



6th Year

February 7, 1977

Number 6

READY TO GO

The new Martin & Downs Circus (formerly Royal Bros. Circus) is ready for its 1977 tour, which will cover some 16 to 18 weeks in Canada. The show is owned by Alwisten, Ltd., with headquarters in Campbellford, Ontario. It is operated by A. W. Stencell.

Traveling on five trucks, the circus will use a 70 ft. big top with two 30 ft. centers. It will carry seating for some 1,000 people.

Personnel already signed for the tour includes: Carl Conley, liberty horses, rola bola and manager of the midway petting zoo; Bonny Bonta, dogs and producing clown; Attila Molnar, plate spinning, comedy balancing ladder and juggling; Other show folks set for the tour are: Grant Williams-Freeman, bill car and press agent; Mike Hartigan, concession manager; Suzanne Larkin, office secretary and Chris Larkin, electrician and pit show (snake).

Tiger vs Man

A fight between a 400 lb. Bengal tiger and a Japanese karate expert will still be held in the Caribbean, although Haiti has forbidden it. Japanese promoter Yoshio Ko says the cancellation came as a surprise, but he is not worried as several other sites are available.

The fight, originally scheduled for Feb. 5th, has been promoted as a "fight to the death". According to Ko, the fight will prove that karate is the superior art of combat.

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

Paul V. Kaye

HOLLYWOOD ELEPHANTS

Contact

PAUL V. KAYE

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SHOW Acts

Voorheis Bros. Circus opened its winter season at Perry, Mich., on Jan. 22nd, playing to two packed houses. Although not the biggest circus on the road, the program is star-packed and provides plenty of show stoppers.

Music for the program is provided by Lee Maloney at the organ and Col. Bill Voorheis on drums, and he also does the announcing.

Featured in the program were: Roberto & Co., acrobats; The Great Stoyanoff and two clowns, parrell bars; Clown Number; Rolandos, juggling; Sarazochil, balancing; Marcelli, tight wire; The Clowns; Lang's Chimps; Lubion's perch act and the Tobaks, revolving Lunar Module.

.....Clarence Hastings

On the road

When Circus Vargas played engagements in Alabama and Mississippi last month they ran into unusually bad weather. Temperatures dropped to below freezing, with winds and rain. The chill factor dropped the temperature to below zero, and inside the big top it was only just slightly warmer.

The damp cold caused ice to form on much of the show equipment and some changes in the show were required. The sax player found his horn froze during a performance and the Flying Lantonys' net froze up, making it impossible for them to work.

Now that the show is in Texas they are having better weather with sun and higher temperature readings. But, cold, rain or sun the show has been attracting large crowds for each of its scheduled performances.

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In Memoriam

RAYMOND DUKE (70) a veteran of 52 years in circus business, died unexpectedly on Jan. 22nd at Donna, Texas. Services were held on Jan. 27th at Knox, Ind., with burial at Ora.

Survivors include his daughter, B. K. Timberlake (Silverlake), a grandson, Melvin Ray Timberlake, and a brother Glenn. Duke was preceded in death by his wife, Emma, who died in 1975.

He went out with the John Robinson Circus in 1924 and except for a period with the Army Special Services during World War II, he spent all his life in the business, serving as elephant and camel man, clown, contracting agent or billposter, on such shows as: Ringling Bros., Hagenbeck-Wallace, Ketrow Bros., Barnett Bros, Seils-Sterling, Harry Haag, Bud Hawkins, Haag Bros., Mighty Haag, Tom Mix, Parker & Watts, Cole Bros., Bailey Bros., Clyde Beatty, Bradley & Benson, Stevens Bros., Eagle's Indoor, St. Louis Police, Ayres & Kathryn, Davies, Hagen Bros., Fred J. Mack, Al Jones, Barr Bros., Leonard Bros., Famous Barnes, Adams Bros., Adams & Seils, Famous Cole, Penny Bros., Sterling Bros., Sells Bros., Birnam Bros., Clark & Walters, King Bros. and Fisher Bros. He spent the 1976 season on Fisher Bros. and Mid-America.

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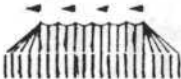
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ROUTES

HUBERT CASTLE CIRCUS

Feb. 9-13 Memphis, Tenn.

CIRCUS VARGAS

Feb. 8-10 Brownsville, Texas
11-14 McAllen

COLE ALL STAR TV CIRCUS

Feb. 7 Mayville, N.Y.
9 Lakewood
10 Frewsburg
11 Allegany
12 Canisteo
13 Bolivar

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit

Feb. 4-6 Lakeland, Fla.
9-20 Atlanta, Ga.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit

Feb. 8-13 Birmingham, Ala.

.... OTHER ROUTES

KEN GRIFFIN (Magic)

Feb. 10 Shelby, N. C.



One of the strangest vehicles ever built was the "Velocipede" designed by a Danish inventor. It worked - in fact was capable of traveling at a speed of 24 miles an hour.

STOCK SHOW & RODEO

Feb. 11-20 San Antonio, Texas

WIZARD OF OZ SHOW

Feb. 8-13 Denver, Colo.

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TO

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PERFORMER, ELEPHANT TRAINER, MANAGER,
PRODUCER, ANNOUNCER, SHOWMAN and FRIEND

ON HIS 60th GREAT YEAR
In Show Business

From CHARLEY & JOYCE VAN BUSKIRK - THE CYCLONIANS





BILLY BARTON

THE PREDICTION by this Columnist months ago that there would be an increase of Shrine Clubs and Temples making the transition from arenas to under canvas shows has come to pass. Two of North America's largest tenters - CIRCUS VARGAS and CLYDE BEATTY - are already set for such dates and inking more. Other tenters are bound to follow suit, so look for this trend to double, even triple, in 1978.

FRAZIER MOHAWK's "Puck's Canadian Traveling Circus" is expanding. The new big top is 100x110, 8 trucks have been added, plus an assortment of colorful wagons. Obviously, Puck's is out to make a big splash this season and we wish them God's speed.

THE FEARLESS BAUERS, Joe, Elizabeth and Liza, return to GREAT ADVENTURE for their 4th consecutive season....KAY PITTENGER debuted with the FLYING VALENTINES at Polack's Fling opening....WELDE'S BEARS will be with Emmett Kelly, Jr. in April....HOXIE's elephants play dates for Royal Hanneford.

Ageless ROSE ADAIR, the pert and peppy agent who began her career as half of the ADAIR SISTERS during the glorious ZIEGFELD years, and who buddied with such greats as WILL ROGERS, continues to be one of our more active agents. Rose books acts for a number of circuses, Radio City and until STERLING FOREST closed its doors, she set attractions there. "It keeps me young!" Rose exclaimed. I believe it.

Rumors that RUDY JACOBI would delay his opening by more than a month, and also that the show would not have much of a season, that it was, in fact, not even booked, are TOTALLY ERRONEOUS! Not only will the circus open on schedule in California, but a heavy season has been packed. Key promotional directors TOMMY BENTLEY and CHUCK CLANCY are already hard at work.

The TOELLE-JACOBS wedding and reception, held at Baltimore's Friendship Port Hotel, Dec. 26th, was a sit-down dinner for 30 guests. Julliard graduate WIL LARD CUMMINGS was Soloist and organist FLORINE OLER provided the music. Among the guests were: TOMMY BENTLEY, WES OLER, CHUCK CLANCY, and ventriloquist HANK SEIMON, with his wife DOROTHY, once a dancer.

Rudy and his new wife, CAROLINE, a vital, attractive, multi-faceted and highly skilled black attorney (specializing in commercial law) plan a delayed honeymoon to Puerto Rico to visit CIRCUS ODYSSEY. Enroute they'll stopover in Sarasota and Miami. On a

recent booking jaunt Rudy visited veteran showman DOREY MILLER and hopes to visit CLIFF VARGAS in Texas. Rudy told me how gratified he was that Cliff acknowledged in print, both in CR and White Tops, that Cliff's start in the business came through Jacobi. Most men forget who gave them that first push. It is to Cliff's credit that he is not among them.

Rudy, giving me the wedding details by phone, remarked sagely: "No matter how long a man is in this business he learns something new. In fact, he MUST. If he think's he knows it all, he's licked." Amen. To which add: Some people get so smart they wind up outsmarting themselves. (A fight involving six dogs interrupted our conversation. There was such an uproar I was inspired to crack: "Is Caroline framing a dog act?" Rudy laughed. "You gotta keep the nut down somehow!").

CAROLINE JACOBI is not only a practicing attorney but was once a school teacher, and is now, in addition to her varied executive responsibilities, regional director for all promotional activities. Still new to this business Caroline admits it was hard for her to understand the Nomadic existence of circus people. "Until I got personally involved, that is....and met the people. Then I lost all MY prejudices!"

"You can't imagine," Caroline continued, "the battle I had going through law school. Not only was I black - the least of it - but I was a woman! I won that battle but am realistic enough to realize I have newer battles to fight. It hasn't been easy for Rudy and me. One female European circus owner, to whom Rudy introduced me, drew back as if I had a disease!" She laughed. "Before the night was over she accepted me completely."

"Well," I commented, "when you get right down to the nitty-gritty everyone of us is from sort of minority group! And we all have our peculiar prejudices!" The lady with a sense of humor, chuckled. "You are so right!"

The TOELLE-JACOBI marriage is based on trust, partnership, understanding and love. Tell me, WHAT could be better than that?

See you down the road, luv's.

THE CYCLONIANS will appear with the M&M Circus at Rochester (NY) Feb. 16-20, then they work at Lockport (NY) Feb. 25-26, followed by the Bozo TV Show in Chicago on Mar. 2nd, and a Lansing (Mich) date for March 2-6.

HARTFORD

by PHIL JORDAN

Famed Emmett Kelly called it "... the worst thing I ever saw ... horrible!"

He was talking about the July 6, 1944, Ringling big top fire at Hartford, Conn. The death toll was 168 men, women and children. There's never been a complete count on the injured; the usual estimate is "more than 500."

Investigation of the tragedy was as complete as was humanly possible, yet today, a third of a century later, two mysteries remain:

† - How did the fire start?

† - And who was the child known only as "Little Miss 1565"?

At least one man believes he knows the solution to one mystery, suspects he knows the solution to the other ... but he agrees he'll never be able to prove either.

If anyone could be expected to solve the two mysteries, it would be this man, retired Detective Lt. Tom Barber, Sr., of the Hartford Police Department. He was there!

+ - + - +

Three times a year, Memorial Day, July 6 and Christmas, Tom Barber takes flowers to the grave of Little Miss 1565. They are supplied by a man who was once president of the Connecticut state florists association.

To Barber, Little Miss 1565 has a name as well as a number, but despite months of investigation, he and his fellow officers were never able to get confirmation of that name.

"There's no question about it," Barber told CR. "It was a case of mistaken identity ..."

Of the 168 people who were killed, police operating in an armory turned into an emergency morgue had positive identifications on 162 by early the next morning.

But among the six still unidentified bodies were those of two little girls, similar in appearance. One was about nine years old, the other about 11; one had blonde hair, the other, light brown.

The body of one little girl was identified, supposedly positively, not by her parents but by relatives; the body of the other little girl never

was identified, was buried with just a morgue number.

Barber is convinced the identification of the one little girl was in error.

So one remains officially unidentified, the other is buried under a name not her own.

+ - + - +

And Barber believes he knows how that tragic fire started.

There's been speculation over the years that a cigaret tossed away landed in papers and other trash at the bottom of a big top sidewall, but this theory doesn't hold up.

"It was a very hot day," long-time Ringling bandmaster Merle Evans recalled for CR, "and the sidewalls had been let down,"

And Barber, who was part of the police investigation team, confirms that "it couldn't have happened that way - the sidewalls never burned!"

Barber, who was on police duty at the main entrance to the big top, saw the fire start as "a little round hole in the canvas, no bigger than a grapefruit."

Kelly, who'd come running from his dressing tent when he heard the cry of "Fire!" said "it covered an area no larger than a washtub" when he first looked up.

"When I was in the Army, in World War I," Barber recalled, "we'd use our cigarets to burn holes in the canvas tents. The holes would be so small you couldn't see them, but when it rained water would drip on the man sleeping under that little hole.

"To do that, you had to hold your cigaret against the canvas - it was fireproofed and wouldn't burn. You could put out a cigaret by rubbing it against the canvas.

"During World War II, though, the government was taking all the fireproofed canvas for military, and Ringlings had been unable to buy any. The big top was waterproofed with parafin dissolved in gasoline.

"I've always believed," Barber said, "that one of the spectators must have started it, trying to snub out a cigaret on the canvas above him.

"But it wasn't just plain canvas. It was loaded with gasoline and parafin, and it did burn.

(Continued on Page 7)

FOR SALE

LACY'S CALIFORNIA SEALS — Price \$6,000 - If You Can't Raise It Don't Call!

An 8 minute act featuring 1 male (8 yrs. Maxie) and 1 female (12 yrs. Susie). Also includes completely equipped truck for seals and all props. — 2 Sears Coldsport Freezers (one is 2 weeks old). Fish capacity - 2 months. Truck is 1966 Chevrolet, looks like a camper. Cages are built-in. Also have two portable cages. Can be hooked up to sewer in trailer park. Truck has new engine (40,000 miles). New trans-mission and rear end. 2 ton, 2 speed rear end. 8:25-20 Michelin tires.

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Show Acts

The program presented by the Int'l All Star Circus, at its Dec. 13th engagement in Sarasota (Fla) featured:

Miss Patti, foot juggler; Terry O'Brien & Co., slackwire; Coco and the clowns; Randon's Baby Chimps; Miss Ivey, single trapeze; Hines & Co., magic; Carey Brown Duo, rola bola; Targa, the performing leopard; Randi's Pets; the Diamond Duo, French trapeze; Danny Carey & Co. balancing; Uncle Heavy's Pork Chop Revue; The Terry's, unicycles, Hines & Co., trunk escape; Mike Rice and Rajah, the elephant. Show music was directed by Bob Amato.

Flash!

The annual Cal-Tech Circus, at Pasadena, Cal., has been cancelled for this year. The circus is expected to be revived again in 1978.

The yearly presentation of "The Mysterious World of Magic" at Anaheim, Calif., has been cancelled. The show is expected to be reset for the early part of 1978.

FREE FILMS

The Richmond (Calif) Library offers a free film program every Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m. Of special interest are those scheduled for April 17 - Laurel & Hardy Festival and May 20 - The Greatest Show on Earth.

HARTFORD (Continued)

"It didn't burst into flames, not at first, but just smouldered in a little circle, getting larger and larger.

"And then that hot, dry wind hit it, and it burst into flames.

"The whole top of the tent was engulfed within three minutes . . .

The rest was horror and, no more than ten minutes later, history.

+ - + - +

Is Tom Barber correct in his reconstruction of the events of July 6, 1944, and his answers to the myseteries that remain today?

Almost certainly . . . but we'll never know for sure.

- 30 -

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Polack-produced CIRCUS

The program presented by Polack Bros. Circus for the Elf Khurafeh Shrine Temple of Flint, Mich. (Jan. 15-23) featured:

Little John Nock, balancing on a stack of chairs; Jeanette and Albert Rix, bears; The Glorions, aerial perch; Janet Burger's animals; Aerial Ballet (4 web girls); The Staneks (4), catapults; Derrick Rosaire and Tony, the Wonder Horse; Eugene Nock and Ray Valentine, Jr., tightwire; Feller Boys and Dodo, wire act; The Flying Valentines; Burger's Chimps; Ron & Mitzie, iron jaw; The Navarro Troupe, unicycles; The Endres Troupe, teeterboard; Ben DeWayne, elephants and the Nerveless Nocks, sway poles. Announcing chores were handled by Parley Baer, and the date was promoted by Henry and Claire Barrett.

At the Jan. 22nd evening show, Ray (Slick) Valentine broke his hand in the flying act. He worked the shows on Saturday (Jan. 23) then was hospitalized with serious injuries. The act was, of course, cancelled for the rest of the run although Ray, Jr. continued with his wire act.

The Feller Boys and Dodo were booked only for the Flint and Roanoke engagements. The Valentines are set to open with Hamid-Morton, while Derrick Rosaire is scheduled to tour with the Hubert Castle Circus. Jeanette Rix works with Ben DeWayne in the elephant act, which continues to feature Opal, last of the famous Besa-Lou elephants, trained by Mac MacDonald.

..... Jon Friday

In Memoriam

FLOYD BERNARD (91) former circus and vaudeville star. Toured with Howes Great London, Campbell Bros., Ringling Bros. and John Robinson, before going to the vaude stage as head of such acts as Original Bernards, Merrill Bros., and Sister & the Four Merrills. He retired in 1953. Survivors include his wife, Maude and a son, Howard.

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 Color work is \$10.00 extra for each color.

PEOPLE

RUTH and JOHN OWEN have joined the RB BB Red Unit for its 1977 tour.

FRANK J. MARA visited the Royal Palace Circus at Jersey City (N.J.) and reports the show was drawing well. They travel on 2 trucks and 2 trailers, he says.

ELOISE BERCHTOLD, who will tour with the Gatti-Charles Circus, will be featuring a mixed act consisting of a male lion, cougars, jaguars, leopards and a bear. She will also present four elephants in the show program.

DAVID P. ORR has loaned some of his circus collection to the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport (Conn.). They have three floors of circus exhibits, he reports.

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I had a call from my ex-partner, John Frazier, saying he had placed an ad in Circus Report and also to the fact that we have not separated.

THIS IS NOT TRUE.

I am no longer connected in any business dealings or running a circus with John Frazier, of Hugo, Okla., and who is in partners with his brother in running Fisher Bros. Circus.

I am operating the Martin & Downs Circus for the 1977 season for 16-18 weeks in Canada and I am the sole owner of Alwisten Ltd. which owns Martin & Downs Circus - formerly Royal Bros. Circus.

..... A. W. STENCELL

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M & M SHOW

Some of the talent inked for the upcoming M&M Circus engagement at Rochester (NY) include: Baron Von Uhl; Dianano's and Vidbel's elephants; Sir Victor Julian, dogs; Don Phillips; The Navarros; The Juggling Villams; Mr. Bell; La Belle Raquel; Yancey, high wire; The Cyclonians; Walter Patterson's trampoline; The Carlos Bros and the Flying Aztecs.

"Mary Ellen" of the Waltons TV Series will be the star attraction. Boom Boom Browning, will direct the band, while Jim Douglass will be announcer and ringmaster. Clown Alley will include: Josh Silver, Joe Sherman, David Chabira, Vern and Danny Woerner, Buck Nolan, Donni Stambaugh and Roger Nale.

GARY RAMSEY, former circus promoter now in the Air Force, was in a plane crash on Jan. 14th at Scott AFB (Illinois) but escaped unhurt. Some 52 people were involved in the crash.

THANK YOU

FRANK McCLOSKEY

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Miscellaneous

An elephant born at an Israeli zoo on Jan. 20th has been named "Amy" in honor of President Carter's daughter.

The 30th annual Juggler's Convention will be held at the University of Delaware (Newark) on July 13-17.

The Jerry Lewis show "Hellzapoppin" closed at Boston on Jan. 22nd after having received poor reviews since it opened.

PEOPLE

THE STANEKS will play Rochester (N.Y.) for the M&M Circus.

THE DAVIDE ZOPPE Family is scheduled to work the Boston Sports Show Feb. 19-27.

DON YOUNG recently returned to the West Coast after spending a vacation in Florida. He will head up Clown Alley on the John Strong Circus for 1977.

THE MICHAEL FAMILY will debut a new act this season - Bo-bo on the tightwire and their daughter Mandie will be doing a single trapeze act.

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INT. ALL-STAR CIRCUS

The program of music, played by the Int'l All Star Circus Band, was compiled by Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick when the show played at Thomaston, Georgia on Dec. 2, 1976.

OVERTURE -

No Business Like Show Biz
Another Opening
Be A Clown
C. Beatty Radio March

PATTI RUCKER - Foot Juggling
Up, Up and Away
Ob' La Di, Ob' La Da

MISS WENDY - Spanish Web
Mambo Jambo
El Cumbanchero

TERRY O'BRIEN - Slackwire
Samba D'Orte
Sweetest Sounds I Ever Heard
Dear World
I Love You

CLOWNS - Reducing Machine
Trombonium
Three Off Galop

RANDY'S CHIMPS
Thank Heaven For
Abba Dabba
Kids
Talk to the Animals

MISS IVEY - Single Trapeze
March of the Heralds
Killing Me Softly
Norwegian Wood Waltz
Eclipse Galop
Special Come-down number

HINES & CO. - Magic
Old Black Magic
Arabian Coffee
2001 Space Odyssey Theme

THE TERRY DUO - Rola Bola
Breezing Along
Mr. Sandman
Broadway One Step
That's Entertainment
Smiles

THE RUCKERS and Leopard
Jungle Queen
Big Cage Galop

INTERMISSION -

OVERTURE -
Ringling Bros. Grand Entry

COCO and the Clowns
Kentucky Sunrise
Trombonium

RANDON'S DOGS
Aquarius Theme
The Hustle
Melagueana
You Are the Sunshine

UPTON DUO - French Trapeze
Circus Life March
Mon Cheri
Yesterday
Galop Go

DANNY KERRY - Hand Balance
Sky High
Here, There, Everywhere
MacArthur Park
My Hero Waltz

UNCLE HEAVY'S PIGS
Turkey In the Straw
Ruben, Ruben
Oh, Susana

Four Leaf Clover
Beer Barrel Polka
Worms Crawl In
Oh, You Beautiful Doll
Beautiful Baby

CLOWNS - Safe Cracker
The Entertainer
Homestretch Galop

THE O'BRIENS - Unicycles
So What Is New
Swing In
Riding High

TRUNK ESCAPE
Tea For Two
Black Magic
Prestissimo Galop

MIKE RICE - elephant
Bravura
Keiffor's Special
Try To Remember Waltz
Worms Crawl In
Tropic to Tropic March
Fame and Fortune March

FINALE
This Is My Country

BAND MEMBERS ARE: -
Bob Amato - Leader/Trumpet
Gene Holm - Trumpet
Bill Davis - Organ
Howard Brady - Drums
Bob Smith - Trombone

Show Folks

The 1977 Int'l All Star Circus program is featuring: Patty Rucker, foot juggling; Terry O'Brien, slack wire; Miss Tania, hair suspension; Clowns, reducing number; Rucker & Co., illusions; Carey-Brown Duo, rola bola; Al's Pals, dogs; Miss Ivey, single trapeze; Rucker's uncaged leopard; Coco Family, stilt walking; Uncle Heavy's Pork Chop Revue; Clowns, safe gag; The Uptons, French trapeze; Danny Carey, hand balancing; The Terrys, unicycles; Trunk Escape; Mike La Torres, baby elephant.

Show Acts

The program presented by Holiday Hippodrome for its December date at Sarasota (Fla) featured:

Johnny's comedy plate spinning; Miss Chona, tightwire; Acadis, balancing/one finger stand; The Campa Family, musical madness; Angela Wilnow's collies; Randy and Sylvia, high perch; Miss Sheba and the gorilla parody.

Second half acts were: The Albertis, rolling globes; Master Wallace Eastwood, juggling/unicycle; Bradbury & Co., magic/illusions; Adams comedy chimps; The Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard.

Great Show

Celebrating his 60th year in show business, Jimmy Cole opened his 1977 tour with a three day engagement at Williamsport (Pa.) on Jan. 17th. The date was sponsored by the local Masonic Lodge.

Although the cold wave drove the temperature to 25 below, it failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the local citizens. Some 1,000 people were on hand for each performance.

The show opened with a well-timed single trapeze act, offered by the Barry Miller Troupe, and then was followed by Inga Williams, who does a roller skating juggling act. Magic featuring Gary Holvak was next and since I am biased when it comes to magic, I will try to offer a modest account of this act - superb!

Robert Williams, at 77, displays rope spinning at its finest, followed by Bob and Jane Lang's passing juggling act. Bill and Norman Miller were next, working on the high cradle, with Holvak and Co. returning to present the trunk escape. Miss Inga's Siberian Huskies followed and it is a beautiful act. Comedy was provided by clowns Bob and Dave Rawls with some old

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routines (Dave also handled the announcing).

The Barry Miller Troupe returned to present their delightful gorilla parody and the Lang Family closed the show with acrobatics.

There is no question, the audience went away with smiles, the Masons were happy and Jimmy Cole is heading down the road with a fine show to his credit.

..... Mike Straka



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Grand Rapids, Mich. 49505

Review

Jim Nordmark's Int'l All Star Circus, which started out as a small stage has outgrown its beginnings and is revamping its format as it tours — to play larger buildings, utilizing floor space instead of auditorium stages. The show now carries 13 units and more than 30 people. Two of the 13 units are show-owned — a prop truck and a band sleeper, which is air-conditioned and self-contained with a shower.

Major alteration in the show in upcoming weeks will be construction of a flashy set background (lighted, panelled and draped) opening onto a 55x55 red and blue stage carpet, with illuminated ring curbs. The entire playing area is to be boxed in, ice show style, with footlights behind the masking. Two spot lights are carried, plus a generator. Nordmark explained, "Many gyms and small buildings do not have the necessary power to feed our requirements."

Nordmark, with general agent Bob Adams, lays out a route to cover 40 weeks. The route is sectional with brief layoffs between. All dates are phone promoted, directed by Paul Monville and Jack Possman, with permanent show offices in Sarasota. The show plays a one day stand format, but only does one show per day.

All Star had been out only a week when caught at the Peabody Auditorium in Daytona Beach (Fla.) on Jan. 23rd. Despite the cramped playing space, the performance ran smoothly and rapidly, overseen by manager Hines Rucker, who cracks a gentle, but firm whip. The costumes are fresh and sparkling, the props well kept, and the show has an abundance and variety of animal acts, always a plus. There is no prop crew. Each act helps the other and handles its own equipment. Instead of a hindrance, it seems to be an advantage. In this instance everyone knows what he is doing for every show.

The show has many assets. Two of its biggest are a marvelous six piece band, directed by trumpeter Bob Amato, and including two trumpets, organ, drums and two trombones. The clowning of the Graham Ahrhart family adds to the fast-paced show and uses shining props and a stilt walking routine which closes the first half.

Graham is the grandson of England's famed Coco, and is the son of the renown Coco performing in this country and is himself appearing as Coco III. He is joined by his wife, Po Hoi, and his young son, Mike, who is called Coco-Nut.

The animal acts, all good, include Uncle Heavy's Pork Chop Revue, Al's Pals, a dress and trick dog act, Mike La Torre's elephant, the Rucker's uncaged leopard and Raphael's Chimps. The two chimps are both babies, at the stage where they are cute and cuddly, are nicely costumed and one closes the act with a rapid-fire series of dislocations on the aerial rings.

Topping the "human side" of the program are Hines and Patty Rucker's unusually fast illusion number in which the girl handles as many illusions as does her male partner. They go from one routine to another so quickly it seems like magic itself. The act closes with the ever popular Zig-Zag illusion.

Tania Vasquez heads the aerial line-up with a
(Continued on Page 13)

AVAILABLE

SOME DATES IN 1977

Don and Fran Bridwell, as "Whizzer and Spunky, the Clowns" offer top professional clowning. No "Clown College" grads — only many years of working and learning on the country's top circuses.

Also available as experienced show announcer. Will be with Garden Bros. in Penna. Mar. 4-20, then as Ringmaster with new tent show opening in Texas Mar. 29th.

Have some open time in July and August and late Fall.

THANKS TO Variety Attractions, Klein's Attractions, Polack Bros., Charles Germaine and many others for a great 1976.

Contact before Feb. 25th.

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CLOWNS

It may not exactly represent a female take-over but in the once dominated male world of circus clowns, women are making inroads. Just a few short years ago Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Circus' Clown College, at Venice, Fla., received few applications from women. This year half of the 4,000 applicants were female and seven women graduates hold coveted jobs as clowns with the circus.

The Clown College is not the only place where women are taking up clowning. Several academic colleges, including Seton Hill in Greentburg, Pa., San Diego State University and Ohio State University offer one or more courses in basic and advanced clown skills, such as tumbling, acrobatics and makeup. (Women can enroll as part-time or special students at some colleges if they don't want to attend on a full time basis).

Community organizations are also getting into the act. At the Central YMCA Community College in Chicago, an eight-week training program costs \$34.00; graduates are eligible to join the Clown Guild of Chicago.

Women who have completed such programs are not limited to joining a circus, though that is certainly an opportunity, if they are talented. There are a number of groups such as the New York Theatre Commotion (presently based in Boston), an all female clown company that performs professionally for low-budget local organizations.

Other possibilities include street theatre, free lance work, clowning for children's parties, fairs, festivals and such, teaching, and even television work. Many women have no professional ambitions, rather they just want to entertain their families and keep fit.

(Re-written from an article by Mary Jane Genova, which appeared in a recent McCall's magazine.)

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REVIEW (Continued)

better-than-average hair suspension, sexy in scanty rhinestone wardrobe and projecting a sweet personality. Also on the "up" side is the hand balancing of personable Danny Carey who is taking delivery on new chrome props and will be featuring the one finger stand.

Terry O'Brien's young son, Eoin, has joined his father and mother in a new, three person unicycle display and there is an audience participation stunt with the "guillotine" illusion in the first half, and a trunk escape in the second that happily involves the audience.

Remainder of the program is filled by Terry O'Brien's slack wire/juggling; the Carey Brown Duo, in which a pyramid of 4 elevated bola boards are featured; the Upton's French trapeze; Miss Ivy, traps and the already mentioned Coco family of clowns, whose numbers are greatly enhanced by the bright music of Bob Amato's band.

The show runs one hour and 40 minutes with an intermission. It is torn down, packed and rolling out of town 20 minutes after the last act takes its bow.

..... Billy Barton

Madison Square Garden

Revenues and earnings for the six months ending Nov. 30, 1976 increased over the comparable period of the previous year, according to Madison Square Garden's report to stockholders. However, second quarter earnings suffered in comparison with the previous year's quarter, mainly because there were fewer racing days in 1976.

For the six months ending Nov. 30, 1976, revenues increased to \$95,621,000 as compared to \$86,445,000 for the same period a year earlier. Net income advanced to \$2,599,000 or 54 cents per share, compared to \$1,954,000 or 41 cents per share.

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PEOPLE

CHUCK CRAW, assistant director of the Great Y Circus (Redlands, Calif.) is one of the cyclists in the MacDonald's "Mac Attack" commercial. The sequence shows a tandem bike that breaks into two unicycles when one of the riders suddenly has an irresistible urge for a MacDonalds hamburger.

BOBBY KAYE, clown instructor, is traveling with RBBB's Red Unit, overseeing the show's new clowns.

CIRCUS VISITORS

Visitors seen at the Int'l All Star Circus when the show played Daytona Beach, Fla., on Jan. 23rd included: Jimmy Douglass, Vern Woerner, Tex and Marcy Maynard, Mari Jo Couls, Billy Barton, The Rayells, Billy Griffin, Bobby Davis, Marland and Susan Butcher, Roger Nale, Billy and Bonnie Earl, Whitey Black, Bobby Kline, and Ayres and Kathryn Davies.

THANK YOU

ALL SHOW PERFORMERS

CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS., SELLS & GRAY, CIRCUS VARGAS, ROYAL WILD WEST CIRCUS, RINGLING-BARNUM'S BLUE and RED UNITS - for your subscriptions to "Southern Sawdust," during 1976.

HAMID-MORTON SHRINE CIRCUS will be at Hartford, Conn., Feb. 15 thru 18th. I will have the February 1977 issue. Will also be accepting subscriptions for the 1977 season. A "Must" for the circus-minded from Sarasota.

DAVID P. ORR

Southern Sawdust Eastern Representative
Cherry Street, Sandy Hook, Conn. - 06482

A Warning

In an announcement from Ottawa, Canada's Fisheries Minister Romeo LeBlanc, said last week that Canada will not tolerate any interference with seal hunters "who need to make a living."

Opposition to the hunts in Newfoundland and Magdalen Island has been growing in recent years. Several attempts have been made to stop the hunts, in which baby seals are clubbed to death, skinned and their bodies left littering the coastal areas.

PEOPLE

KARL WALLEDA, high wire artist, says that driving in a blizzard is more dangerous than walking on a tight rope. The 72 year old circus star was enroute to a performance at Mentor, Ohio, late last week when his car spun out of control and landed in a snowbank.

"I have never been so nervous in my life," said Wallenda. "It's much safer on a high wire."

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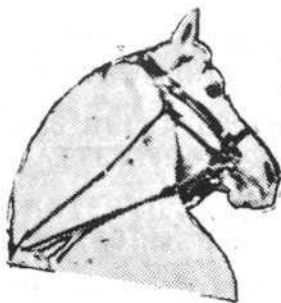
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CIRCUS VARGAS - Music

The following musical program for Circus Vargas was compiled by Dr. Paul E. Fitzpatrick during the show's Atlanta, Ga., date.

OVERTURE -

- The Purple Pageant March
- Be A Clown
- Man on the Flying Trapeze
- Ham Trombone
- Talk to the Animals
- Barnum & Bailey's Favorite
- Thunder and Blazes
- Star Spangle Banner

SPEC -

- Troupers All
- Mountain Trails

PAT ANTHONY - cat act

- In Storm and Sunshine March
- Jungle Queen
- Big Parade
- Arabian Nights
- The Gladiator March
- Abdallah
- The Big Cage Galop

HEAD BALANCING TRAPEZE

- El Cid March
- Going Out of My Head
- Love Theme from El Cid
- Head Spin - Special Music
- Come Down Music

SR. Wm. BAKER - horses

- Father of Victory
- Cabaret Theme
- I Got Rhythmn
- Majestic Galop

CLOWNS -

- Broadway One Step

HIGH WIRE ACT -

- Original Music
- Fanfare
- Slow Rock
- Vivo
- Jerk
- Bossa Nova
- Rock
- Honeymoon Waltz
- Blood & Guts March
- Love For Three March

SIMON'S CHIMPS -

- Tijuana Brass Theme
- Skater's Waltz
- Thoroughly Modern Millie

Waltz

- Cha Cha
- Georgie Girl
- Around The World
- Just Breezing Along
- Bye Bye Blues
- Theme from Apartment

FOOT JUGGLING -

- Vanessa
- Soronata
- Baubles, Bangles and Beads
- Hopak

MISS SUZETTE - trapeze

- March of the Chariots
- Shadow of Your Smile
- Up, Up and Away
- Love Theme from Godfather

GOLDEN CARLOS TWINS -

- Exodus
- El Caballero
- El Cumbanchero

2nd Half Overture -

- Eclipse Galop

FLYING LANTONYS -

- Conquest
- The Crimson Petal
- Emporia Galop

NAGHTIN'S BEARS -

- Song of Volga Boatmen
- Hungarian Melodies
- Somewhere My Love
- Sabre Dance
- Those Were the Days
- Hava Naqilah

DRESSAGE HORSE -

- Patton Theme
- Kentucky Sunrise
- The Syncopated Clock
- Little Grass Shack in Hawaii

AERIAL CRADLE -

- March of Spanish Soldiery
- More
- Estrellita
- Head Spin and Come Down

THE KLEMENTIS - cycles

- Swinging Cycle
- Cuban Tobacco
- Good Old Days
- Tiny Bubbles
- Bubbly Music
- Final Spurt

CIRCUS ELEPHANTS -

- Sarasota
- Invictus
- Safari
- Finale -
- The Goldman Band

Members of the circus band are:

- Jim Gibson -
- Bandmaster and trumpet
- Bill Reichenback
- Trumpet
- Charles Fardella
- Trumpet
- JoAnne Gibson
- Alto sax, Clarinet
- Valorie Stevens
- Tenor sax, Clarinet
- Alastair Ingram
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- Ed Firth
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- Jerry Ulrich
- Tuba
- Gary Bergstrom
- Drums

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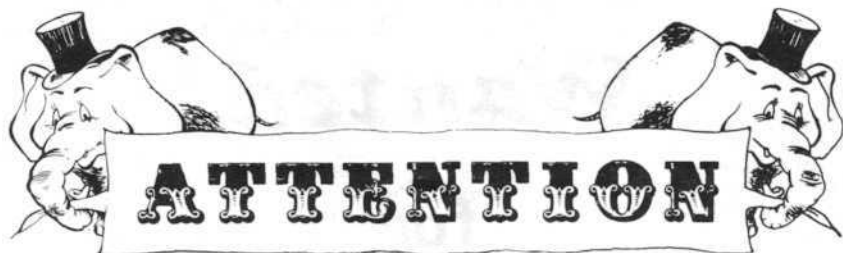
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SAWDUST TRAIL

Showtime Entertainment Corp., promoters of the new ice show "Hawaii on Ice", produced by E. J. McDaniels, former circus advance agent, is pleased with the advance sales of their new ice show. They have 5 shows set at Lake Havasu, Ariz., where two shows on March 12th and one on March 13th are already sold out. Only general admission seats are available for the other performances.

Tex Dreyfus, CFA of Houston (Texas) reports Circus Vargas was drawing "turn away" crowds at Beaumont. The show got lots of publicity thanks to CFA'r Harry Lea Kingston, who works for a local TV station.

This reporter wants to thank Robert J. Zanotti, traffic director for Circus Vargas, for the 1976 program and 1977 route sheets.

Texas is already a busy area with shows playing there. The new Dailey Bros. is in the Texas Valley and we'd like to get the show's route.

Earlier we reported that Arnold Maley was re-

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tiring from the Beatty-Cole Circus. His position with the show was wrongly listed. Arnold was in the office, working as Road Treasurer. We're sorry Arnold.

CBS news recently featured Col. Tim McCoy, old-time circus and film wettern star. He hasn't toured since his wife died in 1974, and now lives quietly on his Laurado, Ariz., ranch, where he is writing his memoirs.

An AP story dated London, reports the 1976 Circus World Champions Show lasted less than a week and cost \$250,000 to set up. The 16 acts cost \$10,000 a week, and none of the acts appeared on the same bill before.

..... M. L. Dupont

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PEOPLE

TOBY BICKMORE has been working in the color book sales on Circus Vargas, while his brother TIM sells cotton candy.

MERLE EVANS, EMMETT KELLY, BOBBY HASSON and BRIDGET BALLENTINE were featured in the dedication ceremonies at the Ringling Museum of the Circus in Sarasota last month.

DON and FRAN BRIDWELL were featured in a half hour TV Special for the Ohio State University last month. The program was devoted to their careers as clowns.

JACK JOYCE was recently honored by the Ringling Museum of the Circus when he was named a circus celebrity.

JOHANAN CODONA, grandson of Ed Codona,

lives in the Los Angeles area. Ed was a brother to the Flying Codona Troupe and the only one of the family that did not work in the act. He did tour with them. The only surviving members of the Flying Codona Troupe are Victoria Adolph, of Palm Springs (Cal) and Hortense (Nena) Ferrante, of Encinitas, Cal.

1977 Season

Don and Fran Bridwell (Whizzer and Spunky, the clowns) will tour with Garden Bros. during the month of March. On March 29th they will temporarily hang up their clown shoes to join a new show being booked by Gunnar Amandis, on which Don will be announcer and Fran will handle concessions.

The tour will mark Fran's return to the road after a near fatal illness forced cancellation of some 1976 dates.

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