



5th Year

March 8, 1976

Number 10

## opening dates set

Although several tent shows are already on tour, most of the larger ones will not get started until next month. This is the time for rumors and speculation, concerning a show's activity and its upcoming plans. For the most part the rumors are just that "rumors" and nothing more. Yet, occasionally a rumor turns out to be fact and as a result it is often good to take a careful look at all such reports.

Spring is not far off and with it comes the real beginning of the circus season. That means all the shows will be on the and fans will once again be happy and anxious for a show to reach  
(Continued on Page 10)

### Seeks Record

Late last month high wire walker Steve McPeak was strolling about the cables that cross Boulder Dam, some 700 feet over the dam. His evenings were spent  
(Continued on Page 4)

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## PEOPLE

LUCIO ZAMPERLA, rehearsing his wild animal act in Spain, suffered serious face laceration while putting his head into a lion's mouth. More than 30 stitches were required to close the wound.

FRANK and BERNICE DEAN have signed to tour with the Happy-time Circus for the summer season on the West Coast.

MARY CULLEY, whose trained poodles are a west coast feature act, is recovering from a broken foot, as the result of a holiday show accident.

KENNY TWOMEY, circus clown, celebrates his 12th birthday on March 10th.

THE BUMPEY FAMILY is now appearing at the Hotel Jaragua in the Dominican Republic. They opened their four week stay on March 2nd.

JACK BURNETT, former publicity director for Holiday on Ice has been hospitalized at Alexian Bros. Hospital, Elk Grove, Ill. (Rm. 447).

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## CASTLE NOTES

When Hubert Castle's Circus played Fort Wayne, Ind., they brought in a good show. In addition to the acts listed for this show at Grand Rapids (see CR for Feb. 16, 1976) they had: Pablo Rodrigues, aerial horizontal bars; Production number with The Saturnaires, Miss Elizabeth Miss Graciela, Miss Carry and Miss Carmen (3 webs and a hair hang); the Marahal camels and llamas; Milonga's horses; Wilson's dogs; Bisbini's unsupported ladders; Cycling Wizzards; Roberts, acro; Cline's elephant group; Diano's elephants; Bucho the Mule; Angelo and Inga Bisbini's new act and for a finale they had the Friel-Smith Cannon number. .... Kaye Scheiman

## FOR SALE

3 Arabian geldings; liberty act matched dapple greys - recently came off the road.

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Santa Rosa, Calif.

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On Friday, Feb. 13, this reporter visited with John Lewis, owner and manager of the Lewis Bros. Circus. John was passing through Monroe (La.) on his way home from El Paso (Texas) where he had obtained additional animals for his circus menagerie.

John is enthusiastic about the upcoming season and his new show. He feels the circus will be the best show of its size on the road.

"We'll have the largest array of wild and exotic animals for a show of our size on the road. The towns we play will get their money's worth, as we'll have some animals not even found in many of the larger zoos.

"We'll have a good clean show. Real circus. I came up under Hoxie Tucker, who I consider, is the best in the business today, and that's the way we'll operate."

..... by M. L. DUPONT

The show will have a 5 man advance crew, using window cards plus lithos and the news media, along with a herald. One of the advance men is Gene Christian, who really knows the business.

All of the equipment is in good shape and has been painted in circus style. The midway will include the side show/menagerie, with a 40 ft. banner line; a snake den, with 24 ft. banners; pony ride; concession stand and the ticket wagon. Prices in advance will be \$1.00 and \$1.50, while gate prices will be set at \$1.50 and \$2.00. Seating will handle 1500 people and there are no reserved seats.

Among those set to tour on the show are Mac McClosky, band; Dale Petros, animals; Bob Emricc producing clown; Lee Spainn, animals; Gazeldor Cannon, The Mentors, Eddie Hendricks and others

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# west coast show

....by M. L. DUPONT

Mike Swan, co-owner of the Swan Bros. Circus, reports the show's 1976 edition will be bigger and better than ever before. Formed in 1975 by Andy and Mike Swan, the show had a busy season playing fairs, shopping centers and schools.

Many fans will recall that Mike was on Fisher Bros. in 1974 as "Sparky" the clown, and also handled many other duties. Andy had gone back to college. After the '74 season Andy also went to college. It was at that time that the brothers formed their own show. All the physical equipment was built and painted by the two boys, although trucks and tents were purchased.

By the summer of '75 they had a one ringer on the road with both boys doing all the set-up work, performing and the tear-down operation.

Mike, who now uses the name "Hi Tops, the Clown" says this year's acts will be about the same, but much stronger. "Our high wire is now up to 15' and we are going to add a 10 ft. extension. This means the wire will be run from a center pole, with the act presented above the tent.

Mike is now training a dog "Toby" which will be added to the program. Both boys work in clown make-up - Andy in white-face, Mike in tramp.

An 18x30 ft. side show is to be carried and will include: magic, bed of nails, fire eating, etc. Again each number will be presented by the two brothers

During the winter they've been working as "jesters" at the Old Eagle Theatre in Sacramento (Calif.) not far from their home.



## STEVE McPEAK (Continued)

in a hammock suspended from one of the cables.

McPeak reportedly wanted to set a new record for the length of time spent on an overhead cable. One report indicated he was seeking publicity for the TV show "Streets of San Francisco" in which he is featured.

Last November, McPeak rode a unicycle over the dam's cables and that stunt cost him a fine of \$250. Early this year he attempted to walk a cable on the Golden Gate Bridge, but authorities stopped him.

Security officials at the dam said they would arrest him when he came down. No one was volunteering to go up after him.

# BILLY BARTON....



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK? SANDY DOBRITCH will produce his own circus dates, under police sponsorship - one in the deep south and one in the mid-west. Seems like old times seeing the DOBRITCH title back in action.

Aerialist MYNA MOON returns for a third season with GATTI-CHARLES....clowns SPIFF & PISSA encore with the Hunt Circus and that show has enlarged its seating....ETHEL JOYCE takes her greyhounds to Beatty-Cole (remember when she was AERIALETTE? I do. She was great)....After a five year hiatus the EARLS will be with Sells & Grey, doing two acts with Billy also serving as ringmaster.

CARLA WALLEDA took her sway pole act to the Emmett Kelly Circus in Puerto Rico. IS that show going next to the Islands or Japan or Both?...MARIO WALLEDA apparently decided against trouping with Royal Palace Circus and is with Royal Hanneford...at least he's keeping it "Royal"....ERV LANG's chimps on Mid-America - opened March 5 in Brownsville, Texas. It's a good thing Texas is such a big state with all the circuses playing in it simultaneously!

I am happy to report that, by the time you read this, KAY FRANCIS HANNEFORD, will have had her final treatments. Seems they caught the malignancy in time and Kay's road to recovery looks rosy indeed!

LEONARD NIMOY, of Star Trek fame, visited the Detroit Shrine Circus. He is currently touring in SHERLOCK HOLMES.... Those Mobiliner tires written about last week develop bubbles along the outer wall. TONY FOSSETT just had to replace FOUR...Talk about off-beat "casting" Can ANYONE believe ME as Daniel Boone? You can't convince me he wore THAT much fringe OR that much fur!

BILLY WOOD's the Flying Dells features the marvelous flying skills of wife, Betty, who not only does a double somersault but a double lay-out somersault with pirouette return.

Billy and Betty can't decide whether to move to Sarasota or to L.A. "I get lots of movie stunt work in L.A.," says Betty. "Bobby Yerkes is always calling me. They need stunt girls who can DO something. But...they're always making a small boy out of me!" Betty shrugged. "Everything is a variation of a sponge plunge. In the TOWERING INFERNO I jumped from a window...boy! when those flames hit, I jumped!"

Poor ROSIE ALEXANDER...on top of Fay's not being able to

(Continued on Page 13)

# he lives on

Ziggy, the renegade elephant who died at Brookfield Zoo last October at the age of 55, still lives in the research labs of the University of Illinois Medical Center. Doctors there are studying the 13,000 lb. animal's feeding structures.

The university's College of Dentistry has obtained Ziggy's head, neck, jaw muscles, jaw points, tongue, larynx and the end of his trunk. "These things are priceless," says Dr. E.Lloyd DuBrul, who heads the oral anatomy department.

By studying Ziggy's muscles and glands, says Dr. DuBrul, we can gain an insight into how the human system works.

Ziggy came to the Brookfield Zoo in 1936. He spent the years from 1941 to 1971 chained in a building. His skeleton is being reconstructed for display at the Field Museum.

.... Kaye Scheiman

## In Memoriam

HARRY ROOKS, long-time circus man, who trouped with many shows and most recently was with Royal Bros. Circus. He died in mid-February at St. Joseph Hospital in Paris, Texas.

## Miscellaneous

The Royal Lichtenstein Circus, billed as the world's smallest, recently played at Redlands (Calif.) where they had to cut their performance short due to a sudden rainstorm.

The State of Arizona now requires blood tests on all hoof animals passing across their state line.

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## HANNEFORDS' DATES SOLID

The Greenville (S.C.) Hejaz Shrine Circus has been re-signed by the Royal Hanneford Circus and 1977 will mark the third year the show has played the engagement.

The flu epidemic that followed the show on its 750 mile move from Detroit hospitalized Rosa Gibbs and Mrs. Kate Hanneford. Rosa was released before the date was concluded, but Mrs. Hanneford was held for an additional week.

The Hanneford Circus played Charleston (S.C.) on Feb. 27-29 for the Omar Shrine Temple, the sixth repeat year. An extra Sunday show was added, sold out to the Red & White Grocery Store Chain. Dave (Midge) Burnham and Wally & Cheryl did four days of advance publicity for the date and, in Charleston, as in all other major towns, a Press Party was held prior to the opening.

Other major dates being signed for 1976 and 1977 will be announced soon. Among the major dates scheduled for 1977 is the Al Sirat Grotto Circus in Cleveland.

The program in Greenville ran as follows:

Slide for life and sponge plume  
Overture - Charles Schlarbaum,  
musical director  
Razzle Dazzle - Ernie McLain  
doing vocals

Tajana - trained tigers  
The Winns - inclined walk  
Display with Sulo Sisters on  
globes; Ramos, risley; Bon-  
wellys, pole voltaige  
Salute to Hollywood - aerial  
Wally & Cheryl - comedy  
Display with Signor Rai; Baron-  
ess Von Frost, Morris & Co.  
-- illusions  
Tony Fossett - bounding rope  
This is My Country - spec  
-- Intermission --  
The Flying Steeles  
Planet of the Apes with the  
Astros - aerial motorcycle  
Elephants - Gibbs (3); Hoxie  
(4); Hanneford (4)  
Tongo & Irene - gorilla parody  
Hanneford Riding Act  
Prince Najvez - aerialist  
The Rocket Car  
Finale

The show was cut down for Charleston since the entire circus had to be presented on a stage. The Winns did their wire walk from the stage to the balcony, over the audience. Only one elephant act was used, although Bobby Gibbs was there with an elephant ride and petting zoo in front of the auditorium. Only two production numbers - Planet of the Apes and the spec - were presented. The other two numbers remained in the trucks until the the Cincinnati Shrine date coming up on March 14-21.



# ROUTES

Circus Vargas  
to Mar. 14 Houston, Texas

Clyde Bros. Circus  
Mar. 9-14 St. Paul, Minn.

Cole All Star TV Circus  
Mar. 8 Waterloo, N.Y.  
9 Dundee  
10 Sodus  
11 Newfield  
12 Ithaca

Tommy Hanneford Circus  
Mar. 9-10 Jackson, Tenn.  
13 Muncie, Ind.

Holiday Hippodrome  
Mar. 8 Wilson, N.C.  
9 Louisburg  
10 Raleigh  
11 Burlington  
12 Durham  
13 Mt. Airy  
14 Pulaski, Va.

Kaye Cont'l Circus  
to Mar 21 Chicago, Ill.

Pan American Circus  
Mar 10-14 Miami, Fla.

Polack Bros. Circus  
Mar 13-14 Albany, N.Y.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
Mar. 9-14 Richmond, Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Mar. 9-10 Savannah, Ga.  
12-14 Columbia, S.C.

John Strong Circus  
Mar. 8 Solvang, Calif.  
9 Santa Maria  
10 Atascadero  
11 Morro Bay

..... OTHER ROUTES .....

American Freedom Train  
Mar. 10-14 Oklahoma City, Okla

Black Watch Troupe  
Mar. 8 Champaign, Ill.  
9 Indianapolis, Ind.  
10 Cincinnati, Ohio  
11 East Lansing, Mich  
12 Richfield, Ohio  
13 Toledo

Royal Lipizzan Show  
Mar. 9-10 Austin, Texas  
12-13 Tulsa, Okla.  
14 Muskogee

St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Mar. 14 San Francisco, Calif.

Lawrence Welk Show  
Mar. 8 Lakeland, Fla.  
9 St. Petersburg  
10 Jacksonville  
11 Baton Rouge, La.  
12 Monroe  
13 Lake Charles  
14 Houston, Texas



## Coming

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## PEOPLE

FRANK RUSSO, of the Hartford Civic Center, has been named assistant director of that facility.

ALBERT ECCLES has been appointed senior accountant for the various Anaheim Convention Center operations.

## Bull Runs

An elephant, spooked by the siren of a passing ambulance, ran back to its truck, during an elephant ride operated by Bobby Gibbs, on the parking lot of the municipal auditorium at Charleston, S.C. The incident was further induced by the sudden turning off of the parking lot light system.

The five riders (four children and one adult) slipped off as the elephant ran, then tumbled in a grassy area. None of the riders were injured.

# WALLENDÄ

A Biography of Karl Wallenda

Ron Morris

### DEATH STALKS HIGH WIRE

"... the wire shuddered... the seven people suspended for an instant on the edge of certain death... some fell and died others still go on... this is the Truth of the dangerous life of a high wire artiste..."

So goes the suspenseful story of the life of Karl Wallenda; the most famous circus performer of this century. From the childhood days of poverty and performances in the *Biergartens* of World War One Germany to earn enough money to feed his family to the days of triumph and tragedy as the headline act for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus the story of Karl Wallenda is a tale of unremitting courage, gargantuan strength and simple pride in doing the one thing only he could do.

Karl Wallenda has thrilled audiences for over 60 years and now his legend comes to you in this exciting book. You will be thrilled to read of the conquest of fear in the creation of heretofore impossible feats and saddened with the inevitable deaths when so much relies on pure courage and will.

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**IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

BILL BRICKLE's Poodle Fantasy wishes all producers, agents and show personnel to understand that he and the Stebbings Circus have severed all business relations and that his act is in no way connected to any part of the Stebbings Circus.

All advance publicity of this act appearing with that circus is false, this includes information and material appearing in several Florida papers.

The act is contracted to play numerous Park, Fair and Shrine dates for 1976.

**OPENING DATES SET (Continued)**

their area.

Among those tented shows which are already on the road are: Mid-America, Franzen Bros., Dailey Bros., Fisher Bros., John Strong, Stebbings and Circus Vargas.

Opening dates already announced for other shows include: Hoxie Bros - Mar. 23 at Miramar, Fla. Carson & Barnes - Mar. 27 at Austin, Texas. Royal Wild West - Mar. 20 at Valdosta, Ga. King Bros. - Apr. 4 at Apopka, Fla. Beatty-Cole - Apr. 5 at Brunswick, Ga. Sells & Gray - Apr. 16 at Cocoa Beach, Fla. Lewis Bros. - Apr. 22 at Bridgeport, Ala.

**PEOPLE**

JOHNNY RIVERS was one of those attending the recent Mid-West Fair Association meetings at Tampa, Fla.

TOM DONOHO and the Polack elephant "Opal" were featured on TV's "Truth or Consequences" program the night of March 2nd.

CLARK MacDermott and his "Cold Nose Five" act is currently working out of his California home.



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**HANNEFORD**

3 RING  
**CIRCUS**

WORLD'S GREATEST  
CIRCUS TALENT



Jackson, Tennessee  
THE COLISEUM  
March 9-10

Muncie, Indiana  
FIELD HOUSE  
March 13

## Miscellaneous

Wynne Enterprises, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, has agreed to assume operations of Lion County Safari Park in Grand Prairie (Texas) for 1976.

Circus Circus Casino, of Las Vegas, Nev., is selling the old hand carved carousel they've had for years. The asking price is \$100,000.

Recent newspaper reports indicate the Florida State University and officials of the Beatty-Cole circus have been discussing a change in the show ownership.

## In Memoriam

CHIEF WILLIAM RED FOX (105) an authority on the Little Big Horn Massacre, died at Corpus Christi, Texas, on March 2. He joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show at Chicago in 1893 and spent 15 years with the show. He made 107 movies

## Show Acts

Acts seen working at the Old Chicago Mall at the end of February included:

Saul Shafton, The Crazy Sailors, Antonucci's Chimps, Ms April, Miss Cheri, Veno Venito, Cleo, The Burketts, Johnny Luxem, Arwood's Dogs, Stagg McMann The Kellys, Tony & Chris and Ernie Johnson.



SPOT-BOOKING in 1976

\*\*\*\*\*

BILLY BARTON

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17225

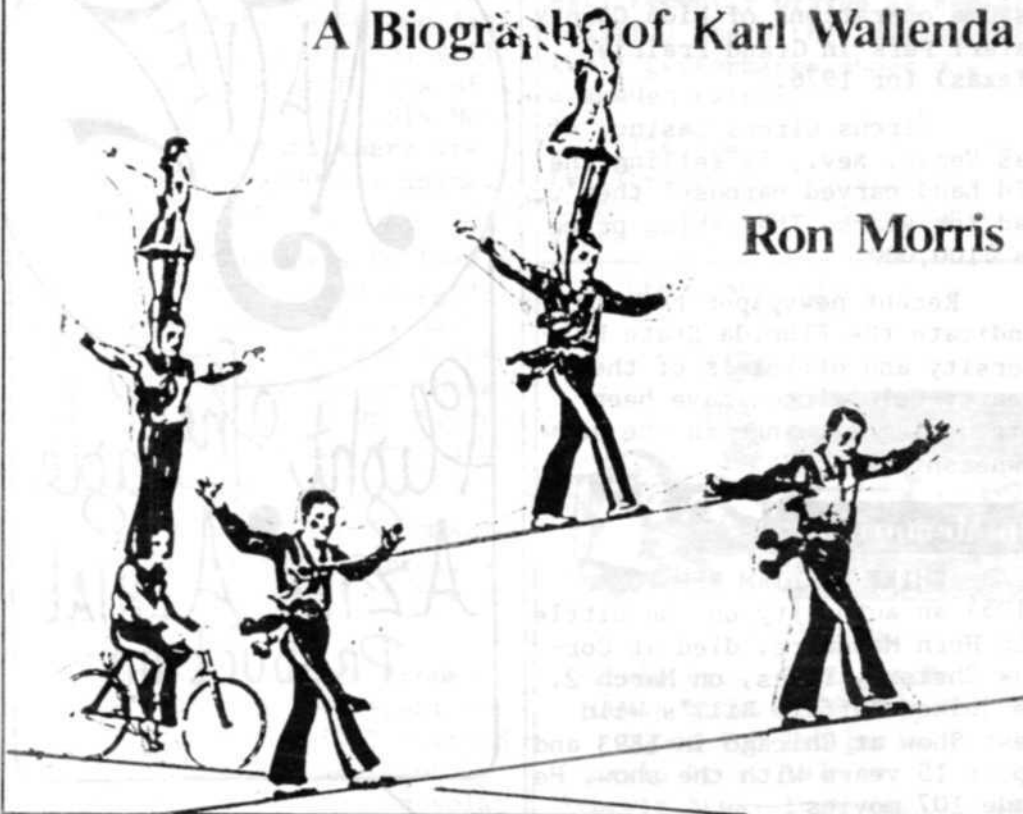
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# WALLEENDA

A Biography of Karl Wallenda

Ron Morris



## AUTOGRAPH PARTY

KARL WALLEENDA will be at "The World of Books" store, in Sarasota today (March 8) to autograph copies of his biography which has just been released.

The book "Wallenda" was written by Ron Morris and sells for just \$8.95. Order your autographed copy now!

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

hear her when she's inside the comedy car, he wears ear plugs... JERRY MAAS, moving his truck, struck the TIFFANY's trailer knocking Charles and Susie out of bed. Even so...his reckless driving is as nothing compared to ANITA KEPPON on a bicycle.

Performers with Royal Hanneford arrived in Greenville (SC) after a 3 week stint in Detroit sick to a person with flu. It was the WORST flu epidemic I've ever seen strike one show.

If the audience could see the various people who are behind those masks in PLANET OF THE APES, they'd never believe in Santa Claus again....Now HANS WINN and his troupe are wearing them in the aerial motorcycle act.

HERNANDEZ Troupe sold their horses to Tommy Hanneford - sale arranged through GUNNAR AMANDIS.....SIGNOR RAI remade Dame KATE HANNEFORD's gold sequin gown from Eaves....IRIS KEPPON's Mack Sennett Bathing Costumes that zip! zip! off to transform the girls into Busby Berkeley Goldiggers deserves an award.

CHARLES BERTINI the new bandleader with Beatty-Cole... DIONNES made Rochester for M&M. ....TEDDY STEWART back in Florida resting his shoulder..READER'S DIGEST: CHARLIE BAUMAN's "Tiger, Tiger" is a popular new entry in the circus reader's circle....Alistair McLean's "Circus" is not.

MINI REVIEW: NBC's Ringling Special was typical of preceding telecasts: part entertainment and part bore. When will NBC dispense with the irritating "canned applause" and then pan to an audience sitting like a painted backdrop? NO act or circus I've ever seen receives such CONSTANT reception!

Highlights of "Highlights of RBBB" were the accomplished performances by BOTTCHER's POLAR BEARS, BAUMAN's TIGERS, and the ever-sensational FLYING GONAS.....And, at least NONE of these acts was yanked into place or supported by life-lines or safety belts.

The KING CHARLES Troupe may be a novelty but the novelty has begun to wear thin. The riding acts seemed heavy-footed and clumsy. DON FOOTE's costumes (what little we saw) were as always, colorful and first rate.

LEO MASCITTO, bandleader with Garden (and now with that show) arranged the "spec" music and the overture for Royal Hanneford.....CHUCK MILAN is now with the FLYING STEELES....BOBBY GIBBS had an elephant ride and petting zoo at the Charleston, SC, circus date....HOXIE's elephants were in Greenville.

That tent circus, now carrying "grift" might do well to have a talk with another tent show owner who tried it (briefly) last season to learn the

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# Shrine Circus

The annual Zor Temple Shrine Circus, at Madison, Wisc., was produced by William Kay for Feb. 20-24. The show, which drew well, was presented at the Dane County Memorial Coliseum.

Acts featured in the show were:

William Golden - wild animals  
 Bagheera, the white tiger  
 Kurt & Kalyea - hanging perch  
 Princess Mafalda - sword balance  
 Katinka's Poodles  
 Kaylena and her birds  
 Baby Circus Elephant  
 The Zamperla Family - riding  
 The Flying Dells  
 Klausner's Bears - Herta Klausner  
 The Jupiters - aerialists  
 Al's Lemonzeen - comedy car  
 The Atos Troupe - trampoline  
 John Cuneo, Jr. - elephants  
 The Wallendas - high wire

The circus clowns were:

Al Ross                      Blinko  
 Chester and Joe Sherman  
 Bubba Hastings

The circus staff includes:

William Kay - producer/announc.  
 Patricia Kay - talent coordin.  
 John Malett - musical director  
 Sue Ossmann - secretary  
 Patti Maloof - secretary  
 Enrico Bogino - superintendent  
 Russ Emerson - advertising  
 Bob Reldren - special lighting  
 Bruce Preem - wardrobe  
 Hal Hastings - transportation  
 Susan Cullen - Fla. secretary



## '76 Plans

After a winter in Clear Lake (Mich) where he took dressage lessons from Clarence Hastings, circus man Dave Knoderer reports he is ready to perform with his new menage horse "Bingo", which was purchased from Bob Grubb.

Dave will tour with Fisher Bros. for a few months this year then joins Royal Bros. for the summer season. In addition to his menage horse, Dave will present his Palomino Pony liberty act in the show. He will also be playing his calliope on the midway, and doing bag pipes, Punch, and magic in the side show.

Knoderer has a special GMC van with space for all his animals, plus feed and 120 gallons of water. His living quarters are in the front compartment.

..... Theo Wells

## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

hard way that the "heat" just isn't worth it.

BILLY's DILLYS: The one thing that never plays to an empty house is a sense of humor.

See you down the road, luvs.



THAT KID  
LOOKS  
LIKE  
SHORTY'S  
BOY,  
JIMMY

SURE DOES -  
SAM'S BUILD AN'  
EVER THING  
GREAT PUNK-  
JIMMY- HE'S AS  
GOOD A CLOWN  
AS HIS DAD  
RIGHT NOW