



7th Year

March 13, 1978

Number 11

CHARGES FILED

A west coast carnival owner was indicted last week for evasion of federal highway use taxes on some 50 trucks and other vehicles that are used to transport the show.

According to a report in the San Francisco (Calif.) Chronicle of March 3rd, a federal grand jury in San Francisco returned a three count indictment for attempt to evade taxes for 1972 through 1974.

The indictment charges that returns were filed showing that only seven vehicles were operated, with taxes totaling \$2,700. The indictment alleges that the show was operating between 48 and 54 vehicles and should have paid \$24,690 in highway taxes.

If convicted of all charges the show owner could be sentenced to 15 years in prison and be fined \$30,000.

Highway use taxes are imposed on the registered owners of trucks, truck-tractors and

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buses used on public highways. Revenues from the tax are used to construct and maintain the federal highways.

PEOPLE

MIKE HARTZELL is the senior ringmaster at Circus Circus in Las Vegas and in his spare time he is a serious artist.

CHARLES SIDLOW, of Woodbury, N.J., is a recent Clown College graduate and is currently touring with the RBBB Red Unit. During his high school years he was an excellent wrestler.

CLARENCE HASTINGS has been named chairman of the "Bull Room" for the upcoming CFA Convention to be held in Michigan.

JOHN JENACK, unicyclist, served as the cycle coach for **JOSEPH MAHER**, star of the stage show "Spokesong" a play whose star is a trick cyclist.

TOM BAYLESS reports he is selling a new type mobile home called the "Towlounge." For information write him at: Blazon Mobile Homes Corp., 27103 Windsor Ave., Elkhart, Indiana.

ATTENTION

Several readers have written in to say they did not receive their Circus Report for Feb. 20th. We do not know what happened to the missing issues, but replacements are on the way. If you do not receive that issue or any issue just let us know and another copy will be sent immediately.

Incidentally, when writing to say that you have not received an issue please mention the date of the missing issue (all copies are dated for Mondays).

..... Don Marcks

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PEOPLE

BILL BRICKLE worked a March 4-5 date at Albany (NY) and are appearing today (Mar. 13) on the Bozo TV Show out of Chicago, after which they jump into Phoenix (Ariz) for the Mar. 22nd opening of the American Continental Circus.

MICHAEL RAFAEL MERAZ, infant son of **MIGUEL** and **ROBIN MARIE**, was baptized recently in Mexico City in the center ring of Circus Union. **RENATO FUENTES** is Michael's Godfather, and Pastor Tomas Guzman, president of the Luthern Church in Mexico, who two years before married the couple, officiated at the baptism.

In Memoriam

L. O. (Hoot) BLACK (55) died suddenly on Feb. 23rd at Athens, Alabama. He spent his entire life in the circus business. Survivors include his wife, Willow, a son Jack and a daughter, Shiela, plus three grandchildren. Burial was in Athens, Ala.



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Mar. 16-19 Tulsa, Okla.
- Hubert Castle Circus
Mar. 13-14 Missoula, Mont.
16-19 Spokane, Wash.
- Circus Vargas
Mar. 14-16 Paso Robles, Calif.
17-20 Burbank
- Hubler International Circus
Mar. 18-19 Steubenville, Ohio
- Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to Mar. 19 Baltimore, Md.
- Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Mar. 14-19 Charlotte, N.C.
- Royal Hanneford Circus
Mar. 13 Jackson, Tenn.
15-16 Huntsville, Ala.
18-21 Birmingham
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Mar. 14 Huron, S. D.
15 Brookings
16 Yankton
17 Sioux City, Iowa
18 Brookings
- Wonderful World of Circus
to Mar. 29 Sarasota, Fla.

--- OTHER DATES ---

- Dondi, the Elephant
Mar. 16-19 Duluth, Minn.
- Fantasy On Ice
Mar. 16-19 Moorestown, N.J.
- Fred, the Cockatoo
Mar. 17-26 Toronto, Ont.
- Holiday On Ice - Int'l
Mar. 14-19 San Antonio, Texas
- Holiday On Ice - Nat'l
Mar. 14-19 Atlanta, Ga.
- Ice Capades - Eastern Unit
Mar. 14-21 Detroit, Mich.
- Ice Capades - Western Unit
Mar. 14-19 London, Ont.
- Ice Follies
Mar. 14-19 Pittsburgh, Pa.
- Bob Jones Pet Zoo
Mar 14-April 1 Brooklyn, N.Y.
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AMERICAN CONTINENTAL CIRCUS, produced by PATRICIA GATTI, bows this month with equipment thoroughly refurbished by JIM MILAN at BUCKY STEELE's and BARBARA TATE's Texas winterquarters. Bucky will introduce his new lion and tiger act when the show opens in mid-month.

Appearing in Dallas for a 10 week run, to good notices, was a Revue at Granny's Dinner Playhouse, called "Las Vegas, Las Vegas" (these doubled-titled "titles" are really getting a workout lately) starring RON and JOY HOLIDAY, the LOS ARGENTINOS GAUCHOS and the All-American Male Stripper PATRICK. JOE LEMKE, who caught the show, sent a program, remarks the HOLIDAY's act is superb. The routine involves materialization of tigers and a large jaguar, and the de-materialization of a girl. Also in town was MARTHA RAYE, with whom this writer appeared in the MGM movie musical JUMBO.

Joe mentions also there are two writers working on books about the late VANDER BARBETTE with material contributed by RONNIE LEWIS, for years an associate. There is a wealth of material available about Barquette from many of us who knew him well, not all of it flattering, but certainly all of it interesting. Ronnie, incidentally, is currently working at a Houston hotel.

SNAPSHOTS: BILLY and BONNIE EARL join the Nordmark Magic show April 6 at Terre Haute (Ind), replacing the CAMPA Family who leave to join the King show . . . JACK BENNETT writes he was saddened to lose his good friend COL. TIM McCOY . . . SANDY BUMPY was married Jan. 7th in Wisconsin, with her brothers and sister (Susan Zoppe) on hand for the ceremony. Sandy and her new husband, DALE HOUGE (a construction worker) honeymooned in Hawaii for 2 weeks. Sandy may be "retired" from show business, but she wants her friends to know she is still making those clever belts for performers.

CAPSULE REVIEW: "The Great Wallendas", NBC-TV, Feb. 12. Draggy in spots, and obviously not over budgeted, the screenplay (based on the collapse of the 7 in Detroit) was a mixture of fact and fiction -- mostly the latter.

The 7 was created in 1947, after the Wallendas wound up a long tenure on Ringling, was performed successfully for 15 years. I personally saw the 7 accomplished under the most harrowing conditions many times. That it collapsed at all was certainly due to a weak-

link among the six understanders. Once during a performance with Frank Wirth in West Hempstead, L.I., the wire loosened during the pyramid and the troupe managed to hold their stand beautifully. Thus it seems to me, the longevity of the 7 was not given sufficient notice in this slight screen version which would have us believe the famous trick was created "overnight" and was of brief duration. Fifteen years is a strong track record for such a routine to be maintained without incident.

The two-hour movie had high moments of suspense. The re-creation of the tragedy was extremely well-done. It hurt, in fact, to watch it and must have evoked terrible memories for the star-crossed family. Had a half hour been trimmed from the whole, or the script flashed out more, suspense throughout would have heightened considerably. As it stands, the best moments were diminished by long dull spots linking the highlights.

Roberts Arena is a far cry from the mammoth buildings where the two major events transpired. The final sequence taking place in Ft. Worth was obvious to any layman as being filmed in the same building as earlier scenes. Attempts to camouflage the arena with pennants and "set touch-ups" only pointed up the film's low budget.

Creditable performances were turned in by Lloyd Bridges, taking and acting like Karl; Taina Elg as Helen (hairstyle and all); John Van Dreelan as Herman; Ben Fuhrman (notably) as Gunther, and Bruce OrNSTEIN as Mario. Britt Ekland, good actress and German as well, was thoroughly miscast as Jenny (But maybe I know Jenny too well). Two brief spots were handled deftly by circus ringmasters Al Dawley and Lucky Larabee.

TOUCHING DOWN: The CHARLES GUTIS family are back in the U.S. after an extended vacation in East and West Germany. Elvira pens that Charlie had a happy reunion at his hometown theatre, The Steinter, in East Germany and visited many old friends at the "Kantine", a smallish cafe catering to performers and to the theatre. They spent an evening with the German Democratic Republic's top singing star, FRANK SCHOBEL. The Gutis make the Chicago Sports Show, plus the Omaha and Lincoln Shrine dates for GRACE MacINTOSH.

HEIDI and JIM GROGAN, who went with the Gutis, spent their time second-honeymooning "somewhere

(Continued on Page 16)

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REVIEW

M & M CIRCUS INTERNATIONALE

by BILL GALLOWAY

The 54th annual Damascus Temple Shrine Circus opened the 1978 season for M&M Circus Internationale at Rochester, N. Y. The show had capacity houses for ten performances, including a turn-away crowd at the Sunday matinee. Opening show was on Feb. 15th, with the M&M Circus produced by Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine, and they have signed to produce the show again in 1979.

A great deal of publicity was provided for the circus this year. Television appearances by Mrs. McIntosh and 'The Great Vashek' highlighted the week. A promotion of a new downtown mall featured Carlos Obando walking a tight-wire high above Main Street. Photos of the walk made the national press wire services, and Tuesday, Feb. 14th was proclaimed Carlos Obando Day by the Mayor and he was presented with a City Medal.

New features on the circus included all new spec parade floats by "Circus Creations" of Daytona Beach, Fla. (Jimmy Douglass) with the "Land of Mother Goose Theme". The property crew was outfitted with new blue coveralls with "M&M Circus" on the back. They made a sharp appearance during the show. The Navarros debuted their new cradle act, the "Dolly Sisters".

The show line-up included: Spec "Land of Mother Goose"; the Hawthorn lions and tigers

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In Memoriam

BRACE HELFRICH (93) a long-time active circus fan, died at his home in Wichita, Kans. on Feb. 11th. Burial was at Wichita following cremation.

presented by Roy Wells; the Dolly Sisters, high cradle (Navarros); Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo (Fossett); Clowns with the Stomach Pump; Tight wire display with Miss Carmen (Johnson), Riccardo Troupe (Canestrellis) and Torreanis; Clown Bake Shop; Display with Jose Francisco, hand balancing, Pieta & Joyce (Canestrellis) ladder balancing, and the Raijo Duo (Torreani) balancing; Johnson's bears; Christina's comedy chimps; The Great Vashek, inclined wire walk; the Flying Lunas, featuring Enrique's triple; Clowns Tippy telephone/Tooth gag; Victor Julian and his Little Stars; the Carzaki Troupe (Zerbini) teeterboard; The Canestrellis, teeterboard; Los Obandos, high wire; Irene, Tongo & Co., Jungle Parody; Clowns and the Long Shirt; Aerial Ballet featuring Dainty LaVonne (Lisa Johnson); The Sensational Zerbini's, bare-back riding; Lee and Jeanette Kenner with the Diano elephants and the Vashek Duo, motorcycle on the high wire.

The show's staff consisted of: James Douglass, announcer/equestrian director; Manuel Navarro, prop boss; Ruth and Carol, wardrobe; Ester, aerial director; Carlos Obando, transportation boss; William Galloway, show timer; William 'Boom Boom' Browning, musical director.

Clown Alley featured: Vern Woerner, producing clown with Billy Ford, Buck Nolan, John McKay, David Chabira, Bruce Warner, Michelle Malvern and Jerry Lieby.

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PEOPLE

WALLY LEE, magician, has been hospitalized at Livermore, Calif., after injuring his back as the result of some heavy lifting.

BOB EMERICO (Hi Fi) is busy working shows at schools in the Pacific Northwest, where he reports business is good despite some rather wet weather.

HARRY ELLIS spent the past week visiting the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus at a shopping mall in San Jose, Calif.

BILL WILLIAMS (Cotton Candy the Clown) has several early Spring and Easter dates set in the Central California area.

Show Program

The annual Sahara Temple Shrine Circus at Pine Bluff, Arkansas, was produced by Sam T. Polack, with Al Dawley serving as ringmaster for the Feb. 24-25 event.

Featured in the program were! Miss Lisa, cloud swing; Pat Anthony, wild animals; Frank & Estrelita, aerial; Clowns; Miguel, tight wire; Clown number; Francarro, aerial; the Fulbrights, horses; Rosell Troupe, high wire; Intermission.

In the second half were: Sandy's ponies; Miss Carolina; Jose, hand balancing; Margarita Ayala; the Johnson Bears; Clowns; Bobby Gibbs, elephants; the Franconi's, double trapeze; the Clowns; Jorge and his Funny Car; the Flying Espanas.

Miscellaneous

Sound films and slides were featured at a recent meeting of the Felix Adler Tent CFA. Special guests included: Dr. Sam Richardson, U. S. vet; John Towsen, author of "Clowns"; Jill Freedman, author of "Circus Days" and Brigid Murnaghan, poetess of circus lore.

Members of the Kansas State Clowns of America will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gieselmann, 1540 McFarland Road, Junction City, Kans. on March 19th.

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NOTICE

The Post Office has informed me that size limitations for First Class Mail will go into effect as of April 1st. First Class Mail that does not conform to the specifications will have penalty charges applied to the postage.

About June 1st, there will be a definite rate increase in the cost of postage. First Class mail will be either 15c or 16c per ounce. Each ounce after the first ounce will probably be assessed at a slightly lower figure.

As a result of these upcoming regulations there will have to be a price increase for Circus Report — both subscriptions and advertising. The exact amount of the increased will have to be determined after an evaluation of costs and operational procedures.

It may also be necessary to change the format of Circus Report in order to conform to the pending restrictions.

..... Don Marcks

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Show Plans

by LARRY KENT

For it's 1978 tour Hoxie Bros. Circus will carry two, and perhaps three midway pit shows. Already in winter quarters are two — the giant Snake Exhibit and an Egyptian Mummy Exhibit. A third may be added later. Rounding out the Midway will be an elephant ride, novelty stand and midway diner, plus the combination office/ticket wagon.

Due to a shortage of experienced diesel truck drivers, Hoxie Tucker is going to trailers which can be pulled by lighter-weight pick-up trucks, which are also easier on gasoline and repair bills.

The tour will start with the cookhouse semi being replaced by a custom-built cookhouse on what was originally a mobile home frame. The unit includes a self-contained power plant, stoves, walk-in refrigerator and will be pulled by a Chevrolet C-30 water truck. On the lot a canvas lean-to will be used, covering 10 picnic style tables. Canvas and tables will be carried in the possum belly of the mechanic's semi.

The winter quarters crew have repainted almost all of the rolling stock and have built a new stake driver for the big show.

Hoxie's smaller "Great American Circus" will not carry a canvas spool for '78, but rather will carry the big top canvas in bags loaded on the big top pole wagon.

The two gorilla units which traveled with the Hoxie shows in '77 are both gone. The larger show (formerly owned by Bobby Berosini), is booked on the Circus Vargas midway indefinitely. The smaller "Kongo, the Gorilla" unit (which is the old Ringling Bros. gorilla wagon) is at a permanent tourist attraction in central Florida, also booked for an indefinite run.

A new all-girl flying act is in winter quarters, practicing daily. Other returning acts for Hoxie's big show will be Johnny Walker, Jr., with the elephants and his wife Laura (Herriott) Caudill Walker, working dressage and liberty ponies. Tom "Popcorn" Sink returns as producing clown and three other clowns in Clown Alley are all Ringling Clown College graduates. The band has been reduced in size to an organ and drummer.

Troupers

The trees are green, the sky is blue
This is the season, Nineteen hundred-sevety to
Today the sun is shining, tomorrow the spring
rains may be falling.
'Tiz Circus and Carney time again
and the open road is calling.

We're just as anxious to get out again
As we were to come in, when the season ended
Now that the equipment, is all painted and
mended.

A few loved ones, and old friends,
are left behind this year,
In fond memories of them, we will shed a tear.
Then we find, some of the kids,
have grown faster than we know,
And are ready to join the show.

As we travel the roads, both old and new,
and make the big city, and the little town,
We'll always think of, and miss the Loved ones,
who are not around.

So we look forward to each new season,
and wonder what this new year will bring?
Hoping for Health, Wealth, Happiness, and
everything,
In the midst of Wars, Crimes, Riots, Politics,
Weather and Economic strife,
'Tiz another new season, in the Trouper's life.
..... Sally Payne

A new adult female elephant is being purchased to add to the big show herd, which will give them 3 adults and 5 punks. Three bulls will travel with the Great American Circus — Jessie, Myrtle and Mary.

Cat trainer Mike Cecere has added a hind-leg walking lion to his act and has a female which is expected to give birth to a new litter almost any day now. Cecere was badly mauled by a male lion while playing an independent date at Cape Coral (Fla) and for a while was afraid that he might lose a thumb, but he is OK now.

The big show plays its first date in late March, opening at West Palm Beach (Fla) for a three day stand under Shrine auspices.



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In Memoriam

GEORGE L. (Doc) ROCKWELL (88) former vaudeville and radio star died at Brunswick, Maine on March 2nd. He won national fame when he introduced his "quack doctor" act on the Fred Allen Comedy Hour. He began his

career as a booking agent and magician, playing the Keith-Orpheum theatres, and later appeared in the Greenwich Village Follies.

Dressed in a white uniform Mr. Rockwell carried a banana stalk, pretending it was a human spine, then he delivered a tongue-in-cheek lecture on anatomy.

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NEW BOOK

THE RINGMASTER by Darryl Ponicsan

Published by Delacorte - \$8.95

(The following review is by Steven Kosek of the New York Tribune — Jan. 26, 1978)

There is a blend of fact and fiction in "The Ringmaster", a sadly real, yet romantically happy novel about a small-time circus struggling to survive on the road during America's Bi-centennial summer. If there is a taste of truth in this engaging narration, it is undoubtedly because Darryl Ponicsan spent the very same summer on tour with the George Matthews Great London Circus, where he lived out his undying childhood fantasies. Beginning as a roustabout, candy butcher, ticket-taker and so on, he became, in the end, Randy the Clown when one of the regular clowns blew the show.

"Blew the show," by the way, is circus jargon and Ponicsan's familiarity with the language of the midway is just one of the countless things that gives his novel authenticity. We learn that the "soft" is hard cash and that a "limpster" is a thief. We also learn several of the "laws" of the circus: that everyone eventually will blow the show, for instance, and that

everybody is a limpster who will swing with the soft if he can get away with it. And, of course, there are numerous superstitions to be learned: never to park a bicycle on the midway; never to turn away a midget looking for a job. Bad luck, all that.

In fact, "The Ringmaster" is probably more valuable for the huge wealth of information about circus life it provides than for the story it tells. At times, the book reads more 'like a documentary: "The cook-house is usually the first to leave the lot, if you don't count the stake driver, which leaves soon after the set-up to lay out the stake line and drive stakes at the new lot." And: "The cash flows out daily . . . and the other end of the equation is that the cash must flow in daily. If the inward flow is stopped, and there is a multitude of misfortunes that can stop it, then the circus does not get down the road; it is beached like a whale and will as surely die. The strength of any circus can be measured in the number of days it can remain beached.

The strength of a novel is a bit more difficult to assess, but certainly good fiction requires interesting and well-drawn characters. And in this respect, Ponicsan is playing with a stacked deck; who could be more interesting than a circus performer?

The central figure in the novel is, appropriately, Starback the ringmaster, "who grew up in a circus and sometimes dreamed of running away and joining a town." Starback is the ringmaster, not by choice, but by default. He is the former Captain Rex Starback, a world-famous lion trainer who once left a substantial portion of his backside in the jaws of a recalcitrant lion. He is plagued by frightening dreams in which he is pursued by large African cats.

Many other people populate these pages, some more strange than others; including Moskowitz, the ever-optimistic money-grabbing owner; the Talker of the

(Continued on Page 14)

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PEOPLE

TIM COONEY writes that he has a 15 year old male African elephant named 'Tembo' which was omitted from the Elephant Census listing. Tim and NOEL MARSHALL have purchased the 14 year old elephant 'Cora' from Circus Vargas and will take delivery on her this month.

ROBERTO & ALEXANDRA (Bob and Sandy Momyer) magic and illusions, were featured by the Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau (Pa) at the three day Cherries Jubilee celebration.

DAVID 'Tiny' STARR has been hospitalized at University Hospital, 1959 Pacific Ave., Seattle, Wash. 98195. He is unable to answer mail, but would enjoy hearing from people.

JILL FREEDMAN, photo-journalist and author of "Circus Days" has written a soon to be released book called "Fire House"

DR. SAM RICHARDSON, Chief Veterinarian for the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture Animal Quarantine Station at Clifton, N. J., reports his facilities will soon be moved to the Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, N. Y.

BRIGID MURNAGHAN, author of prose and poetry, will have some "Down to Earth" circus poetry published soon. The work is a result of time spent with the Beatty-Cole Circus.

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NEW BOOK (Continued)

side show, who would give anything for a two-headed chicken, but settles for a fat lady only to see her diet down, deflating his profits; Millicent, the Princess of Ariel Dynamics and former lover of Starback; the Magnificent Weavers; Miss Twisto; the Flying Ultreras, and, of course, the various lions and elephants who steal the show and occasionally steal away from the show to wreak havoc in small-town streets.

But the real main character of "The Ringmaster" is The Sullivan Brothers Circus itself. In the end, this is the entity which most concerns us as it always narrowly, just narrowly manages to maintain itself. Our sympathies are with the institution as it is assaulted daily by mechanical breakdowns, bad weather, the loss of acts and a steadily dwindling audience which, weaned on television, finds the circus more troublesome than entertaining.

But for Poncisan the circus still has that old magic and you can see the way it works on him as he relates this tale about an American tradition. "You went to the circus," he writes, "but it was not the show that captured you, it was the life; the smells, the noises, the strange and somewhat frightening people." In much the same way, you enjoy "The Ringmaster", not for its plot, which is rather formless, but for the sense of circus life that Poncisan so successfully instills in this bright and captivating narrative.



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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

in Bavaria", then joined up with the Gutis in Hamburg for the return trip to Canada and finally the U.S. The KLEMENTIS are also back in the U.S. playing dates for Hubler and report a great time visiting with family and friends in Austria, where they did a TV show resulting in a multitude of radio and newspaper interviews. They picked up new bikes while in Austria and Elfie writes: "When we did the TV show we discovered the handlebars on the new bikes were too small. Question: Did we gain weight over the holidays or are those handlebars really too narrow!"

Life in Austria is far more expensive than here, Elfie, reports. Gas is \$1.80 per gallon; coffee \$1.00 per cup. The Klementi twins, Egon and Helmut, inherited a Grocery business years ago from their parents which

has continued to flourish over the years, even while the act was touring world-wide. That grocery has now been changed into a bank which opens its doors April 1st. (Must be nice to have a bank of one's very, very own).

"We were in such a rush," Elfie continues, "to get to the Zurich Airport that we arrived one day early and had to return home to wait. If anyone from Circus Vargas hears about this they'll get a good laugh, that's for sure. We were well-known for always being the first off the old lot, the first to arrive on the new one!

See you down the road, luvs.

PEOPLE

KASSLE'S BEARS (Jimmy and Yolanda Hall) have been booked into Kennywood Park (Pa) for the month of May.

THE GREAT KARLTON & CO. (magic) worked a Feb. 20-24 date at the Warwick (R.I.) Mall.

OTTO HERRMANN and his Lipizzans were the subject of an article in the Palm Beach (Fla) Post on Feb. 21st.

THE FLYING ALVAREZ Troupe is currently featured at Old Chicago. Young MARTIN ALVAREZ celebrated his 12th birthday last month with a party after the performance.

DANNY DANIELS, Organist, Comedy and Juggling, will again free lance this year, playing Industrial Shows, plus Banquets, Circuses and Fair Dates.

RICK JONES, circus drummer, is up and around again after undergoing surgery last month. He hopes to be back on the road soon.

BERT HANSEN, west coast entertainer, is rapidly recovering from an extended stay in the hospital for major surgery.



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Hubler Dates

The Hubler International Circus, produced by George Hubler, out of Dayton, Ohio, is off to what will probably be a record season for the well-established circus Producer-Director. This year will find two units on the road - an Eastern and Western unit, playing simultaneous dates, and so far, business has been up and over previous years, especially at Elyria, Ohio (Feb. 25-26) which, in the past, has never been spectacular, but which this year surprised everyone with turnaways and packed houses.

The program for dates thus far are:

Mentor, Ohio (PTA) Feb. 18-19 - Jorge Barreda, lions; Mister Sensation (Prince Najvez returning to his original title after 7 years); Joyce's Ponies; display centering Karen Nyce, with Joyce Rice and Marie Louise on each side; Jo Ann and Sunny, seal act; the Fabulous Klemntis; Joselito, high wire; Ethel's Greyhounds; the Fairchilds; Aerial Ballet with Aerialetta; Vidbel's elephants; Freddie and Fellows, clowns; Sergio Ramos Flyers. Music was provided by Florine and Phil Oler, with Paul Kohler serving

as ringmaster.

Elyria, Ohio (Grotto) Feb. 25-26 - Ethel's Greyhounds; the Fairchilds, acro; the Karinas, trampoline; Clowns with Joe Sherman and Wayne Liika; Aerial Ballet; Jo Ann and Sunny; Clowns; Joselito; Prince Najvez; Marie-Louise, balancing; Boxing Match with Happy Davis, Sherman and Liika; the Fairchild Family, acro; Aerialetta; Jorge Barreda, lions. Music was provided by Boom Boom Browning, director with drums, organ and trumpet. George Hubler was the ringmaster.

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. (Grotto) Mar. 4-5 - Janet's dogs and ponies; Marie Louise; Clowns with Wayne Liika; Jo Ann and Sunny; Lottie Brunn, juggler; Mister Sensation; Ethel's Greyhounds; Clowns; Karen Nyce; Burger's Chimps; Aerialetta. Music was provided by Jessie Griffith.

Galesburg, Ill. (Grotto) Mar. 4-5 - Jorge Barreda, lions; Web number; Moscovitz Troupe; Miss Debbie, plate spinning; Clowns with Freddie Large; the Elkins Sisters; Freddie Canestrelli Family; Joselito, high wire. Phil Sauvageot was the musical director.

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Correction

In a recent comment about folks working in the Texas dates an error appeared. Betty, Robert and Fritz's last name was misspelled, it should have been HUBER.

SHOWS

Circuses playing in the general San Francisco (Calif.) Bay Area during 1977 included: Stardust Circus, Big John Strong Circus, Polack Bros. Circus, Circus Carol, the Pickle Family Circus, Happytime Circus, American Continental Circus, Euroorama, the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus Early American Circus, Ringling-Barnum Red Unit, and the PAL Circus.

Magic shows appearing in the area were those of: Lee Grabel, Bill Patterson, Chuck Jones, Magic-A-Poppin, Charlie Myrick and Stan Kramien, plus Dennis Loomis.

TALENT

The program for the Zor Temple Shrine Circus at Madison, Wisc., Feb. 17-19, produced by Bill Kay included:

Clown come-in with Blinko and Maran, Al Ross, and Joe Sherman; Overture; Karinas, trampoline; Vasquez, aerial; Caesar, unrideable mule; Clowns; Brickle's Poodles; Baron's illusions; the Moscovitz Troupe; the Carmen Sisters, acro;

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Elephants

The following elephants are a part of the big St. Louis (Mo) Zoo.

Donna	Pearl
Carolyn	Clara
Pumie	

The above five are featured in an act presented twice daily from May through Labor Day under the direction of trainer Don Gibson.

Two other elephants - Marie and Trudy - are also at the zoo. Marie had appeared in the act but was taken out of the show last year because of space limitations. Trudy is on exhibit only.

Hall's bears; Castro brothers, high wire.

Following the second half overture were: The Vasquez Flyers; the Bisbinis; Sir Chadwicke Chase; Baron Julius von Uhl; Clowns; Verdus; Clowns; Roman Schmitt's animals; the Fred Canestrelli Family and the Sensational Leighs.

Clown Alley included: Blinko, Joe Sherman, Ed Ball, Al Ross and Bill Vaughan.

John Malett was musical director, while Bill Kay was announcer/ringmaster.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

by M. L. DUPONT

The Circus Committee of the Northeast Louisiana Shrine Club attended the Sam T. Polack Circus at Pine Bluff, Ark., on Feb. 25th to see if they would use the show for their Monroe date in June. As of this writing no final decision has been made.

Appearing with the Sam T. Polack Circus at Pine Bluff were Bobby Gibbs, with elephants, Al Dawley, ringmaster and John (YoHo) Mac Kay, producing clown. John called this reporter and said he would play most of the Polack dates, plus the Texas Shrine dates this fall.

Many thanks to Tex Dreyfus for the book the "Singing Wheels and Circus Wagons" by Gene Plowden, that he so kindly sent me while I was recovering from my illness. It's an excellent circus book and filled with photos of old parade wagons.

DoDo, the Clown, is once again performing. He made two appearances in the space of three days and reports all went well. DoDo is trying to pick up dates in a 300 mile radius of his home town. He will be in New Orleans May 12-14, then flies into Cleveland on May 15th and returns to New Orleans on May 22nd.

Dave Knoderer reports he will be with King Bros. Circus this year with his performing horses. At the present time Dave is in Florida and busy painting the Beatty-Cole equipment. He now has a tractor-trailer rig to haul all his show "stuff" around and feels '78 will be a good year

Show Features

The program presented by the Coronas Aerial Thrill Show at the Florida Citrus Showcase Festival (Feb. 10-18) included:

Miss Stevana, single trapeze; Miss Bonnie, cloud swing and web production number; Italo Troupe, trampoline; Serge Coronas, Gyro-wheel; Col. E. T. Bale and 'Stardust' high school horse; Fornasari Musical Clown Band and the Coronas aerial motorcycle act.

The show's ringmaster was Trevor Bale and music was provided by Richard Rosio.

Sam T. Polack's circus will be in Little Rock, Ark., on April 28-29; if fans wonder why Arkansas dates are usually Friday and Saturday only it is because an Arkansas law forbids Sunday shows.

Thanks to Jack Bennett, of Miami, Okla., for the numerous circus clippings. Jack arrived in Okla., just in time to keep his renter from moving out, lock, stock and barrel with his things. Jack probably won't mention this but he is something of a local hero, having rescued a lady who missed a curve and ended up in a snow bank. Her car being white might have gone unnoticed for several days if Jack hadn't seen the accident and gone to her aid.

Thanks to Bobby Gibbs for his 1978 schedule. We would certainly appreciate routes and the schedules from other shows that are or will be on the road this year. There seems to be a lack of route information this year - we didn't know that "Secret Bros. Circus" was out again.