

CIRCUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

The logo for 'Circus Report' is a vibrant, stylized graphic. At the top, the words 'CIRCUS REPORT' are written in a large, bubbly, red font with a blue outline. Below the text, a central illustration shows a clown's face with a wide, joyful expression, wearing a white hat and a red and white patterned collar. To the left of the clown is a blue elephant with its trunk curled, and to the right is a blue tiger with its mouth open in a roar. The entire scene is framed by a red and white striped banner at the bottom, which contains the text 'AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY' in a smaller, white font.

9th Year

April 14, 1980

Number 15



ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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REPORT

MAGIC FANTASY HOLIDAY

... by Maddy Sink

On tour with the "Magic Fantasy Holiday" show produced and operated by Willene and Ron Bacon are:

Joe Smiley, performance director and ringmaster; Don Phillips & Co., unicycles; Joe and Georgia Smiley, magic and illusions; Pop Corn, circus comic and leading clown presenting his "Great Stratavario Violin" routine; Miss Betsy and her comedy dog act; Don, Carol and Dianna Phillips, comedy bicycles; Joe Smiley, magic; Pop Corn, the circus comic; Yoxall's Barnyard Revue with pigs, goats and ponies.

The show's musical director is Dave Miller, organist; Donald Yoxall is animal supt.; Maddy Sink, is concession manager and Lex Yoxall is the show manager. Promotional agents are Harry Crouk and David Ashley.

Miscellaneous

BENEFIT SHOW

The Albany (Calif) Firefighters Association were sponsors of a Variety Show presented at the Albany High School Gym on March 8th. Two performances were given.

The program featured: Bobby Clark, magic; Kristavo, juggler; Wally Lee, magic/illusions; The Great Jacks, wire and dog act; The Weller Family, balancing act and Wally Lee's substitution trunk mystery.

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In Memoriam

GERONIMO ALTAMIRANO (113) who claimed to be the foster son of the famed Apache war chief Geronimo, died of a heart attack on March 25th. He was reportedly Arizona's oldest resident.

HILDA EMMA SCHNIEDER (72) known professionally as "Daisy Doll" and a member of the famous midget family, died of a heart attack at a Sarasota, Fla., hospital last month. A native of Germany, she came to the U. S. in 1922 and had toured with Ringling-Barnum for 40 years. Survivors include her brothers Harry and Max, and sisters, Tiny, Dorothy and Rose Marie.

LEIF OLAF WIREBJER-WIRENGARD, a resident of Tampa, Fla., since 1971, died recently. He was a native of Sweden and was in business with his father, retired performer Ossian Wirengard, as a machinist. He built rigging and many props for performers in the entertainment business.

On The Cover

This week's cover picture, painted in water color by Robert B. Johnson, is titled "The Menagerie". It shows a portion of the bull line, with the hippo cage on the right. The original picture was cropped for use in Circus Report.

Good Canvasman

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REPORT**ANTIOCH SHRINE CIRCUS**

... by Don Sandman

The Antioch Shrine Circus for 1980 opened at Dayton, Ohio, with a full house. The show was produced by the Hubert Castle Circus.

While the people entered the arena, before the performance, Clown Alley, consisting of Carl "The Professor" Gray, John Townsend, Fred Yonker, Tony, and Wimpey entertained everyone and Robert Collins played a calliope concert.

Circus bandmaster Les Schlafman led the Shrine Circus Band in the overture and Equestrian Director Jon Friday blew the whistle to start the program. Potentate John W. Shimer lead the parade of circus performers.

The performance then ran as follows: The Rodrigues Troupe, aerial bars; Clowns; Larry Allen Dean, 7 tigers, 3 lions; Clowns, Levitation; Karen, Diane, Angeline, Elizabeth, Kathleen, webs; Olmedas and Antonios, cycling stars; Howath's chimps (3); Amazing Alain, sword balance on slant wire; The Elkardis, hair hangs; The Diano elephants presented by Lee and Jeanette Keener; Intermission; The Flying Aztecas, doing a triple; Clowns, Long Shirt and Musical Ghost; The Roberts and The Ciminis, aerial cradle; the Olmedas, Spanish Horse Fantasy; The Gasperys, table antics; The Dielkas Sisters, rolling globes; Clowns on the track; The Oscarians, risley; The Kolmedys, head-to-head balancing; The Torinos, juggling; Les Block, high wire.

MAIL

The Post Office has been returning mail addressed to the following people, saying that they can no longer deliver it as addressed.

Dolores Coronado
Marlene Bradbury

Wally Bickmore
Brian McMillan

performance**SPECIAL PROGRAM**

Bill Kormpates produced a special program for the Innsbrook Tarpon Springs Country Club in Florida early last month. The event was for the Edward H. DeBartini Corp.

Acts featured were: Jo Ann Jennier, trapeze; Pedro Morales, Jr., foot juggler; Danny Chapman, clown and dogs, plus magic; Robert Jerome (Sad Sack), clown who did make up for the bartenders and waitresses. Also appearing at the event were two gorillas, Smokey the Bear and Peter Rabbit who did walk-throughs with the audience.

SPORTS AND RV SHOW

Acts appearing at the annual Sports and RV Show in Dallas, Texas, March 16-23 were: Dondi, the elephant; The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters; Diana, foot juggler and Melody Bruno, swaypole.

PEOPLE

GEORGE HUBLER, PHIL and LINDA CHANDLER, JAKE CONOVER and GRACE and DON SANDMAN were among those seen visiting the Hubert Castle Circus in Dayton, Ohio.

BOB COOK, who provides stock for rodeos and produces his own shows, reports he is planning a western show which will include rope spinning in addition to the usual rodeo features.

PHIL and LINDA CHANDLER spent a few days at home before joining the Carson & Barnes Circus for the 1980 season.

Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus
Apr. 14-15 Jacksonville, NC

Carden-Johnson Circus
Apr. 14 Ironjaw, Mich.
15 Houghton
16-17 Marquette
18 Iron Mountain
19 Menomee
20 Escanaba

Carden-Johnson Circus
Apr. 17-18 St. Petersburg, Fla.
17-19 Eaco, Texas
18-20 Duluth, Minn.
19-20 Tampa, Fla.

Hubert Castle Circus
Apr. 15 Hurnon, SD
17-19 Sioux Falls
20 Watertown

Circus Vargas
Apr. 11-14 Oxnard, Calif.
15-17 Long Beach
18-23 Commerce

Fiesta de Circo
Apr. 14 Tracy, Calif.
15 Auburn
16 Grass Valley
17 Anderson
18 Oroville
19 McClellan AFB
20 Clear Lake Oaks

Hamid-Morton Circus
Apr. 14-20 Harrisburg, Pa.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Apr. 14 Douglas, Ga.
15 Tifton
16 Ashburn
17 Thomasville
18 Dothan, Ala.
19 Americus, Ga.
20 Warner Robbins

Kaye Cont'l Circus
Apr. 17-20 Wichita, Kans.

Hubler Int'l Circus
Apr. 14 Prestonburg, Ky
15 Corbin
16 Middleboro
17 Somerset
18 Frankfort
19-20 Lexington
19-20 Amarillo, Texas

M & M Circus
Apr. 15-20 Omaha, Nebr.

Wayne McCary's Circus
Apr. 18-19 Lewiston, Me.

Sam T. Polack Circus
Apr. 17-20 Canton, Ohio

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to June 1 New York, NY

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit
Apr. 16-20 Cincinnati, Ohio

Roberts Bros. Circus
Apr. 14 Live Oak, Fla.

Royal Hanneford Circus
Apr. 4-12 Marietta, Ga.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Apr. 14 Oberlin, Ohio
15 Cleveland
16 Buffalo, NY
17 Rochester
18 Genesco

Swan Bros. Circus
Apr. 7-20 Blythe, Calif.

---- MAGIC ----

Berwin & Brewster
Apr. 14-19 Dyersburg, Tenn

Blackstone Magic Show
to Apr. 27 Boston, Mass.

Prf. Miller's Magic Time USA
Apr. 14 Barnesboro, Pa.
15 Brookville
16 Punxsatowney

Felix Snipes - Magic/ESP
Apr. 18-19 Richmond, Va.

---- OTHER DATES ----

Anthony's Horses
Apr. 17-20 Wichita, Kans.

Babes in Toyland
Apr. 14-15 Gainesville, Ga.
17 Normal, Ill.
18 Carbondale

Billy Burr's Fun-O-Rama
Apr. 14-19 Cranston, R.I.

James H. Drew Exposition
Apr. 14-20 Winston-Salem, NC

Firemen's Muster
Apr. 19-20 Pomona, Calif.

Tony Fossett Family
Apr. 18-20 Staten Island, NY

Gund Western Collection
to Apr. 20 Fresno, Calif.

Gutis Family - Jungle Parody
Apr. 18-19 Lewiston, Me.

Hall's African Baboons
Apr. 17-20 Wichita, Kans.

Hall & Christ World Attractions
Apr. 18-27 San Antonio, Tex.

Kaye's Hollywood Elephants
Apr. 15 Huron, SD
17-19 Sioux Falls
20 Watertown

The Kursawes - Bicycle act
Apr. 15-20 Omaha, Nebr.

Rick Legg - Clown
Apr. 15-20 Omaha, Nebr.

Los Latinos - Wire Act
Apr. 18-20 Amarillo, Texas

John MacKay - Clown
Apr. 17-20 Wichita, Kans.

Rolling Diaminds - skaters
Apr. 18-19 Lewiston, Me.



IN MARCH, CLIFF VARGAS announced the appointment of new executives to the management team of that giant tenter. GARY GEWENIGER, field marketing director for CV for ten years, is now Vice President and Director of Advertising. JERRY DIGNEY, former Director of Publicity and Public Relations for RBBB, Holiday on Ice, Follies and Beatty-Cole, also with Solters & Roskin Public Relations (NY) is now the CV Director of Public Relations. Returning to the fold after a three year absence is DOUG LYON, at the moment in charge of DOUG HENNING PRODUCTIONS. He will serve as Vice President of "special projects" on a consulting basis.

CLOSEUPS: BARBARA VAN VOORDEN who celebrated her 21st birthday at the Medina Temple Shrine Circus will tour solo under the name BARBARA VAN. Rumors are the young beauty will be headed to Europe soon. . . SAM T. POLACK's Pine Bluff (ark) date broke records. The latest in a string of record breaking winter dates, a trend I hope continues. On the other hand a severe blizzard and snow plow strike hurt attendance in Montreal during the Garden show's early run. Biz turned to packed houses and turn aways on the weekend, once the customers could get through the snow. . . WAZZAN FAMILY in South America with the Yabba Dabba Doo Show until late Nov. . . TOMMY HANNEFORD will not set down in a park this summer but will continue to tour Royal Hanneford - mostly fairs. . . New Producer ED MIGLEY has lined up a strong show for the Cape Cod Shrine dates, among those acts signed are Lilli-Ana, the Rodriquez Troupe, Tony Diano elephants, Mister Sensation, Johnny Zoppe, Davide Zoppe, Janet and Frank Burger. The circus will feature several major productions, including a mechanized and electric spec. . . CHARLEY VAN BUSKIRK, playing Circus Odyssey for the first time, was flabbergasted by the gorgeous layout and lighting effects carried by a show that can aptly be called "America's Circus Beautiful". He said I can quote his remark that in all his years of unicycle riding it was the most "satisfying" circus date he had ever played. Charley and Joyce made the Decatur date for Hubler, went to St. Paul for Garden, after which they crossed the country to the Maine dates. . . A surprise visitor during the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus date at Burlington

(Vt) Mar. 22 was clown BERT DANIELS, now retired, who suffered a stroke a year ago but who has recovered from the after effects. Bert lives on a farm about 22 miles south of Burlington . . . The GREAT ERIC, high wire, is in the opening scenes of "All That Jazz". His wife KATHY was the "un-sung" heroine of the date when she stood by the organist, turned pages, kept the music going. A local trio of musicians "cut" the show (or maybe I should say "hacked" the show and had it not been for Kathy, God only knows WHAT the music might have sounded like! As it was it wasn't all that great. . . LEONARD GREEN moved from Ft. Lauderdale to Beverly Hills. . . Emmett and Nancy drove from Yucca Valley (Cal) to Burlington - now THAT'S a jump. . . Nancy's mother has recovered from a recent operation we are happy to hear. . . Youngstown (O) CFA'r JIM BANKS writes he caught the Beatty Florida opening, marred by a tragic accident to EDNA ANTES who fell and fractured her leg. Banks says he never saw the Beatty show looking better with many new faces (it's about time) and an excellent performance with crackerjack bandleader RUSSELL DARR wielding the baton. . . JIMMY DOUGLASS also reports the show is good, that the clown numbers (under the direction of JIMMY JAMES, also the announcer) are first rate. A 3rd Okay on the show comes from AL and SUE DAWLEY. . . The OBANDOS will tour the season with TNT/Olympic. CAROL is back in the comedy low wire act. . . Talent line up for Burlington included the Weldons, Marcelli & Janis, Cimse's Dogs, Mister Sensation, Great Eric, Merrill the Magician, plus the Cyclonians, and Emmett and Nancy. . . Talent lineup for Oeonta (NY) included the Gutis, the Cyclonians, Frank's tigers, Cimse's dogs, Scalzo & Co., Mister Sensation, Kosco & Co (clowns), Carol and Carlos Obando with Stanley Friedburg handling the professional three piece band (trumpet and drums). . . RUDY SILLS (Cimse's Dogs) has updated his always flashy act with a sensational lighted ladder for his high dive dog. . . DAVIDE ZOPPE has also equipped wife SUSAN's act with outstanding new special effects. Both acts will appear at the Circus Odyssey date in Cape Cod and it should be a beautiful number. . . Okay! whazzsis I hear about BILL STRONG usurping my dressing room niche on Garden

(Continued on Page 26)

SPECIAL**NEW ARRIVAL**

William and Jeanne Reynolds are the parents of a baby girl - Mariel Lynn - born on Feb. 1st. William is the bandleader with Carson & Barnes, and Jeanne sells banners.

REPORT**CIRCUS TIME**

A show called "Circus Time" was produced by the Amandis Entertainment Agency, and presented at the Don Cesar Hotel in St. Petersburg, Fla. on March 26th.

Personnel on the show included: Leo Mascitto, band leader; Dieter Tasso, ringmaster; Danny Chapman and Co Co, Jr., clowns; The Almiros, plate spinning; The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters; Sir Robert, illusionist; The Odd Family, comedy; Miss Diana, foot juggler; Rudy Delmonte, contortion; Dieter Tasso, juggler; The Vickinas, risley/teeterboard and the William Morris elephants.

FRANZEN BROS. CIRCUS

This year Franzen Bros. Circus is offering several new features and its roster lists several new people as part of its program.

Lynne Michaels, is the show organist; Charlie "Shorty" Jackson is the drummer; Dennis Michaels is producing clown, assisted by Fred Fenicum. Curtis Cainan has a new three people revolving ladder act, plus his dogs and wire act, and Brian and Tina Grieser are featured on the trapeze.

The show has a 12 liberty pony act, plus a tiger that rides an elephant and several other animal acts.

All new red and white canvas has been scheduled for delivery about May 1st.

CIRCUS QUIPS

. . . by KARL J. BISCHOFF

IF YOU SHOULD FIND MISTAKES in this column, consider that they are there for a reason, we try to pleez everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.

FOR SOME PUBLICITY MEN the man in the moon isn't half as interesting as the girl in the sun.

FACT! - SMILE - you can do very little with it but you can do much less without it.

COULD IT BE for some promotional people, it isn't the high cost of living but simply the cost of living high?

SUCCESS in show business often lies on the far side of failure.

in the NEWS

The New York City Health Dept. slapped a summons on the swank new Magique disco for allowing a horse to perform on the premises.

"It's a violation of the health code to permit live animals in food establishments," says Dr. R. A. Ferrer, the city's health commissioner.

Health inspectors also hit the disco on Manhattan's upper East Side, with a summons for operating without a valid license.

Health authorities were alerted by a newspaper photograph that depicted scantily clad Cheryl Rixon, the Penthouse Pet of the Year, astride a white horse in the disco.

Ferrer says he frequently receives complaints that some discos are featuring lions, tigers and other animals in performances.

WATCH FOR

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Show Report

SHRINE CIRCUS ... by Josette Massue

The Karnak Temple 40th Annual Shrine Circus was presented at the Montreal Forum, March 13-16, and was produced by Garden Bros. It was heavily promoted with plenty of feature stories appearing in the local French and English newspapers.

Acts featured were: Lilli-Ana, leopards; The Winn Bros., high wire; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Powell's Ponys; Trudy's Dalmations; An aerial number with Miss Illona; Princess Tanya, gorilla parody; Johnny Laddie, unsupported ladders; The Ricardos; Michael & Co.; Clowns Rumpy and Smiley Daily, Jr; The Flying Lanes; Intermission; The Pirates of the Sky; Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; The Canestrellis; the Cyclonians; The Borsky; The Astros; Gee Gee's Elephants, presented by Roy and Patricia Wells and The Quassars.

Music was under the direction of Charles Schlarbaum. Acts were introduced in English by Ian Garden and in French by Pierre Jean, formerly with the Gatini Circus and from Paris. He is presently a host of a TV Circus program that features many European acts. Also filling in as announcer was Giovanni Iuliani.

MAGIC SHOW

Al DeLage will again be producing the annual Magic Show for the Lions Club in Linden, N.J. which is scheduled for May 16th.

Already booked for the show are: Jay Jaye's Punch and Judy Revue; Al Hillman, The Funny Bar Fly; Jack Adams, The Merlin of Magic; De Mattiazzi's Wonderful Dolls; Al DeLage, magic and novelty and George Schindler & Co., comedy magic.

Will Trade

Circus Paper, Cards, Programs, etc. for Wild West Items, Route Cards, etc., for Young Buffalo, Texas Bill, Pawnee Bill, ('01-'08), Oklahoma Ranch, Jones Bros Buffalo Ranch, Indian Pete IXL W. N. 1914, Cummings W.W. 1906, B. Bill '83-'08, Allen Bros. 29-34, Miller Bros. '08-'15.

FRANK POUSKA

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MAILBAG

... from Mrs. A. M. Crandall

It is time to phase out zoos. Zoos are as antiquated as medicine-man shows and kerosene lamps. Children no longer have to visit zoos to see exotic animals. They can watch animals in the comfort of their living rooms thanks to television.

We cannot dispose of our captive animals; they are our responsibility. However, if we keep their living quarters clean, feed them well; time will resolve the problem.

I hope I live long enough to learn that it is illegal to import or breed exotic animals for zoos, circuses, movies or any other form of "entertainment." Then I will know the human race is progressing, and not regressing.



SANTANY, magician, has left the famed Tihany show after eight years to open his own show in Argentina.

DYER M. REYNOLDS (Ichabod) well known circus and clown artist, is in serious condition due to health problems. His address is: 571 So. Coronado Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90057. He informed Eddie Howe recently that he will be "hanging it all up very soon" because of his ill health.

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Acts

Feb. 22-24 - Garden Bros. Circus at the Toronto Maple Leaf Gardens - Acts were: Smiley Daly, clown; Charles Schlarbaum, musical director; TV Stars; Eddie Schmitt, tigers; Winn Bros., wire; Trudy's Dalmations; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Rex Horton's Bears; Web number, with Billy Barton starring on cloud swing; Princess Tanya; Laddie Family, unsupported ladders; The Ricardo's; Michael & Co.; Rumpy, comedy; The Flying Lanes; Fairyland spec; Powell's Ponies; Barbara's animals; Pirates of the Sky; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; Rumpy; The Cyclonians, cycles; The Canestrellis, The Bruski; Astros; King's elephants; Gee Gee's elephants; The Quassars.

Feb. 29-Mar. 2 - George Hubler Circus at Buffalo, NY - Acts were: Boom Boom Browning, musical director; Rev. Austin Miles, ringmaster; Jorge Barrera, lions; Vashek, high wire; Happy Dave, comedy car; The Charlies, The Olmedas; Poncho; Clowns; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Trudy's Dalmations; The Super Lokos, comedy act; Lou Ann Jacobs, aerialist; The Olmeda's horses; Clowns; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; Jose-lito on high wire; Davide Laddie Family, unsupported ladders; Olmedas, juggling; Karina's trampoline; The Gutis Family, Jungle parody; the Flying Valencias; Clowns; Diano elephants and The Quassars.

March 8-9 - Bill Kay Circus at Albany, NY - Bill Pruy, musical director; Schmitt's tigers; The Onecos; Clowns; Miss Lisa, trapeze; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Clowns; Cook's Comedy car; The Flying Lanes; Clowns; Davide Laddie, unsupported ladders; The Gutis Family, jungle parody; Clowns; Roman Schmitt, elephants; the Clowns; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys.

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SPECIAL

NEW ARRIVAL

Gerard and Mary Jo Zerbini are parents of a baby girl — Salonge Leonelda Anna — born Feb. 2nd, and weighing in at 7 lbs. 12½ ozs. The youngsters grand parents are Fred and Ora Logan of the Beatty-Cole Circus.

WEDDING

Michele Marie Pelegrin and DeWayne Lee Pittenger, both of Sarasota, were married in that city on Feb. 16th. Michele is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Pelegrin and DeWayne is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pittenger and is the catcher with the flying act on the Beatty-Cole Circus.

March 13-16 - Garden Bros. Circus at the Montreal Forum - Pierr Jean and Ian Garden, ringmasters; John Daly, clown; Charles Schlarbaum, musical director; Eddie Schmitt, tigers; Winn Bros. on high wire; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Trudy's dogs; Web Number; Princess Tanja, gorilla parody; The Laddie Family, unsupported ladders; Riccardo's wire; Michael & Co.; The Flying Lanes; The Bruski, juggling; the Canestrellis; Pirates of the Sky; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; The Cyclonians; The Canestrellis, teeterboard; the Bruski, ladder; The Astros; Gee Gee's elephants; The Quassars, Finale.

JACK KING SEZ

I noticed in the March 17th issue of Circus Report that the writer of an article said all the baggy pants comedians are gone. Wrong!

For a fact, just to mention a few Everett Lawson is alive and living in Chattanooga, Tenn. Then there is Irv Benson who is working Vegas. Lou Ascol just closed with the Minsky revue and last but certainly not least Jack King is very much alive and active in the business.

True, most of us think of Jack King as a bandleader and organist but for the records, Jack was not only in burlesque as a feature comic but had been in vaudeville.

Let us not forget that vaudeville did not die until the late 50's. Jack left Broadway to come into burlesk. He was singing the lead in "Up In Arms"

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When it closed he opened at the Alvin Theatre in Minneapolis. It might further be said that although Jack is working as contracting agent for Ray Winder, and when need be he manages the phone rooms for the Atlantic Southern Productions. It doesn't all end there.

Mike Martin and Jack are dickering for the job on the Caribbean ships as comedy stars. Jack says he is as capable as he ever was and still just as funny and will prove that this coming fall when he will once again dazzle audiences with his comedy and with the support of Mike Martin, acting as straight man.

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REPORT

SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS TAX

by Mike Feely - Reprinted from the SarasotaHerald-Tribune of March 25, 1980.

Sarasota County may gain \$200,000 in taxes as a result of a U. S. Supreme Court ruling upholding the property value assessed against Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows.

The Supreme Court, in refusing by a 6-3 vote to hear arguments in the case, left intact a decision by Florida courts which ordered the circus to pay full taxes on its touring property in Venice.

The ruling was a personal victory for County Property Appraiser John Mikos, who since 1972 based his yearly assessments on 100 per cent of the value of animals and equipment used on circus tours.

Mikos assessed the property value at about \$2 million. Ringling lawyers contested the assessment, claiming the tax should be lowered because the property is kept in Venice for only 30 to 80 days per year.

Ringling claimed it owed only \$9 a year in local taxes on its touring property. Mikos' assessment would result in approximately \$20,000 in annual taxes.

If Mikos claim to nine years in back taxes is supported by the Florida Department of Revenue, the county stands to gain close to \$200,000.

"I am elated," Mikos exclaimed when informed of the Supreme Court decision. "Oh, I am tickled. The small man still has a chance."

Mikos has been fighting for the 100 percent assessment since his first year as county appraiser in 1971. The county agreed to settle out of court that year, but Mikos decided in 1972 to stand by his original appraisal.

Ringling's corporate offices are located in Washington, DC, but each of the circus' two touring units spends 30 to 80 days each year in Venice.

The circus keeps some equipment and animals in Venice year-round and the tax on the full value of that property was not challenged.

Ringling attorneys, however, contested tax bills for 1972 through 1976 based on the full value of touring property, such as animals, railroad cars, cages, wagons, tractors and tents.

They argued items of touring property were "instrumentalities of interstate commerce" and should be taxed on a basis that reflects the amount of time the property is in the county.

Mikos' attorney John Dent pointed out that Ringling's touring property is not taxed in any of 48 states and that the equipment and vehicles are licensed in Sarasota County.

The 2nd District Court of Appeals in Lakeland upheld a lower court decision affirming Mikos' assessment. The touring property, said the appeals court, enjoys state protection and is outside the "stream of commerce" which would exempt it from local taxes.

The Florida Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal. At the Supreme Court in Washington, only Justices Harry Blackmun, Byron White and John Paul Stevens voted to hear the arguments.

Mikos reaped praise on Dent, who guided the lower court decision through appeals. "He did a hell of a job for us," said the property appraiser.

One more obstacle stands between Mikos and the Ringling tax money. The state Department of Revenue has declared the circus touring units a private car line, which exempts them from the 100 per cent assessment.

State officials, however, refused to approve the Sarasota County tax roll unless Mikos agreed. Mikos agreed, but later filed suit against the Department of Revenue.

Mikos, however, was confident the suit would be settled equitably following the Supreme Court decision.

While he estimated the annual tax moneys at \$20,000 Mikos noted, "It may be more."

Tangible personal property is self-assessed. The assessment provided by the circus may be challenged by Mikos.

Meanwhile, Mikos has been studying the circus, he visits the circus grounds each New Years Day when both traveling units return to Venice.

He even sought from officials at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, he said, "the value of an elephant."

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PEOPLE

DAVE PERCY has joined Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA show as stage manager. He reports the show has been doing excellent business in its early tour dates.

EDDIE HOWE, former circus advance man, just completed a seven month assignment as advance press agent for the film "Apocalypse Now."

JOHN and **HERTA CUNEO**, **JOE SHERMAN**, **JOYCE** and **AL VIDBEL**, **RON KELROY** and **DOTTIE WINN** recently visited the Carden-Johnson Circus.

DICK OSLUND, working advance for the **KRAMIEN Magic Show** plans to play fair dates with his own magic show during the summer months

WALLY NAGHTIN

WALLY NAGHTIN, of the Ringling Red Unit, has just finished building a new 33 ft. trailer for his trained bears.

HAP DAVIS sprained his ankle and foot during a performance of the Carden-Johnson Circus at Milwaukee, doing a brandy from the trampoline to the floor. He taped up the foot and ankle and didn't miss a performance.

JOHN HERRIOTT appeared as a guest performer with the Royal Hanneford Circus when he

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visited that show on March 25th.

TONY DIANO, and Mr. and Mrs. **BILL GALLOWAY** visited the Shrine Circus held in Buffalo (NY) this past month.

DENNIS and **LYNN MICHAELS** are touring on Franzen Bros. Circus. Dennis is boss clown and Lynn plays the organ and does the announcing.

SHARON WARD, former show girl with the Royal Hanneford Circus, is now touring with the Ringling Red Unit.

AL DAWLEY, ringmaster, was made an Honorary Member of the Damascus Temple during a circus performance at Rochester, NY.

MEL HALL visited the Kelly Bros. Circus when that show played Lumberton, Texas, on Mar. 29

FRANK DEAN broke his own rope spinning record when he appeared at the Guinness Museum in San Francisco last month. Just prior to the San Francisco appearance he conducted a rope spinning school in Elko, Nevada.

WASHINGTON TUBBS II



MAILBAG

... by William Wotsch

One year when the Ice Follies came to our Cleveland Arena they had a live horse that pulled a carriage in one of their production numbers. This horse had special shoes which enabled him to walk on the ice.

In the number the horse and carriage came out and some boys and girls skaters would get into the carriage and then they waved to the audience as they went around the ice. The people watching always enjoyed it.

Once backstage the horse would be unhitched and then led across a long rubber matting to his stall. This was way back in one of our tunnels. One night after everyone had left, except the cleaning crews, I was late in leaving and stopped to talk to some of the crew. Somebody said 'hey look, the horse is coming out from backstage.' Sure enough, there was the horse, walking the same route he did for each performance. This time in front of empty seats.

We watched surprised. Finally I said we'd best get the horse back to his stall. Then he saw us and layed down on the ice and no matter how much we coaxed or pleaded he wouldn't budge. Finally, I called the hotel where the show was staying, in downtown Cleveland, and got hold

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of the stage manager and told him about a ur big problem. He got some of the show fellows and they came down to the building, finally they got the horse up and back to his stall.

The horse had worked the tie-rope loose and then wandered out for a solo performance of his own.

PEOPLE

MARK ANTHONY, popular clown and a former member of the Ringling-Barnum Clown Alley was producing clown with Royal Hanneford Circus in Detroit.

By Crane



ANTS FOUGHT ELEPHANTS

The shrill scream of a woman in mortal terror woke plantation owner Athol Cavendish from a troubled sleep.

He lifted his mosquito net and listened. The screaming continued, but there was another sound, coming from everywhere - above, below and around him,

A rustling crackling sound made by the steady tramping of a million tiny feet - driver ants!

Cavendish leaped from his bed and rushed from the room. On the verandah a native woman, his cook, was screaming madly and beating the air.

The ants were all over her, biting viciously, crawling into her mouth, her ears, her nostrils. The ants had claimed her for the death of millions of bites. In a few minutes they would pick her bones clean of flesh.

Cavendish acted quickly and with extreme personal bravery. Without hesitating, he rushed forward and grabbed the girl in his arms.

A hundred yards away was his only hope - the river. Would he reach it before the ants got to his eyes?

His lungs bursting, his arms aching from his screaming, struggling burden, he stumbled to the steep bank and collapsed into the muddy stream.

In the swirling waters the ants, one by one, lost their grip and floated away. Cavendish - and the native girl - lived to tell the tale.

They were lucky. For the dreaded driver ants of Africa seldom release a prey, however big, once they have it in the grip of a million hungry jaws.

This tiny creature - barely half an inch long - is the Terror of the Jungle, and when the Ant Army is on the march nothing stands in its way.

Even the mighty elephant, with its thick, tough hide, flees in panic when the ants are marching.

The driver ants are nomads. Their armies are forever on the march. They will eat any meat, human or animal, dead or alive.

During their marches any living thing that cannot get out of their way is doomed. A full grown caged leopard in a South African Zoo was killed by them and picked clean in a single night.

When the ants attack a human dwelling they work in eerie silence, broken only by the faint rustle of a million tiny feet, the steady champ-
inn of a million tiny jaws.

They invade at dead of night, and before the sleeping humans know it they have taken over the whole place. Methodically, they search every hole and corner for meat, living or dead.

They will not, however, attack a sleeping person haphazardly. They act like a real army. A million ants gather over him and wait for the "command" before plunging their nippers into his flesh tearing it away.

Driver ants have, in addition to ordinary males and females, three working types.

The soldiers are about half an inch long, with a head and pincers as big as the rest of their bodies. They seem to be the brains of the organization and organize the marches and lead attacks.

Another type is about a quarter-inch long, with the important duty of tearing the flesh from living prey. It cannot tear out such large chunks as the first type, but does not do badly.

Little ants which act chiefly as porters, make up the third type.

The queen of the driver ants looks just like a cylinder. A head, thorax, and legs are tacked on at one end just as a bit of skin is often left at the end of a sausage. She is at least two inches long, bloated, and eyeless.

Since driver ants are killed by sunlight or even strong diffuse light, the army usually halts before dawn on a fine day and shelters until evening, but on dull days the march goes on. Often, to get over streams, the ants form a living bridge and though thousands die in the crossing millions more go on.

To compensate a little for the havoc wrecked by the driver ants, the natives have put them to a strange use.

Should a native cut himself badly, ants are made to bite into the wound so that the pincers hold together the two edges of the cut like a surgeon's stitches. The bodies are then cut off and the rows of ant heads, which pincers which never unclasp, helps the cut heal properly.



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PEOPLE

RED SKELTON will star in a pay TV film called "Red Skelton's Funny Faces", which will feature most of his regular comedy characters.

MORGAN BERRY and his elephants were the subject of a special feature in the March 1980 issue of Life magazine.

SLIM PICKENS, was featured in a TV End of the Week Special called "The Winged Colt" aired on April 5th.

JOEY JORDAN, skating juggler, will soon star in his own show "Fantasy Follies" at the Orpheum Theatre in New York.

MARK WILSON, magician, made a guest appearance on the Mike Douglas TV show the afternoon of April 9th.

GEORGE C. BINGAMAN spent three months in Florida where he visited friends on both of the RBBB units and was able to watch their rehearsals for the 1980 season.

ARTURO TROSTL was the subject of a special article, which included a color photo, appearing in the Tampa (Fla) Tribune on Feb. 10th. Arturo walks a wire across a pirate ship during the an-

nual Gasparillo celebration there.

RON and JOY HOLIDAY have signed a 5 year contract with a new agent, effective late this year. They played Youngstown, Ohio, on Mar. 18-23 and then flew to Hollywood for an appearance on TV's "The Big Show."

PAT GRAHAM, former circus owner and now a unit manager with Foley & Burk sends his best wishes to the Copelands in Florida.

PETE LUVAS and his African elephant "Kenya" played a San Antonio, Texas, date on March 26, for the opening of a new strip palace.

FRANK DEAN and JOHN HERRIOTT will be featured in a special show produced by the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC for April 25-27.

BILL BURGER visited the John Strong Circus at Fallbrook, Calif., and he reports he received a "real warm" welcome. Bill may go back with the show in June.

PAUL HORSMAN writes that his model circus is set up in the cellar of his home in Auburn, N. Y. and visitors are always welcome. Recent visitors included JOE and Mrs. MYERS, with Roberts Bros. Circus, AL STENCELL, of Martin & Downs and his office manager LARRY SHEL-LON.



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... by LLOYD E. JONES

There are several low priced magic books such as "50 Modern Card Tricks" that you can do without skill and sleight of hand. This book was written to replace a "no sleight - impromptu book" that had been standard for years, but required prepared cards, stacked decks and even sleight of hand. Despite inflation and a reprinting inside of two years, the price is a low \$3.00. Master a few and you are ready to perform, at any time with any deck. Printed in a 5½ x 8½ size with a softboard cover, it is illustrated.

The success of this book has led to a second volume "50 More Modern Card Tricks You Can Do" and it is priced at \$4.00. Published in 1979, this new one and the first one gives you one hundred tricks to present, once the details are mastered.

Air Mail for either one would run 54c, while surface parcel post charges are 59c. Both books are type set and soft covered.

Another bargain card book is a big 8½ x 11 in. with art cover and 48 pages of tricks, fully illustrated. It is titled "Popular Card Tricks" and was written by famed magical author Walter B. Gibson. It has an interesting history, which is on the opening page. These are great tricks and included are the first use of the "one way" deck principle. Still low priced and a standard item at magic shops, it sells for \$3.50, postage on this is 59c.

Often one can find a book at a bargain price, especially those which are published by major concerns, offered to the public, and after the sales stop, are dumped on the market. One such book and a good one is "Magic in Mind" written by popular magical author Bill Severin. It was first issued in 1974 at \$6.95, now, it is available for \$3.49 (postage 59c). Hard bound with a wrap-per it is 5½ x 8½ with 127 pages and illustrated. There are about two dozen tricks requiring no difficult to make or prepared equipment. With the current great interest in mental magic this is a good buy.

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in the **NEWS**

ELEPHANTS GOING TO AFRICA

(An AP story reprinted from the Seattle, Wash. Times of March 17, 1980).

Can three "orphaned" elephants from Woodland, Wash., with years of circus experience find happiness in the wilds of their native Kenya?

Stay tuned later this year when the answer will be filmed by ABC Sports.

The man behind the unusual adventure is Randall Moore, 28, who is training the three animals on a two-acre pasture outside of Brownsville, Texas, on the Mexican border.

The Brownsville Herald discovered the project when someone called and asked "How would you like to wake up and see three elephants in your backyard?"

Moore had worked with the African elephants before the death of their original owner and trainer, Morgan Berry, seven months ago in Woodland.

Berry's body was found next to an Asian bull elephant he had raised since it was a year old.

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"It was questionable whether he was killed or died of a heart attack," Moore said.

Berry's family decided to sell the nine elephants at the farm, but Moore desperately tried to raise money to keep them together.

He contacted Shana Alexander, who had written a story 17 years ago for Life magazine about Berry. She wrote the article "For The Love of Elephants" which appears in the March 1980 issue of that magazine.

A benefit concert was planned. But the family insisted it had to sell the grey giants.

The three African elephants were bound for a zoo in Colombia, South America, when Moore called ABC Sports. The network agreed to finance the project of returning the animals to Africa.

Before attempting their release in the East Tsavo National Park of Kenya, Moore and an assistant hope to ride the pachyderms into wild herds of animals.

"It's all very speculative. It'll be a trial-and-error thing, and it might not be possible to release them at all," Moore said.

African elephants, distinguished from their Asian cousins by larger ears, are more difficult to train. Moore's three charges once performed in a rare all-African elephant circus act.

Male elephants of both species sometimes go through periods of being hard to control and are apt to turn on people who have reared them says Moore.

"The first time I got up on one of them, I was really scared. I'm doing better now, but I'm still scared of them. Anyone that isn't is a fool. That's the way you get killed," said Moore's assistant, Fred Vince.

Moore and Vince will leave April 28th for Houston with the animals, where the troupe will be leaving by ship for Kenya, two days later.

If the return to the wild fails, Moore says, perhaps the animals could be used to take tourists on safaris.

"I would much rather see them free because, personally, I don't want to spend the rest of my life chasing around Africa with them," he said.

Miscellaneous

The Philip Morris World of Fantasy players open their 1980 season on April 12th at Selma, Ala. The tour will run 30 weeks and will include some 18 days in Canada.

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PEOPLE

JOE VIA has joined the Carden-Johnson Circus (No. 2 Unit) and is presenting the 8 male lion act. He replaces Lawrence Grant on that show.

CARY GRANT presented the "Magician of the Year" award to DAVID COPPERFIELD at the annual Awards program in Los Angeles.

GLEN and ETHEL HENRY, and DALE and BOOTS MADDEN visited the Carden-Johnson Circus at Ardmore, Okla.

in the NEWS**HIPPODROME GOING**

The Hippodrome Theatre building in Cleveland (Ohio) is going to be torn down because no one has come up with a plan to reduce its operating costs. The historic theatre was built 73 years ago and is to be torn down to make way for a 173 car parking lot.

The land on which the theatre sits is owned by Judge Alvin Krenzle and the building is managed by Anthony Babin, son of a local real estate developer and agent.

It costs \$85,000 a year to keep the building heated, Babin said. The building has not been used above the second floor for the past 10 years.

The building's 1,500 seat theatre was heralded as a wonder when it opened in 1907. The stage is 130 feet wide and 104 feet deep. It is equipped with a hydraulic lift, a 450,000 gallon water tank and a treadmill so horses could gallop before the audience.

Later the theatre was filled with movie crowds who were treated to deep carpets and a flashy marquee.

FROM GATINI WORKERS AND OWNERS

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- P. S. Hope you understand -

PEOPLE

PAPA WENDAY just celebrated his 73rd birthday. He is featured in the Funs-A-Poppin Circus with his trained dog act. Daughter **HEIDI** celebrated her 22nd birthday and just recently had her animal acts with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus.

GINA and **PETE MACHALLECK**, of Sarasota, are the two children who jump five stories off the "Death Ship" in a new movie now opening in theatres across the country.

F. A. (Babe) BOUDINOT, former RBBB general agent, lives in Chicago and also maintains a home in Florida. On occasion he works with a stage show in Chicago.

ED FREEMAN recently worked several club dates in Iowa for a feed company, presenting his magic show. Ed also works advance for the Franzen Bros. Circus.

F. BEVERLY KELLEY, former RBBB press and publicity director, is currently working advance for a major Broadway show which is now on a national tour.

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STEVE WALLEDA, high wire walker, plans to walk a cable across the Grand Coulee Dam this summer. He says the round trip will be about 6,000 yards, which would be a new record wire walk.

TAMARA JONES, of the Associated Press, did a story on "Circus Kids" last month which told about the youngster's life with Circus Vargas. Some of those mentioned were Toby and Tim Bickmore, Maria and Manuel Zuniga, Darlene and Renee Williams and Herve Wagener.

JACK TAVLIN and wife visited with **EDDIE HOWE** and other friends in Southern California late last month while on a stop-over from New York to Hawaii. Jack once produced the RBBB program books, he was co-owner of the Russell Bros. Circus in the late 1940's and in 1948 purchased Cole Bros. Circus and toured that show for two years. Today he is operating an outdoor advertising business in New York.

VATES ENGESSER, mother of Roxy Engesser, has returned home after a hospital visit. At age 83 the doctors have suggested she give up smoking and drinking. She'd like to hear from friends who can write: Rte. 2, Box 11-B, Trenton, Fla. 32693

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in the NEWS

DISPLACED RESIDENTS

by Marjorie Fritz - Reprinted from the Sarasota (Fla) Herald-Tribune of March 13, 1980.

When LaTosca Trailer Park is closed in coming months, a part of local history will go with it. Built in the 1930's and one of the oldest parks in Sarasota, it was once called "the circus park" by early residents.

Located on Fruitville Road east of Tuttle Ave., it is being vacated for future land development. Park residents, some of whom have lived here for nearly 30 years, received eviction notices in January.

Nell and Don Whatman will always remember the Fat Lady, the Monkey Man and the Trapeze Lady among the colorful neighbors who became friends over the years.

"Ruby Whipkey, the circus tailor, left the park last year," Whatman said in an interview, "Dennis The Clown is still here. Carlos, the Fire Eater, has lived here for 29 years and is still around. They're all fine people who have given a lot of pleasure to circus fans.

The Whatmans bought into the park seven years ago when Whatman retired from the school system in Port Burnwell, Ontario, Canada.

Most recently, the couple has spent weeks helping older residents in the park face the task of relocating, hoping to make the transition easier.

There are 83 trailers in the park. Some have been sold, a few have been moved, some were torn down. Slowly, the park is being dismantled "It's the old folks we're worried about," Whatman said, "the ones who are 80 years old or older. Some are still kind of shocked at the prospect of moving. Some can't afford to take their trailers with them and have had to sell. It's very upsetting. City officials have been very good about trying to find new homes for these people. We just hope every one of them can be properly cared for and that it's done with dignity."

Reta Atwell, doesn't want to live with anybody. Widowed since 1972, she has lived at LaTosca for 20 years. She is 88. Her home is one of the nicest in the park, but she can't afford to move it. The city has promised to help.

"I'm just waiting," she said. "When I first got the news, I cried for three days. I have \$337 a month Social Security. I don't go to extremes. It would take more than I have to move my home and I want to have enough to be buried. I thought I would spend my last days here, but I got fooled. It looks like I will be going to the city mobile home park. I'm just waiting. It's a big worry."

Carlos Leal, the Fire Eater, is philosophical about the future.

Although handicapped and in ill health, the former showman is a proud man. His favorite past-time is telling stories about his show business days and leafing through a scrapbook filled with

(Continued on Page 24)

SPECIAL**MAGIC AWARDS...**

... by LLOYD E. JONES

"Dorny" (Werner C. Dornfeld) old-time comic and M.C. who got his start during World War I with Elsie Janis, and popular performer at hundreds of magic affairs and conventions, was honored by the Houdini Magic Club in January.

Dorny, now 87 years old, has been in and out of the hospital frequently. He was presented with a Zenith TV set with remote control in appreciation for his many contributions to magic in general. Dorny, who lives in Chicago, was for once in his life, speechless.

Other clubs aiding in the presentation of this gift were the Wizard Club of Chicago and Ring No. 53 I.B.M. along with the Order of Merlin.

.....

The annual Awards Banquet of the Academy of Magic Arts and Sciences held in March, elected David Copperfield as "Magician of the Year." (Wonder if they saw his expose in TV Guide?).

(Continued on Page 24)

in the NEWS

Two Boston theatres swapped shows to accommodate the needs of a three ton performer.

An elephant traveling with the Harry Blackstone Magic Show was too large to fit through the back stage loading door at the Wilbur Theatre. So the larger Shubert Theatre across the street was obtained for the magic show.

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17 Crockett

18 Rockdale

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DISPLACED RESIDENTS (Cont'd)

highlights of his life.

"I was a teacher," he says proudly. "My late wife was a teacher also. She spoke five languages. Leal has lived in the park for 27 years. Friends stop by to pick him up for services at Faith Baptist Church where he once taught Bible classes. Each day he takes his main meal at the Candlelight Dining Room for senior citizens which makes his monthly Social Security income of \$265 stretch a little further.

Where will he go when the park closes?

"God knows," he said. "This was unexpected. But when God closes one door he opens another. My wife used to say that when times were bad. She was always right."

Meanwhile the Whatmans continue to call on people in the park, giving encouragement where ever they can.

"Being uprooted is not so hard on us snowbirds," Whatman said. "Once we had a home on Lake Erie for 18 years and had to relocate. And one other time that happened to us. This time it's not so hard to face. We plan to find a place somewhere in Sarasota. We're more concerned

MAGIC AWARDS (Continued)

Lecturer of the Year was Max Maven (Phil Goldstein), Stage Magician was declared to be Whit Haydn, Close-up Magician, Daryl (Martinez), and visiting magicians were Petrick and Mia (recent defectors from Czechoslovakia) and the Junior Achievement Award went to Mark Kalin.

Fellowships were presented to Fred Kaps - Master Fellowship and a Joint One to McDonald and Mable Birch. Creative Fellowship was given to England's Ali Bongo, with a Literary Fellowship going to Glenn Gravatt and a Performing Fellowship to Jimmy Grippo. Special Fellowships were also awarded to Len Vintus and Burling Hull.

This was the 12th annual Awards Banquet and the show was M.C.'d by Bob Barker and included Mark Kalin and Linda, Svengari (comedy act) with Richard Deacon being assisted by Rose Marie. Terry Seabrooke, Mark Wilson, Ali Bongo and Dick Zimmerman also performed.

about what we can do for the other people here in the park. As far as Nell and I are concerned, we've got our money's worth of memories."

MAILBAG

... from Jerry Digney, Circus Vargas

Your March 17th issue, unfortunately, included some erroneous information regarding the business practices of Circus Vargas. Columnist Billy Barton reported that we no longer distribute free kids tickets. While we have severely limited their distribution, they remain a part of our promotional effort.

Also incorrectly reported was news that Circus Vargas performed a special event of our show in Hollywood for the Los Angeles Gay Community. This is totally untrue and no such event transpired.

While we enjoy your publication immensely, I felt it appropriate to bring these errors to your attention.

FOR SALE

— WIZ FLASH —

EFFECT: Photo Flash Cube (Magic Cube Type) is tossed or handed out to a member of the audience. Performer's hands are shown to be completely empty. Cube is returned to the performer and with no false moves the cube is caused to flash at the will of the performer.

There is nothing to add or palm off. You can shoot all four sides of the magic cube as desired. This bare hand miracle works anywhere any time. Close-up or on stage.

By itself "Wiz Flash" is spectacular and a puzzling attention grabber.

WHAT YOU RECEIVE: A supply of the "somethings" that make it work. These can be used over and over for hundreds of performances.

Included is a manuscript of twelve stunts, gags, and magic effects using "Wiz Flash". Featured is a routine where you use the cubes as a mini-microwave oven and bake a cake in a spectator's pocket.

Presented on the Cabaret Show at recent Hollywood Cavalcade of Magic. The act received a standing ovation.

Sent complete via First Class Mail.

— \$4.00 —

FRANK HERMAN

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appreciated by

C & B FISH FRY ... by Karen Cart

The Carson & Barnes Circus held their annual pre-opening fish fry on March 22nd at the D. R. Miller estate in Hugo, OKla. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Geary and Barbara Byrd and their daughters Traci and Kristin, over 50 guests attended. The guests included all circus management personnel and department heads, as well as local friends and out of town relatives.

The more than 150 lbs. of fresh bass which was served had been caught by Geary Byrd and concessions manager David Rawls, in Mexico on a recent trip.

Fortunately, the weather cooperated, so the guests could enjoy the large patio and beautiful yard. As usual at any event hosted by the Millers and Byrds, the food was delicious and a good time was had by all.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

Bros. by dressing with RUMPY? Come on BILL, back in the damned closet! . . . BILL and TRUDY by the way suffered serious truck problems recently and barely made their last two jumps . . . CAROL and CARLOS visited the fabulous Aut Mori Grotto Circus in Youngstown on their run from Sam Polack in Arkansas to Circus Odyssey in New York.

RON and JOY HOLIDAY are thrilled with their quarter-million dollar contract with the Brighton Casino Hotel in Atlantic City where the Dynamic Duo will be starred in a major revue, to be called "Hello Broadway" which will spotlight 30 girl dancers but NO NUDES. They will tape a Home Box Office TV segment to coincide with their Atlantic City opening. It all happens in Sept. Meanwhile Joy is looking for two more cats, a baby Siberian tiger, a baby African leopard.

I was tickled pink during the Burlington (Emmett Kelly date) to be surprised by a visit from GRACIE and GRACE HANNEFORD (daughter and wife of the legendary POODLES). They *drove up from Glens Falls (91 miles), didn't* know I was there and so the surprise was mutual. We had a wonderful visit; both gals look great, are doing well. Gracie works her dog and pony acts at Frontierland in summer, runs a motel at night and Grace (sr) has a gift shop. Gracie is now a brunette by the way, a color that is becoming.

SNAPSHOTS: FRANK SCALZO is a magician who is always on stage. Maybe that's why he's such an expert magician? . . . NICKY, the son of Ed and Cyndy Migley, looks just like his mother - a beautiful child. . . Don't, I repeat Don't celebrate your birth day in Oneonta (NY). We end-

ed up at a Pizza Parlor on the eve of the moment and next morning at a Perkins where Ed and Cyndy and a coterie of friends, Bobby and I sat at a long table. I'll never forget the candle sticking in a stack of pancakes and those God-awful voices serenading me. . . LOTTIE BRUNN played the Poughkeepsie date for Hubler, opened the show and stopped it. That gal is a juggling phenomenon! . . . Hanneford's opening in Detroit featured HERBIE WEBER's slide and the Rocket Car. . . BELINDA AMANDIS MAYNARD has a unique aerial rigging that rises electrically and features dancing waters. Everyone sez it's lovely . . . CHARLIE VAN BUSKIRK told me I was greatly missed in the Men's Dressing Room at Montreal, said the room was DEAD! Finally Pat Lane (Boy! will I get even with him) started the ball rolling by coming in after the act and saying "Oh Mary!" which started a chain reaction with Buskirk, Bruski, Pietro Canestrelli, et al following suit. Now the Gutis are saying it and virtually everyone else . . . OH! MARY! . . . PETER GUTIS is studying Journalism and is putting out a weekly newspaper. CHARLY GUTIS told me his mother and father are in good health and doing fine. He remarks that if conditions keep worsening in this business he is thinking of packing it up for good - What a shame! If things continue as they are producers will be hard put to find talent in 1981. More and more acts are thinking of quitting and, unfortunately, it is all the MAJOR acts! . . . STANLEY FRIEDBURG is organizing on not only Circus Odyssey route but also SANDY DOBRITCH's string of dates. . . GUTIS will play the Dobritch dates also. . . MISTER SENSATION set for the Brockton Fair, the St. Louis Police Circus. . . MIKE NAUGHTON making dates for BILL KAY and also ED MIGLEY.

(Continued on Page 27)

BILLY BARTON (Continued)

NOW, I hear the FLYING LANES may revamp their act and try to hang on a bit longer. Instead of quitting in April they may wait until the end of the season. Perhaps they will then continue. I hope so. . . Hello, Taco, wherever you are! . . . Thanks SABU for my Birthday Greetings. . . This year BILL GALLOWAY is making Omaha and Lincoln for Gracie without wife BEVERLY. Taking no chances she'll get lost this time (long story/in joke). . . JUNE DEWSBURY called and laid me to filth for my heartless treatment of "clown" BUBBA HASTINGS! Was her face pink when she found out that Bubba was the fictional brainchild of BILL KAY and GEORGE HUBLER fostered by JOE SHERMAN and BILL GALLOWAY. . . Unknown to Kay and Hubler I was "in" on the gag and decided to kill off Bubba just for the hell of it. Not to worry! That quarettie will get even - I have no doubt! Anyway, Bubba's death came a year late. I'd planned to kill him off last year but forgot about it.

INTERESTING ITEM from Emmett Kelly is that NINO COCHISE, 106 yrs old, is alive and well, living in Tombstone (Arz). Cochise was on the 101 Ranch Show, also Buffalo Bill. . and be-

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lieve it or not, at his advanced age he reads without glasses. Nino Cochise worked with such legendary greats as ANNIE OAKLEY! Also living in Tombstone is CHIEF WHITE EAGLE (Ponca Indian Chief from Ponca City, Okla) who is 78 and two others, all of whom toured with those famous shows.

Friends of RICHARD PLUME (The Prince of Darkness) will be devastated to know he is not only ON THE WAGON but also currently serving Jury Duty! The shock of it all is driving the rest of us to drink! And, speaking of driving, he is doing THAT, TOO! (Betty, Chuck, Tommy, Cliff, Wally, Cemon, Struppi, Loni, Freddie, et al PLEASE NOTE!).

GLENN PARKINS is readying a Circus Cookbook which will feature recipes conjured up by world famous performers plus a photo of the artist, two to a page, bound in "coffee-table" format. Book has found a publisher.

BOBBY motored to catch Ringling Blue for the first time, also to visit with JOHNNY and BETTY ZOPPE; was impressed with the production numbers and super impressed with Johnny's lavish new space presentation.

ED MIGLEY, an innovator of modern circus ideas, has come up with a winner with his grooming of MIDDY STREETER to be Circus Ringmaster. Middy, tall and slender with a quality speaking voice, is dressed in regulation top hat and spangled tails, BUT - here's the gimmick - wears a white mime makeup. Where this might not fit in with ALL shows, for ED's unique circus format it is PERFECT! My congrats to both.!

ROLAND MARCELLI used to chain his bikes when he left the building between shows and locked up his props. He and Janis told me at lunch recently that now he leaves them where they lay - hoping someone WILL steam them!

Oh, Mary! See you down the road, luvs.

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