

# CIRCUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

The logo for 'Circus Report' is a vibrant, stylized graphic. The title 'CIRCUS REPORT' is written in large, bubbly, red letters with a blue outline, set against a blue background. The word 'CIRCUS' is on the top line and 'REPORT' is on the bottom line. In the center, between the two lines of text, is a white clown's face with a wide, open-mouthed smile and a red nose. To the left of the clown is a blue elephant's head with its trunk curled. To the right is a blue tiger's head with its mouth open, showing its teeth. The entire graphic is framed by a red and white striped ribbon that curves around the bottom and sides.

9th Year

March 10, 1980

Number 10



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## in the NEWS

### ELEPHANT BACK HOME

A 5 year old Indian elephant, Alta, ran off last week from her winter home in Hugo, Okla., after being scared by a truck back-firing. She was able to elude those searching for her until officials brought out another elephant the following morning as a lure.

During the chase the Oklahoma Highway Patrol reported seeing her from time-to-time, but said "she was moving pretty good most of the time." "She's back in the barn and happy to be there," said Ted Bowman, assistant manager of the Carson & Barnes Circus which is headquartered in Hugo, Okla.

"We had a vet out and he gave her some antibiotics and she's doing fine," Bowman added.

He said he had been worried that the Indian elephant, which is not accustomed to the cold weather, might catch a cold or pneumonia in the sub-freezing temperatures.

"However," he said, "the vet says she's in pretty good shape. We're happy to hear it."

The elephant which stands 5 feet high ran off into a wooded area and circus officials, along with others, hunted for several hours before she was actually located.

When they led the big elephant, Suzie, out near the woods, Alta just came running up to her and she was immediately taken back to the circus winterquarters.



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## REPORT

### FLOATING WORLD CIRCUS

The Floating World Circus is headquartered in Seattle, Wash. It consists of a group of very dedicated people who are working to preserve the circus and circus arts as they used to be.

They teach circus arts in schools and colleges in the Pacific Northwest and just last fall a group of some 60 youngsters from throughout the State of Washington attended a special class session that was held.

Their performances are presented for street fairs, shopping centers, colleges, promotions, store openings and other such special events. Just recently the group performed at Seattle's Olympic Hotel for the annual Showman's Convention.

### DOING OK ... by Gene Kirkman

The RBBB Blue Unit played to a full house on opening night at Greensboro, NC, Coliseum on Feb. 12th. There was a turnaway crowd of 13,612, the first in 20 years.

The advance promotion was outstanding under the direction of Ms. Sherry Stewart, a First of May regional marketing director.

Advance sales for the other eleven performances were up 20% over the past year.

### ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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# REPORT

## DAMASCUS TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

... by BILL GALLOWAY

The 1980 season began Feb. 13-17, for the M & M Circus Internationale. Business was very good for the ten performances for the Damascus Shrine Temple in Rochester, NY. Unusually good weather, cold but with little snow, helped the attendance. An all new opening spec "The Good Old Days" was produced by Circus Creations (Jimmy Douglass) for the show.

The show line-up included: Spec, all performers; Damascus Temple Shrine Units; Harry Thomas, tigers; Francarro & Estreleta, hanging perch; The Super Locos, comedy acrobats (Valencia Family) Miss Michelle (Winn), neck slide; Display with Miss Loni, foot juggling, Don Philips & Co., juggling on a table and Miss Barbara, foot juggling; Willy Lenz, chimps; Clown Balloon Chase; The Freddie's (Kursawes), rola bola; Miss Martha (Suarez), contortion; The Carlos Duo (Obando) perch; Mioshy Amotto, hair hang; Victor Julian's Little Stars presented by Mr. Leo Coffey; Michael and John, slant wire walk; Intermission; The Flying Valencias; Clowns with furry animal big head walkaround; The Enrico Suarez Riding Troupe; Display with The Kursawes, and Van Noys, bicycles; Clowns and Construction Co.; Aerial ballet featuring Miss Lora (Patterson) on the single trapeze; Lee and Jeanette Keener and daughter Tanya with elephants; The Winn Trio, sky high motorcycle; Finale.

The show's staff consisted of: Mrs. Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine, producers; Al Dawley, announcer; Jim Douglass, performance director; Bill Galloway, assistant to Mr. Douglass; William "Boom Boom" Browning, musical director; Carlos Obando, prop boss; Miss Pamela, wardrobe, and Miss Carol, aerial director.

Clown Alley included: Vern Woerner, producing clown with John MacKay, Buck Nolan, Rick Legg, Rocky Rebideaut, George Getgood, Elmo Gibbs and Middy Streeter.



by LLOYD E. JONES

A great book of magical interest has come out in an American edition at about half the price of the original British publication. Why? I don't know, but at the U. S. price it's a real bargain.

Written by the scholarly Edwin A. Dawes, it is titled "The Great Illusionists" and is the result of a series that ran in the Magic Circle of England, publication "The Magic Circular."

A handsome big book of 216 pages, it is 8 x 10 in. and priced at \$7.98 (postage is \$1.03, insurance if desired is an additional 50c).

Actually it is a history of magic from ancient times to the modern day and all facts mentioned are recored with the source, and if there is a question then several sources are provided. This alone makes it a treasure since original sources can be checked by the student and one can decide for himself which is the accurate one.

Filled with old posters, playbills and photos, one can spend a great deal of time browsing through this volume and at the same time improving one's magic art.

The book has 15 main chapters, including one on "The Learned Animals" which will interest circus buffs. Entertainingly written, one will find much of interest in this book that tells about all the famous and some not so famous performers, plus several pages on the famed Harry Houdini.

# Bruno Attractions

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# Show Dates

## Carden-Johnson Circus

Mar. 12 Ardmore, Okla.  
13-16 Muskogee, Okla.

## Hubert Castle Circus

Mar. 13-16 Spokane, Wash.

## Circus Vargas

Mar. 11-13 Monrovia, Calif.  
14-16 Costa Mesa

## Cole All Star TV Circus

Mar. 10 Utica, NY  
11 Oneida  
12 Whitesboro  
13 Herkimer  
14 Boomville  
15 Adams

## Garden Bros. Circus

Mar. 13-17 Montreal, Canada

## Hamid-Morton Circus

Mar. 11-16 Kansas City, Mo.

## Hubler's Int'l Circus

Mar. 15-16 Poughkeepsie, NY

## Sam T. Polack Circus

Mar. 14-15 Pine Bluff, Ark.

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Mar. 11-23 Baltimore, Md.

## Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Mar. 11-16 Charlotte, NC

## Royal Hanneford Circus

Mar. 3-23 Chicago, Ill.  
14-30 Detroit, Mich.

## Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Mar. 10 Aberdeen, SD  
11 Huron  
12 Yankton  
13 Vermillion  
14 Sioux City, Iowa  
15 Brookings

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Mar. 15-16 DeLand, Fla.

## ---- MAGIC ----

### Amazing Conklins

Mar. 10 Bainville, Mont.  
11 Grenore, ND  
12 Wildrose  
13 Berthold  
14 Garrison

### Blackstone Magic Show

to Mar. 16 Cleveland, Ohio

### Andre Kole's World of Illusions

Mar. 15 Covina, Calif.

### Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA

Mar. 10 Bainbridge, Ga.  
11 Moultrie  
13 Cordele  
14 Warner Robins  
15 Fayetteville

## ---- OTHER DATES ----

### Antique Fair

Mar. 15-16 Santa Rosa, Calif.

### Babes In Toyland

Mar. 11-12 Dothan, Ala.

### James H. Drew Exposition

Mar. 10-22 Augusta, Ga.

### Gutis Family - Jungle Parody

Mar. 15-16 Poughkeepsie, NY

### Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit

Mar. 12-16 Kalamazoo, Mich.

### Rolling Diamonds - Roller Skaters

Mar. 16-23 Dallas, Texas

### The Sikorskys - Jugglers

Mar. 14 Baltimore, Md.

### Sports Shows

Mar. 13-16 Sioux City, Iowa  
14-23 Milwaukee, Wisc.  
16-23 Dallas, Texas

### White House in Miniature

to Mar. 16 Albuquerque, NM



SINCE EVERY WEEK seems to be national something or other week, I hereby institute the first week of March each year as National Betty Escalante Week. La Duchesse is that perennially youthful L.A. hostess with the mostest who, if she did not give the late Elsa Maxwell a few hints, should have. Well, Betty - our circus Den Mother (and if you don't believe me, brother, then ask around) has recently returned from a lengthy Christmas vacation in Sarasota and has mailed me a visit-by-visit report.

I am printing Betty's letter in toto for a two-fold purpose. She, as do many of my readers, often moan that this column is filled with names they no longer recognize - being as they are, retired from an active show biz scene and living in one area. The Madame's letter is filled to the brim with names which will rectify that (at least for this issue) and which will certainly evoke pleasant nostalgia. Here t'is:

19 January 1980

Dear Son:

Well, I'm HOME, believe it or not, a little the worse for all the wear and tear but deliriously happy! Really . . . I DO think my absence did Phil the world of good but THAT's beside the point! Darling! I had a Grand Time - everyone was just WONDERFUL to me, I was invited EVERYWHERE. Ye Gods! Your poor old mother had to almost buy a pair of roller skates! The HODGINIS tossed a pre-Xmas shindig with hordes of showfolks. I saw BILL BRADLEY, JERRY FRIES, TROLLE RHODIN, Mr. and Mrs VASQUEZ, PEGGY DAY, and KITTY and CHARLIE among the many! Stayed overnight with JOE and HANNA (she still looks like Irene Dunne) and we were up all night yakety-yakking until JOEY HODGINI got bored and left, saying it was all just too damn much for him. He went to his beautiful new house which is right next door and within calling and eaves-dropping distance so I don't suppose THAT son of MINE missed very much . . . Next day I visited WAYNE LAREY who had a recent hip operation but who is doing fine. LOU ROSSEN dropped by, we all had a nippy-poo and talked 'circus' - naturally! Is there any other subject?

DORITA KONYOT HUMPHRIES called Bobby - that's Bobby Johnson with whom I was staying - thanks Bobby - but I happened to an-

swer the phone. She instructed YVONNE (my niece - married to BENNY CRISTIANI) to pick up this old carcass and so off we rolled to visit where I watched sexy Yvonne ride her horse while I sat with Dorita to see a real 'pro' give 'horse lessons!'. Dorita was just shaking off a cold which seemed to be flattening most everyone but ME because I'm just too tough.

BENNY and YVONNE have a superb comedy mule and horse act which they worked with the Lipizzan show for several years but they are now making new plans (Sorry, doll baby, but I JUST couldn't get you MORE info). They were in turn invited to Bobby's Xmas Eve Bash but had to refuse as they were going to BELMONTE CRISTIANI's Big Family Gathering. I said how much I wanted to see that Gorgeous Family again and so she invited me (Now! wasn't that tricky?) We arrived late (the we being Bobby and Me) and I missed the girls who'd left earlier but did get to visit with OSCAR and that Incredibly Beautiful and Ageless MARION (I swear she has NOT aged a DAY in over 40 years), plus LUCIO and his family, and PETE whom I hadn't seen since the old Pan Pacific Circus!!! They are ALL looking great . . . but then they have always been probably the MOST HANDSOME FAMILY in the Circus!!!

We tripped off then to see MERLE EVANS and his soft-speaking wife NANA - anyone who knows Nana will KNOW what I mean! Bobby had bought books for himself and me and brought them along for Merle to autograph (The book is called MERLE EVANS - MAESTRO OF THE CIRCUS). Both looked well and healthy and I MUST SAY Merle looked years younger that did he the last time I saw him.

THE BLUE UNIT opened so I went to work selling hot dogs for CHARLIE BROWN. I think I did MORE hugging and kissing during those five days than sell Hot Dogs but I LOVED every minute doing ALL THREE!

Later we visited JEANIE CARSON, once wardrobe mistress with Ringling - Just as sharp as ever though very much thinner. She regaled us with stories of the circus dating back - can you believe - to 1915!

Todded off to chit-chat with LA NORMA and her family. She makes those ingenious dolls doing web. Bobby ordered a horse for himself. That

(Continued on Page 20)

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## MAILBAG

... from VINCE CARMEN

Here's the news from South America. I've been offered an extension on my contract with "Acurama on Parade" to stay through Aug. 30th, with an increase in salary.

My newest illusion, which we're building, is to be a "Vanishing Auto" using the full stage and a compact car. This will be in the show soon. If it goes well I will bring it back to the States for my own show tour which starts in September. "Acurama" has been enjoying super-success in Argentina, first in Buenos Aires and now in the resort city of Mar Del Plata. Right now we are playing across the street from the famous Tihany Circus. The competition in this situation is making history for South America. Acurama is out-grossing Tihany. It's the first time that Acurama has been here and the dolphins are a big attraction, while Tihany's show, though new has not yet been polished.

Circo Tihany is a show that travels on about 50 semis and is a circus with a musical hall presentation. The stage and equipment are really spectacular and it is certainly the most impressive tent show I have ever seen. The stage and setting

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## PEOPLE

THE CASTRO BROTHERS, high wire act, were featured at the Chicago (Ill) Sports Show on Feb. 15-24, playing at the Amphitheatre.

looks like Vegas.

The Tihany show uses the following illusions: Flash appearance, Pigeon catching, Doves to a duck, Crystal dome (ala crystal box), backstage, cannon and drum, mis-made girl and two girls to two jaguars.

Acurama plays Argentina until the end of April, then heads out for Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico.

Fu Manchu (David Bamberg) is so very well remembered in Buenos Aires they have some of his original equipment and Oriental robes in a museum display in Buenos Aires.

Also the magicians in Buenos Aires awarded me a trophy for "Merit in Magic". In the past six months I have performed 7 times on national TV in three countries.

**TIBOR ALEXANDER, Artist-Manager**

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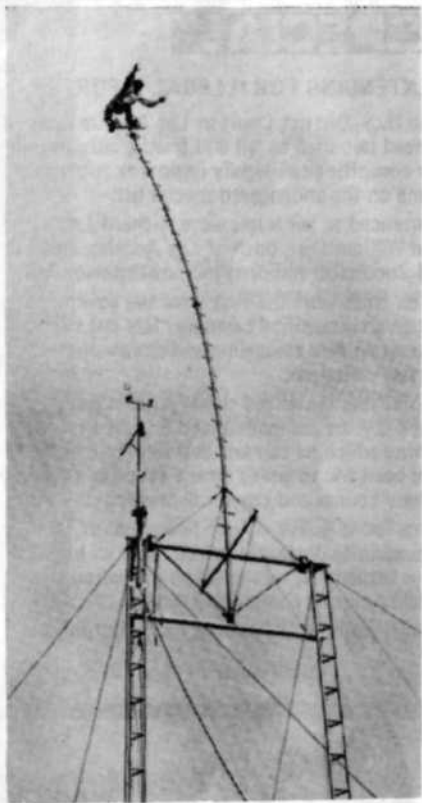
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## SPECIAL

### SENTENCING FOR ILLEGAL IMPORTS

The U. S. District Court in Los Angeles has sentenced two men to jail and fined a corporation for conspiring to illegally import exotic birds - some on the endangered species list.

Sentenced to jail terms were Richard Lablue and William Carr, both of Los Angeles, and Global Zoological Imports, Inc., of Inglewood, Ca. Their trials were the first since the government began an intensified campaign late last summer against wildlife smuggling and endangered species law violations.

Lablue was sentenced to six years in prison, all but 1½ years suspended, and 5 years probation, during which he can not deal in exotic birds. He had been found guilty after a four-day trial on 9 felony counts and one misdemeanor charge.

Carr, found guilty on one felony count, was sentenced to two years in prison, with all but 20 days suspended, two years on probation and 1,500 hours of community service.

Global Zoological Imports, Inc., a corporation

(Continued on Page 10)

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## REPORT

### CENTER RING CIRCUS

A very special premiere of "Center Ring Circus" was held at Kissimmee, Fla., last month. The show featured the young "Wizards of the Wire" Anita and Dino.

The outdoor show was presented in a low 40 degree temperature, and many visitors from RBBB Circus World's Clown Alley attended the event.

The show line-up included: Dick Gates, comedy magic; Special Guests from Circus World clown alley were Little John and Billie Bob; Miss Jana, aerialist and Dino and Anita the "Wizards of the Wire" who will travel with the Beatty-Cole Circus this season.



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Apr. 22 - 26 Lincoln, Nebraska  
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# On The Cover

This week's cover photo shows the Al G. Barnes Concert Band for the 1924 season. Charles Redrick was musical director and conductor; Fred Kruse was his assistant and Laverne Perry was Librarian.

Members of the band included:

Cornets - Fred Kruse, Laverne Perry, Walker Norris, Joe Peters, Melvin Piper

Clarinets - Ed Fowler, Wilfred Korpi, Jimmie Ward, Mike Zuch, Kenneth Dando

E. Flat Clarinet - Jack Beattie

Saxophone - Romain Kimball, Happy Pohl

French Horns - C. Smith, G. Miller

Baritone - Ed Buman

Basses - Arthur Hamlin, Wesley Marshall

Trombones - Neil Nelson, B. Edson, Albert Mitchell, Robert James

Drums - Julius Schmidt, C. P. Wayne

## SENTENCING REPORTED (Continued)

which operated a quarantine station approved by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), was convicted of conspiracy to import birds fraudulently and was fined \$10,000 - Lablue is president of Global.

Robert Ashway, of Alhambra, Calif., who pled guilty prior to the trial, was sentenced to three years in prison with all but two months suspended, five years probation and 1,500 hours of community service.

The government charged the defendants conspired to illegally import rare exotic birds from Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines in Feb. 1979.

The defendants reportedly misrepresented U. S. Customs Service declarations and entry documents, falsely stating the countries of origin and values of more than 200 birds. Some of these birds are protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

The defendants were also found guilty of entering an APHIS-approved quarantine station in Inglewood, Calif., and unlawfully removing birds that had been exposed to exotic Newcastle disease. This foreign bird disease kills chickens.

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# PEOPLE

**EDMONDO ZACCHINI**, circus producer, and ringmaster **BILL BOREN** were pictured in a full color photo in the Tampa (Fla.) Times on Feb. 11th.

**ROBERT EARL**, producer of Roberts Bros. Circus, reports that his show has all new advertising, press and promotional material for the 1980 season, compiled and produced by the Mulford Public Relations firm.

**PEGGY FLEMING**, skating star, was featured on TV's new show "The Big Show" which was aired nationally on March 4th.

**W. J. and MARY THORN**, former circus troupers, left show business in 1954 and settled down in Oklahoma City, where they work for the local concession operation.

**RUSS SAUNDERS**, of the Russ Saunders Trio, has been helping the Great Y Circus of Redlands (Calif) with training techniques and teeterboard construction ideas.

**ROY ROGERS** and **DALE EVANS**, western stars, were featured guests on the Merv Griffin TV Show the afternoon of March 5th.

**JOAN E. WHITE**, PR gal from Syracuse, NY, is

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off to Sarasota to visit **HELEN WALLEUDA**. Together they plan to hit the campaign trail to tell folks about their endeavor of having Washington accept artwork and a commemorative stamp honoring the late **KARL WALLEUDA**.

**LEON J. HOLECHECK**, CFA and COA member of Albuquerque, is the new President of Balloon Alley No. 100 of Clowns of America.

### In Memoriam

**ANNA ACKRAMOWICZ BARDY**, (62) retired nurse, died on Feb. 12th from injuries suffered as a result of a fall to the bottom of the basement steps at their home in Thompson, Conn. She was the wife of Adam Bardy, and they had been married for 45 years. He is the author of a book about his show business career which was recently advertised in Circus Report.

## WASHINGTON TUBBS II



## PEOPLE

**WILLY KEO**, comedy diving performer, was a feature act at the annual Sports Show in Oakland (Calif.) Feb. 27 thru March 2nd.

**DANNY CASTOLDI**, hand balancer and juggler from the Great All American Youth Circus (the Great Y Circus) tied for first place on the Feb. 21st edition of TV's Gong Show.

**AL DAWLEY**, circus ringmaster/announcer, was presented with a gal. of Scotch and a gal. of gin by concession butchers at the Louisville Shrine Circus. They credited their increased sales to his announcements.

**PETE LUVAS'** circus played a Feb. 19-16 date at a mall in Galveston, Texas.

**JOHN MCGINN** has been doing clown and magic shows for rest homes and hospitals in the Phoenix, Ariz., area.

**SALLY PAYNE** had to miss the annual Kosair Shrine Circus at Louisville this year, the first time in 20 years. She was fighting off pneumonia, complicated by emphysema.

**PATRICK BURDEN** (Kansas Bozo) and his sister **MELISSA**, of Independence, Kans., are featured in the latest issue of the Clowns of America magazine "Caliope."

**THE CHITWOOD THRILL DRIVERS** were seen in the TV show "Chips" which was aired the night of Feb. 23rd.

**LORILINI the Clown** (Lori Miles) has signed to appear on George Hubler's dates in Buffalo, Wilkes Barre and also at Frankfort and Lexington. Lori is the daughter of Rev. Austin Miles, the show business chaplain and ringmaster.

**CAROL BUCKLEY** and her roller skating elephant "Baby Tarra" recently taped a segment for TV's "Real People" show. They worked advance promotion for a circus at Albuquerque, NM (Feb. 20-24) and will be in Seattle and Portland to do advance work for shows in those cities.

## weddings



**BRYAN MAAS**, drummer, and **BECKY PIERSDORF** were married on Feb. 14th at Bunnell, Fla. The couple is now residing in Flagler Beach, Fla.

Among those attending the wedding were Jerry Maas, organist; Dave Maas, slack wire performer and juggler, and Bill Smith (Freckles the clown).

## By Crane



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# Class Menagerie

# REPORT

## STATE FAIR CIRCUS

... by Circus Joe Valenciano

For the first time ever the Florida State Fair had a real under canvas three ring circus for its Feb. 6-17, 1980 run. The event was in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Edmondo Zacchini, and there was a nice historical touch at the entrance where one of the very old Zacchini cannons was displayed. The circus was produced and presented by Eddie Zacchini and sponsored jointly by MacDonalds, Pepsi and Budweiser. The show was a free event for fair goers with show times at 3:30 and 7 pm on weekdays, while the weekend schedule was 1, 3:30 and 7 pm.

The big top was a huge two pole tent, blue and white. An interesting note: in the backyard were two big Hoxie Bros. Circus bull semis along with the Olympic trucks and several travel trailers.

Inside the tent the Hoxie Bros. concession trailer was on the left. The center ring was in the middle and the two end rings were in the round ends. In the rear of the top were a beautiful and well painted backdrop with clowns and elephant



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and the ring curbs were all freshly painted.

To help provide that old-fashioned tradition of the circus there was sawdust throughout the entire tent, with green sawdust on the track.

The show was very well presented and featured: Wilson's Balloon Circus; Circus Stars on Parade as the opening spec; Erik Adams, balancing; Miss Bonnie Bale, cloud swing; Adams K-Nine Revue, The Gutis Family, jungle parody; Hoxie's performing elephants (5); Al's Lemon-Zeen comedy car; Las Verdus, rolling globes; Semon's chimps; and the Flying Lanes.

Clown Alley was headed up by Dime and Connie Wilson and music was provided by a four piece band.

The circus played to SRO crowds for each of its performances.

# PEOPLE

PELUZA, former producing clown with Polack Bros. and other circuses, is touring with a unit of Ice Capades. Other acts touring with the ice shows are MIKE COURSE and BOB YOUNG, comedy act; JEAN PIERRE ROMANO, comedy bicycle act and ALBERT LUCAS, juggler.

# **SHRINE CIRCUSES 1980**

March 3-23, 1980 - MEDINAH TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

March 14-30, 1980 - MOSLEM TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

- Produced by: THE ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS, INC. -

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The Flying Gaonas - Flying Trapeze

Oscar Cristiani Elephants

Timi Loyal-Repensky Troupe - Bareback Riding

Walt King Elephants

The Hernandez Troupe - Teeterboard

The Flying Valencias - Flying Trapeze

The Plunketts - Comedy Trampoline

Jorge Barreda - Lions

Al Vidbel Elephants

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## REPORT

... by William Wotsch

In reading about the magic shows in recent issues of *Circus Report* it brings back some memories of my having seen some of the truly great performers of the past.

I recall seeing Howard Thurston, the great magician, at the Hanna Theatre in Cleveland about 1926 or so. One of his big illusions was making a white Arabian horse vanish from a platform suspended in mid-air. He had another one with about 8 girls sitting and standing on the running board of a Whippet car which disappeared. He also did the Hindu Rope Trick and Sawing a Woman in Half.

In other years I saw Houdini at the Palace Theatre. I sat near the front and he was really great with his Milk Can Escape, Strait Jacket Escape, Walking through a Wall, etc.

Later on I saw Blackstone, Sr. at the Metropolitan Theatre and Hanna Theatre.

## Pot Pourri

.. by MIKE NAUGHTON

CHARLEY and JOYCE VAN BUSKIRK will present their unicycle act "The Cyclonians" on some of the Jimmy Cole All Star Circus dates.

DORIAN BLAKE is opening his "Razz Ma Tazz" magic display with flash pots and chaser lights. He and Janice are with Jimmy Cole for their second year and will later tour with MIKE "Coco" POLAKOVAS in the southeast.

BILLY MARTIN is off to Martin & Downs Circus for a tour through western Canada. Billy was with the Great American Circus in 1978 and 1979.

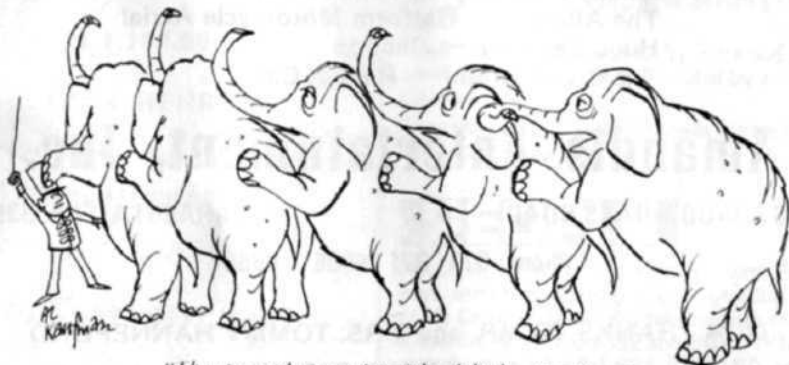
NORA and MIKE NAUGHTIN have been accepted into membership with the Greene County (NY) Resorts Association. The Naughtins own the Catskill Valley Flea Market & Craft Fair which is located near the Catskill Game Farm.

MIDDY STREETER is working on a local television show in Pennsylvania.

THE CHANDLERS will return to the five ring Carson & Barnes Circus. They have a completely new "Disco Wiz" Wizard of Oz themed magic spectacular.

MIKE NAUGHTIN will spot date with BILL KAY in Albany and Syracuse along with various dates for Jimmy Cole.

BERNIE KALLMAN, veteran of the Beatty-Cole Circus plans to stay at home this year and pursue other professional endeavors.



"The stampede is set for eight o'clock—pass it on."

## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

doesn't make much sense does it? Well . . . she makes ALL SORTS of clever dolls. Her work is fantastic, unique, and I hope one day this lovely lady's art will be featured in major department stores nationwide.

Spent an evening with TERESA GAONA - the kids had just flown to Australia. LUPE, the other daughter (married to an ATAYDE) was visiting and Teresa enjoyed playing Grandmother. Between visits we managed to make it to KENNY DODD's - well, THAT crowd, was always WILD! Saw that MAD PETEY KINOSH, also PHIL MIRANDA and BILLY McCABE (vacationing briefly from Circus Vargas). There were others but I can't remember THAT many names at ONE time.

A few days before I left I bussed up to Lakeland to visit MILONGA (Cline). She is SUCH a camp and I LOVED her place. She has a huge trailer sitting on 10 acres, a house next door which she rents out; also has a mare wandering loose - says it saves mowing grass. Now! Doesn't that sound just like Milonga? She teaches school, goes to college at night and sings in the choir. That lovely voice. She drove me back to Sin City (excuse me I meant Sun City) and as we passed the Ringling Museum she suggested we stop and take a peek. We did. Of course I had to look at ALL the male Nude statues! (Ed. Note: THIS PART OF THE LETTER CENSORED).

We were enroute to VICKI HANNEFORD's and got lost. Ended up in Venice. I always know where I want to go but can NEVER find my way BACK even after I have BEEN! The last time, four years ago, when I visited Sarafra someone dumped me at FANNY McCLOSKEY's and she had to drive me home. Well, out we started and all I could tell her was Ridge-something-road. We drove for hours. Poor Fanny was in tears. She kept saying, "My poor dogs, home, all alone, wondering where I am! I'll probably NEVER see

them again. You can't find your house and now you've got ME so turned around I'll never be able to find my own way home."

All in all I stayed a full month - visited Show-folks often, also BARBARA and BUCKLES. Barb is suffering with a back problem, got hurt in the act last year on Ringling. . . Also saw GEE GEE, had a nip, she is the LIVELY ONE. Says she has a couple of kids who are to work her elephants, says she might get a pitch joint some place, but I don't believe her. Gee Gee says she's neglected her love life long enough and romance is starting to crowd her brain. You really know how to name them, Son. When you called her the BLONDE BOMBSHELL you knew what you were talking about.

Well, lovey, that's about it. It's even more wonderful on hindsight and I must say EVERYONE LOOKED WONDERFUL, especially that VICKI hasn't changed a whit. Now I am wondering whether all those circus people haven't found a fountain of youth?

Since my maiden name (Yes, son I once was a maiden) is Ponce de Leon I had hoped to find it while I was down there but no luck so far and believe me, honey, I LOOKED. Well, there is ALWAYS plastic surgery.

All my love to one of my favorite son's, but, darling, I DO WISH YOU WEREN'T SUCH A GOSSIP!

Mother



Now's a good time to get your subscription in for Circus Report. Order your own copy or one for a friend now at just \$15.00 per year. Write to: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.

## REPORT

**SAM T. POLACK CIRCUS**

... by **HENRY PAYNE**

We had a mild January, but the snow was only waiting for Sam T. Polack's first Shrine date of the 1980 season.

Just one day before the opening of the Kosair Shrine Circus, Feb. 6-10, we had 5" of snow, the opening day it snowed all day. Ice, snow and traveling warnings nipped into the box office ticket sales, of what is usually a full house on opening day, schools were out because of the snow, Tues. Wed. and Thurs., but it got a little warmer Thursday and melted some ice and the snow was tracked down enough for school buses to bring in the school children, who use those blocks of tickets the business people buy and that contributed to a full house for the Thursday matinee. Thursday night was good, due to the slight improvement in the weather.

Friday was capacity at both shows, but Friday's weather forecast, by the U. S. Weather Bureau, called for severe snow storm warnings for Saturday which made for a section of empty seats at the matinee.

Saturday's paper, the Courier-Journal, came out with headlines on Feb. 9th "The Day The Big Blizzard Wasn't" and explained that the snow storm took a path south of Louisville and then went straight east into the Carolinas, but it hurt the Saturday business somewhat.

Sunday had two capacity matinee shows, but the night show was a 3/4 house, which is par for the

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closing performance of any year.

News coverage was good, both by TV and the local press. News men were on hand with TV cameras opening matinee, taping portions of the performance for their news programs. Carmen Hall and Jorge Barreda were among those featured in the local paper.

A new format was seen in the paid ads, with the word "Circus" in big letters, some running the full length of the paper. After the show left the paper had a big story on "Coco" the clown and his son "Cocoanut". Boom Boom Browning and Al Dawley were also pictured in the paper.

The program featured: The Pablo Duo, cradle; Jorge Barreda, lions; Miss Tina, upside down walk; Cimse's Wolfhounds and Pomeranians; Aerial Ballet featuring Lou Ann Jacobs on the single trapeze; Olmeda Bros. and Kolmedy Trio, bicycle and unicycles; Clowns; Carlos Duo, perch act; Carmen Hall's Baboons; The Great Joselito, high wire; Intermission; The Torino Bros. and Kolmedys, juggling display; Rodriquez (Dianna, Elisabeth, Angelina), hair hang; Clowns; The Magana Duo, whips (Pancho and Lou Ann); The Olmedas, whips; Poppini & Co., low wire (Carlos

(Continued on Page 22)

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**CIRCUS QUIPS . . . .**. . . by **KARL J. BISCHOFF**

**THE MODERN ROBIN HOOD** of today is the concession man, he takes from those in the Big Top who can well afford it, and gives it to the needy in the office.

**SOMETIMES** it takes a showman a long time to learn that small towns never forget.

**PERHAPS** a circus owner is no braver than an ordinary man, but he is braver longer.

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**weddings** 

**THELMA LOUISE NELSON** and **J. HAROLD DUNN**, well-known circus model builder, were married on Feb. 14th at Sarasota, Fla.

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**in the NEWS****CHINA'S NEW GOAL**

China must breed more camels, especially the two-humped variety, the New China News Agency recently reported.

A national camel-breeding meeting in Inner Mongolia province decided that the current total of 600,000 Chinese camels was not enough, the news agency reports.

Widely used for transport in China's northern desert regions, camels are also valuable for their hair meat and milk.

The Agency reports that the two-humped camel, also known as the Bactrian camel, was more productive.

**SAM POLACK CIRCUS (Continued)**

and Carol Obando); Olmeda Trio, dressage; The Three Dikas, rolling globe; Clowns; Lee, Jeanette and Tanya Keener, elephants; the Pablo Rodriguez Troupe, aerial bars.

The show's staff included: Sam T. Polack, producer; Al Dawley, ringmaster; Coco (Michael Polakous) producing clown; Wm. Boom Boom Browning, musical director; Ronald Kelroy, prop boss, and Harry Mills, concessions.

**WANTED****CIRCUS MEMORABILIA**

Am especially looking for posters and publicity photos of performers with the Polack Bros. Circus in the 1950's. Want photos of Rose Gould and Lexi Bruno.

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