



7th Year

November 6, 1978

Number 45

## Tour Plans Set

The Gary Holveck Magic Show, produced and promoted by Big John Strong, closed its early fall tour at Santa Ana, Calif., on Saturday, Nov. 4th. The tour started at Akron, Ohio, on Oct. 24th and included engagements at such large cities as St. Louis and Denver, with business reported as good all along the way.

Appearing with the show, in addition to the Holveck Family, were: Big John Strong, Chester Cable, Wini McKay, the Billy Gunga Family and clown Don Young.

In a telephone report late last week John said he wanted readers to know that he was unable to publish his circus route this past season because of unfair competition from a number of shows. "They were playing my dates and even trying to sign up my sponsors," John added. The competition came in both the east and Northwest areas.

Despite this, John reports the year was a pretty fair one. There were some solid dates in the early portion of the tour, which was promoted by his son John Jr. Dates in Illinois were handled by Lou Kretchmer, with Al Buchanan handling dates in Iowa. Dates in the Pacific Northwest were down, but things picked up once the show got into California during its final weeks of the season.

Next year John plans to expand the

show's advance department. He will use a full contingent of clowns and other people who will alternate towns, using a wide variety of advance promotion ideas.

Again this year John plans to operate four Christmas Holiday Show units. Big John and his unit will have the longest tour which starts Dec. 4th at Salt Lake City. Acts tour-

(Continued on Page 18)

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**Show Date**

The program presented by the Hubert Castle Circus at El Paso, Texas (Oct. 4-8) as sponsored by the Alhambra Shrine featured:

The Ronritas, aerial wheel; Tarzan Zerbini, wild animals; Clowns; The Davids and The Shermans, aerial cradles; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Doug Ashton and Sally; Randy & Sylvia, perch; Martinez, perch; Johnny Laddie, unsupported ladder; Ms. Jaqueline, aerialist; Gary Thomas, elephants.

After intermission came: Boomer, the boxing kangaroo; the Rock Smith Flyers; Clowns; the Carlos Twins; Aerial Ballet featuring the Paulo Sisters and Robin Medina; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; the Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard and the Rock Smith Cannon.

Lucky Larabee handled the announcements, with Clement Tocca, band leader and Pablo Martinez, prop boss. Gene Randow headed Clown Alley.

**Flash!**

The West Coast 11 p.m. newscast on Oct. 25th reported that a high wire performer with the Ringling Barnum Circus had fallen during a performance and was hospitalized that evening.

Unfortunately it was impossible to determine which unit the accident occurred on and who the injured performer was. The newscast was not repeated and local papers did not carry the story.

**IN MEMORIAM**

DOROTHY SHAY (57), singer who was known as "The Park Avenue Hillbilly" in the 1940's died after suffering a stroke on Oct. 23 at Santa Monica, Calif. Born in Jacksonville, Fla., she sang with the Spike Jones Band, then went on to become a top name star. She made many albums for Columbia, three of them became Gold Records. She most recently played the part of Clara on The Waltons TV Show.

MAY WHITE WIRTH (84) retired circus performer who was enshrined in the Circus Hall of Fame at Sarasota, died on Oct. 18, at a nursing home near Sarasota. She started her circus career at the age of 5, performing as a contortionist with the Wirths Circus in Australia. At the age of 6 she was adopted by John and Marizles Wirth Martin, of the Wirth's Circus.

When she was 17 she came to the U. S. and made her debut with Ringling-Barnum in 1912, remaining there until 1927. For the next ten years, until her retirement in 1937, she toured in vaudeville with her family.

In 1919, she married Frank Edwin White, a circus performer, who also assumed the name Wirth. Later he conducted the Frank Wirth Booking Agency in New York City until his death in 1965.

May Wirth was the only woman to do a forward somersault on a horse and was the only woman to perform a backward somersault from one horse to another.

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# SHOW DATES

- Circus Vargas  
to Nov 8 Mesa, Ariz.  
Nov 9-13 Phoenix
- Great Y Circus  
Nov 10-12 San Bernardino,  
Calif.
- Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Nov 6-7 Hallandale, Fla.  
8 Homestead  
9 Key Largo  
10 Key West  
11 Marathon  
12 Coral Gables  
- End of the Season -
- Tomi Liebel Family Circus  
Nov 9-27 Winston-Salem,  
N.C.
- Lin-Rich Animal Circus  
Nov 3-12 Jacksonville, Fla
- Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit  
to Nov. 19 Chicago, Ill.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
to Nov. 12 Cleveland, Ohio
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
Nov. 6 Greenville, S.C.  
7 Clemson  
8 Jacksonville, Fla.  
9 Tampa  
10 Boca Raton
- Wonderland Circus Revue  
Nov. 6 Barnburg, S.C.  
7 Hampton  
8 Barnesville  
9 Richland  
10 Estill  
11 St. George

## --- OTHER DATES ---

- Blackstone's Magic Show  
Nov. 6 St. Bonaventure,  
NY  
8 Princeton, NJ  
9 Fort Dix  
10 Poughkeepsie, NY  
11 Brooklyn  
12 Middletown
- Fred, the Cockatoo  
Nov 8-12 Canton, Ohio
- Gutis Family Comedy Act  
Nov. 11 Akron, Ohio
- Holiday On Ice - Int'l  
Nov 10-12 Muskegon,
- Holiday On Ice - Nat'l  
Nov 10-19 Indianapolis,  
Ind.
- Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
Nov 14-20 Montreal, Queb
- Ice Capdes - Western Unit  
Nov 7-12 San Diego, Calif
- Ice Follies  
Nov 7-12 Syracuse, N.Y.
- International Festival  
Nov 10-12 Oakland, Calif.
- Bob Jones Pet Zoo  
Nov 7-12 Louisville, Ky.
- Magic Time USA - Pf. Miller  
Nov. 11 Lees Summit, Mo  
12 Boonville



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AURELIA HALL, the "Bionic Godmother" had been complaining of a black and blue lump on her hip - - ever since she was hurt when the high wire rigging fell on her in January. She was finally hospitalized near Boston on Oct. 5th where it was discovered the muscles had been pulled loose and were severely damaged. Aurelia underwent an operation on the 6th. Carmen told me her mother was "up and walking" the very next day! Nevertheless Aurelia was kept in the hospital until the 10th because Aurelia the Indestructible couldn't be trusted to stay off her feet. "They just can't kill you, can they?" I asked Aurelia. "No," she replied, laughing, "but . . . they keep trying!"

ARIAS' BEARS made the TV show in Toronto, just under the wire, arriving a few hours before the taping. "We were held up five hours at the Canadian border," Janice informed me. "Prior to that the trailer hitch broke and we had to leave the trailer. The trip was a nightmare!"

FAMOUS HUNT will not go on the road in 1979. Marsha is re-activating the "Circus Park" in Florence (NJ). They have cleared the land, torn down old out buildings and are now making a parking lot, laying out an area for kiddie rides and refurbishing the circular arena where daily circus shows will be presented. They hope to have the park ready for an early summer opening.

HANS TORREANI tore the Achilles Tendon in his heel (Oct. 5) during the Sheboygan (Wisc) BILL GARDEN "Showtime Follies" date and is in a cast to his hip. The injury was sustained during a routine where Hans jumps a unicycle down steps. The performer was hospitalized and underwent an operation and it will be some time before he can work again. Meanwhile, RAIJA is continuing in the show with a solo balancing act.

WES OLER, who has a lengthy run of Southern fairs in the Carolinas, has re-signed all his fairs for 1979 in the area and added a number of new ones. GRANDPA JONES and JONI LEE and MICHAEL TWITTY (Conway's kids) have already been set for the Goldsboro (NC) fair.

MINK, is mink, whatever the temperature, so during a July date in Chicago, SVEND KRISTENSEN gifted LILLI with a lavish one as she emerged from the cage, which the Glamazon put on immediately. "So it was 92 degrees," shrugged Lilli-Ana. "It's not every day a gal gets a mink!"

THE NORDMAGK MAGIC-Ice revue, after long rehearsals, played two sneak previews Oct. 29 and Oct. 30 at Johnstown and Altoona (Pa) but the "sneak" wasn't sneaky enough . . . I sneaked up and caught it! Report upcoming.

ROYAL HANNEFORD is double-dating next season, has resigned Cincinnati Shrine and picked up Boston. While the Chicago date is being played in March a second unit will be out. MARK KAROLY is being shot out of the new Hanneford cannon - - his first jump was about 70 ft., gaining height and distance with each jump. The bareback rider is now doing a full twister from horse to horse.

CLOSEUPS: BERNIE BERWIN and KEN BREWSTER off the road for the season are concentrating on their new illusion act featuring a lion and very LARGE props . . . ALEXANDRA the GREAT & CO. continue to play club dates with their musical magic revue and were recently in New Orleans . . . Paula told me they have developed a sensational new motorcycle illusion which has never been seen before. . . The EMMETT KELLY, Jr. Circus makes Jersey City at the Stanley Theatre, Dec. 9-10, and featured will be SOUPY SALES . . . JACK and SANDY FULBRIGHT made the Charleston (W.Va) Shrine date for Sam T. Polack. Also there were Lou Ann Jacobs, Frank & Estreleta, My-Imba's Baboons, Harry Thomas and the Great Vashek.

Songstress MICKEY GARDEN is having very serious back problems, has been in and out of the hospital, and her family are very concerned. . . JIMMIE COLE and MARI-JO COULS, both looking terrific, showed up unexpectedly at the Orangeburg (SC) fair to visit with BILLY and BONNIE EARL, and YRS. TRULY. Needless to say we were very surprised. . . REX HORTON and his brother have been playing shopping centers in Oklahoma, thence to Arizona. . . JUDY JACOBS produced the Annual Pumpkin Festival in Southern California, playing weekends through the month of October. Some of the acts on the date included: Miquel, cloud swing, Elena Omar, one finger stand, Edwardos Bears and Mia Bower, aerial. . . The BARREDA family visited Circus Vargas during its twin shopping center run in Oklahoma City.

SNAPSHOTS: JOHN HANSEN (the Rolling Diamonds) blew an engine in his truck. Magician JIM GREENE blew a rear end in his. Both incidents occurred within two miles of each other, one hour apart. . . CONNIE WELDE, who broke her wrist falling out of bed, had to have surgery on it twice. . . Someone broke into KIM KRISTENSEN's trailer during the Kentucky State Fair and stole the harness for his dressage act. JOANNE PINSON made new harness sets, embedded with pearls and rhinestones.

FLASH . . . WALLY NAGHTIN's Bears will be on Ringling Red in 1979 . . . MIKE GORMAN reportedly will be the Monte Carlo Circus next year.

**SPECIAL****FROM EUROPE**

by Milt Fitzwater

The circus season in Europe is just about over. Everyone is looking toward Monaco, London and the winter shows in Berlin, Paris and Vienna. One circus is evaluating its last two seasons, which were run under a little different format.

Circus Geier Busch-Roland has been presenting a different idea for the West German circus fans. Director Heinz Geier has rented the major animal acts from Circus Knie, the great Swiss circus. Knie must have a new show each year, since it never leaves the small, mountainous country. Geier brought in the tightrope walking elephant, a giraffe and zebra combination, the award winning, Louis Knie trained tiger act, along with the elephants and the elephant tiger combination. The jury is still out on their success, but it certainly was a tremendous show.

As you can tell by the name, Circus Geier Busch-Roland has quite a history. The first combined show involved Busch of Berlin and Roland of Bremen. Geier moved up into the leadership, adding his name. With the Knie agreement, the Swiss name is also included in the program. It's a little confusing to the traditional minded West Germans.

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**PEOPLE**

GEORGE DA DEPPO, designer/artist, was seen Ringling's Red Unit in Detroit visiting with the FIELDS, TROLLE RHODIN, GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS, TIM HOLZ, LOU JACOBS, FRANK KORA and other show folks.

WES OLER Productions had the following acts at the Orangeburg (SC) fair, Oct. 9-14: AERIALETTA, ETHEL JENNIER, BONNIE & CLYDE, PRINCE NAJVEZ, JO ANN & Sunny, MISS BRIDGET, the CHITWOOD HELL DRIVERS and several headline attractions from Nashville.

Some of the other major acts in this year's show included: The Dobritsch, perch; The Flying Oslers; Les Chabres, poodles; Ray Dondy, trampoline comedy; Bubi & Jule, trapeze clowns, and Los Munoz, high and low wire.

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**Show Date**

The Dr. Pepper Circus, at the Texas State Fair, in Dallas, recently concluded its 18th consecutive year under canvas, and has been heralded by fairgoers and the fair board as being "the best circus ever produced for the fair."

The Oct. 6-22 circus engagement at the fair found the show playing to more than 175,000. The circus is sponsored jointly by the Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. and the State Fair.

The strong program, which ran 55 minutes, with no intermission, featured: Checkers and Patches in a pre-show warm-up; Jimmy Hall's bears; Clowns with Tug-O-War; the Gutis Family, comedy; the Ricardo Troupe, low wire; David Conners, rola bola; The Mercedes, hand balancing; MacDonald's ponies; The Checkers & Patches Canine Revue; Pete Luvas and Baby Tanya, the elephant; The Canestrellis, balanced ladder; Miss Tapa, web; The Henyos, perch; MacDonald's African elephants; Aerial Ballet featuring Miss Tavanna and her upside down walk; The Scott's Royal Boxers; Clown boxing gag; The Ricardo Troupe, teeterboard, and a finale with the entire cast. The show was backed by a 12 piece circus band.

**SPECIAL**

The Washington Park Zoo, at Portland, Oregon, is planning to establish an elephant museum there on the zoo grounds.

They have hopes of being able to provide separate displays that would depict the elephant's pre-history, its history as a religious and working animal, and its history as a circus feature.

At the present time the zoo is looking for funds, material that could be donated and what if any artifacts would be available.

If readers are interested in helping the zoo with funds or material they could be sent to: Warren J. Liff, director, Washington Park Zoo, 4001 S. W. Canyon Road, Portland, Oregon - 97221.

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## YEARS AGO

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus

Oakland, Calif. - Aug. 31, 1934

Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows arrived in Oakland, Calif., this morning, coming in from Stockton. They are on four trains and are at the Fruitvale Avenue lot, alongside the Southern Pacific Depot.

Everything was in by 7 a.m. and they have to use three different lots, with the draft stock and cookhouse about a half mile away. They had a big crowd in the afternoon and a huge crowd that night.

In all they have 20 tents which are: 6 pole big top, 5 pole menagerie, 4 pole side show, 3 pole dressing tent, 4 pole ring stock, 5 pole draft stock (2 tents), 3 pole kitchen, 5 pole dining tent, 2 pole colored dining tent, 2 pole dish washing top, 2 pole butcher shop, 2 pole wardrobe, 2 pole band top, 3 to 4 small tents and 3 candy stands.

The train includes: 14 sleepers, 13 horse cars, 23 flat cars.

The wagons include: 7 wagons for the cookhouse, 1 wagon for draft stock, 1 wagon for ring stock, a

pole wagon and canvas wagon for menagerie, four wagons for side show, plus a light plant, three ticket wagons (white, red, yellow), 2 stake drivers, a small truck, a passenger truck, 3 tractor trucks, 2 fancy wagons, a cannon truck, a lunch truck, Frozen Custard truck, a big passenger truck, one big truck, big top pole wagon, big top quarter poles, stake and chain wagon, wagon for green chairs, wagon for the red chairs, two grand stand plank wagons, a wagon for blue seats, 2 stringer wagons, 2 jack wagons, a wagon for the band, 3 trunk wagons, 3 prop wagons, a dish washer wagon, 20 cages, 2 seal wagons.

The side show has 16 banners, on wagons, all electric lights, 4 ticket boxes, 2 bally platforms.

The marquee has 14 all aluminum poles, 2 pieces in front, columns, 3 pieces with 3 poles and 3 braces.

Grand Stand Chairs - 12 sections on long side, color red; 10 sections on short side, color green, with 2 sections out for band and entrances. Each section with 18 chairs across and 18 rows high, making 324 chairs each.

The Big Top has 10 pieces of canvas on the sides with 8 pieces on the ends. 6 center poles, 24 long quarter poles, 38 short quarter poles, 108 side poles, 250 stakes.

(Continued on Page 13)

# Elephants

by Frank Whitbeck

Reprinted from: The Toledo Blade, Toledo, Ohio  
April 23, 1950

I must have looked guilty.

"Anything wrong at the studio, dear?" quizzed my wife, Laura.

"Well, no," I sputtered. "But - uh - I bought three elephants today! Look, honey," I added before she had a chance to break in, "they were going to separate Queenie and Happy and Sally, sell them to different circuses."

A glint of a smile in Laura's eyes stopped me. "When do we start building fences?" she asked serenely. I knew I was in.

I have been elephant "tetched" ever since I started to write publicity for the old Barnum & Bailey Circus. But this was years later at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio, where I had known these three pachyderms ever since, as little 1500 pound babies, they had been imported from Siam.

To train the babies we had put our two old troupers, Queen and Sal, through their tricks while the babies watched wide-eyed. Over and over Queen and Sal, on signal, stood up, sat down, rose on their hind legs. Then we started working the babies while the old ones watched. You may as well believe it: those old gals told the babies what was happening, talked to them. And with merry crinkles around their soft hazel eyes they seemed to smile at the awkward antics of the little ones.

Queen and Sal were endowed with a large measure of that loyalty and affection elephants often feel for humans. They were particularly fond of George Emerson, the head animal trainer. One day when George was exercising Queen on a country road, a cow moored loudly. Queen tore off in fright down the road. About 50 feet away she stopped, strode back and, grasping George's arm with her trunk, tried to lead him away from this strange sound which might mean danger.

Sometimes this love of elephant for keeper turns into a fierce jealousy. The jealousy of one bull (all elephants are bulls whether male or female) has become a saga among bullmen. Black Diamond, a big temperamental male who traveled for years with a small show, was inordinately fond of his keeper, Curley Prickett. When Curley's wife visited the lot, Diamond wouldn't even let him stand near her. Then Diamond was bought by another company.

Several years later when the circus came to a nearby town, Curley called on his old friend. Diamond trumpeted with joy and embraced him with his trunk. A year later Curley again visited the circus, accompanied by his employer, a woman rancher. Diamond, in a jealous rage, attacked the woman, killing her instantly.

Elephants probably have a kindlier feeling for other animals than do most other beasts. One elephant keeper tells of hearing strange noises in the stalls at night. When he turned on the light, there, running up and down a reclining elephant's back and chasing the big floppy ears, was a fox terrier. Later he found the same elephant crouched on all fours swinging his trunk while the dog jumped up and down trying to catch it. When the show moved on, the dog went along, sleeping every night at the elephant's feet, the old bull's trunk laid protectively across his back.

One day, in full view of his foster mother, the dog was run over and killed. For weeks the broken-hearted bull refused to perform. Afterward, for years, whenever she saw a dog in parade or on the lot, she would break line and go to it quietly, performing all sorts of tricks with her feet and trunk. But she never found another dog who wanted to be adopted by an elephant.

In a few years, thanks to the help of Queen and Sal, our babies at M-G-M were ready for movie work. In fact, so thorough was the old girls' coaching that occasionally it backfired. For elephants, like children, are great mimics. In one of the scenes of a Tarzan picture, for instance, old Queen had supposedly been shot. She was to come in holding up one wounded leg. Happy, her calf in the picture, was to walk in and sympathize with her. But Happy ruined the scene by holding up her foot, too. There were a half dozen retakes before Happy would come in on all four feet.

Things were mighty pleasant in our elephant department until 1940. There then occurred one of those tragedies and instances of loyalty that makes elephant history. When two bulls are pals like Queen and Sal it is necessary to chain only one of them. The other will stay close. One July night the elephant barn caught fire. Queen was chained; Sal wasn't. But nothing could move her. She stayed by Queen's side and both animals perished.

During the war the studio stopped making Tarzan pictures. The three babies were kept around for over a year, but then the axe fell: Queenie, Happy and Sally were to be sold - separately. Before the day was over I found myself the owner of three elephants.

Under the care of Slivers Madison, one of the best bull men in the business, the elephants were leased

(Continued on Page 12)

## ELEPHANTS (Continued)

as a group to Polack's Shrine Circus, billed as the "Frank Whitbeck's Three Girls from Hollywood." Queenie is the best actress of the bunch, especially in her famous shimmy act. But she's temperamental.

Back in the studio days George Emerson had taught her to shimmy by placing a heavy sack of sand across her back and telling her to "shake it up." She shook like mad to get rid of that sack. After a while she'd shake a grass skirt or even her loose skin when the order was spoken. At the studio we applauded her act with vigorous hand clapping. Came the big moment on the night of her debut as a circus performer at Saginaw, Mich. Turning her broad stern to the crowd, she shook her grass skirt with fervor. The stands went wild, shouting and whistling. Queenie glanced over her shoulder in amazement and stopped dead. So insulted was she that she refused to continue her act until Slivers convinced her that shouts and laughter were also applause.

Always the exhibitionist, Queenie once tried to get into a taxicab in Chicago. However, she was very respectable about it. She hadn't had a single drink. Her sobriety is commendable because elephants love their liquor. A useful medicine when they become chilled, in nearly every case it makes them playful and gentle. But the old foxes will pull more tricks to get a drink than a barfly. "Deefy" Denham, famous bull man with Barnum & Bailey, dosed a couple of elephants for chills. Thereafter the chills returned every morning until he stopped the whiskey. After that there were no more chills.

The greatest bender of all time was staged by Tusko, next to Jumbo the most famous elephant in circus history. Tusko went on a rampage one day and headed for freedom. By the time his keeper caught up with him, Tusko had headed up a hill where, according to report, moonshiners lived. In fact, he had crashed into a barn and was at that moment making away with some fermented mash. "Let him eat all he wants," said the keeper. "We'll pay."

About two in the morning Tusko came out of the barn weaving from side to side. "He threw timbers and boards of that wrecked barn high in the air," the keeper told me. "It was a beautiful warm night and he began frolicking - it looked like dancing - on that mountainside in the moonlight." Still wearing his fancy howdah and ermines, he must have been a sight - kicking his heels in the air, standing on his head and prancing up and down. Finally he staggered into a grove of pines, leaned against a couple of giant trees and slept. Next morning he was as placid as a puppy, seemingly without a hangover.

A good part of the docility of our babies is due to the loving care they get from Slivers. Patience and a kindly tone are more important training tools than elephant hooks. But, above all, you've got to be able to understand their language and make them understand you. Like children, they are sensitive. Walter McClain, for many years with Ringling Bros. probably expressed it best. "Never punish an elephant in front of another elephant or strange human," he said. "She'll resent it."

You've got to be firm, too, because they're fakers. McClain tells of one wise ol' bull, Ruth, who hurt her foot and couldn't work. For weeks, in spite of the best treatment, whenever Walter went near her that foot was up in the air and she was whimpering. One day he came in quietly from the rear. There she was, cavorting and playing around on all four feet. Walter slipped out and whistling, came in from the front. The foot went up and she started to cry. "Now get this, old girl," he said sternly. "The fun's over. You're going to work." She got it.

Al G. Barnes, owner of the renowned Tusko, had another charge, a little pigmy elephant named Barney. When Tusko's blanket wore out, Barnes bought him a new one. Little Barney looked at the new splendor of his rival, then snatched off his own blanket with his trunk, shredded it to bits and stomped the pieces into the ground. It worked, as Barnes got him a new one like Tusko's, which Barney stroked fondly with his trunk, all the while rumbling contentedly.

The prize example of shrewdness was a trick pulled by one of Eddie Allen's elephants. She'd get off the picket line every night by pulling up the leg chain stake. Crossing to a nearby field, she'd gorge herself with corn, then go home again and replace the stake exactly as it had been. An attack of colic traced to green corn brought the whole plot to light.

Sometimes I let my mind wander to my babies' relatives living as nature intended they should live - in the jungle. When I think of these great, free creatures, in all their majesty, taken into captivity and made the slaves of puny human beings, I am filled with sadness. And yet I know there is a kinship between elephants and men. My memories of old Sal prove that. When she stood by you, she would gradually inch in close to you until she was leaning against your body - just enough to feel that you were there.

This above all I know about elephants: that there is in them an obedience and loyalty to those they love, and that love remains steadfast to the end.





### YEARS AGO (Continued)

The Menagerie: 29 elephants, 15 camels, 16 zebras, 12 ponies, 2 giraffe (3 wagons), rhino, hippo, 2 antelope, 4 deer, 4 tigers, 6 lions, 4 hyenas, 4 chimps, 2 black panthers, 2 pumas, 4 leopards, gnu, tapir, 4 vultures, 4 cranes, 4 other birds, monkeys, water buffalo, 4 pole bear and 12 seals.

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## '79 Plans

by CARL E. CONLEY

Seven years ago Carl and Jim Conley took out Circus Williams. At that time we put in two seasons with the circus. The first season we put in a 16 week season, and made some money. Then the second year we only put in a 20 week season, but had 52 days open. With all the open time we met the pay each week. At the end of the second season we were \$40,000 in the Red. That season cost me the circus plus the \$40,000. I then went on the King Bros. Circus for three seasons and put in two seasons with the Martin & Downs Circus.

This past year I was made an offer on a small show in the States. So I worked things out on the circus and will put in a short season in the summer of 1979. I am going to run the advance myself and will hire agents and would like a man and wife team to work phones.

The show will move on four show owned trucks. We will work dates in Ohio, Penna., Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan. The show will also sell dates to agents and phone promoters.

This will be one of the nicest shows on the road in 1979 for its size. If you saw Circus Girard last sea-

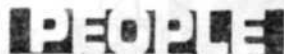
**ROD Mac KENZIE III**, now back in the USA until the first of the year, will start breaking new high acts in winter quarters at Chicago as of April 1979.

Those I have talked with contact me at: Buffalo Breath Gap Circus Studios, 1434½ West Fletcher St., Chicago, Ill. - 60657.

Del J. Graham, contact me.

Ivan Henry, contact me.

Circus People get your Art and Sign Work Done Here when you are in Chicago.



**BECKY WRIGHT**, ringmistress at Circus Circus in Reno, was trained by **MIKE HARTZELL** and **VAL CHAPO**. She also does free lance writing and she hopes to soon write a book.

---

son you will know half of my show as the big top, seats, poles, stakes and other equipment was purchased from Circus Girard, along with the title. So at this time I'm not sure which name I'll use - Circus Williams or Circus Girard.

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## REPORT

### GREAT DANBURY (Conn) FAIR

by Ron Lucza

The Great Danbury, Conn., Fair ran from Sept. 30 to Oct. 9th and featured the following acts: The Nerveless Nocks, sway poles; Hugo Zacchini, human cannonball; Jack Kochman's Hell Drivers; the New Dawn Singers; Jerry Lipko's Comedy Chimps; Smokey Warren Show and Billy Rodger's Bird Act.

On the weekends a \$2.00 cover charge was put into effect to see the circus acts and even with that the show drew SRO crowds each time, with many folks having to be turned away.

I was privileged to visit with the Nocks and enjoy dinner with them. Also visiting the Nocks was famous circus artist Ray Dirgo. He was unable to be with us for dinner because of previous commitments.

On Sunday, Sept. 9th, Ray Dirgo was honored by Danbury Fair President Fred Fearn, who had Ray ride the Commerford Circus wagon float in the daily parade.

## SPECIAL

The Wonderland Circus Revue, produced and directed by Bill Brickle, makes its 1978 debut today (Nov. 6) at Barnburg, S. C. The show is making its second annual late fall/winter tour which is expected to keep it on the road until late this year.

An all new program is featured this year which includes Irene and Baptista, juggling/balancing; Tom "Popcorn" Sink, clown; The Amazing Dionnes, illusions/magic; Jenny and Margarita, webs/aerial numbers; a gorilla parody, and Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy.

Other personnel on the show includes Wilma Rench at the organ, M. Serio, office manager, Terry Crawford, prop boss and Jack Wrench, concessions.

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## MAGIC

The 20th anniversary edition of the "It's Magic" Show wound up a successful run this past week at the Variety Arts Theatre in Los Angeles (Calif.) The show was produced by Milt and Bill Larsen, with Dick Zimmerman directing, and featured an array of outstanding magicians.

The program was MC'd by Harry Anderson, with Jerry Rosen directing the orchestra. Featured on the bill were: Paul and Marie Fiddler, featuring a dancing hanky in the jug; Glenn Falkenstein, mysteries of the mind; Carazini, the chain smoker; The Morettis, escapes (included a costume change inside a cardboard box pierced with swords); Dirk Arthur, magic with doves, chickens, pigeons; Carlton & Co., magical safari (leopard to girl, etc.); Intermission.

The second half included: Pantar & Partner, with cross-bow shooting; Harry Anderson and some amusing bits; Falkenstein with the Willard Spirit Cabinet in a classic routine; Tony Van Dommelen a manipulator, and Shimda, Japan's Super Star of Magic (a spectacular act with fans, parasols, fire and finishing with a huge dragon).

## WILLIAM CONRAD

(TV's Cannon) reportedly joined Circus Vargas at Phoenix for the shooting of film background to be used in an upcoming show.

JOHN CUNEO's elephants and cat acts, along with THE GREAT WALLENDAS, high wire, THE NERVELESS NOCKS, sway poles and the FLYING CARROLLS are some of the acts signed for a date at Pittsburgh, Pa. late this month.

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# PEOPLE

**JOHN MOLINARI**, musical director with the Ice Capades Western Unit, visited the **BARREDA**'s in Oklahoma City, then caught the Kool Aid Circus at Tulsa, Okla.

**CAROL BUCKLEY**'s elephant "Baby Tarra" made a TV commercial while in Canada this summer. The commercial featured the elephant swimming in a Doughboy Pool.

**JOHN A. STRONG, Jr.** spent the summer working at Circus World in Florida and is now winding up the season touring with the **BOBBY REYNOLDS** Side Show.

**DENNIS STEVENS**, who spent the summer season in Sarasota, Fla., plans to be back on the road in 1979.

**MELVIN WISE**, famous "Ten in One" operator has revived an attraction used by Barnum almost a 100 years ago. The banners outside of Melvin's show proclaim that inside there is a "Man Eating Chicken - 6 ft. Tall - Shocking, Real and Alive." On the inside a man was seated at a table, enjoying a chicken dinner. Patrons seemed to enjoy the show and business was reported to be good.

## Billy Barton (Continued)

**HIGH ON THE HOG:** Somewhere in the South (prior to his foot injury) **HANS TORREANI** was following a trailer with a hog in it, when the tailgate fell off (which Hans ran over) followed by a tumbling, squealing pig. In swerving to miss the animal, Hans jack-knifed truck and trailer.

**COOKERY CORNER:** "Do-nuts ala Florine." Try **FLORINE OLER**'s quickie recipe for instant do-nuts. Use a can of frozen biscuits. Place some shortening in a small fry pan. Punch holes in the biscuit dough (so they'll raise), drop them in. After a few seconds turn them over to brown on both sides, remove, roll in a mixture of sugar and cinnamon, and presto! do-nuts, in seconds, fast, cheap, hot and delicious!  
**NOTE:** Use only a medium heat, don't attempt to **DEEP FRY!**

If anyone else has recipes for quickie-treats they'd like to share with my readers, send them on!

See you down the road, luvs.

**JAMES V. DAVIS** will bring his tent rep show to the West Coast for an Nov. 11-26 engagement at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, Calif. The show times on weekends will be 3, 5 and 7 p.m.

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## PEOPLE

CHUCK BURNES, special events manager, booked most of the following acts for Knott's Berry Farm's "Halloween Haunt" on Oct. 27-28-29-31: The Amazing Kreskin, Dr. Dante, hypnotist, Dr. Malodor's Materia-Medica Show, John Summers, Human Robot, the Cone Heads, rock band, Cauldron, rock band, Michael McGivney, quick change artist, Jeff Robinson, mime, Cisewski, knife thrower and Larry Wilson, manipulator. Wolfman Jack also appeared at the Halloween feature.

THE FLYING GAONAS, the MORRIS seals, MISS LISA and LOU ANN JACOBS, aerialists, plus BRIAN FAWCETT's chimps will be on the program of the Monte Carlo Circus Festival in December.

MARGUERITA MICHELLE, hair hang act, has been signed to tour with the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit for the 1979 season. This past summer she worked at the Circus World Museum.

REX WILLIAMS recently acquired a new tractor, and then he bought a tiger which he plans to have working in the Circus Vargas program next year.

## Mailroom

Mail is being held at Circus Report addressed to the following people:

Reggie Armor

Victoria Unus

**FLASH**

Luiz Poso, a member of the Carrillo Bros. high wire act, appearing with the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit at Boston, Mass., fell 25 feet to the ground during the night performance on Oct. 25th. A workman on the ground helped to break his fall.

Poso was hospitalized and at last report officials said his condition was "stable."

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**TOUR PLANS SET (Continued)**

ing with this unit will be the Earl Tegge Family, the Bickmores, the Waltens, Leo and Marsha Griep, Chester Cable, Wini McKay, Sparky, Phil Shear and several other people.

A unit headed by John, Jr. opens Dec. 4th at Buffalo, NY, and closes at Kansas City on Dec. 18th. It will include such acts as the Davisons, the Billy Gunga Family, Ron Perry, John McGuire and partner and Bob and Kay Parker.

The Pacific Northwest unit will be headed by Bill Schrieber and will feature a variety of animal acts, along with clown Toby Twist and many other performers.

The California unit will be in charge of Betty Wendany and opens at Oroville on Dec. 15th. The show will feature the magic of Holveck & Co., plus a variety of show acts.

**Miscellaneous**

The Kool Aid Circus was at the State Fair in Columbia, S. C. Oct. 13-22. The show is also booked into Montgomery, Ala. and Macon Ga.

"People" magazine for Oct. 30, 1978, has a three page picture story on Harry Blackstone, Jr. and his magic show.

**IN MEMORIAM**

TOM DILLEY, long time circus promoter and advance man, died on Oct. 15th, at Tupelo, Miss., from an apparent heart attack. He had worked for most of the major tent shows in the country.

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by

DON MARCKS

The circus is going to be done in, if it hasn't already, by the Humane Society and a variety of do-gooders around the country. They've been chiseling away a little at a time to get rules and regulations established that discriminate against the circus performer and animal trainer.

Now they've made a bold and apparently secure move that could be the first step towards the abolishment of animal acts from the circus ring. This latest move concerns the space facilities that are to be provided for seals and polar bears. At the insistence of the Humane Society circuses and traveling shows must provide the same sort of facilities that zoos, parks and other such permanent operations will have to set up.

The powers that be are going to set up laws that will be impossible to live with and when they come into effect then you will see the gradual decline of the circus as we know it today.

While it is true there are very few polar bear acts and seal acts in the country, this is obviously just the first step in a series of laws to put the animal trainer out of business. Once these laws come into full force there will be no stopping these people, for there is just no telling what they'll come up with next.

For years the "do gooders" have been out to get the circus. They have gone after even the smallest infraction, making sure their efforts got plenty of publicity. Sometimes the infractions have been imagined, but the publicity flowed out and hurt the show.

One wonders where they are when those who are obviously abusing animals continue in their efforts. Many such cases could be cited, with no complaint or publicity rampage on the part of the do gooders, truly it is a one-sided world.

## PEOPLE

**BUMPSY ANTHONY**, retired clown, had a gall bladder operation on Oct. 23rd. He expects to be home within the next few days.

**BOB EMERICO**, clown/magician, is working show dates in the Pacific Northwest, then plans to spend the Holiday season working dates in the San Francisco Bay Area.

**MARK ANTHONY**, clown, is pictured on the cover of the Chevrolet magazine "Friends" for Sept. 1978. The magazine has an article "Behind the Put-On" by Olivia Harvey, which features some Ringling clowns.

**EUGENE NOCK** announces that next year the famous Nock's Sway Pole act will feature four swaypoles. **JOHN, Jr.** will be joining the act with his own swaypole in 1979.

**O'LEE CARLSTROM** is recovering from a fall and an attack of arthritis. By the time this appears in print he should be up and around again.

There isn't much time left now, for your comments regarding the seal and polar bear regulations must be in by Nov. 20th. (Deputy Administrator, USDA, APHIS, VS, Room 703, Federal Bldg., 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md 20782).

Consult your lawyer and if you haven't got one you better get one, you may just need him. It's your last chance!

In Aug. 1977, Franz Dantzer, chief HSUS cruelty inspector, made the following statement in the Humane Society's Close-Up Report.

"The traveling circus of today is a poor imitation of the great circuses of the past. The tents are a little worse for wear. The paint is chipped. The music is a little off key, and the costumes need pressing. But worst of all — the animal exhibits are without doubt very, very cruel."



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