad . . .

"Available, skating Yak, Ideal for new ice shows, but won't follow union chicken acts. Contact Lee Donoghue."

Having the only union chicken act (AFL-CIO, ASSOC. OF FRYERS & LAYERS, and CREATORS OF INTERESTING OMELETS) Henrietta, my singing chicken was shaken to her jiblets.

Her only retort is that skating Yak acts are a dime a dozen anyway, and usually work for chicken feed, a poultry sum.

Billy Earl and Henrietta

In reading a December issue of Circus Report about the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Circus, I noticed a few mistakes.

For one thing you listed the bandleader as being Al Youngman, it was actually Al Vernon.

Clowns on the date were: Jimmy Douglas, producing clown, Vern Woerner, John MacKay, David Chabira, Joe Sherman and Tim Hill, with some good numbers.

John MacKay

PEOPLE

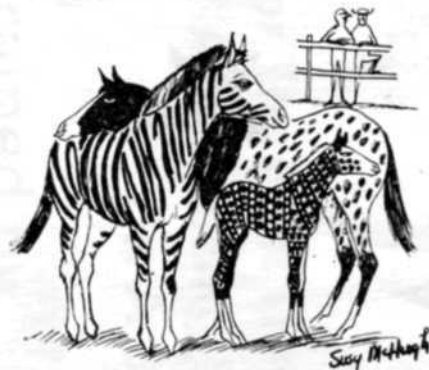
TOM ROBIN EDELSTON is working with the fly-act at Las Vegas, filling in for the injured GREG FRIEL.

DALE MADDEN, of 735 Cole St., Gainesville, Texas 76240, would like to hear from BUD MANLY or at least learn of his whereabouts.

HUMPTY DUMPTY, a wild, whacky acrobatic group from Hungary, is currently appearing at Circus Circus in Las Vegas.

LLOYD E. JONES was Master of Ceremonies for the 54th annual Installation Dinner Program of the Oakland Magic Circle, held late last month. RICK FLEMING was installed as the Circle's new president. He is the son of BILL FLEMING who was president of the group in 1951 and 1954.

CHUCK AMARRAL & CO., MEL WITTICH, ALEX KATTEN, TREBOR and JAY MARBOROUGH were featured on the entertainment program for the installation of officers at the Oakland, Calif., Magic Circle last month.



• "Never should'a let that Appaloosa in with that Zebra."

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PEOPLE

TOMMY BENTLEY, CHUCK CLANCY, RUSTY,
PATTY and ANDREW ROCK (Flying Russells),
Dr. NEIL KAHANOVITZ, (Neil Kay the clown),
FREDDIE LAVINE, JIM SWAFFORD and movie
star MARTHA RAYE were recently seen on the
Circus Vargas lot.

FREDDIE LAVINE, CHRIS BRICKER and KEN
MILLER, clowns, recently completed work on a
Quin Martin Production TV pilot, a situation com-
edy called "Bumbles" which has been sold to the
CBS-TV network. The trio will go to Japan in Mar-
ch to be part of "Circus International" a RALPH
YEMPUKU production, booked by PAUL KAYE.

DANNY DANIELS, organist-comic-juggler, is being
kept busy appearing with the "Amazing Byron"
World of Wonders Magic Show. He will be appearing
with the show off and on throughout this season,
doing two acts, plus backing the show with organ
music.

CHRIS BRICKER, clown, is featured in the NBC-
TV show "Sweepstakes" where he appeared in a

circus episode. Also appearing in the soon to be
aired film are JAMES COCO, RHUE McCLANA-
HAN and PARLEY BAER:

DON BRIDWELL's book entitled "Just For Laughs"
was given a nice plug by columnist SID LORRAINE
last month. The book is available from Abbott's
Magic Co., of Colon, Mich., for \$3.50.

STAN KRAMIEN, west coast magician, was pictured
in "The New Tops" magazine for Jan. 1979, as he
does a card trick for Lassie.

JOHN BRYAN's night club act of magic was featured
on the cruise ship "Boheme" last month as the vessel
cruise in the West Indies.

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"Pict. History Of Perform. Horses," 1960, by Chappie	\$10.95
"The Circus In Amer." with Tom Parkinson, 1969	\$20.00
"The Great Circus Street Par. In Pictures" Chappie with F. Beverly Kelley, 1978	\$ 5.50
"American Circus Posters in Full Color" by Chappie, 1978	\$ 7.50
*"The Circus Moves By Rail" Tom Parkinson with Chappie, 1978.	\$35.00

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But another act in the show, for my money, was the show-stopper. In fact, it just about stopped my heart. The Carrillo Brothers, from Columbia, walk on a tightrope high above the concrete Bayfront floor - not net, no nothing, except nerve - which they've got plenty of.

Whatever show owners Irvin and Kenneth Feld are paying them, it isn't enough. They walked up to the high wire on the guy wires, for starters. One of them jumped back and forth over a stick which he held, and my heart jumped into my throat.

They jumped over each other on the wire, they played leap frog, they did headstands and somersaults on the wire. They played jump rope, on one foot. One of them stood on the shoulders of the other, walked across the wire, and then jumped off his brother's shoulders onto the wire. I caught myself gasping rather loudly.

The Ringling show has numerous tumblers, teeter-board experts and trampolinists. They're all terrific, even though some of the stunts don't work some of the time.

It's the very fact that I see them not working which endears me to the circus, in a strange sort of way. It's the "live" quality, the knowledge that one totter when an acrobat should've teetered and he'd break his neck. It's the immediacy of the thing that absolutely thrills me.

Clowns? Ringling wrote the book. Dozens of them parade throughout the show. Of special interest is Lou Jacobs. He's been in the show 55 years, and he's still the best funnyman Ringling has. He's priceless.

Animals? Besides William's flock, Ringling also features bears, dogs, of numerous varieties, chimps - the Rudi Lenz Chimpas are outstanding - all responding on cue, in the best circus tradition.

(Continued on Next Page)

(The following review has been reprinted from the Florida "Clearwater Sun" of Jan. 4, 1979.)

by STEVE HILL

Every year I think it couldn't possibly get any better.

But as every January rolls around, Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus rolls into town and most of the acts bring the house down.

"The Greatest Show on Earth", playing through Sunday at St. Petersburg's Bayfront Center, continues to prove that it's probably the greatest entertainment value, dollar for dollar, in the country today.

From the moment singing ringmaster Kit Haskett steps out into the spotlight and the entire troupe of performers and showgirls bedecked in blue and pink spangles parades around the arena, not a moment of the next two and one-half hours is worth less than the price of admission.

Then, making his first of several appearances during the show, comes Gunther Gebel-Williams, the acknowledged and deserved star of the Ringling Circus. His first time out he displays his prowess with tigers - 16 of them - making them jump through and over fire, sit up, hop around the ring on their hind legs - the "usual" circus fare that is nonetheless spectacular time after time.

Williams appears later in the show, working with a dozen horses, again with more than a dozen assorted pumas, panthers and leopards, and finally, with a herd of thundering and trumpeting elephants. He commands 16 elephants at once, using only his voice.

There's no doubt in my mind that He's the best animal trainer working today - no pith helmet, no chair and gun, considerably flashier than the late Clyde Beatty ever was, but better, I think.

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SPECIAL

MILONGA CLINE reports that her party of friends attended the Showfolks Party over the holidays and everyone had a good time. Included in the party were: the Hacketts, the Talleys, Lucille Lane and her son Al, and his wife, Laura May Patrillo and her mother Mildred McKensie. Their gracious host was Grace Ivanov.

Some of the folks seen at the party were: Ian and Mickey Garden, John and Gudrun Strong, Bill Garden, the Dubskys, Johnny and Laura Walker, Cucciolo,

Most of the people there were circus fans who had flown in from all over the country, hoping to see some of the circus people they admire,



PAT and GWEN DAVISON (The Patricks) will return to the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus this season. Pat has been substituting for the regular teacher at a school for circus skills. The regular teacher is CRAIG CARLSON, formerly with Kirk Bros., Int'l All Star and the Great London circuses.

TIM and LINDA DAVISON are the parents of a baby boy "Aaron" born on Oct. 9, 1978. Tim was on the road with a number of elephant acts at one time including PAUL KELLY, GUNTHER GEBEL-WILLIAMS, BOBBY GIBBS and FRED LOGAN. Some years back he was the announcer on a west coast based circus.

RINGLING REVIEW (Continued)

"Colossal," "stupendous," "fantastic," "amazing," are all words commonly associated with circus spectacles, and commonly they're considerably overused.

But with regard to this year's Ringling show, the 109th such show, those words don't begin to paint the picture. It calls itself "The Greatest Show on Earth," and it may be just that.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

By M. L. DUPONT

A cold winter grips the south and most of the nation as the new year gets underway. So far there's been no word as to how the Col. Silverlake's Real Wild West & Circus is doing in Texas - word from that area has temperatures well below freezing, even in the Valley. Many of the show's winter homes, which are not returned to, are not equipped with electricity or heat that can cope with such sudden cold spells. We hear that Circus Genoa is in an abandoned saw mill in Alabama, while the Jungle Wonders Circus is at a fairgrounds north of Houston.

Tex Dreyfus, of Houston, reports he has been under the weather since the first of the year with a nagging virus he hasn't been able to shake. Tex reports his long-time and close friend and traveling companion M. A. Miller has suffered a heart attack. Our best wishes go to him for a speedy recovery.

Clowns who like to collect color photos of other clowns should get the Sept. '78 issue of the Chevy magazine 'Friends'. It has a full color photo of Mark Anthony, plus 9 color shots of other Ringling clowns with an article entitled "Put on a Slappy Face". This item also includes a nine photo series of Wayne Sidney putting on his make-up.

The January meeting of the Millette Tent of Dallas was held at the home of members Mr. and Mrs. Croome. The program was about old circus recordings and new material located by Ed Millette. A report was also made about the trip to the Monte Carlo Circus Festival.

A brochure from Jack Smith, former circus owner, advance man and booking agent, who retired in 1978 shows he is now doing Show Printing in Tarpon Springs, Fla. Jack is general manager of the personnel management part of the business.

Charles Koehler, CFA and attorney in New Orleans, reports he still has the cages that were a part of his Dixiana Circus. Everything but the cages were sold to Peter Luvas and wagons were built on the style of the old Christy show. Jack also retained the calliope. In a recent telephone conversation Jack said, "I still get the urge to hit the trail when spring rolls around and the grass starts to grow. I am keeping the wagons for sentimental reasons. I know how retired show people and people who are off the road for the winter feel when it gets that time of year."

Members of the Gibbs family gathered in Dallas for Christmas at the home of Rose Ann Baty. Rose Ann is expecting (in 5 months), and hubby is on the new Ringling unit as trainmaster, a job he held with the Freedom train. Casey just returned from Australia. It's the high grass show again for Bobby in '79.

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Show Date

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus will play two weekend engagements in February, the 10-11-12 and 17-18-19, under the title "Calico Circus."

The Calico title is from Knotts Berry Farm's Calico Square Western Town Section of the Southern California theme Park in Buena Park.

The show will feature David Linden, hand balancing and one finger stand; Chester Cable, foot juggling; Wini McKay, aerial; Tim Tegge as 'Twinkles' the clown and drums; Louise Tegge, at the organ and Earl Tegge, ringmaster.

The show is to be presented as a "period" circus and the appearance of the show's physical equipment will be changed to fit the theme.

The booking was made with Chuck Burnes, former Ringling clown who is talent coordinator at Knotts.

"I'm delighted," said Tegge, "for the opportunity to appear in a park of such magnitude as Knotts. It's the first time they're doing anything like this, and we're going to do everything we can to please them."

There will be other acts appearing throughout the park, including Tara, the elephant. Dates are in celebration of Lincoln and Washington birthdays.

ACTS

Variety acts currently on tour with the Harlem Globetrotters include: Jean-Claude, French antipodiste; Biasini, bicycle act; Dick Franco, juggler; The Francis Duo, rola bola; Shayne Trio, acrobatic dancers; Marchitas, bicycle act; Wasil, balancing act and The Wainwrights, trampoline trio. All acts were booked through Simone Finner Enterprises, Hollywood Based theatrical agency specializing in novelty acts.

Need Help - Tex Dreyfus is looking for a copy of the book by Ballentine called "Horses and their Bosses". Anyone knowing the whereabouts of a copy please let this writer know. . . The collection of books owned by the late Earl Allen has been donated to the Sikeston, Mo. Library, as per his wishes.

DoDo the Clown, will work his first '79 engagement as a promotional deal for the TG&Y Chain. They are now running TV commercial spots with a tramp clown that is almost identical to DoDo.