

8th Year

January 8, 1979

Number 2

## INT'L UNIT PLANNED

An International Unit that will tour only in foreign countries will be launched by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus next year. The scheduled opening of this fourth unit of Ringling-Barnum is Jan. 4th, 1980 in Australia.

The International Unit will be put together late this year and already both Kenneth and Irvin Feld are busy setting acts for the show. The entire show will be foreign in its nature, both in operation and performance. However, Venice, Fla., will be considered its home base.

It is expected that the International Unit will tour continually, outside of the United States. During its first year the show will be playing in Australia, the Orient and throughout the South Pacific. Later it will tour in Europe, South America, Africa and Asia.

In the meantime the Monte Carlo Circus is set to open its initial tour at Providence, R. I. on Feb. 20-25. This show will feature acts that have won awards at the annual circus festival in Monte Carlo.

In addition to its engagements in the U. S., the show will be playing several dates in Canada, and about the middle of the year it will be making an extended run at Circus World Park in Florida.

## Coming

The United Nations has adopted a Universal Declaration of the Rights of Animals. This new charter will become effective in 1980. It spells out what the animals are pushing their governments for in the way of laws that would protect animals.

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## PEOPLE

TIM HILL, clown, worked the Pittsburgh date for Hamid and then worked props at Evansville for PAUL KAYE's circus date.

HARRY and ROWENA THOMAS, along with GARY THOMAS spent New Years with their mother CARLOTTA THOMAS in Van Nuys, Calif.

TERRY O'BRIEN, balancing act, worked the Disney World Christmas Parade last month.

MARY WISE, clown, recently worked with a vaudeville show in Washington, DC, where she was featured in a solo spot.

DENNIS LOOMIS, magician, spent a few days in late October with HARRY and GAY BLACKSTONE when both showmen had dates in Michigan.

THE BRAUNS, western acts and HOLVECK & Co., magic/illusion act, will team up for a series of west coast dates for the early part of this year.

MARY CULLEY played the Children's Hospital in Oakland, Calif., with her trained poodles on Christmas Day, which was her final performance as she is retiring from active show business.

THE ROLLING DIAMONDS, while taping the AG VA TV Special in Las Vegas had a chance to visit with BLINKO & MARAN and also BETTY WOODS at the Circus Circus Casino. The roller skaters had to turn down a chance to play the DINAH SHORE TV show due to their previous taping commitment.

CONNIE WELDE's "Miss Constanca" leopard and jaguar uncaged act were featured with the Police Show at Jacksonville, Fla. on Dec. 13th.

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JOHN and GUDRUN STRONG spent a delayed honeymoon in San Francisco late last month. While in the city they stayed at the Fairmont Hotel and toured the sights.

WALLY BICKMORE has reportedly been working at a Hollywood studio during the winter months. At the moment his plans for the coming year have not been disclosed.

ATHENA PHILIPPE, youngest daughter of the Philipps, who were at Disney World, celebrated her first birthday on Dec. 17th. Guests at the party included her older sister DIANA, along with DAVINIA MOORE, OWEN O'BRIEN, LIAM O'BRIEN, MURIEL MOORE and TERRY and CAMILLE O'BRIEN.

MAYBURN MILLER, well known showman, is recovering after suffering a heart attack. No further details are known at this time.

## In Memoriam

FORREST S. MAJOR (84) former circus clown died at Lancaster, Pa., on Dec. 16th. He was a clown with Sells Bros. Circus and used the name "Major Sturgeon." During World War I he was stationed in France where he entertained troops as a comedy singer. After his retirement from show business he continued to clown for hospitals and orphanages while he worked for the Burnham, Corp. of Lancaster. Survivors include three daughters and several grandchildren.

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Appearance of The Rolling Diamonds was arranged by the Gil Miller Agency and the Ed Sullivan Productions.

# SHOW DATES

Circus Atadye  
to Feb. 6 Mexico City, Mex.

Circus Vargas  
Jan. 5-8 San Diego, Calif.  
9-11 Carlsbad  
12-15 San Diego

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Jan. 10-14 West Palm Beach  
Florida

Blackstone Magic Show  
Jan. 9 Knoxville, Tenn.  
10 Chattanooga  
11 Nashville  
12 Huntsville, Ala.  
13 Birmingham  
14 Mobile

Holiday On Ice - Int'l  
Jan. 10-14 Charleston, W. Va

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l  
to Jan. 14 Los Angeles, Calif

Ice Capades - Cont'l  
Jan. 10-14 Charlotte, N.C.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
Jan. 10-21 Hershey, Pa.

Ice Capades - Western Unit  
Jan. 10-14 Edmonton, Albt.

Ice Follies  
Jan. 9-14 Baltimore, Md.

Loomis Magic Capades  
Jan. 13 Yuma, Arz.  
14 Parker

White House in Miniature  
Jan. 11-21 Clearwater, Fla.



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ELFIE KLEMENTI writes the troupe is now settled down for a run of several months in Santa Domingo at the Cabaret La Fuente, in the Jaragua Hotel. They had cancellation clauses in their contracts for the early part of this season and were thus released for their lengthy island run.

WILLIAM CONRAD, former star of "Cannon" directed and narrated NBC's TV flick *SIDE SHOW* featuring Circus Vargas. It is the story of a young circus puppeteer and is a SID and MARTY CROFFT production, co-starring LANCE KERWIN, CONNIE STEVENS, RED BUTTONS, TONY FRANCIOSA and WILLIAM WINDOM.

Last summer the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus appeared at the new Paramount Arts Center in Aurora (Ill) and are well remembered by the stage crew. I appeared there for a Christmas Show produced by CATHERINE BILLO and, immediately upon arrival, the crew was telling me what a great time they had during that show's run, how great the performers were, and how much they enjoyed the impromptu party thrown by Emmett and cast. The Paramount Theatre has been newly renovated and it is a great house to play. Miss Billo had an excellent program featuring the following talent: MIKE ASHTON, foot juggler; ROGER & SHARP, illusions; the ELKINS SISTERS the MORGAN ASHTON TROUPE, the OFF FAMILY, comedy and MISTER SENSATION, aerial closer. DICK SASSO was MC and Santa Claus and the RENO TOBELLO TRIO cut the show. Talent was inked thru the SCHULTZ AGENCY.

SNAPSHOTS: The Fabulous Juggling VILLAMS are in the Bahamas. . . The JABCZYNSKI TROUPE are with the RAZZLE DAZZLE Ice-Revue at the Flamingo in Vegas. . . The 15th annual Showfolks Circus honored the late KARL WALLEENDA, program featured Kay Rosaire, Gaylord Maynard, the Jordans, Flying Espanas, Fornasaris, Great Bruno, Polack Bros. Elephants, Al's Lemonzine, Tino Walleenda, Dino & Anita, Bertinis (bikes), Lilliana (foot juggler), Zerbinis (comedy table), Katinka's Poodles, and clowns Alfredo Landon, Danny Chapman, Balila and J. P. Theron. Johnny Herriott was ringmaster. . . DeMILLE appeared at the Circus World Championships in London, Dec. 11 thru 15th. . . CLIFF VARGAS has unveiled his long-awaited new "spec" in this year's circus edition. . . ALBULET BROS. high wire act with Circus Vargas, are also doing an aerial incline motorcycle wire number. . . The PLUNKETTS are back in Texas until they go out on their Sports Show circuit. . . Acts seen criss-crossing the mid-west for the SCHULTZ AGENCY playing Xmas dates were the ELKINS SISTERS, JOANNE & PEE WEE PINSON, FRANK & ESTRELITA, the MORGAN

ASHTON Family, THE WILNOWS, Mr. SENSATION, ROGER & SHAR, ETHEL JENNIER, AERIALETTA and many others.

BARBARA WOODCOCK called to fill me in on the Chicago bash for TIMBUCKTOO (held last fall in Chicago). The RBBB Gilly Wagon was sent to fetch the entire cast, including EARTHA KITT, who came en masse to party on the train with the Woodcocks, Bobby Johnson and others. Barbara told me the sultry, legendary LA KITT gets very upset if Barbara doesn't call her several times a month - the two have become such great friends. "We grew up the same way," confides Barbara. "For me it was mud and elephant manure, for Earth it was cotton patches and poverty. We have a common bond." All of which proves my contention that the really great performers in the world of show business (not necessarily circus) are the REAL people - down to earth, modest and human. It's the would-bes and the in-betweens who cause all the "heat". Eartha Kitt, incidentally, is jubilant over signing a one million dollar contract to promote BONNE CHANCE perfumes.

SID KELLNER's new FOOTBALL GLOBE GALLOPERS opens on the west coast April 21st, in Oakland, Calif. He is looking for good tumblers and acrobats. If interested, contact Sid at 1500 Newell Ave., Suite 407, Walnut Creek, Calif. 94596. Phone: 415-932-8400.

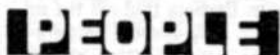
CLOSEUPS: LOS LATINOS played some Xmas dates for TOMMY BENTLEY and CHUCK CLANCEY in Calif. . . RON KELROY suffered a virus infection from his leg wound in that tiger biting incident of last March. . . DONNI STAMBAUGH played Santa Claus on the BILL HILL Xmas run. . . Others on the tour included Laura and Weiner Herriott, Lee Maloney and Joe and Gorgi Smiley. . . JENNY WALLEENDA choreographed the web number for the Showfolks Circus. . . ANDY ANDERSON was assistant director, LUDWIG MASCHINO was prop boss, and lighting effects were handled by SEARL SIMMONS and FRANK PERRY. . . The WILSON SISTERS (Trudy, Joanne and Donna) appeared for the first time (and last) together with their cradle acts at the Evansville Shrine date. Closing night two of the three cradle acts were placed in retirement: THE PINSONS and the PHAROAHs. Also calling it a day was PEGGY ZOPPE who will no longer work with the riding act but will help husband JOE get his new pony act together, the kids, meanwhile, will go on alone. . . 'Tis said that the FLYING MARILEES are coming over from Europe to tour with the Monte Carlo Circus (but THAT is strictly rumor); also set for that unit are ELVIN BALE and JEANETTE

(Continued on Page 16)

## Show Report

A special Christmas Show was presented in San Mateo, Calif., on Dec. 23rd, as a benefit for the blind. Three performances were given to good crowds at each show.

Acts appearing on the program were: Billy Grant, MC and balloons/audience participation; the Jax Marionettes, puppet act; Hi Fi, the Clown (Bob Emerico) magic; The Saxons, juggling/unicycles; and Santa Claus, played by Dick Martin.



PETER LUVAS and Family, owners of the Dixiana Circus, of Beaumont, Texas, hosted a dinner for BOB and ROSA GIBBS and ROSE ANN BATY after the Carson & Barnes Circus closed for the season.

MORGAN BERRY has reportedly sold all of the cats, arena and semi, plus the bears which were at his Washington farm. He now has just the herd of elephants to keep him busy

GARY DARWIN's "Magic Club" in Las Vegas now meets at Pat's Chinese Kitchen every Wednesday from 12 midnight until 4 a.m. the following morning

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## Please Note:

Johnny Frazier's circus title for the 1979 season is "Circus Genoa" and not "Circus Vegas" as has been previously reported.

Showman Dorey Miller has no interest in the show. His only connection with that circus is that he sold him some equipment and that he leases the show a group of elephants.

### Miscellaneous

The Big John Strong Circus will open its 1979 tour about March 19th in California. The show recently purchased a new truck from Dorey Miller and they have a new 40 KW light plant for the coming year.

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OF OUR BELOVED

WIFE AND DAUGHTER

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WHO LEFT US ON JAN. 6, 1973

WE MISS YOU AND LOVE YOU

JIM, PAULA and ROBY

## PEOPLE

JACK BATY had only one day off after closing with Carson & Barnes No. 2 Unit before he joined the Ringling show. He will serve as transportation boss for the new Monte Carlo Circus.

STEVE BAKER, escape artist, was featured throughout the 13 week run of the DICK CLARK TV Show and bits of each of his features were shown on the final show on Christmas week.

EDDIE BACKSTEIN left the Jungle Wonders Circus where he worked as bull man for a few weeks, helping out his friend TERRY FINNEY. Eddie and his father, Bill, then went to Hugo for a visit

STEVE PATTEN, elephant man with Circus Vargas, took some time off to visit friends in Texas and Florida over the Holiday season.

SLICK VALENTINE is reportedly in line for a TV series about stunts. The filming will be done in the Houston area.

BOBBY and ROSA GIBBS will open their 1979 season with JOHN FRAZIER's show on March 4th and will be on the east coast this summer. They will also play some dates for Carden-Johnson Circus.

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I've been editor for the past five years and I must add that this book is by far my finest effort. I know that I can't "top it" so I'm hanging up my editors cap to give some one else the privilege of being editor.

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## SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

1979 is already well along, Ringling's Red Unit opened its season with a new show on Dec. 28th at Venice, Fla. and Circus Vargas was not far behind opening at San Diego on Jan. 5th. Shows set to open in March include Circus Vegas out of Stapleton, Ala., the new Jungle Wonders Circus and Kelly Bros.

Jon Friday, well known circus announcer, will be with Kelly Bros. Circus this season. Jon makes his home in Hartford, Mich., and is well known to fans everywhere.

The cost of inflation has sent another circus publication to its demise - The Great American Circus Directory. The idea was excellent and it was a fine slick paper magazine, but its costs obviously were too high to keep it going.

Neil Franzen is still in the Texas Valley trying to sell his animals and equipment. Also in the Valley is C. C. Day and wife. Cliff is the only surviving CFA member who holds a number below 100 and his is 99. Cliff formerly owned Cooper Bros. Circus, a title he still owns and he last toured with Carson & Barnes Circus and prior to that he was with Fisher Bros. Circus.

The entire Silverlake family gathered at their mother's place (Josephine) for the Christmas holiday. Josephine continues to keep active in show business and tours regularly. Word has it that Mel opened a small circus for the Holidays on Jan. 7th in Texas. Some of the Davenport animals and equipment are with the show until the big show opens in March.

The Windjammers will hold their annual meeting for 1979 in New Orleans. The date given this reporter was Jan. 18th with headquarters at the Holiday Inn.

Producing clown John MacKay spent the Christmas holidays in Missouri. John's 1979 season starts Jan.

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### In Memoriam

MARIAN CHAVEZ, who with her husband had established the Chavez School of Magic, died after a long bout with cancer on Nov. 17th at Panorama City, Calif. She worked right up to the very end, even though in a wheel chair, to be sure that the school she and her late husband started would go on.

JACK POTTER, author of the "Potter's Bar" series of articles and columns which appeared in magic magazines, died this past October. He was a television engineer, but was absolutely devoted to magic.

THE GREAT BENYON, known as the Grand Old Man of Magic of New Zealand, he died there on Sept. 16th. At one time he operated the largest magic show in Britain, Australia and New Zealand.

19th with a Fleckles date in Saginaw, followed by a Louisville date for Sam T. Polack, then he goes off to Rochester for the M&M show.

Ken Benson, circus performer, announcer and jack of all trades, will appear in several TV taped shows for children on KNOE-TV (Monroe, La) in Jan. and Feb. The show is called "Captain Wonder Show" and runs daily after school hours. Benson is currently employed at the Louisiana Purchase Gardens and Zoo, a winter job until he takes to the Sawdust Trail.

McComb, Miss. CFA'r Harold Causey drove 160 mi. in late Dec. to visit Ken Benson at Monroe, La., and they along with this reporter cut up jackpots. Harold is an ardent circus fan. Last year he visited Zacchini in Jackson, Miss., Hanneford in Biloxi (he says Hanneford didn't play McComb as reported), Carson & Barnes in McComb and Vidalia and Hoxie in Hammond. Harold says just tell me where they're at and I'll make it.

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**PEOPLE**

KELLER, star of the Aquarama Circus, recently finished an engagement in Mexico City and is now touring in Monterrey and Guadalajara. After his Mexican dates are completed he will tour with his magic show in Canada.

D. R. MILLER has purchased an elephant from OZ-ZIE SCHLENTZ of the Royal Wild West Circus. The elephant works in harness as well as an act.

TERRY FINNEY who toured with Carson & Barnes No. 2 Unit and later with the Gatti show last year is head elephant man on the Gopher Davenport show.

WARD THOMAS, magician, presented his show "Le-gerdemain" at Radio City Music Hall last year and received rave reviews from local papers.

MEL SILVERLAKE has added some new show features to his attractions, including a snake, 5 legged horse and elephant skin dog. They were purchased from EDDIE PEDEDRO. Mel's show opened in Texas on Jan. 7th.

CHARLIE RUBEN, escape artist, reports that new locks are being imported from Europe. They have 10 tumblers and use a computer system to open, all of which could mean trouble for escape artists.

BOBBY GIBBS visited with the SYD MOORE family at Tucson, Ariz., just as everyone was getting set to leave for December dates.

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**PEOPLE**

GLEN and ETHEL HENRY are spending the holidays at home in Gainesville, Texas. They will add 4 new dogs to their act for the '79 season.

JIMMY CONNERS, dog and pony man from Gainesville, Texas, was married last month.

MANUEL KING is in Mexico and South America signing up acts for shows for the 1979 season.

WAYNE RAGAN, who had the lions and tigers on the Carson & Barnes No. 2 unit last year, will be touring with Carden-Johnson Circus this year. He is adding lions to make his act a 6 lions and 3 tiger number.

CASEY GIBBS has returned from Australia where he was the special effects director with the Hanna-Barbera show.

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**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

WILLIAMS. . . GEORGE CORONAS is supposedly on the Blue Unit doing the Space Wheel. . . REX and SANDY YOUNG will play Cincinnati for Royal Hanford. . . TARZEN ZERBINI bought a new Criss-Craft yacht but didn't have much time to enjoy it - he's back on tour with HUBERT CASTLE.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: The boys from the VASQUEZ FLYING ACT were nonplused to find themselves being cruised in the shower (during the Evansville Shrine date) by KENYA the precocious female chimp owned by ROGER ZOPPE and the ZOPPE boys (Roger and Dennis) were MORE than nonplused when they discovered PAMELA's chimps were toilet trained all right - all over their new wardrobe and JUST before the act!

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE (There's NOT always fire!) during a recent Xmas engagement at the Paramount Arts Center in Aurora, Ill., the firework finish of my aerial act brought out the fire department when smoke triggered the automatic alarm system in the there - and the police - and a hot time was had by all!

See you down the road, luvs.



Acts playing dates in the Pacific Northwest with a Big John Strong Christmas Show unit were: Bill Schreiber, Sandy Strong, Don Young, Toby Twist, Willie Keo, Warren Woods and Kathy, Stan Kramien and Kathleen plus Cheryl Shawver with her new seal act.

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EDUARDO's Bears, FRANK DEAN, whip artist, and many other acts were among those seen on the annual Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club Show which was presented at a hospital in Orange, Calif., last month. DON HEASTON directed the band and the clowns included: MR. GWIN, SQUEEKY, GENWINE and BENZINE.

ALBERT L. WEBB is the new president of the Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club, and his wife is the new secretary/treasurer.



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## Mailroom

Over the Holidays the Post Office has sent back mail for the following people, saying they were unable to deliver it.

Frank Galumbos  
Robert Barber

Howard Eastwood  
Bruce Thompson



## THANKS to EVERYONE

for responding to my free list offer  
and for the books you have bought.

..... John Mc Ginn

## Show Report

The "Santa's Christmas Circus" produced in Wisconsin by Badger State Productions, played to full houses throughout its December run.

The program with announcer Rose Baker featured: Dan and Star, ventriloquist; Miss Mary, the Frog Lady; Clowns, Buffo and Poopsie; Mr. Jack and his Poodle Revue; Miss Lanni and her all white Fantail Birds; plus, of course, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus.

## Show Date

Talent featured on a Dec. 16th Holiday Show at Greenville, Texas, included: Joe Schmitt, Jr. (Skip-  
py the Clown), MC; Barbara-Tata's three baby elephants; Skippy the Clown with magic/comedy/balloons; Joe Lemke's College of Chimps, and a Finale with Santa Claus.

## NOTICE!

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by

DON MARCKS

Circus Report is facing a major crisis - that's the shortage of readily available paper here on the west coast. Since the holidays the situation has become critical and everyone one reports supplies are disappearing fast.

Regular printing houses, they say, have been buying up just about everything they can lay their hands on. As a result most western outlets are running out of paper.

Several phone calls to various outlets resulted in a negative answer and a response like "it looks as if you're going to have trouble finding what you need."

There are some things we can do as the situation gets worse and they will help keep Circus Report rolling along. We could cut back on the number of pages each week, jam as much as possible into each issue and/or print a copy every other week, at least

## NOTICE

John Frazier Productions, Inc., has taken over control and full interests of the Carson & Barnes No. 2 Unit. in its entirety.

The show will be operating under the title "Circus Genoa", with Jessen Associates handling the tour direction. Some animals will be leased from Dorey Miller.

Circus Genoa will tour as a three ring circus, with a top seating 2,000 people. There will no longer be a side show with this circus, and all animals will be on view in the free menagerie.

until the strike is over.

The latest information we've been able to come up with is that things are at a stalemate. Neither side is interested in sitting down and talking to the other side and no one wants to discuss the problems that are involved.

So, we are going to keep things going in one way or another, but if the Circus Report arrives in an unusual size or style don't be at all surprised.

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