



8th Year

November 12, 1979

Number 46

## ***Making a comeback***

The Winnebago Industries, whose sales and profits were crippled early this year when gasoline shortages caused many Americans to shy away from buying motor homes, is trying to fight its way back to health.

A leading manufacturer of recreational vehicles and motor homes, Winnebago watched sales drop by a third as potential buyers worried about the availability and the price of gasoline. Their production was slashed last spring as inventories mounted.

Now Winnebago is calling back some of its employees that were laid off and they are revamping their motor homes.

The company's motor home division resumed a limited production in July after a six-week shutdown. Production now is at 80 to 100 units a week, as compared to more than 300 units per week last spring.

The work force was cut from 3,000 in April to a summer low of 1,200. About 400 of the laid-off employees started coming back following the sale, in the summer, of some 500 converted vans. More employees will return as the 1980 line is produced, said company spokesman Frank Rotta.

Winnebago's plant in Riverside, Calif., was shut down in September and is now up for sale. Some 300 people had been employed there.

Dealers have expressed "a degree of confidence" after seeing the 1980 motor homes, which are more compact in size and price."

Rotta says there has been some excellent reception to a conversion kit that allows the motor homes to run on liquified petroleum.



## In Memoriam

**JUNE MALKO CHRIST (54)** died Oct. 8th at Corona, Calif. She and her late husband, Mike Malko, had a flying act and for many years were featured with Hamid-Morton, Orrin Davenport and other shows, as well as at fairs, etc. After Mike's death she married Kenneth Christ, who survives. She also has a sister, Jean Scott.

**ALICE GWYNNE (83)** widow of the late Jack Gwynne, famous magician, died Sept. 12th at Oak Lawn, Ill. She and Jack toured professionally for years, then after World War II they settled down and operated a travel agency. She attended the Abbott Magic Convention in August and shortly after returning home was hospitalized. A daughter survives.

**ROBERT HURT (74)**, popular magician, died Sept. 2nd at Indianapolis, Ind. He was always interested in magic and in 1972-73 served as President of the IBM, and then until the present served on its Publicity Committee. He was perhaps better known as "Bob, the Clown Magician". Survivors include his wife, Velma, three bothers and two sisters.

**DR. JAMES J. SHREVE (56)** an optometrist and long-time magician, died at Houston, Texas on July 5th, while attending the IBM convention in that city.

**MARSHALL WEINSTEIN (66)** a court reporter and magician, who specialized in close-up magic died at Valparaiso, Ind., on July 21st. He used the name "Shallmar" and wrote several articles about magic. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, and a daughter, Mrs. Garnet Gold, of San Francisco.

## MALE=AGE

... from Karin S. Davis

For performers with dogs or dog acts, there is a new flea treatment available through veterinarians that is 100% effective in breaking the flea cycle.

Vets in the southern states are now commonly using it. Ask your vet about FENTHION flea treatment.

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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## CLOWN FOR XMAS

There's more to being a Clown than wearing a big red nose and blowing up balloons. Call me.

**"WILLIE"**

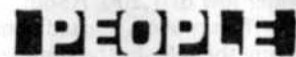
**Ph. 517 793-8012**

## Acts

Acts working fairs, LaRonde Park and other dates this year for Gastoni Attractions included: Karin and Hap Davis, The Weldens, Marcelli and Janis, the Zamperlas, The Gutis, The Diions, the Rolling Diamonds, Ethel Jennier, The Plunketts, Kenny Young, magician, Karen and Walter Childs the Kolmar Brothers, Joyce and Charlie Van Buskirk and the late Merle Cook.

Also booked were the Trans-Canada Thrill Show, Paul Riddel Hell Drivers, Tommy Hunter Show, the Carlton Show Band and many Canadian big name singers.

Acts visiting Ray and Suzi Reas at Poplars Mobile Home Park in Elkhart, Ind., recently included: Jimmy Hall, Happy and Karin Davis, Lee and Nancy Heisinger, Johnny Luxem, the Wayne-wrights, the Young Duo and several acts from the Hanneford circus. (Royal Hanneford played Elkhart on Sept. 29th for the Volunteer Fire Department).



**IRWIN ROYES**, magician, appeared at the Washington Parish Fair in Franklin, La. on Oct. 20th. Irwin will soon start his 9th year, appearing at The Fireside Inn Restaurant in Metairie, La., where he does shows on Friday and Saturday evenings.

## WANTED

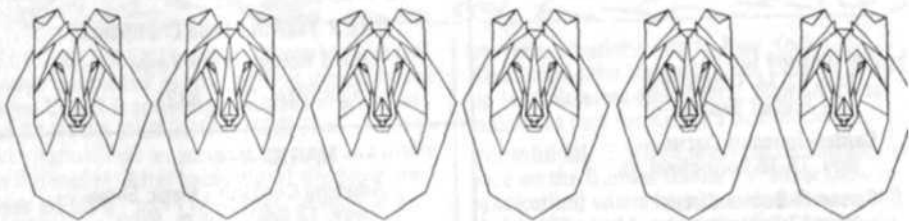
**ANIMAL HANDLERS for Major Circus**

Contact our home office. They will put you in touch with us.

**CIRCUS VARGAS**

P. O. Box 4356  
Burlingame, Ca. 94010

Phone:  
415 - 348 - 8456



# Angela WILNOW

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12th . . .

Hamid-Morton Shrine Circus, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Booked: Amandis Agency

MONTH OF DECEMBER . . .

Playing Christmas Shows in the Mid-west

Booked: Howard Schultz Agency

## NOW BOOKING 1980

# Show Dates

- Beatty-Cole Circus  
Nov. 12-14 Tampa, Fla.  
— End of Season —
- Carden-Johnson Circus  
Nov. 16-18 Springfield, Ill.
- Carson & Barnes Circus  
Nov. 12 DeQuincy, La.  
13 Vinton  
14 DeRidder  
15 Jasper, Texas  
16 Carthage  
17 Mt. Pleasant  
— End of Season —
- Circus Vargas  
Nov. 12-15 Laredo, Texas  
16-18 McAllen
- Happytime Circus  
to Nov. 25 Los Alimitas, Calif.
- Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Nov. 12 Pinellas Park, Fla.  
13 Lakeland  
14 Tarpon Springs  
15 Avon Park  
16 Altamonte Springs  
17 Belleview  
18 Edgewater  
— End of Season —
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
to Nov. 18 Cleveland, Ohio
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
to Nov. 18 Chicago, Ill.
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
Nov. 12-13 Mobile, Ala.  
14-15 New Orleans, La.  
16 Baton Rouge
- Santa's Int'l Circus  
Nov. 15-18 Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Wonderland Circus Revue  
Nov. 12-13 Allendale, S.C.  
14 Brunson  
15 Varnville  
16 Estill  
18 Blufton

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ONE 2 Year Old Male Chimpanzee  
Hand Raised - Very Tame  
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---- MAGIC ----

Amazing Conklins - Magic Show  
Nov. 13 Sauk Centre, Minn.  
14 Underwood  
15 Ortonville  
16 Milbank, S.D.

Tom Ogden - Magician  
Nov. 16-18 Chicago, Ill.

Felix Snipes - Magic/ESP  
Nov. 16-17 Lexington, Ky.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Clown Festival  
Nov. 14-17 San Juan, P. R.

Disco Fever  
Nov. 12 Winston-Salem, NC  
13 Charlotte  
14 Gastonia  
15 Spartanburg  
16 Greenville  
17 Athens, Ga.

James H. Drew Exposition  
Nov. 12-17 Sylvania, Ga.  
— End of Season —

The Gutis Family - Comedy Act  
Nov. 16-18 Springfield, Ill.

Ice Capades - Cont'l Unit  
Nov. 14-18 Little Rock, Ark.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
Nov. 13-19 Montreal, Quebec

Ice Capades - Western Unit  
Nov. 13-18 Fresno, Calif.

Tommy Scott's Show  
Nov. 12 Blairsville, Ga.  
13 Andrews, NC  
14 Franklin  
15 Forest City  
16 Chester  
17 Union

(Continued on Page 11)



ELFIE KLEMENTI writes: "Somehow we are always 'connected' with you! This time it's your name. EGON is spending a number of weeks at the BARTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL in South Lake Tahoe. Had an accident on stage and broke his hip-socket. After being out of the show one week HELMUT and I went back to work as a duo."

ED MIGLEY, producer of CIRCUS ODYSSEY called to let me know that after two "showcase" specials, one in October, and one early in November, he will indeed take out his circus next season for a lengthy tour of colleges. Forty Thousand more dollars have been invested in the physical end of the show, two new ring curbs to match his center lighted one, a new semi, clown head pullups and six floats, plus an all new entrance with chaser lights and twin dancing fountains. Ed and Cyndy also bought two and a half acres of woodland property in Warwick where an English Tudor house is under construction.

CLOSEUPS: The KLEMENTIS visited with the FLYING RAMOS and the CYCLING ESQUE-DAS at Circus Circus in Reno - first chance they had with Egon being out of the revue to visit though. . . JOE HOWARTH's Chimp Act had a busy season playing fairs, also did the Hamid-Morton date in Springfield (Mo). . . TOMMY BENTLEY/CHUCK CLANCY back in California for the winter. . . When the Clyde Beatty Circus played Savannah in mid-Oct., JIMMY JAMES, HARRY HAMMOND and BOB MITCHELL were the dinner guests of AL and SUE DAWLEY. . . JIMMY JAMES, by the way, is not clowning but has become the show's announcer. . . A phone call from FRANK CURRY in Europe advises he will be overseas until Christmas. . . Concessionaire ANDY ROBERTS was also a recent visitor at the Dawley's Savannah Beach Home. . . DAVID CHABIRA got "off the ground" with his sway pole act debut on the Bentley Bros. Circus date at Topeka (Kans) David's home town. His debut was attended by much home town publicity. . . Bentley Bros. Closed its season with a gala barbecue party at Lawton (Okla). . . JIMMIE COLE phoned in to report he had a wonderful time on his Circus Vargas visit at Decatur (Ga) and after that visit he spent the next day on the Great American Circus where the LANGS, BILLY MARTIN and others hosted the veteran and popular showman with a cook out plus champagne to top the whole thing off. . . People with the Great American Circus had a day off and were also able to catch the Vargas show where CLIFF arrived back at the last min-

ute from a business trip to New York City. . . Also visiting the Vargas lot was KENNY DODD up from Sarasota where PHIL MIRANDA remained to care for Kenny's sick mother.

Youthful MIKE WINN made his second appearance on the Guinness Games TV Show (now in syndication) where he pyramided a tower of 9 chairs. Mike had been on the show previously with the "world's longest incline walk."

EUROPORAMA will start off its season in '80 in late June and rumors are the show will go to a full circus presentation using animals which it hasn't heretofore - only aerial and ground acts.

FALL READING: "Laurel Canyon" by Steve Kranz, a Hollywood novel that keeps you guessing which stars are being fictionalized. With this book the guessing is easy! Lots of fun and a page turning story. Also gives the lowdown on Hollywood agents and agencies, how they manipulate talent (sound familiar?) It'll keep you interested. Also recommended: "The Neon Graveyard" by George Baxt. Baxt hasn't written a new book in seven years and this is a murder-mystery with thinly disguised Hollywood characters. Funny, suspenseful. Baxt is a pro all the way.

THE DAY THE EARTH SHOOK: California's recent earthquake trapped TOMMY BENTLEY and CHUCK CLANCY in a doctor's office 24 stories above the ground. Tommy told me he never heard such screams and groaning in his life as he did when that building began to sway and shiver. He and Chuck ran pell-mell down 24 flights of stairs to the street and then spent several days in bed, lame, sore, completely unable to move!

BEVERLY HEIGHAM and ROSEMARY MARINO report an excellent season of fairs with their BETTER BOOKING AGENCY and that they've signed back their regular route and hope to add to it. MY-IMMBA's BABOONS were the feature attraction at that agency's St. John (NB) Exposition and the act was a smash - as it always is.

NANCY GIORDANO's letter to Don Marcks, published in the Oct. 22nd edition of Circus Report has prompted my writing an article I have felt strongly about for years - the distortion of circus people and the industry by irresponsible journalists, reporters, novelists, script writers, and others. I had written the article and then felt perhaps I'd better not get on the soap box. Nancy's letter is so typical however that I've

(Continued on Page 24)

## REPORT

(The following items have been taken from Mattel's Report to Stockholders for the period ending Aug. 4, 1979. To fully understand the Mattel situation one should carefully read the entire report).

"... These activities, in combination with the previously reported acquisition of the ice show operations of Shipstads & Johnson Ice Follies, Inc. and Holiday on Ice, Inc. by Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. on March 22, 1979, reflect Mattel's commitment to concentrate financial and human resources on businesses with strong consumer franchises offering the most attractive growth and profit potential."

"... Since the acquisition of Shipstads & Johnson Ice Follies, Inc. and Holiday on Ice, Inc. in March 1979, a new format has been developed for these traveling shows under the direction of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. The ice shows have begun their 1979-1980 season and are expected to operate profitably for the remainder of that season. The one-ring International Circus Festival of Monte Carlo has been taken off tour and is currently operating at the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus Theme Park near Orlando, Florida, where it is contributing to increased attendance levels over the prior year, contrary to the gen-

## CLASSIFIED

JIMMIE & MILLIE, Comedy Juggling and Balancing - 98 Julia Drive, South Attleboro, Mass. Phone: 617 - 339 - 8731.

CAN USE HELP in All Depts. for the 1980 season. Williams Bros. Circus, 2635 Norton Road, Kent, Ohio.

WANTED - Trained Bird(s) Act. - Hunt Bushnell, 10037 Garvey Ave., Space. 25, El Monte, Calif. 91733.

eral trend in theme park attendance in that area."

"... In March 1979, the Company acquired substantially all of the business and assets of Shipstads & Johnson Ice Follies, Inc. and Holiday on Ice, Inc. ("Ice Show operations") for approximately \$12,000,000 cash and the assumption of certain obligations. This transaction has been accounted for by the purchase method. Approximately \$7,700,000 of the purchase price has been allocated to cost in excess of net assets acquired which is being amortized on a straight-line basis over a period of 40 years. The results of operations of these businesses since the date of acquisition are not material to the Company's consolidated results of operations."

# **THANKS TO**

**BIG JOHN STRONG CIRCUS & WILD WEST SHOW**

For allowing us to leave before the season's end

to compete in the

**WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL TRICK ROPING CONTEST**

**Claremore, Oklahoma**

**BARBARA** placed,

2nd Woman's rope spinning

(1st, Joan Wells, Lincoln, Nebraska)

5th Texas Skips

(Men and Women competing)

**SYLVESTER** placed,

2nd Most ropes spun at one time — eleven

(1st Frank Dean, Palmdale, Calif. — fourteen)

3rd Horse catches

(1st J. W. Stoker, Weatherford, Texas)

5th Biggest big loop

(1st Rich Gratny, Olathe, Kansas)

5th Rope spinning

(1st J. W. Stoker, Weatherford, Texas)

Congratulations to J. W. Stoker the new  
World's Champion Trick and Fancy Roper

**SYLVESTER and BARBARA BRAUN**

**2354 North Batavia Street**

**Orange, California**

# The Chris Alberti's Acrobatic Poodle Revue

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## Mailroom

Circus Reports mailed to the following people have been returned by the Post Office who says they can no longer deliver them as addressed:

Dolores Coronado                      Fess Reynolds  
D. Libby Piros

## MAILBAG

... from Dick Stuart

In regard to your Oct. 29th issue review on Page 19, how dare you publish such a review without any verification.

The side show we carry is the strongest in the 7 years I have been associated with the circus, complete with petting zoo, 13 elephants, lead stock, fat man, sword swallower, punch and judy, giant snakes and 4 supporting acts.

I don't know nor ever met Felix Snipes but you took his word and by publishing it did me a great deal of damage.

Cancel my subscription, refund the balance to me via money order.



## NEW CFA TENT OFFICERS

ROBERT KROOS was elected president of the *Seils-Sterling Tent No. 79, CFA, at the organization's fall meeting in Sheboygan, Wisc., last month.*

Other officers elected to serve with him for the coming year are: Ernst Kaufman, vice president; Frederick Wendland, secretary; Wayne Bolz, treasurer, and Norman Wilbert and Richard Maas, trustees.

Eight new members were welcomed into the organization at the election meeting and special movies of Ringling-Barnum 1928-33 were shown

## PEOPLE

BOB STULL, magician, was honored at the Magic Castle (Los Angeles) with a champagne reception to celebrate his 90th birthday on Oct. 21st. Bob is nearly blind and gets around with great difficulty. He has given magic several fine bits, his *Stull Watch* and *Stull Barrel* were features of last year's "It's Magic" show.

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*I would like to take this opportunity to thank*

*Irvin Feld and Kenneth Feld*

*for six excellent years employment*

*and the opportunity to achieve a life-long ambition*

*of presenting 3 rings of American style*

*elephant acts in Madison Square Garden with*

*"The Greatest Show On Earth"*

*Also a special "Thank you" to Charly Bauman and*

*Bob Harrison for their excellent cooperation.*

*And as the wise old showman once said,*

*"The time has arrived to move on toward bigger and*

*better things."*

*Bill and Barbara Woodcock*

## REPORT

### HOMETOWN HONORS BEATTY

Clyde Beatty was recently honored by the Bainbridge (Ohio) Historical Society during the city's annual Fall Festival of Leaves. At noon on Oct. 20th, a sign was erected designating Bainbridge as the birthplace of the famous wild animal trainer.

Unveiling the sign was Myrl Shoemaker, state representative for the district. A short address was made by Dave Price, who plans to operate the Clyde Beatty Museum in Bainbridge.

For the second year, the Festival committee arranged for Price to display a number of Beatty items from his collection. Members of the Beatty family and life-long friends of the trainer were present for both the unveiling and the display.

## PEOPLE

THE ROLLING DIAMONDS, roller skaters, and DIANA, foot juggler, have been signed by WAYNE McCARY for the Maine Shrine dates next year, which run April 18 to May 11th.

HERBERT FRIERSON and JACK ATKINSON held a "Beer and Tamale" party for the Circus Vargas personnel when the show was in Birmingham, Ala. (Oct. 19).

PHILIPPE PETIT, high wire performer, was guest speaker at the Oct. 28th dinner meeting of the Felix Adler Tent, CFA. Also attending as a guest was juggler LOTTI BRUNN.

CHARLIE CAMPBELL visited with friends on the Great American Circus when that show was in Calhoun, Ga.

MANZINI, escape artist, has been named the "World Champion Escapologist" by the Guinness Book of Records.

## WANT

**CLOWNS WANTED** - School Program for Nutrition - Need 2 clowns right away for work in Florida and Georgia.

Write: JOY THE CLOWN  
107 Keith Drive  
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Will train, provide costume, furnish bookings, etc.

Also want clowns for work in New England area in early part of 1980.

## Collector Buys:

Circus Organs, Calliopes, Nickeldocons, large Music Boxes, Grand Player Pianos, Any Condition. Send picture, I travel.

PAUL MANGANARO  
121 Valley Brook Avenue  
Lyndhurst, N. J. - 07071  
Phone: 201 - 438 - 0399

## MAIL BAG

... from ART "Doc" MILLER

Frankly I get down right disgusted at fans who know little or nothing about show business but glibly set themselves up as the last word of authority on circuses, carnivals, etc.

I refer mainly to a recent lengthy newspaper article by a fan who really knows (?) all about the circus business. In this write-up, he (or she) told how the elephants always headed the parade, and that Barnum & Bailey went to Europe but upon returning the name was changed to 101 Ranch Wild West Show.

And so, on and on, including how beautiful the gaudy parade wagons looked on the flats as they rolled into town. Any mature trouper knows the parade wagons were always canvas covered to protect them from the coal soot.

Nothing quickens disgust faster than some absurd statement such as the waste basket on an advance car is called the Charlie, when in fact it means to destroy posters by fire, toss in the river or bury them in a cotton patch.

And the last word of authority in the write-up told how Barnum & Bailey on 50 double length cars, plus Ringling Bros. 50 double length cars, combined back in the teens.

## Miscellaneous

The Houston (Texas) Chronicle of Oct. 24th carried a picture of the elephant "Indu" having her tusks and teeth examined.

The 1980 CFA Convention will be held at Sarasota, Fla., on June 15-18. Alva Johnson has been named convention chairman.

## available

FESS REYNOLDS with his 6 Brahma Bull Liberty Act.

Call: 805 - 248 - 6195

## Show Dates

The Sikorskys - Jugglers  
Nov. 14 Dundalk, Md.  
15-16 Towson

James E. Strates Shows  
Nov. 15-25 Hollywood, Fla.

Yabba Dabba Doo Show  
Nov. 13-18 Charlotte, NC

## PEOPLE

THE CORKY PLUNKETT family has returned to their home in Dallas, Texas.

HERBIE WEBER is reportedly planning to be in Mexico for a few weeks this winter.

GARY HENRY is working dates for JAMES HETZER in Kentucky and West Virginia.

BOBBY GIBBS, MIKE PIKE, CHECKERS & PATCHES, MARK PILGER, WARD HALL and HERBIE WEBER visited the John Strong produced show in Texas on Aug. 22nd.

CRISTIANI's elephants, RIX's bears, and the DIANO elephants were recently laying off at BUCKY STEELE's farm in Texas.

## WANTED

### TELEPHONE PRO'S

Ray McClelland

Jack Ballentin

Marcus Favero



Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these men or anyone connected with Community Involvement magazine please contact:

R. BOS

813 - 238 - 9209

## WANT FOR PARKS

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- 2 - LARGE ANIMAL ACTS - 10 weeks commencing June 24 (East Coast)
- 3 - CLOWNS, MIMES, JUGGLERS, TUMBLERS, MAGICIANS, etc. All Singles - Year Round (Florida)
- 4 - ORGAN GRINDER and MONKEY - 13 weeks (Utah)
- 5 - BIRD SHOW - 20 weeks (East Coast)

- NO COLLECT CALLS -

Contact: Sandy Dobritch Enterprises  
4037 Great Plains Way  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89121

Phone: 702 - 458 - 2580

## HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS . . . by Irwin Royes

Hoxie Bros. Circus came to New Orleans for a three day run with the show being just under two hours long.

The circus opens with its Circus Day Parade, and again this year Michael Cecere does a great job with his African lions. Other acts in the show program were the Park Avenue Mutts, with Miss Patti; The Campa Sisters and Juan Carlos; James Royal and Tiffany; Timi Loyal & Repensky Bareback Riders; James Crawford and his performing elephants, an act that has something to watch every second.

Walter Stimax is producing clown with an Alley of five clowns that are the best looking I've seen in a long time. Also the Stimax Chimps do a fine job with Miss Jane and Little Daniell stealing the show. Of course I can't forget to mention Walter's son who does a super job of juggling. At the New Orleans date he was doing a single and never failed to get response from the audience.

The show is a super one!

## MAGIC

**K.I.S.S. CONJURING** — Keep It Simple Sorcery by your KISS president, Keep It Simple, Stupid! ... **FRANK HERMAN**

Everyone that enjoys magic and/or traveling tent shows should have a copy of Bev Bergeron's "Willard the Wizard". It's loaded with photos, drawings, history, anecdotes, large illusions, small magic and accounts of the vicissitudes of keeping a big magic show going under canvas. Tricks, illusions, patter and presentation tips abound. Most important to me is how all generations of the Willards created the mystical aura and public good will everywhere the show performed. All of the Willards were of small or medium stature, yet they managed to look big on stage.

Bergeron who now is in his umpteenth year, starring in Florida's Disneyworld, has had a love affair going with the Willard Show ever since childhood. He worked on the show before scoring on TV as "Rebo" the clown on network airings of the "Mark Wilson Show" and the "Magic World of Alicazam".

In the Willard book he describes everything

with great detail. There are explicit line drawings and scores of rare photos.

The "Nellie Davenport" spirit cabinet is described in full detail. This classic routine is now a big hit in the Hollywood area and scored a sensation on last year's Milt Larson's "It's Magic."

For the first time in print, Willards amazing thumb tie that baffled the most astute magician is reported comprehensively. The awe inspiring levitation that Willard performed downstage, in full light is revealed step-by-step with all the innovations and variations that Willard devised.

Bev also elucidates Willards method of handling volunteers from the audience. How the Wizard made them comfortable and won them over to accept his secret cueing.

For showbiz history buffs, collectors and today's practical performers "Willard the Wizard" is a best buy. Hardback with a colorful dust-wraper, priced at \$25. It's obtainable from Bev Bergeron, 7013 Delora Drive, Orlando, Fla. 32805, or your favorite magic shop.

It is the aim of this column to pass along practical performing tips, book, trick and prop reviews, gags, bits and anything that will make life easier for us working stiff performers.

With the Xmas season coming a lot of us will be slugging it out at Company Employee Parties, Shopping Malls, Bazaars and Church Socials.

The following is from my lecture notes - - all learned the hardway.

### THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1 - When working on a stage, always work as close to the audience as possible.
- 2 - Try to avoid tricks that have to be worked on a table. Use an assistant with a tray. If you don't have an assistant, use someone from the audience to hold the tray.
- 3 - If you must work a trick on a table. when it comes time for the trick, pick up the table and move it as far forward as possible.
- 4 - When booked to appear at a banquet. Do everything possible to assure that your act will go on immediately after the dessert. Any performer that has to follow speeches, film or slide presentations inherits a very tall mountain to climb.
- 5 - When working outdoors. Cut all tricks with silk handkerchiefs. . the colors wash out and the slightest breeze will have them whipping in your face, around the mike wire and a dozen

(Continued on Page 20)

## FOR SALE

**6 YR. OLD MALE CHIMPANZEE**

— Weighs 68 lbs —

Does Many Tricks

Needs to be worked on a lead

— \$ 2,500.00 —

Contact: **RUDI LENZ**

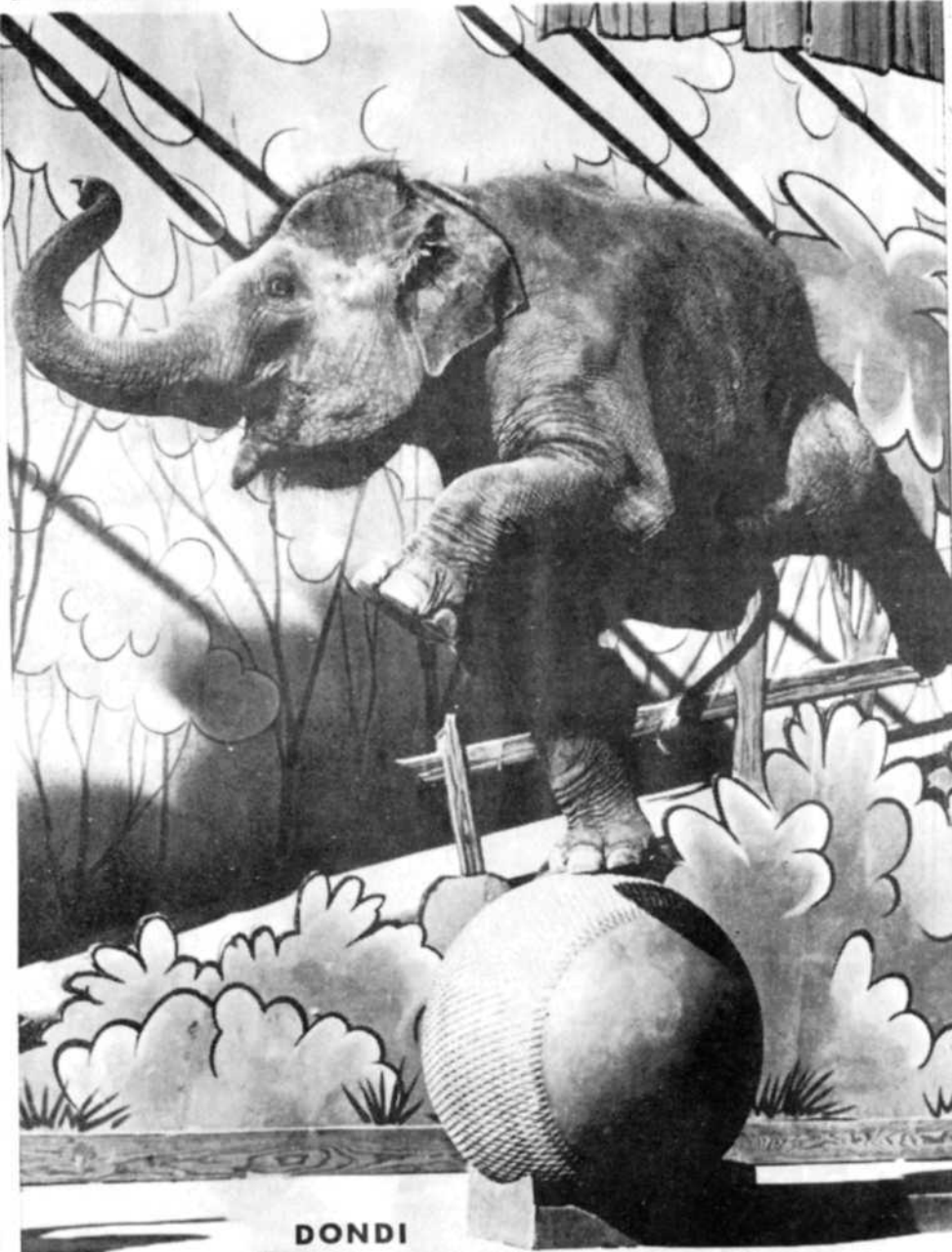
Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus

International Amphitheatre, Chicago

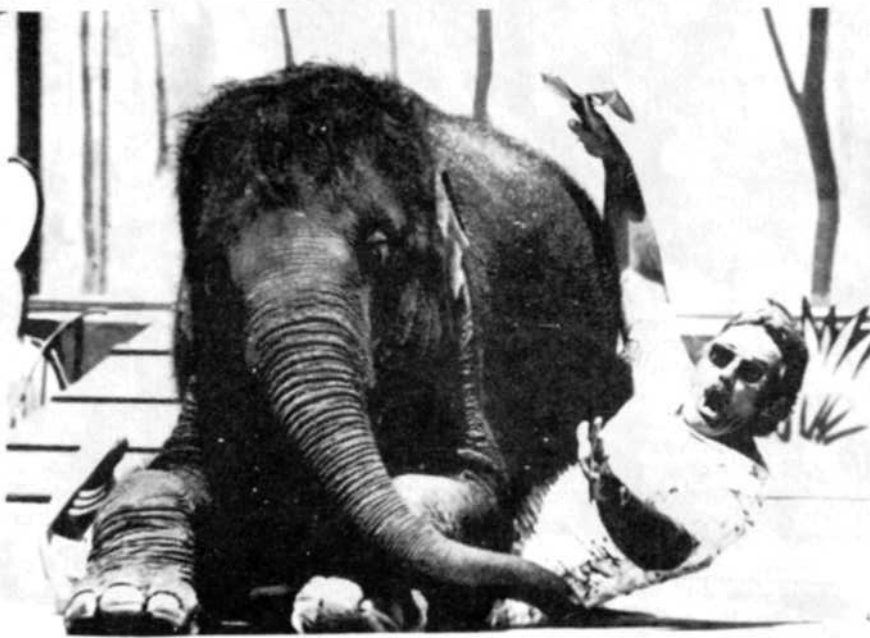
Until Nov. 18th

The Coliseum, Nassau, L. I.

Nov. 20 - 22



**DONDI**



# America's Little Sweetheart



THE DELIGHTFUL



# DONDI

THE ONLY NOVELTY ACT OF IT'S KIND, AND  
IS AVAILABLE FOR SOME DATES IN 1980.

✱

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DONDI DOES FIVE TO TWENTY FIVE MINUTES, TAILOR-  
ED TO FIT YOUR SITUATION, AND FULLY INSURED. A  
MUST FOR THE PRODUCER WHO WANTS THE BEST.

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Contact Your Local Agent or:

PHIL SCHACHT  
13645 I. H. 35 N  
San Antonio, Texas 78233

512 - 653 - 0216

## Show Date

### THE MAGIC SHOW

The Magic Show, presented at the Brick Forum, at Bricktown, N. J., offered three performances for the benefit of "Contact" all on Oct. 26th.

The program featured: Al DeLage and Margaret, George Schindler, Bob Meyers & Co., Harry the Great, Jeff McBride, The Zaubermeisters of Illusion and the Amazing Jack.

## PEOPLE

ANDY ROBERTS, concessionaire, of Bunn & Roberts Enterprises, visited with SUE and AL DAWLEY and also the Beatty-Cole Circus on his way south from the Raleigh State Fair.

DAVID PITTINGER, a member of the Lodi Duo and catcher for the Les Mareks, and his wife are expecting a baby in January.

## REPORT

### KIM DIXSON MAGIC SHOW . . .

. . . by Bob Swaney

This action packed show, produced by Big John Strong, played in Omaha to a nearly packed house of enthusiastic youngsters and their parents on Saturday, Oct. 27th.

In addition to Kim Dixon (assisted by Sandy Strong), the show featured the Perrys, Wini Mc Kay, The Rianos Duo, Jay Evans and wound up with Chester Cable in the finale. Don (Poco) Young headed an array of five highly talented clowns which were interspersed among the various acts.

Kim Dixon is a superb showman who is clearly at ease whether performing on stage or working in the audience. He kept the show moving at an excellent pace at all times.

### Hal Haviland Sez....

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## REPORT

### ROYAL LICHTENSTEIN CIRCUS...

... by Richard C. Johnson

On Oct. 24th, the Royal Lichtenstein Quarter-Ring Sidewalk Circus (the Greatest Little Circus in the World), gave a performance at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss.

It was an interesting show and the four performers are very talented. The show started with a quick entrance and held the audience attention throughout the entire show.

The circus has a unicycle act, magic acts, fire eating act, mime and a miniature horse act. The horse's name is Dan Rice. Included in the circus is an interesting dog and a monkey act, a wire act and a juggling act plus a four man pass juggling turn.

The acts are well staged. The hour-long performance was enjoyable.

When the Royal Lichtenstein Circus comes your way, don't miss it as it will be your loss.

## SHOWTIME FOLLIES...

by Allan Babcock

The writer and friend Norman Schuler visited Showtime Follies at Springfield, Ill., on Oct. 24th and thoroughly enjoyed our visit. There were many circus friends with the show and we were just sorry to have missed Wes and Florine Oler who were away for a day.

The program featured: Paulette Braun, fire baton; Gary Holveck, magic; Mario Alberti, hand balancing; The Olmeda's, juggling/balancing; Sampion, juggler; Ray Marek, plate spinning; Holveck's trunk escape illusion; Miss Marie, dogs; The Kolmedy's, bicycles.

Marlene Bradbury was visiting her daughter and son-in-law the day we visited the show.

## In Memoriam

NITA (Irish) BELEW (86), widow of the late Merritt Belew, circus horse trainer, died at a Rest Home in Phoenix, Ariz., on Oct. 2nd after a long illness. She and her husband worked with the Christy Bros. Circus for many years. Burial was at Showman's Rest in Phoenix. She is survived by three cousins.

## WASHINGTON TUBBS II



# IT'S MAGIC

IT'S MAGIC ... by Lloyd E. Jones

Milt Larsen's 26th edition of the "It's Magic" show held at the Variety Arts Theatre in Los Angeles closed on Oct. 28th, after 17 performances. Attendance was good and all reviews of the show were favorable.

A late addition to the bill, Goldfinger and Dove, were the hit act and strong enough to have closed the bill with their disco-type modern presentation. The audience loved them. The closing act Kramien and Co. (wife Kathleen and 2 assistants) were good closers though not sensational. They featured a huge buzz saw cutting her in two and a levitation (Aga) with a surprise finish. Small magic was good and the bit with a tot from the audience winding up with her loaded with balloon animals is a heart wringer. Master of Ceremonies was Ken Noyle, an experienced showman who assisted by his wife Yoko, "led the audience up the garden path" with some enjoyable sucker bits that delighted the magicians as well as the general public.

Opening act was Mark James who had a cigarette act that showed even old stuff can be dressed to entertain. The usual cigarette manipulations with extra bits including a string of them tied to a ribbon, yards long and finishing with a giant castle of packs with a production of cartons of cigarettes that were poured all over. He has played some 40 countries over 20 years, assisted by



his French wife, Eydie. Following was the prize winning pantomime act of the Brussell's Convention, Vito Lupo. Dressed as a pierrat clown he amused with bubbles that multiplied, etc. A youngster with a bright future.

Petrick and Mia from Czecho-Slovakia featured manipulations with the production of over a dozen solid balls from a top hat. She furnishing the distraction and he the magic. The Great Andre, a big poodle was featured in the act of the Madsen brothers with some novel magic concluding with the dog jumping through rings seemingly too small for him to squeeze through. A repeat act from a few years back and entertaining. Johnny Lonn from Sweden did a comedy act that had the audience wondering whether to feel sorry for him since a flop was followed by a top bit of magic. This all wound up by his vanishing the radio that wouldn't vanish, resulting with a crash of pieces to the floor as he walked off trailing the cord. Very funny.

The orchestra was loud and competent, directed by Jerry Rosen. Variety predominated and duplication was minor on the bill. The Larsen's have another successful show to look back on.

## By Crane



**FRANK HERMAN (Continued)**

other places that will make you look like a rank amateur.

6 - Working outdoors. Work in a spot so the sun is in your eyes. It is impossible to get reaction from an audience that is squinting. Refuse to work while a picnic lunch is being served . . . people cannot laugh or applaud while plopping food in their face and attempting to balance soggy paper cups and plates. Encourage the host not to pass out balloons before your performance. Kids cannot applaud with a balloon in their hand . . . also the more creative ones will start breaking the balloons just as you reach the climax of a trick or tell your best gag.

7 - Whenever you work a free show be prepared to be insulted . . . before, during and after. By everybody!

No. 7 may sound a bit bitter. I do work charity shows, for orphans, senior citizens and others but I am selective. The so-called Charity events that bug me are the ones held at expensive hotels. The hotel gets paid, the Florist gets paid, the musicians get paid by the event or from a special union fund, the Maitr'D gets a huge tip but the performers get zilch. I only work the phoney baloney soirees if it will do me some good with oodles of publicity, an opportunity to get pictures with big name stars, politicians, etc.

This brings up a point, if you are going to appear in a Holiday Parade, bring along a friend with a camera. The get ready area is often loaded by the Celeb's that will also ride in the parade. The season and atmosphere put them in a good mood. They are much easier to approach at this type of event.

Politely ask if you can get a picture with them. This is where your friend with the camera comes in. If you can do a trick, juggle or have a puppet use them with the star for the photo. These pix will be valuable assets for your mailouts, brochures and workbooks. It's old hat, but when you get out in the sticks these photos will often swing a booking your way.

Got a tip, gag, publicity angle, patter idea that you would like to pass along? I'll award a prize each week for the best one. This week's prize is a mint copy of "Safety Chalk Talks" by Tom McCormick, published by Tommy Windsor. No artistic ability is required to follow the step-by-step how-to drawings and the subject is very commercial.

**BANNER LINES**

... by KARL J. BISCHOFF

THE BEST FACE LIFT some performers can get is a smile.

SOME SHOWMEN are becoming an extinct species, they have never had a CADILLAC, a CREDIT CARD, been in a PLANE or eaten at Mc DONALD'S.

THE TROUBLE WITH playing in your home town is, that they knew you when.

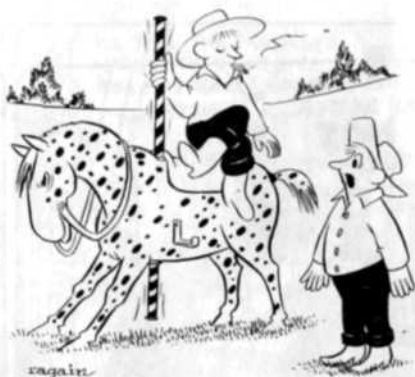
MOST SHOW GIRLS are observed in the best places.

TO SOME SHOWMEN inflation is a great leveler, a TALL MAN is just as short of cash at the end of the week as a SHORT MAN.



HUGO ZACCHINI, human cannonball, was featured in a special story with a photo in the Oct. 25th issue of the Tampa (Fla) Tribune.

ROBIN WILLIAMS, GILDA RADNER, MITZI GAYNOR, DOC SEVERINSEN, KENNY ROGERS, the VILLAGE PEOPLE and BENJI the dog, will receive awards as "Entertainers of the Year" after having been selected by the American Guild of Variety Artists. The awards will be presented in January.



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## PEOPLE

KRAMIEN, the Magician, won the Jack Gwynne trophy at Abbott's annual Get-Together in Colon (Mich) this past August.

PHIL and EVELYN MATLIN, of Perfect Magic, sponsored a Mini-Convention at Montreal on

Oct. 28th.

TODD DAVENPORT, of Townsville, Pa., recalls his days on the railroader Brown and Dyer Show and a jump he made from Dunkirk, N.Y., to Decatur to join the Buck Jones show, only to arrive as the coaches tail lights vanished in the dark out ahead.



The Sells Floto Circus band of 1908 is pictured above. The band director, Park B. Prentiss is in the back standing in the center.

In the back row (left to right) are: Robb West; Fred A. Holtz (later he was president of the Martin Band Instrument Co. and president of the National Association of Band Instrument Manufacturers); Jack Willrich; Lloyd Elwyn; Park Prentiss; George Darling; Ed Mott; Fred Stuckey, and "Doc" Gates.

In the center row are: Gene Gerth; "Pop" Marcusson; Fritz Spaethe; Mr. McGrane; Frank Griffith; Tommy Fallon and Earl Dickson.

In the front row are: Jake Coy; W. A. Moore (later Iowa State Director of federal music projects); Glen Cutler; Henry Moore (later a clarinet soloist with the Long Beach, Calif., Municipal Band); "Ten Big" Smith; "Heinie" Krause; "Pop" Canterbury and "Pop" Ewing.

# Acts

The program for the annual Shrine Circus at Houston, Texas (Oct. 4-14) featured:

Spec "Circus on Parade"; Donna, slide for life; Albert and Jeanette Rix, bears; Aerial display with Mercedes Duo, The Kneisleys, The Dolly Sisters and Miss Tina; Bicycle display with The Zamperla Family, Trio Bruski and Irving Hall; Capt. Boxcar Young, comedy car; Double wheels of Death, Sergo and George Coronas; Javannah, Jungle Wonder; My-Immba's Baboons; Perch display with The Vickinas, Les Knops and Los Argentines; Syd Moore's Mess of Mutts; Stacy Moore's Madcap Mongrels; An Aerial Ballet; Vargas, illusions; Sword Balancing display with Andromeda Duo and Princess Sunrise; The Flying Ibarras; Los Mayans; Napoleone Roman Riders; Teeterboard display with The Hernandez Troupe, The Hortobagy Troupe and The Aguilar; Elephant display with Steele's elephants, Diano's elephants and Christiana's elephants; The Coronas Rocket Cannon with George Coronas.

The show's staff included: Tom Johnson, circus

chairman; Jim McMahan, Administrator; Robert Atterbury, director; Al Vernon, musical director; Ernie McLean, ringmaster; Rex Young, producing clown and Carol Atterbury, wardrobe.

The program for the Mahi Shrine Circus, held at Miami, Fla., Oct. 17-21 featured:

Princess Gina's Royal Leopards; The Great Korpates, high act; Trudy's Liberty dogs; Christa's Poodles; Adam's Canine Revue; Miss Maya and Miss Peggy, trapeze; The Lucky Bros., pantomime; The Great Acadis and Sensational Dubsky, balancing; The Franconi Duo, aerialists; The Flying Espanas; Las Verdus, rolling globes; Jorge Rosell, comedy car; Erik and Bobby, chimps; Dr. Janos, chimps; Hoxie's performing elephant act; The Hungarians, risley; The Robert Zerbini Troupe, bareback riding; The Quassars, rocket ship act.

The show was produced by the Olympic International Circus Corp.; Executive Producer was Eddie Zacchini. Keith Killinger, musical director; Gary Strong, ringmaster; Tom Phelps and Danny Chapman, producing clowns and Bela Ezsias, prop boss.



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# REPORT

CIRCO MEDRANO . . . by Jack Niblett

The Circo Medrano, owned by the Casartelli family of Italy spent the season of 1979 in Yugoslavia. The founder Leonide Casartelli was tragically killed in a road accident at the end of last season, but the show has been carried on, and well sustained by the members of his family, and of his sister's family. I was with the show for three weeks staying with my friend Jack Smith, and was glad to see that good business was being done everywhere.

The program is a very sumptuous one, with many of the acts being introduced in Ringling-like style and with the show opening and closing with rich spectacles.

The program opened with tigers presented by Emile Smith, or lions by Angelo Allesandro. Clowns entertained while the big cage is torn down, and then the Grand Opening Parade took place. Clowns on comedy bicycles preceded a Moroccan Tumbling act, then Heros Casartelli showed his Haflinger horses, camels, zebras and a giraffe, together with exotic Asian cattle.

Alberto Storzi, a whirlwind juggler; the Kaveanja's comedy car; Jack Smith with his African and

Indian elephants; the Baldinski Duo, "Washington Trapeze"; Casartelli Juniors, six high school riding act; (at matinees this act was deleted and a 12-strong black Friesian liberty horse act was presented by Heros); The Kaveanjas, bareback riding act; Solo Clown in "Clarinet Sonata"; the Flying Silvers, flying trapeze, completed the first half of the program.

After the interval the Janet Sisters on rolling globes entertained; Omar, equilibrist; Avilinos, high wire act; Cordeiro, musical clowns; Manóvitch Troupe, rotating perch; Johnny, chimps, culminating with a spectacular Finale with the dancing troupe and company entertaining on a huge illuminated staircase.

The circus carried a big zoo and stables - in addition to the usual animals, two gorillas were featured, also two giraffes, an oran-utan, a rhino, and an American Bison.

With the Ygoslavs being an industrious nation, getting up early in the morning, times of performances were brought forward to 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. and it was invariably the first show which proved to be the "packer".



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## SPECIAL

WINTERQUARTERS . . . by Jim Parker

Very few circuses nowadays really have what can be called a winterquarters, as was known even a few years back; however, Gatti Productions, Inc. producers of the American Continental Circus and the Canadian International Circus, recently purchased ten acres of land in Hemet, Calif., for such purposes.

Zoning of course was the most important factor in determining their winterquarters, which in addition to a house on the property, will also include animal barns which are to be built.

Besides the prop men, one of the first occupants of the new quarters is Jospin and Carole Marcan and their lions. Soon to join them will be the show owned elephant, Tiki.

Work projects, such as leveling of the land, painting the house, building the barns, etc. have already begun and as the winter progresses, kinkers, animals and trailers are anticipated in preparation for the 1980 season.

This is further evidence that makes the Gatti family circus one of the major shows on the road and their willingness to expand.

## Miscellaneous

The Circus Luncheon Club (Philippe's Restaurant, Los Angeles) will hold its annual auction on Nov. 26th, to raise funds for the club's Children's Circus in December.

# Be A Clown

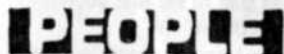
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GEORGE MacKENDER visited Ringling's Red unit ringmaster, KIT HASKELL, at Seattle and Salt Lake City.

LIPKO'S COMEDY CHIMPS had to cancel two show dates when assistant GREG DEMMEL fell off a stage and injured his knee.

IVEY UPTON is taking it easy at home awaiting the arrival of a baby. She has been temporarily replaced in the act by BETTY JO HOWARD, a member of the Sailor Circus.

JOAN E. WHITE, of Syracuse, N.Y., continues her efforts to have a commemorative stamp that would honor the late KARL WALLEDA. She recently met with Postmaster General WILLIAM F. BOLGER, who she says, was very responsive. It might take as long as 8 years to get the Post Office to issue such a stamp.

THE BICKMORES (Wally, Czigi and Tosca) are with the Happytime Circus, which is playing at the Orange County Fall Fair this month.

### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

changed my mind, so next week's column will be devoted in toto to that subject. (Don't apologize, Nancy, we know the reporter was inept. One line convinced us . . . "Riding a motorcycle through a trapeze!")

SEE you down the road, luvs.

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