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## **Circus Star Honored**

Circus performer Struppi Hanneford, who reached stardom as aerialist "Princess Tajana," was honored yesterday (Jan. 12) at the Ringling Museum's annual Circus Celebrity Night.

A native of Germany, Struppi started to learn trapeze work at the age of seven, in her hometown near Heidelberg. At the age of 15 she became a professional, performing a double trapeze act with her teacher. They toured Europe before coming to the U. S. in 1953 to join Mills Bros. Circus.

A year later they were performing from an apparatus suspended beneath a helicopter, then went on to create a sensation performing on a trapeze which hung from a giant crane, in Chicago.

In 1955, she married circus rider and clown, Tommy Hanneford, who helped push her into stardom as Princess Tajana. Later she mastered the low wire and she has made many appearances on TV, etc.

An arm and shoulder injury forced Struppi to give up

(Continued on Back Page)

## **Circus On Tour**

The Bicentennial Edition of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus bowed at Venice, Fla., on Jan. 3rd with a mammoth show. The program, of the Red Unit, is a star-spangled salute to the nation's 200th birthday celebration.

Gunther Gebel-Williams is featured on the show, along with the Flying Farfans and the incredible flyer Don Martinez. Also appearing in the program are Philippe Petit, high wire star; Barry Lappy, boy cyclist, and

(Continued on Back Page)

## Aerialist Dies

High wire performer "Vetina" was killed when she fell while performing at San Juan, P.R., last month for the Merchant's Association. Local police identified the performer as being Betty Boatwright (42) of Sarasota, Fla.

A witness said she was just starting her act when one of the supporting poles broke and sent her plummeting 100 ft. to the pavement. Her performance was being presented at the Plaza De Armas, in San Juan's Old Quarter.

## Show Guests

Guests attending the opening performance of the Circus Hall of Fame Show, at Sarasota, Fla., included: Mae Wirth, Merle Evans, Ferry Frost's daughter and husband Ned, Eddie Zacchini, Jr. and Sr., and Carl Sedalmayer and wife.

## Show Visitors

Visitors seen at Circus Vargas during the show's stand in Alameda, Calif. (Jan. 2-7) include: Pat Arieta, Diana and John Hartzell, Charles Cox, Bob and Kevin Monahan, Sid and Matt Kellner, Don Marcks, Tom Upton, Cecil Norris, Paul Wessler, Bob Emrico, Harry Ellis, Dave Twomey and family and Russ Tully.

## — WANT TO BUY —

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## XMAS SHOW

A circus program was presented as a Christmas Party for employees and their families by the IBM Corp. of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. on Dec. 14th.



The show, which was announced by Jack Sterling included Alexander's dogs, presented by Irene, plus the Henneberry Family with musical numbers, juggling, unicycles and an illusion act.

## AVAILABLE

Facilities for boarding hoof stock of all kinds.

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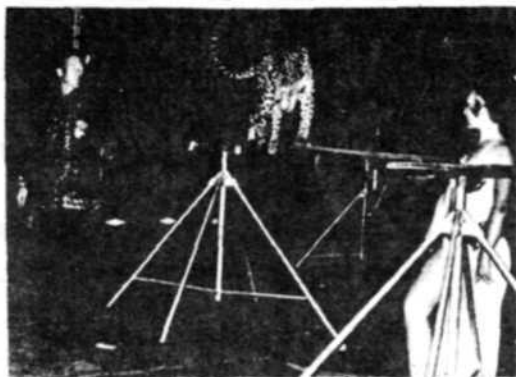
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## A WINNER AT SARASOTA

When the Nordmark & Hood show -- All Star Circus -- played Sarasota's Civic Center (Dec. 19) they drew turnaway crowds. "It was an excellent show," reports Hugo Marquardt.

Featured in the performance were: Hines and Patti Rucker, doing several acts; Chona Eastwood; a gorilla parody; Lothar, one finger stand; Ron and Mitzie Gill, iron jaw and aerial cradle; George Hanneford, elephants, plus Kay's Pets.

The band included: Chuck Schlarbaum, Tex and Marci Maynard and Jimmy Ille.



## PEOPLE

MIKE DOUGLAS recently taped his TV Show from Miami, Fla., and used some show acts.

BOB EMRICO has returned to Oregon where he is working with his magic show.

LEMKE's Chimps worked several Christmas show dates in the Dallas, Texas area.

CHARLES COX, circus announcer, spent the holidays in San Francisco, Calif.

ALAIN ZERBINI has recovered nicely from a recent operation at a Corona, Calif., hospital.

BETTY HUTTON has been hospitalized for an arm and shoulder injury suffered during the film of the "Greatest Show on Earth" movie.

## XMAS PARTY

Members of the new Bob and Mary Jo Couls CFA Tent, at Indianapolis, Ind., played host to some 75 underprivileged children at holiday time.

The children were treated to lunch, plus balloons, peanuts and Cracker Jacks. With Mel Olsson as ringmaster four circus acts were presented, prior to the arrival of Santa Claus, who had gifts for everyone.

..... Art Foster

## In Memoriam

HARRY C. REIMSCHUSSEL, who was known as "Rymie, the Clown," died at Toledo, Ohio, on Dec. 24th after a short illness. He had been clowning since the 40's and was a member of the CMB and the CFA.

# performer loses suit

A Federal jury at Detroit, Mich., has rejected a suit filed by former high wire performer Raul Prada who sought \$3.5 million in damages.

Arguing in its own defense, the Industrial Mutual Association, of Flint, said that Prada (26) was in an "inherently dangerous occupation" and "was so confident in his own abilities that he disdained use of the net."

Prada fell on his back 5 years ago while performing with a circus at Flint, in an auditorium owned by the association. He missed a hand-held net, but contended the 12 net holders held it improperly after the association was negligent in instructing them.

The defense said the hand held net was insufficient protection and that Prada had been the one who instructed the net-holders.

Prada, who wears a body brace and leg braces, walks with the aid of two canes.

The verdict was reached after the jury deliberated for six hours.

## ROUTES

### Mexico Folk Ballet

Jan. 15 Cupertino, Calif.  
16-17 Oakland  
18-19 San Francisco

## ROUTES

### Circus of Wonders

Jan. 18 29 Palms, Calif.

### Cole All Star TV Circus

Jan. 13-15 Williamsport, Pa.  
16 Enroute  
17 Lewisburg  
18 Milton

### Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Jan. 13-15 St. Petersburg, Fla  
17-21 West Palm Beach

### Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show

Jan. 14 Fayetteville, N.C.  
15 Raleigh  
17 Jacksonville, Fla  
18-19 Orlando

### Globetrotters

Jan. 18-19 Oakland, Calif.

### Gun Collector's Expo

Jan. 18-19 Canton, Ohio

### Ice Capades

Jan. 15-19 Edmonton, Alberta

### Henry Mancini Concert

Jan. 17 Winnipeg, Canada



# photo titles

The photograph on Page 6 of today's paper was taken on the Barnes-Sells Floto Circus in 1938 and is of the Reiffanach Family of bareback riders. The comedy in this act was provided by Clarence Bruce.

The top picture on Page 7 is that of the John Robinson Circus band in 1899. In the back row are: (l.t.r.) A. Hamilton; W. Fink; George Seibert; W. Kerlew. In the center row are: A. Campbell; C. Bemer; R. Melrose; Paddy Gee; J. Q. Ellis; Phil Miller. In the front row are: E. Shook; C. Tinney; C. Griffith; C. Cole; Dobs Factor; C. Lovelace; A. Cox; C. Pickett. Standing at the left is Milton Rogers, the band leader.

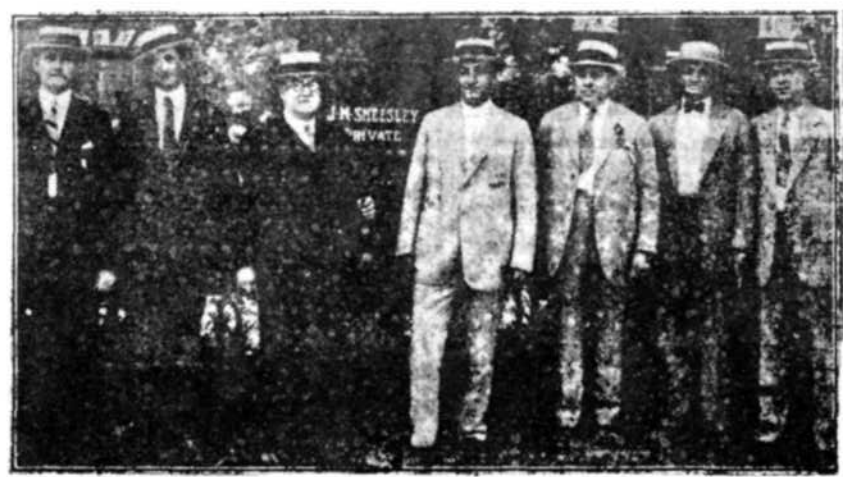
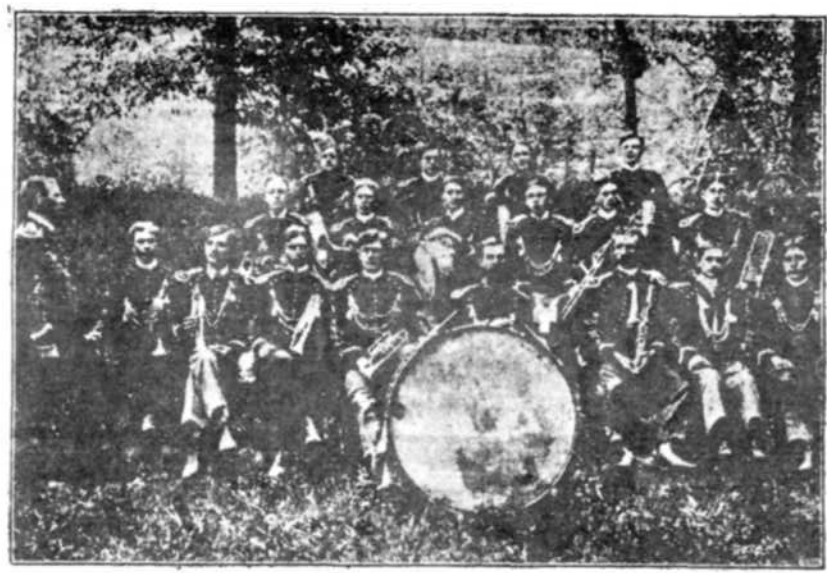
The bottom picture on Page 7 is that of the executive show staff of the Greater Sheesley Shows. The picture was taken at Columbus, Ohio in June 1925. Pictured l.t.r. are: Claude R. Ellis, publicity director; Ed C. Dart, secretary-treasurer of the show; A. H. Barkley, general representative and traffic manager; Capt. John M. Sheesley, general manager, who with his brother, Charles E., assistant manager (second from right) operated Sheesley Mighty Midway; C. W. Cracraft, assistant general manager; and Joseph Walsh, special agent.

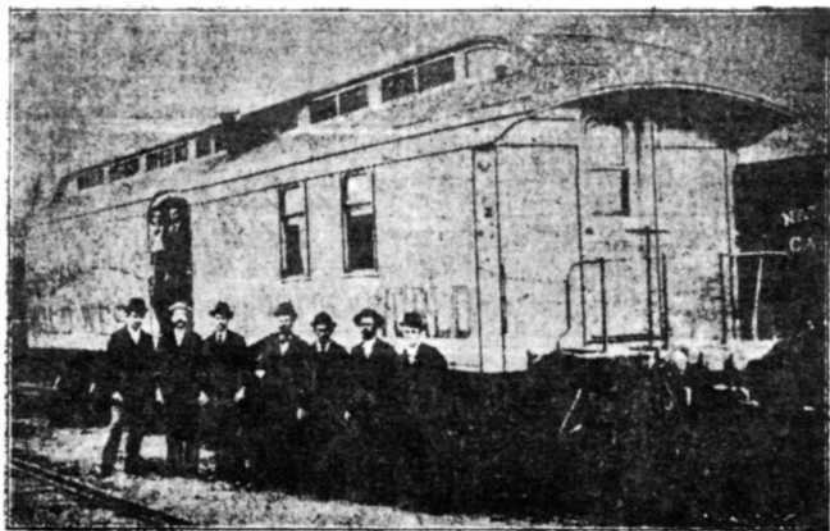
The top picture on Page 8 shows three performers who were doing single bareback somersaults with the Barnum & Bailey Circus during the 1917 season. They are (l.t.r.) Orrin Davenport, George Hanneford and Freddie Derrick.

The bottom picture on Page 8 shows the crew and Opposition Car of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show. Standing in the doorway (at the right) is U. J. (Sport) Herrman, lithographer. At one time he owned the Cort Theatre in Chicago and was a part owner of The Boston Red Sox team and a director of the Zenith Corp. Next to him is Fred Beckmann, car manager, who later became part owner of the Beckmann & Gerety Shows.

On the ground are: Big Degen; Jack Ryan; John Murphy; Skinny Christie; Tommy Morgan; Bill West and Joe Plant, the boss billposter.







# Suit Filed by Ringling Barnum

A suit seeking relief from the 1974 tangible personal property tax assessments has been filed by Ringling-Barnum against various Sarasota, Fla. County officials. The circus, a Delaware corporation, is asking that the assessment on its tour equipment and railroad cars be nullified and that the property be reassessed according to the amount of time it is kept in Sarasota County.

The circus charges it was not properly notified of proposed tax increases and that it was taxed as though its property were maintained permanently in Sarasota County.

The original assessment of \$2.9 million on its equipment was adjusted during Board of Tax Adjustment hearings to \$2.5 million.

The circus maintains the Blue Unit railroad property spent only 9.3 per cent of the year in Sarasota County. The Red Unit property, they said, was in the county 22.7 per cent of the year.

The only state that can tax tangible property which is continuously engaged in interstate commerce at its full unapportioned value, the suit charges, is the state of the corporate owner's domicile, in this case Delaware.

Named as defendants in the suit are: county property appraiser, John Mikos; the Board of Tax Adjustment; Tax Collector Charlie Hagerman and J. Ed Straughn, executive director of the Florida Dept. of Revenue.

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A similar suit has been filed against Sarasota County tax officials by another Delaware firm, the company that rents costumes and props to the Venice, Fla., based circus. This suit also asks for tax relief from personal property taxes. The allegations outlined in both these suits is essentially the same: That the property assessed was not permanently located in Florida, but was out of the state most of the time each year



The long 1974 tour for Circus Vargas came to an end last week when the show finished up its two holiday stands in Central California. The show played Hayward (Dec. 26-Jan. 1) and Alameda (Jan. 2-7), where they encountered a combination of sunny days, extreme cold and heavy rains.

On New Year's Eve, participants at a nearby rock concert invaded the circus grounds and made off with several pieces of show equipment, most of which were later returned, but

in a damaged condition. One performer said the police were chasing people back and forth across the lot all night long.

The Hayward lot was almost an ideal spot, being a grassy area near the city hall, and virtually in the heart of the city. No one could drive by and not be impressed by the huge tent and its equipment.

At Alameda the circus was set up on pavement, squeezed between a series of stores and the local post office. This made a tight backyard, but otherwise made an impressive appearance, much to the delight of everyone.

On the midway the show had its office/ticket wagon, a pony ride, concession tent and a combination menagerie/pet zoo.

The program when seen on Dec. 26th featured:

Spec - all circus personnel  
 Harry Thomas - tigers  
 Senor Antonio - Single trapeze  
 Prof. Shappi - musical comedy  
 Great Vashek - inclined wire  
 Semon's chimps

## PEOPLE

FRANK MOGYOROSI will reportedly be starring in a new revue at the Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas.

PATRICIA OTIS, former circus performer, is now a school teacher and cartoonist at Rome, N. Y.

D. W. WASHBURN (Sparky, the Clown) spent the holidays at a San Jose, Calif., hospital. He expects to undergo surgery again in about a month.

The Latinos - risley number  
 Miss Jan - single trapeze  
 Wally Ross - liberty horses (8)  
 Great Seguro - bounding rope  
 -- Intermission --

The Flying Latinos - flying act  
 The Naghtin Bears  
 The Volantes - comedy unicycles  
 Dante - one finger stand  
 The Aguilars - perch act  
 Vashek Duo - aerial motorcycle  
 The Circus Vargas elephants

## "Miss Donette"

Photographed in 1939



## club meet

The Paul Eagles Luncheon Club held its last 1974 meeting at Philippe's Restaurant in Los Angeles on Dec. 30th. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting, including former circus owner Dr. Milton Bartok, who was on the coast on a business/pleasure trip. Club secretary Perry Luth, although on crutches, was on hand to sign up new members and to collect dues.

A sound color film was a program feature, which had been

taken on the recent Club's Big Christmas Circus at Pomona. Eric Beheim, of San Diego, also showed films on the Clyde Beatty Circus, Cole Bros. and the Ringling-Barnum show.

It was reported that Bill Dedrick was expected to return home soon, after his recent hospitalization. Also expected to return home was Bob Matthews.

Circus films are scheduled to be shown at upcoming club meetings in January.

..... Percy Turner

CIRCUS ON TOUR (Continued)

Wolfgang Holzmaier and his lions.

The circus performance is being taped at St. Petersburg this week (Jan. 13-15) for the annual Bell System Family Theatre presentation "Highlights of the RBBB Circus." The program will be aired nationally on NBC-TV the evening of Feb. 16th.

**Miscellaneous**

The Windjammers Unlimited are planning a circus music session at Corydon, Ind., in honor of Ward Stauth. The concert band will be directed by Merle Evans.

The recent five day Shrine Circus at Kansas City, Mo. drew a total of 83,611 people for its ten performances, an increase of 8% over 1973.

Appian Way Pizza Mix, at your local grocery store, offers a set of clown poster sets for \$1.00 and a box top

Art Wintz, old-time lithographer, says he likes the old Chinese proverb "Man must sit long time with open mouth, before roast duck fly in."

CIRCUS STAR HONORED (Continued)

the trapeze and before long she was working a wild animal act.

"Luckily, everything I've attempted has turned out fairly good," Struppi says. "I've never shied away from work."