



8th Year

February 12, 1979

Number 7

U. S. TOUR SET

The Moscow Circus starts its 1979 tour of the United States this week with a Feb. 15th to March 4th engagement at San Juan, Puerto Rico. The show will be playing in the Roberto Clemente Coliseum, which has been the sight of many previous San Juan circus presentations.

The actual mainland tour of the U. S. will start on March 8th, when the Moscow Circus opens at Baton Rouge, La. Other dates have been scheduled in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Virginia, after which the show will play dates in Panama.

The 1979 tour is being directed by Vascon, Inc., of Florida, which is headed by Arthur M. Concello and Carlos Vasques. Concello, who is president of the firm, is a former Ringling-Barnum executive and was involved in the First Cultural Exchange Program of circuses between the Soviet Union and the U. S.

Vasques, who is a vice president of the firm, is a noted South American promoter and presents family-type entertainment in South America. He also directed previous Latin American tours of the Moscow Circus.

Enrique Kanuick, of Buenos Aires, is also a vice president of Vascon. He has long been identified with the Soviet Circus activities. Joseph M. Mecurio, of Sarasota, treasurer, of the organization, has had an extensive circus background.

Some of the acts which will be seen in the two hour Moscow Circus program are: the Valentin Filatov Bears, the Nugzarov Cossack Riders, the Icarian Games, high wire acts, aerial stars, balancing acts, jugglers, strong man juggling, exotic animal presentation, uncaged leopards and others.

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PEOPLE

PRINCE BOGINO (Junior Ruffin) was recently attacked by a lion during a training session. He reportedly suffered severe scratches and gouges.

GEOFFREY, escape artist, has completed five days of taping a TV special with **ORSON WELLES** and **ANGIE DICKINSON**.

KELLY KANSY, plus **MAT** and **MIKE HAUBRICK** of Spokane, Wash., are recent graduates of the Ringling Clown College.

MARIO MANZINI, escape artist, is back at home after having been hospitalized in London. He is returning to work this month and in addition to his escape act he features a program on Escapeology.

PHIL and **FRANCINE SCHACHT** along with Dondi, the elephant, will be featured at Marriott's Park in Santa Clara, Calif., this summer.

DONALD YOUNG (Poco), producing clown, is now set for the 1979 season with Cirque Gatini. He and **JO McMILLAN** will handle the clowning on the Quebec unit of that show.

JIM HOWLE, circus artist, had his clown paintings on display at Doraville, Ga., on Feb. 6th. Clowns of

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Atlanta were invited to attend in costume and one lucky clown won a free oil portrait.

LOU ANN JACOB and **MARK KAROLY** are featured in the Cinderella-themed spec presented on the Royal Hanneford Circus.

LEE (Curly) **LLOYD** and **RALPH** (Koto) **HENDERSON** have been doing two shows a week for "Project Joy" in the Spokane, Wash., area.

ROBERT LUND, owner of the American Museum of Magic, at Marshall, Mich., has acquired the **IRVING DESFOR** collection of pictures of magicians, which will soon go on display at the museum.

JON FRIDAY will be ringmaster with Kelly Bros. Circus this year. The show opens March 29th near Tulsa, Okla., and will feature the **GEORGE HANNEFORD** circus acts.

DON BRIDWELL (Whizzer the Clown) after 33 years of pratfalls and "falling for laughs" fell on the ice at his Ohio home and broke three bones in his left leg. He will be recuperating for at least 8 weeks and would enjoy mail which can be sent him at: 4645 Sandy Lane, Apt. B, Columbus, Ohio 43224.

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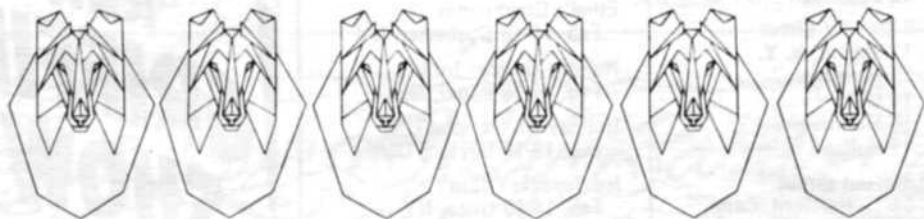


THE CIRCUS REPORT is compiled and edited by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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SHOW DATES

Hubert Castle Circus

Feb. 14 Las Cruces, N.M.
15-17 Albuquerque

Circus Calico (TNT Circus)

Feb. 17-19 Buena Park, Calif.

Circus Vargas

Feb. 12-15 Montclair, Calif.
16-20 Carson

Cole All Star TV Circus

Feb. 12 Poland, N. Y.
13 Herkimer
14 Utica
15 Munnsville
17 Holland Patent

Hamid-Morton Circus

Feb. 14-19 Hartford, Conn.

Royal Hanneford Circus

Feb. 15-18 White Plains, NY

Hubler International Circus

Feb. 16-19 Mentor, Ohio

M & M Circus

Feb. 14-18 Rochester, NY

Moscow Circus

Feb. 15-Mar. 4 San Juan,
Puerto Rico

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to Feb. 18 Atlanta, Ga.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Feb. 13-18 Greensboro, NC

---- OTHER DATES ----

Blackstone Magic Show

Feb. 13-18 Milwaukee, Wisc

Vince Carmen's Magic Revue

Feb. 12 Uvalde, Texas
13 Brownsville
14 Laredo
15 Del Rio
16 Georgetown
17-18 Fort Hood

Ethel's Greyhounds

Feb. 14-18 Rochester, NY

Holiday On Ice - Int'l

Feb. 14-18 Biloxi, Miss.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l

Feb. 13-18 Dayton, Ohio

Ice Capades - Cont'l

Feb. 14-18 Utica, NY

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit

to Feb. 18 Washington, DC.

Ice Capades - Western Unit

Feb. 14-18 Notre Dame, Ind.

Ice Follies

Feb. 13-25 Boston, Mass.

Jo Ann & Sunny - Seal Act

Feb. 14-18 Rochester, NY

Evel Knievel Show

Feb. 14 Leaves for Australian
tour (Watch for dates)

Kramien's Magicazam Show

Feb. 12 Healdsburg, Calif
15 Sonoma
17-18 Red Bluff

Lipko's Comedy Chimps

Feb. 14 Hanahan, SC
16-17 Sumter
18 Columbia

Loomis' Magic Capades

Feb. 12 Kermit, Texas
13 Odessa
15 Snyder
16 Big Springs



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Feb. 14-18 Rochester, NY

Manzini - Escape Artist
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WITH A SIGH of relief I announce my mystery-novel "Past Murder Imperfect" is finished and is now in New York. Since that deadline has been met I can get on with my column and my career - "business, as usual".

I wish to take this opportunity to thank those who researched information essential to my plot: ROSEMARY MARINO and BEVERLEY HEIGHAM of "Better Booking" in Boston (where my book is set) for the phone calls and letters involving vital points; to DR. WILLIAM STANDRING, DDS, of Evansville, Indiana (Acts Chairman for Hadi Temple Shrine Circus) for valuable information and data on drugs, acids, pathology as well as countless individuals in private life, police officials, attorneys, and most notably my Tax Consultant, MR. THOMAS ZULLINGER for explaining the complexities of corporation structure. Beyond those who aided my research, there are literally hundreds of my peers who wrote notes, or made quick phone calls, wishing me well, chief among these JANICE ARIA whose genuine interest and encouragement saw me through troubled days. And . . . even more importantly . . . I am grateful to my-long suffering editor DON MARCKS and all those show business people who, in comprehending the incredible concentration required to write a murder-mystery-puzzle-plot, kindly refrained from interrupting my work these past three months of final editing, except on matters of utmost urgency.

The book is finished and is now in New York in the hands of ROBERTA KENT an "Author's Representative" with the WB AGENCY. I thank writer RON MORRIS for the introduction. To my many, many friends eagerly awaiting publication, I can only say, "we must wait to see what develops". The very minute I have news, it will be printed here.

CIRCUS VARGAS is off and running for its 1979 tour, and, so far, business has been excellent. Reliable reports indicate Cliff has the most entertaining performance since the inception of his circus. There are one or two weak points, on which I will not elaborate, simply because a show, totally altered in concept and format, takes a good month to strengthen its weakness. On the second day, during its Burbank showing, Circus Vargas gave two benefit performances for the Gay Rights Movement involving The Gay Metropolitan Community Church and the Gay Community Service Club. 3,500 gays attended the first showing. A like number attended the second. I am told the audience was one of the most enthusiastic Circus Vargas has ever played to, with standing ovations for performers, and with aerialist ROBIN MEDINA the "hit" of the show. The wardrobe created by MILLIE WARD is now in use. Spies tell me TOMMY BENTLEY and CHUCK CLANCY were seen helping the designer at the 11th hour, sewing jewels like mad!

BENTLEY BROS. plays a two and a half week run in June (California) and from September 1st thru 30th plays its Eastern tour, a run of 4½ weeks. There will also be a spot date or two in mid-summer. How this route has grown in one year!

CLOSEUPS: JANICE ARIA is taking a dance class during these lay-off months to improve her "ring movements". This is a classy bear act, completely different from every bear act in show business - a Las Vegas act if I ever saw one. The chorus line bit they do mid-act with people and bears is a "knock out"! . . . IAN GARDEN reports the border crossing headaches have been eased for all but those persons play-

(Continued on Page 16)

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VOORHEIS BROS.

Col. Bill Voorheis, owner/operator of the Voorheis Bros. Circus, and Col. Bill's Grande Early American Circus under canvas, has made his 1979 plans available in an exclusive report to this publication.

The producer and director of the operation, namely Col. Bill Voorheis, started the 1979 show season on Jan. 6th and will run periodically until late December offering variations in the entertainment field.

In addition to the well-known Michigan-based circus, running under the above banners (depending on indoor or outdoor dates) the show has produced two new units, one of which is currently on the road and the other not until fall (or for repeat dates where a change in format is desired). The one show is known as "The Amazing Byron" and his World of Wonders, and is an illusion magic show with live music and backed by variety acts (the number of acts depends on the town and budget). The second unit is called "Willie the Clown Show" and is a mini version of the Voorheis Bros. Circus. The show owns two big tops and may divide into two separate shows, featuring "Magic Under the Big Top" which should prove interesting, as well as the old tried and tested Voorheis show under canvas, which is now in it's 10th year in Michigan. The show is not one to toot it's own horn and seldom is a press release issued stating

plans for the season.

Voorheis is a talented promotion director and personally supervises his dates along with taking an active part in the performance itself.

The 1979 dates will mainly restrict themselves to Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia. Ruth Wood has been signed as the girl vocalist for the upcoming season and Danny Daniels will handle musical chores in addition to his comedy and juggling act on the magic show. Voorheis is currently in Florida between dates arranging for talent for the remainder of the year.

The new format will enable the show to continue on the road when cold weather sets in, and will open the door for a number of Christmas dates that have already been booked, instead of having to put the canvas away in September as in the past. Voorheis has closed his printing business to the public and will confine it's operation to their own dates.

IAN MacINTYRE, known professionally as "Jeff K. Davis" as well as "Whoopie the Clown" reports he did indeed work for a west coast based show in '78.

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HUBERT CASTLE was the subject of a special feature article in the Grand Rapids (Mich) Press on Jan. 28th.

EMME, FEATHER, HAPPY, MR. GWIN, MUFFIN, BENZINE, and TOTO (all clowns) participated in the Circus Vargas Program at Burbank, Calif., on Jan. 19th.

DIANE BERRY, aerialist, is working with the FLYING LUNAS, who are featured with the Hubert Castle Circus this year.

HAL HAVILAND writes, the late HARRY DANN was a master of repartee and his make-up impeccable. One afternoon he was greeted at the back door by a circus owner who studied him with a critical eye.

"Very good, clowney," said the owner, "Now make me laugh." "I'll give you a laugh," snapped Harry, "My salary."

BOB WELZ, former Ringling ringmaster, is featured with the Ice Capades, with his juggling act.

GENE RANDOW, DOUG ASHTON, LEE MARX and MIKE PADILLA are clowns on tour with the Hubert Castle Circus.

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The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus will open its 1979 season in Florida the first part of March for what is expected to be a long tour. The show will be playing shopping centers and malls, and will offer the public a new program of acts.

This year the side show will continue to be operated by Dick Stuart, who has his own magic show during the off-season. An all new tent has been purchased and it is blue and white, thus matching the circus' big top.

For the 1979 tour the side show will feature its petting zoo, which will include a zonkey, miniature horse, baby kangaroo, llamas, deer, burro, turkey, ducks and a wide variety of other animals.

Also featured in the side show will be a Punch and Judy Theatre, Miss Serpentina with several giant snakes, and The Great Sebastian, the world's tallest sword swallower.



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PEOPLE

DAVID COPPERFIELD, illusionist, was featured on the new "Donnie and Marie" show on TV the night of Jan. 28th.

FATHER DAVID HENNESSY, has been appointed full-time, traveling Catholic chaplain for the Ringling Barnum Circus. He had previously served as a part-time spiritual counselor for the circus.

FES REYNOLDS and his trained Brahma bulls will be featured with the Big John Strong Circus this season. The act has six bulls working as a liberty group.

ZAPPA, the clown, was recently featured on the TV show "Dating Game" in which he won a date with the girl contestants.

MARCAN and his African lions are with the Atayde Circus in Mexico and will return to the States for the opening of the American Continental Circus tour.

W. E. "Shotgun" PAGE, former circus owner, attended the Tennessee Fair Meeting at Nashville with show owner GARY STRONG. Gary's show, which plays mainly in the South will feature two elephants and several new animal acts this year.

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The Circus

The program presented by the Royal Hanneford Circus at its Roanoke, Va., date for the Kazim Shrine Temple featured the following acts:

Opening spec "The Circus Is Coming to Town"; Princess Tajana and her tigers; The Ventura Duo; Clowns and the Paint gag; The Gasperrys, comedy table; The Franciscos, teeterboard; The Martells, trampoline; An aerial ballet featuring Miss Lou Ann Jacobs; The Great Sladdick, chair balancing; Los Latinos, tight wire; Alain, sword balance; The Hanneford Family Riding Act; Clowns with comedy car; Cinderella spec; Intermission.

In the second half were: The Flying Gaonas; Elephants and Gypsies; Clown Band with Shrine clowns; Les Blocks, high wire; The Hanneford Rocket with Mark Skywalker; Finale.

Mailroom

The Post Office says the following people have moved and did not file a Forwarding Address.

Robert Hillas

George W. Lilly

Bill Ystad

Richard W. Nagle

REVIEW

ROYAL HANNEFORD CIRCUS

by Dave Wright

On Saturday, Jan. 27th, I caught the Royal Hanneford Circus which was playing for the Kazim Shrine Temple at Roanoke Civic Center. Capacity crowds were on hand for all three shows — 10 a.m., 2 and 8 p.m.

The show's three specs, opening, main spec and finale are all choreographed and costumed fantastically by Philip Morris. The Main Spec, "The Living Fairy Tale" a Cinderella theme, stars Lou Ann Jacobs and Mark Karoly, who as Prince Charming does a fine job, dressage with his high school horse.

The entire show moves along at a fast pace, with all performers and acts well planned. The show's feature act, the Hanneford Family, is a precision drill, and every member of the troupe shows the fine Hanneford tradition. Nine year old Nellie Hanneford performs excellent maneuvers with the assistance of the mechanic. Tommy Hanneford handles the comedy end of the act, with the agility of a youngster, and of course it's a wonderful sight to see 90 years young "Kate" Hanneford, acting as Ringmistress.

Special mention should be made of Mark Karoly who executes a back somersault from a galloping horse to another, and then follows it up with a forward somersault on the horse. Truly a fine young horseman.

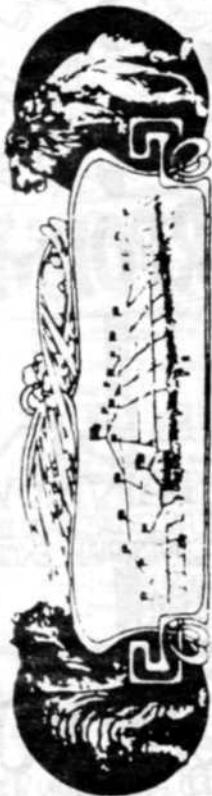
All of the acts on the show are top quality "circus." Standing out is the Flying Gaonans and Les Blocks. The show opens with a fantastic slide for life, performed by Julie Ventura, and a back slide for life simultaneously by Herbie Weber.

Ring One is captivated at the end of the show as the Magnificent Hanneford Rocket slowly creeps into sight with space music, flashing lights, and sirens. As the rocket is driven into place, Commander Mark Karoly (Skywalker) carefully, inspects the landing net and the rocket. After a brief consultation with aide Dr. Gene Pulaski, he is ready. Into the barrel of this awesome cannon he goes and after the countdown, is fired 108 feet into the net.

Mark should receive much credit for his ability, youthfulness and showmanship, and the show should utilize more publicity on the rocket, it surely is worth the admission price alone.

Ringmaster duties were handled by Senior Rai, and Philip Morris, and vocals were done well by Al Leonard. The band is under the direction of Keith Killinger and Kay Parker.

(See program elsewhere in this issue)



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SPECIAL

by "Circus Joe" Valenciano

On Jan. 17th, I visited the Circus Hall of Fame and enjoyed talking to the personnel there and looking over their rare posters and exhibits.

Appearing there for the winter months is the George Hanneford Circus. They have a bright red and white big top. It is a two poler with a one ring format. The top is a bale ring tent, and on the inside they have 7 high blues all the way around. A pop corn and cotton candy stand is near the entrance.

Music is provided by an organ. Clowning was handled by Alfredo Landon and a young man. The program featured: Juggling, Bareback Riding, K-9 Revue and Pony Act, Jagure act, Trapeze and Upside down walk, Elephants (4), plus several clown numbers. There was also a trampoline act, which was not presented at the show this writer attended.

Also at the Hall of Fame this writer checked out an exhibit which he presented them in 1967. This consists of an exhibit depicting Beers-Barnes Circus near disaster, when a center pole broke in two during a 1965 performance (I was in the top at the time and my mother, Ulla Valenciano, was just about to do her trapeze act). Harold Barnes had tightened up his wire for the inclined walk, when the pole snapped.

Articles in the exhibit are, the story with photos, a section of the actual pole, along with canvas and a bale ring.

Show Report

by Jon Friday

The Ringling produced Monte Carlo Int'l Circus will play Grand Rapids, Mich., appearing at the Stadium Arena, March 7-11, just 38 days after the 49th annual Shrine Circus closes at the Civic Auditorium.

On Sunday, Jan. 14th, the Monte Carlo Circus ran a four-column 14 in. ad in the Kalamazoo, Mich., paper, some 50 miles south of Grand Rapids. However, there wasn't a word in the Grand Rapids papers.

Acts appearing with the Monte Carlo Circus will include: Louis Munoz, tightwire; the Richter Family, elephants and acrobatics; the Albarracines, aerial perch; the Eotvos Family, musical clowns; Gene Mendez, high wire; The Silagis, teeterboard; Elvin Bale, aerialist; Karoly Donnert, tigers; The Wee-Gets, equilibrists and the Fawcett Chimps.

Prices are scaled at \$5.00, \$6.00 and \$7.00 with all reserved seats. The Shrine Circus holds their prices at \$2.50 for general admission (bleacher seats on the main floor), \$3.00 and \$3.50 for reserved for weekday matinees and the Saturday morning show, then \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00 for all evening shows and for the weekend matinees.

The buildings both have about a 5,000 capacity for a normal circus, but I understand the Monte Carlo Circus will block off one end of the building in order to present the show in a European-style setting.

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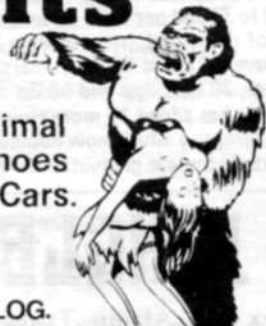
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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

We were sorry to learn of the illness of Al Dawley's mother in Sarasota. It was a touch and go thing for a few days and the worst was expected. But now she is "out of the woods" as the saying goes. Al in his concern made a mad dash from Georgia to his mother's bedside, received a ticket for speeding. Al's mom was in ICU for 4 days and had to spend two more weeks in the hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

I'm indebted to Jim Forrest, of Hartford, Conn., for the special program from the Billy Smart's 3rd annual Circus World Championships. The back page has a full color spread of photos and enclosed with the program was a score sheet which the judges used in judging the acts. They were judged on presentation and content. The Flying Cavarettas were edged out by the Flying Oslers of South Africa, who scored 100 points against the Caravettas' 98 points. It seems Terry missed her first triple while the Oslers made it. The Boitchanovi won for springboard, the German Lothara, won for tightwire, Los Rios for risley and Alan Alan for escapes. The entire proceeds from the box office on the final night were donated to the National Circus Trust, a newly formed charity, for the purpose of stimulating interest in the circus and encouraging new artists. The show was dedicated to Karl Wallenda and was filmed for TV viewing.

Beatty-Cole operates a cookhouse under the direction of Joe Spirko, with a 4 man staff. They spend \$1500 to \$2000 per week to feed the show folks. Some of their food items include 2 cases of coffee, 150 loaves of bread 45 lbs of margarine, 40 lbs of hot dogs, 30 doz. eggs and 50 lbs of potatoes.

Ringling has added 11 more clowns to their Circus World company which now numbers 21. The new ones are all College graduates. Clowning is more and

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SHRINE CIRCUS ... by Jon Friday

After a 104 mile overnight jump, the Hubert Castle Circus played for the Saladin Shrine Temple at Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 22-28.

Acts appearing on the show included: Tarzon Zerbin, wild animals; Mlle. Jacqueline, single trapeze; Gary Thomas, elephants; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster; the Flying Ray-Lunas, with Ray Valentine, Jr.; the Rodriguez Troupe, aerial bars; Arturo Segura, bounding rope; The Glorians, aerial perch; Ron & Mitzi, iron jaw; Derrick Rosaire with Tony the Wonder horse; Christine's chimps, and many others.

more in the news and like a British circus brochure says . . . "this is the year of the clown."

Recent reports from Florida state the 109th edition of Ringling's Red Unit could be called the "Year of the Flame" since many acts use fire as a part of their presentation. Gunther Gebel-Williams appears four times in four different costumes during the first half of the show.

Circus items presented to the Ringling Museum by the late May Wirth are displayed at the Museum. May, who was a famous rider, died last September.

So many fans are lulled into a false security as they watch Gunther Gebel Williams handle his cats, but death still occurs to trainers. Gordon Howes a British trainer was mauled and killed while practicing with five cats on Circus Courtney in Dublin. Gordon was only 38, and had been raised in the circus world.

Just received a copy of the program for Circus Hoffman that was presented under a tent in West Berlin, Dec. 13-30. It's a beautiful 8 page slick paper program with a total of 17 color photos. The show presented 18 fast, top-notch acts.

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Miscellaneous

The new Circus Vargas big top was blessed in Southern California on Jan. 27th.

A mix-up out of the San Francisco station on Jan. 31 had the first portion of "Super Circus Heroes" being shown instead of the first part of the RBBB Highlights

The FSU Circus was featured in the Jan. 26th issue of Florida's Valley Fun Lander paper. The two page article included three photos.

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The L. N. Fleckles Circus played Saginaw, Mich., on Jan. 19-23, while the Hubert Castle Circus played in Flint, Mich., for Jan. 13-21.

An exhibit of circus material set up at Florida's Bradford County Library by Art 'Doc' Miller helped to unearth new circus history facts.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

ing in Canada for an extended period of time - such as three months or more, when "physicals" are required. . . IAN and his family spent the holidays in Sarasota staying at brother Bill's home. BILL GARDEN had taken his family to Santo Domingo. . . HAPPY and KAREN DAVIS will be with the Garden Circus this season as well as the AGUILARS. . . Spot-dating are the FOSSETTS (Sway pole), LES BLOCKS and VIDBELS. . . BOOM BOOM BROWNING will be bandmaster for SANDY DOBRITCH's Denver date in May. . . CARDEN-JOHNSON will play the Cow Palace May 4-5-6. I have signed to appear in the program. I will also be returning to the west coast for the first time in YEARS - to do the Bentley tour. So I look for my many friends to visit. . . BAUER-HALL has the Shrine Circus date in Wilmington, Del., played this year indoors - set are ARIA's BEARS. . . THE FLYING LANES will replace SERGIO RAMOS troupe at Circus Circus in Vegas the month of June. Sergio is off to Europe. LANES also make St. Paul for Hamid-Morton, ditto ARIAS BEARS, set by DOROTHY WINN and RON KELROY. . . Biz in Reno is OFF-OFF - so goeth Rumor - and the MGM has cut back to weekend shows only; likewise Circus Circus. . . SYD and

BARBARA MOORE return to Busch Gardens at Williamsburg, Va. for SANDY DOBRITCH. . . Playing Sports shows for GUNNAR AMANDIS are the PLUNKETTS (June, by the way, is fine and says she hasn't dropped an ounce to ruin the act), CHRISTOPHER JAMES (who demolished his house trailer in an accident which left the limousine unscratched and which FREDDIE and LONI will be happy to hear), the HOLIDAYS, and the MORGAN ASHTON Family. . . Clowns BILLY FORD and EDDIE BUSH play the M&M dates.

Those adagio-illusionists RON and JOY HOLIDAY are now being co-starred with the brilliant (original) LOS ARGENTINE GAUCHOS in JACK MANSELL'S "1002 Nights" at the On Stage (Dow Sherwood's Showboat Dinner Theatre) in St. Pete (Fla). The team has (as usual) garnered raves, as has those marvelous Gauchos! Incidentally, the "gaucho troupe" with Vargas is also a smash! Seen visiting RON and JOY were PAT ANTHONY with a group, and GUNNAR and HELEN AMANDIS.

See you down the road, luvs.

NOTICE

ATTENTION ALL CIRCUS AND ANIMAL OWNERS - William Joseph Capozzi - Social Security No. 131-32-2402 - left Royal Hanneford Circus at Roanoke, Va., on Jan. 29th, owing numerous debts and in his possession is a portable TV set that doesn't belong to him.

Be advised if this man seeks employment.

.....Tommy Hanneford

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Show Report

(The following item is reprinted from an issue of the St. Petersburg, Fla., Times of last month).

by ROBERT BOWDEN

Danny Kaye bites his fingernails.

And Monday's taping of the Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus for NBC gave him plenty of reasons to indulge his nibbling habit.

Nothing seemed to go right.

For one thing, after days of sunshine, the weather turned sour. But the main reason for worry - no, anger - was repeated technical problems with each segment of the massive television taping job.

Trouble began during the opening number. Kaye is this year's master of ceremonies for the circus' television show to be seen Jan. 31st. As such it was his duty to provide continuity between acts and sing a little ditty - "There's something for everyone at the circus."

Individual segments of the song, perhaps 30 seconds each, took up the better part of Monday as the Bayfront Center Arena was closed to all but the television crew and circus performers.

With everyone in their places by mid-morning, Kaye was ready to tackle the opening of the song. The floor director cued the music, the lights were set, the countdown began "5-4-3-2-1" and then Kaye sang aloud in a comedic French accent, "Vee are here in de dark trying to read de cards vith no light on de cards."

The cast and crew broke up in laughter. Someone had neglected to turn a spotlight on Kaye's cue cards and with a light shining directly in his eyes, he couldn't see a thing.

Time after time during the day, Kaye would execute his part of the performance only to have to repeat it because of a technical problem. Finally, about lunch time, he put his foot down.

"It's gonna get worse each time we do it," Kaye said. And he ordered the director to use the best parts of several takes instead of redoing the number.

"You can get it so perfect that it becomes stale," Kaye explained.

The afternoon brought still more problems. Kaye, dressed in a stiff tuxedo,

sweated under the glare of several banks of lights as take after take had to be repeated. Technicians tripped on wires lying everywhere in the arena. A clown toppled from a "burning building" - quite unplanned. Kaye dropped a "baby" (doll) tossed to him by a clown as he sang and ad-libbed "I dropped the baby and it fell right on its . . ."

Throughout the day, Kaye mugged, yodeled for the circus hands and popped jokes with an inner circle around him. He was often quick to anger and profane in his outbursts. Kaye the clown had little patience with Kaye the klutz or anyone

(Continued on Page 18)



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MAILBAG

In the Jan. 29th issue of Circus Report, Almond Knight asked about the miniature circus units that once toured the country. I don't know what became of them, but they were owned by the Beechnut Co. of Canajoharie, N. Y. 13317. The company is still in business there.

George W. Handy

PEOPLE

ELVIN BALE, CARRILLO, the FLYING GAONAS and URSULA BOTTCHER, of the Ringling-Barnum Circus operation were featured in TV's "Super Circus Heroes" show on Feb. 1st.

GERARD SOULES and his Poodle revue are touring with a unit of Holiday On Ice.

BOB MOORE's Mongrel Revue worked the two holiday dates at Knotts Berry Farm for the TNT Circus which played as Circus Calico. Later this month Bob will have his act on the Osmond TV Special.

CHERYL SHAWVER and her seals were also featured with the Circus Calico at Knotts Berry Farm.

RBBS TAPING (Continued)

else who was less than perfect.

Kaye received little direction and seemed to improvise his own movements during the tapings. When he struck on an idea, his face would light up and he would utter his favorite expression:

"Terrific. That's terrific."

The annual circus presentation on NBC is produced by Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey. Tapes from five floor cameras and one hand-held camera were made during the three days of performances. One day was spent taping Kaye's part of the show and a private performance in the evening.

No one can be sure which acts from which performance will be used in the TV show. The tapes will be flown to Los Angeles, where the best acts of the three-hour circus will be edited to an hour. In all, about 25 to 30 hours were put on tape.

Miscellaneous

The story "To Ride An Elephant" which was written some years ago by Babs H. Deal, is one of the many features to be found in the Feb. 1979 issue of Readers Digest magazine.

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Watch for "SOUTHERN SAWDUST" on the road during 1979. Opening dates: Tommy Hanneford, White Plains, N.Y.; Hamid-Morton, Hartford, Conn., and World Premiere of the Monte Carlo Circus at Providence, R.I. during the month of February.

"SOUTHERN SAWDUST" is always available at the P. T. BARNUM MUSEUM, Bridgeport, Conn. Always a great place to visit when in the area.

DAVID P. ORR, Northeastern Representative, Cherry Street, Sandy Hook, Conn. - 06482.

SPECIAL

News sources close to the Amtrak offices report the railroad operation is considering putting the once-famed passenger train "News Agents" back on their long-haul trains. In the past these agents served the coach cars of the nation's railroad trains.

If the plans are carried out Amtrak will duplicate the concessions of the Santa Fe fleet. Some 200 News

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Agents would be assigned to handle the concession operation.

In the past many circus concessionaires/butchers, performers and other show folks enjoyed a full-time winter off-season by working as a News Agent on the country's cross-country trains.

The late famed circus veterans "Red" Sonnenberg and Ernie Vaughn, with RBBB for decades, always brought many circus troupers who needed winter work to jobs on the Santa Fe operation.

Many, of course, worked for Southern Pacific's News Service and the current thinking on the part of Amtrak is that both Southern Pacific and Santa Fe trains operated by them could handle the employment of some 500 news agents.

If this happens, says Eddie Howe, former circus advance agent, it should provide plenty of lucrative off-season work for show folks.

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