



6th Year

February 14, 1977

Number 7

Show Set As TV Feature

During the week of March 8th, local NET Stations throughout the nation will be showing the new PBS Childrens action program entitled "Studio See" featuring Circus Kirk. Both circus fans and the public will have their first opportunity for a close-up look at the all student show which is now preparing for its tenth annual tour under the direction of Dr. Charles W. Boas. Circus enthusiasts should check their local program guides for time and day that Program No. 7 of Studio See will be aired in their area.

Studio See producer, Jayne Adair, joined the show for ten days in August with a production crew from South Carolina ETV. Filming took place in central Pennsylvania, including Hershey Park where the show closed its 1976 season on Labor Day weekend to packed houses.

Boas told CR that the 1977 season will open on May 21st and will follow the traditional route along the eastern seaboard. Moving on 12 show-owned trucks, the company

of fifty will carry a full cook house and an all new electrical system designed to meet current code requirements. New junction boxes and chandeliers have been received from Bill Watt, well-known circus equipment builder of Falls Church, Va. Boas noted that last year the show leased late model Mack Diesel tractors and achieved excellent economy. All midway stands have been mounted on Wells Cargo trailers. Rag bannerlines are still used for the side show and pit show.

(Continued on Page 8)

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PEOPLE

DEAN JENSEN, of the Milwaukee Sentinel, BILL SCHULTZ, of Circus World Museum and WAYNE FRANZEN, of Franzen Bros. Circus, were all speakers at the first Seils-Sterling CFA Tent meeting held on Jan. 21st.

SIEGFRIED & ROY, illusions, TANYA, the elephant and DAVID ROSAIRE and his Perky Pekes are featured in the MGM Hotel show "Hallelujah Hollywood" in Las Vegas.

JIM SWAFFORD has been visiting JOHN and HERTA CUNEO in Los Angeles and reports JEAN MECHON has arrived from Europe and is breaking a tiger act.

WOLFGANG HOLMAIR, lion trainer, will be touring with Cirque Amar in France this year.

The FERCOS FAMILY (flying, juggling, acrobatics) have returned to the Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas after a long engagement in South America.

ERHARD and CHRISTIANE SAMEL, wild animal trainers, recently wrote a story about their tour with Ringling-Barnum for an East German show business magazine.

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The local engagement was handled by David Chase and this writer helped in "billing it like an old-time circus" and setting publicity.

Reports indicate the circus had five sell-out performances in Galveston and repeated that business for its Houston engagement.

..... Harry Lea Kingston

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ROUTES

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16 Galeton
17 Savona, N. Y.
18 Wellsville
19 Bath
20 Sayre, Pa.

L. N. FLECKLES CIRCUS

Feb. 14-20 Detroit, Mich.

HAMID-MORTON CIRCUS

Feb. 15-21 Hartford, Conn.

HUBLER'S INT'L CIRCUS

Feb. 19-20 Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

M & M CIRCUS

Feb. 16-19 Rochester, N. Y.

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YEARS AGO

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The show's tents were: 4 pole big top, 6 pole menagerie, 3 pole side show, 4 pole dressing tent, 7 pole dining tent, two draft horse tops, each with 8 center poles, a 2 pole ushers top, 2 pole wardrobe top, 2 pole kitchen tent, 2 pole dog top, 2 pole privilege top, 2 pole top

... OTHER ROUTES ...

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19 Nashville, Tenn.

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17-19 Bluefield, W. Va.

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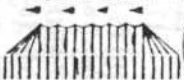
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BILLY BARTON

A MEXICAN CIRCUS, produced by BOBO FUENTES (Circo Union) will tour the USA's Southwest and other Spanish speaking areas. The show reportedly will use a 4 pole top, Green and yellow, built by Leaf Tent Co. LEAF, by the way, has sold out his company and is scheduled for retirement.

TEX & MARCY MAYNARD, off the road for three years, are gearing themselves to tour this season with King Bros., to provide the music....Sells & Gray are also due for live music....JIM DOUGLASS and VERN WOERNER of Circus Creations have created a number of outstanding "fold-a-floats" for the M&M Circus opening in Rochester this week. One is a miniature calliope wagon, complete with tape deck blaring calliope music.

BOYON LANDON's mother, a spritely 96, flew from Stockholm to Sarasota to surprise her daughter....Also visiting in Sarasota recently were KLARINKA and LEO MASCITTO, down from Montreal to visit Klarinka's mother KLARA BERTINI....SONYA TRUZZI is the owner of a chic dress shop in the circus city. TAMARA HEYER is her shop assistant....ARTHUR GROTEFENT's golf foursome includes SEARLE SIMMONS, BOBBY BEHEE and whoever else happens to be in town - usually REGGIE ARMOR....DOUG ASHTON was a smash hit when he entertained at the New Year Eve Ball.

HELEN WALLEENDA's birthday bash was a super-gala....I'm told almost EVERYONE in town was there! ELLY ARDELTY offered to wear Helen's new white mink stole, just to "break it in". Helen declined the offer....EVEL KNEIVEL's appearance at the show folks Circus and later at the party had blase Sarasota agog....With him were two security guards. A good thing: the daredevil was besieged by autograph hounds BILLY & BONNIE EARL's musical album, "The Other Side of Bonnie & Clyde" will be available on Sells & Gray Circus this season...SUSAN and MARLAN BUTCHER (King Bros.) are expecting an heir....CAROL OBANDO's baby is due this week....DICK GARDEN's new Ice Show played Sarasota's Roberts Arena on Jan. 27-30.

JIMMY COLE is sporting a new Chrysler. Understand his other car actually fell apart - eaten away by salt....KIMES (Linda and Boyd) have a new Yellowstone trailer, acquired through Johnny Canole. Linda threatened to drive the old bus into a ditch unless Uncle Heavy agreed to get rid of it!

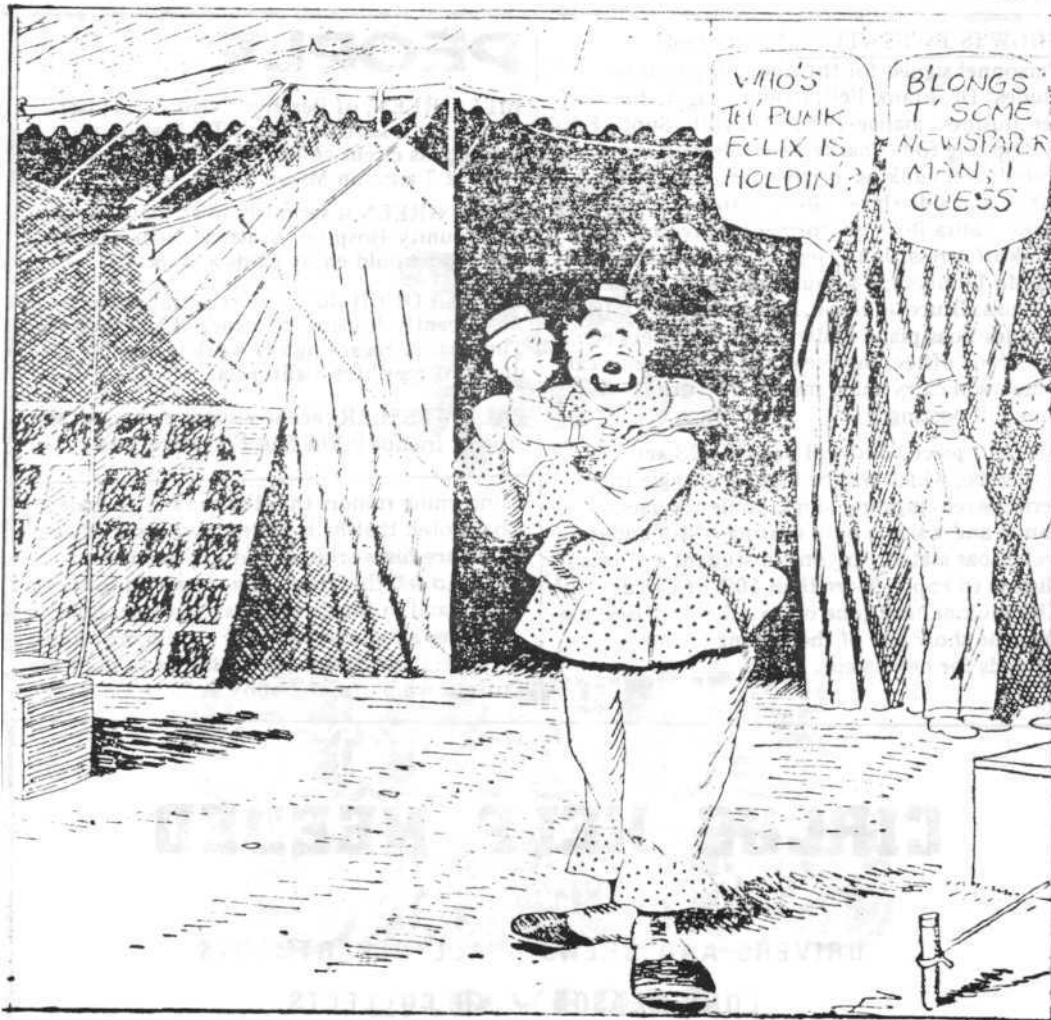
Under the heading of Life's Little Ironies, didyknow that BONNIE EARL's maiden name is ELIZABETH BEATTY and that she has an uncle Clyde?....MARI JO COULS' mother recently passed away, we were sorry to learn. Hope Mari Jo will get back on the road, where she belongs. We're trying to convince her.

TINO WALLEENDA appeared at the University of Miami with ROYAL HANNEFORD....JOHNNY JORDAN has been up north working concessions with Polack Bros. prior to his and Patsy's opening with Wm. Kay's Madison (Wisc) Shrine date....KARL WALLEENDA celebrated his birthday with a large party....MARLAN BUTCHER, in case you didn't know, is the son of HARDTIMES and PEGGY LEONARD, former circus owners. Hardtimes is deceased, but Peggy is retired in the Tampa area. Marlan's wife, SUSAN is the daughter of HARRY RAWLS, who with his son, DAVID, is taking out a rep-tenter this season. The show will start out experimenting with a one day stand format which, if it doesn't work, will be changed. The rep show is to tour the West and offers a "Story of the History of Chataqua", inter-weaving story-plot with production numbers. Circus portion of the entertainment will be provided by the Rawls Family. The show will travel on three trucks (straight jobs) with at least two pulling trailers. Drama students will form the acting group, overseen by famed English actress VIRGINIA (Lloyd) RABORN.

When JIM NORDMARK's Int'l All Star played Daytona Beach (Fla) Jim and ex-wife REGGIE, visited JIM DOUGLASS' winter quarters and home. Also visiting and partying it up were HINES & PATTY RUCKER, PRINCE NAJVEZ, BILLY & BONNIE EARL and BOBBY DAVIS. Jim and Reggie, married 9 years, were divorced in June. They still work together, however, and Jim says, "We're happier now than we were then!"

Tellers of "Pink Elephant" stories, move over; you can't top this one: MARIO WALLEENDA received a baby rabbit for his birthday. The morning after a cocktail party, CARLA awoke to find the rabbit staggering around the living room. Apparently, afflicted by thirst, the rabbit had drunk the melting, left-over cocktails and was stoned to its furry white ears! See you down the road, luvs.

Thanks for reading Circus Report today. Be sure to tell your friends about it.



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SHOW IS TV FEATURE (Continued)

Personnel signed for the upcoming tour includes: Dr. Frank Felt, road manager; Jim Kiefer, business manager; Phil Graybill, Supt., Ed Knapp, big top; Charlie Boas, electric and sound; Jim Judkins, ringmaster; Mike Straka, office and side show; Glenn Dandoy, concessions; Laura Boas, performance director; Ron Minkoff, press; John Gerken, Brigade chief; Gordo Lindberg, 24 hour man; Amy Harder, animals; Bruce Johnson, featured clown. Dr. Charles Boas plans to divide his time between the home office, the show and the advance car, which will carry three men in a return to off time bill posting.

An eight piece band will pace the 23 act performance, which will be highlight single traps, aerial perch, juggling, dogs, ponies, horses, llamas and a single bull. Casting is still underway, Boas stated. Anyone in student status is eligible to apply. More than 10% of Circus Kirk alumni have gone on to other circuses, making the show one of the leading training grounds for new talent.

PEOPLE

BILL GREEN, of Beatrice, Nebr., was interviewed by a Lincoln (Neb.) TV Station regarding his circus collection. The show will be aired at 7 a.m. on March 7th.

RUTH GREEN is seriously ill at the Beatrice, Community Hospital, Beatrice, Nebr. (Room 247) and would enjoy cards and letters.

LINDA COUCH, former circus trapeze artist, was recently featured in a special Los Angeles Times story regarding her work in feeding the ducks of Southern California.

PAUL WESSLER recently spent a week or so visiting friends in the San Francisco area.

Concerning rumors that the show is for sale, Boas noted that he is under physicians advice to reduce his workload and has considered offers to sell the show. The show will tour this season and in future seasons, however, Boas envisages a reduced role and a cut back on his personal involvement. He continues to hold the Professorship of Geography at York College.

CIRCUS HELP NEEDED

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MAINTENANCE

This is in response to Robert Steele's comments on the CBS-TV "Circus of Stars". I couldn't agree with him more.

Furthermore, I feel that his comments would well fit almost all of the so-called Circus presentations we see on the tube.

The annual Ringling-Barnum broadcast just might be tops if they eliminate the guest stars who always have to "get in the act" somewhere and tell the viewers all they know about each act (?), taking up a lot of good time that could be better used on presentation of acts. After all, don't most viewers know enough about a circus without having some TV celebrity explaining it all to them?

As to the other Circus Specials - I, for one, am getting sick and tired of seeing only foreign circus acts. I realize that most of these are excellent acts, but why not televise some of the circuses from our own country? We have plenty of circuses with good acts but how many do we ever see on TV?

MANAGEMENT

Currently celebrating its first year in the booking business, the Amandis Entertainment Agency continues to keep up an active schedule.

Last year they booked the Herrmann's Royal Lipizzan Stallions for several dates, and during the Christmas season had two shows operating. These latter featured such name stars as Feller Boys and Dodo, Sir Victor Julian, The Gibbs, Norbu, Les Zerbinis and Miss Lilian.

The Plunketts, comedy trampoline, Christopher James, tight wire and the Vickinas are currently playing a series of Sports Shows through the Amandis Agency. Other acts booked into the Sports Show circuit include The Fearless Bauers on swaypoles, The 7 Staneks, teeterboard, The Alexander Troupe, teeterboard, The Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard and the Fred Canestrelli Family, trampoline.

I feel it is high time that some of the fine acts from the good old U.S.A. should be recognized. How many of you fans agree with me?

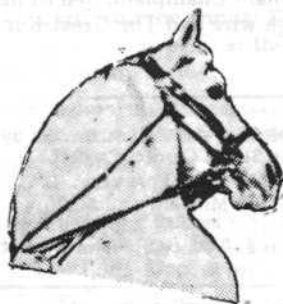
..... Bill Green

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PEOPLE

FRANK DEAN, western performer, who is recovering from injuries suffered in a fall last year, has had a host of recent visitors including: JUA JUAN MONTANO, former star roper with Montana's Buffalo Bill Wild West Show; GEORGE REMPEL, rope spinner from Canada; CHUCK WHITE, of Newhall and SANDY STRONG, who is with the BILL BIRCHFIELD Magic Show now touring Southern California.

BOB EMRICO has signed to work 23 school shows with his Magic presentation during the month of February.

YEARS AGO

The Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus train went through Pittsfield, Mass., on June 18th, on four trains. The show was moving to Worcester from Schenectady.

The Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Circus train went through Pittsfield, Mass., on June 27th, on four trains, moving from Springfield to Albany.

The Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West Show went through Pittsfield, Mass., on July 9th, in one train, moving from Springfield to Albany.

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Show Acts

Featured in the proposed "Guinness On Parade Show" which is scheduled to debut at Uniondale, N.Y. in August will be:

Mario Manzani, escape artist; The Worldwheelers, basketball on bicycles; Bob Manden, fast draw gunman; Ronald Champlain, bed of nails, Steve McPeak, high wire and The Great Kardeen, magician.

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MORE COMMENT

Dear Don:-

I compliment you for running the very enlightening article by Mr. Robert Steele. I could not agree with him more. No sooner were we subjected to the CBS Circus of Stars (Jan. 10) than along comes CBS with Evel Knievel's Death Defiers - without fear of contradiction the worst presentation in the history of television.

Karl Wallenda's walk was butchered beyond recognition, and what a shame for it was a remarkable feat. Dave Merrifield, another great artist was not presented properly. So we had two professionals performing in a 90 minute time span.

Telly Savalas and Jill St. John were simply awful. Very poor direction, Camera work and lightning.

Oh! Why didn't I shut it off? Two reasons: No. 1 - Karl Wallenda and Dave Merrifield are friends. No. 2 - I couldn't believe I was watching a network show.

What did Barnum say?

William Kay, Wm. Kay Productions, Sarasota.

Acts Named

Acts appearing on the annual Detroit (Michigan) Shrine Circus (Feb. 4-20) at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum include:

World Wheelers, unicycle basketball team; Blinko, the Clown; Hortobagyi Troupe, springboard; Dynamic DeMille, tight wire; Reynoso Bros., trapeze; Mickey's Cnimps; The Wheel of Destiny; Lona's Canines; Hugo Zacchini, human bullet; Guy Gossing, tigers; Lamberti, Jr., balancing; The Lodi Duo, acrobats; The Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard; King's elephants; The Flying Lar-Rays; Randy and Sylvia, perch; Musso and the clowns; Edwardo's unicycles; Sebastian's Poodles; Al's ponies; The Storybook Animals; Mr. Rhythm, trained horse; The Sensational Swaying Stars, sway poles; The Flying Armors; Sabo's Chimps; Rosell Troupe, high wire; Rejenini Duo, trapeze; The Aloanis, aerial motorcycle; Martin, juggler; Private Lee, slack wire; Jorge's unpredictable car; The Klausner bears and an aerial ballet.

Hall of Fame

The Circus Hall of Fame, in Sarasota, has five new members, inducted there in a ceremony on Feb. 4th, after election by the national awards selection committee.

G. Herb Garrido, managing director of the Hall, announced the 1977 electees and presided over the affair.

The honorees are:

WILLIAM P. HALL (1864-1932) - circus owner and broker, who supplied animals and equipment to many circuses.

GEORGE HANNEFORD, Sr. (1895-1972) - equestrian and trainer of the Hanneford Riding act and center ring attraction on circuses for some 50 years.

FLOYD KING, Sr. (1888-1976) - circus owner and agent.

CHARLES MOROSKI (1908-) - horse trainer who had liberty horses and high school acts with RBBB (retired in Sarasota).

MASSIMILIANO TRUZZI (1903-1974) - center ring juggler for more than 20 years, started in 1940 with RBBB.

The induction ceremony was held in the center ring of the George Hanneford Family Circus, which performs at the Circus Hall of Fame. The spectators included some 110 members of the Circus Historical Society, which met in Sarasota for a 3 day convention.

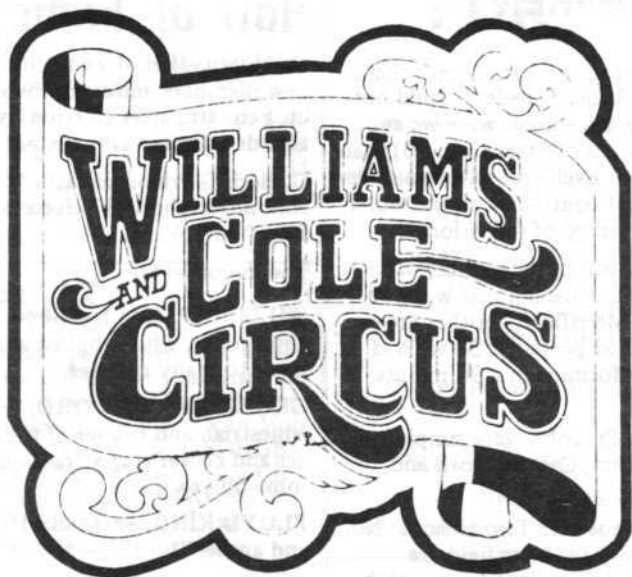
Moroski received the award in person; others, now deceased, were represented by a family member or CHS and national award committee members.

The Circus Hall of Fame now has more than 90 members since the first inductee, Lillian Leitzel in 1958.

..... Eric Wilson

The show is produced by L. N. Fleckles, with Fred R. Morrison, Jr., Potentate. The Circus Chairman is Don Coller.

Show announcer is Al Dawley, the bandleader is Al Youngman and the clowns include: Yoho, Koko, Happy and Blinko.



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REVIEW

The weather isn't the only national disaster we've suffered through this winter. It has now been capped by the CBS-TV "Evel Knievel Special," a 90 minute mish-mash that should be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records as the most disconnected, amateurish exercise in television ever recorded.

As bad as the show was (and it was terrible) co-hosts Telly Savalas and Jill St. John were worse. Miss St. John, in rigid, wide-eyed panic, gave the impression she had just come in from the cold suffering a case of frostbite that affected her mouth - such were the unbelievable inanities she uttered. The lady seemed prepared to bolt from Chicago's Amphi-theatre at the first opportunity, which might have been better for her and for us had she done so. Mr. Savalas simply proved that some actors, without a script, exhaust the range of their capabilities within a matter of minutes.

Two famed and reputable performers, Karl Walenda and David Merrifield, were given short-

PEOPLE

CHAD EVERETT will narrate the annual Monte Carlo Circus Festival which is to be aired on the CBS-TV network on Feb. 16th

STACY MOORE reports they are not going back to Great Adventure Park this season. The previous report to that effect was an error.

shrift by inadequate lighting, camera work and by being filmed at night. Dave's spectacular fireworks revolve was like a match struck in the sky and Karl's walk was interrupted by a commercial and further idiotic comment.

With shows like Gala Gala and the Evel Knievel Special it is easy to understand why CBS is a loser in the ratings' race. As for Mr. Knievel (hospitalized prior to the program by an afternoon crack-up) his long history of disasters have taken on new dimensions. Heretofore these disasters have been his own. This one, unfortunately, was inflicted on everyone.

..... Billy Barton

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REVIEW

"ICE AMERICA" by Billy Barton

This new ice show, produced by Dick Garden is geared for smaller cities and has the potential of a blockbuster. The show is blessed with young, personable talent, expert skaters and two fine specialty acts.

Since its opening the tour has been aggravated by technical "tank" problems. A plastic tank with plastic pipes (one of which burst to burn skater Lisa Illsley with escaping gas) has now been discarded. Added are two compressors, one of which will be sent ahead. Headaches with ice has already forced cancellation of the show's date at Austin, Texas.

Lighting is fine - 6 super troupers, coupled with color banks, a lighted set, all framed by a rich red curtained backdrop. Performance runs a fast two hours, with intermission, is seldom dull but often confusing - a confusion compounded by costuming that neither explains nor fits the productions. The first half is cursed with an excess of drab browns and fatal placks which will not take even the best lighting and which turns skaters into shadows.

At the Sarasota Roberts Arena (where the show was reviewed and where business was good) the skaters were hampered by short ice and the lack of a skate-sharpener which prevented skates from digging in. Dull skates cannot be braked and thus create a sliding hazard.

Show-stoppers are Dan Henry (America's entry in the World's Professional Championships in Spain, 1975) and Lisa Illsley whose "pair skating" is a moment from the Russian Ballet; and petit Rulana Rolland, shining and vibrant in a skate-dance routine a la Gwen Verdun, topped by dizzying spins.

The Funsters (Dick Cooper/Robert Dougherty) formerly of Ice Follies, have three great comedy spots and make the most of them. Their three-legged skating men are hilarious, as is their "drunken horse". Juggling on ice star Bob Welz, once with Holiday on Ice Int'l and more recently, at the Copa in Athens, Greece, is quick, has comic flair, top notch projection and stimulates the performance with an uplifting change of pace. Excellent also is athletic Paul Guzman, a speed skater who adds zest, here reduced by short ice, but registering well

in a "contemporary western" number impaired only by the ambiguity of its costuming.

An Audience participation stint closes the first half with children given rides in boats, preceeded by a "Frostie Jungle" number featuring the Frostie root beer character and introducing Andrea Cooper as a jungle cat pursued by five skating hunters.

Second half opener is an "Incan" number that is half-way to being the best production in the show. At one point it is performed in black light, but just misses in excitement for want of wild props and authentic brief wardrobe. Fire baton-twirler-on-skates Robert Burr is its centerpiece.

Smokey, the Bear is "filler" that fails; also the second adagio team, Sandy Rowe and Paul Guzman, talented performers respectively, but overwhelmed and anti-climatic following the wizardry of Pat Henry and Lisa Illsley.

A favorable nod to Jimmy Rogers, a lad from the chorus who looks good and sings well in a solo spot, and a special nod to maestro Leo Mascitto whose past expertise speaks for itself. Mascitto stepped in temporarily to straighten out the show's musical snarls which are live and on tape.

Choreographer/Director John Wertz, himself a featured skater, whose last assignment was in Las Vegas, is to be congratulated, as his ensemble most of whom are fresh to professional ice. John, who was to have a solo spot, is too busy running the show.

Ice America opened Jan. 29th at Lubbock (Tex.) It's first half itinerary takes it to May 22nd at Terre Haute (Ind.). Garden intimated to CR that strong sell-outs await the show in the Northeast. If the current problems resolve themselves Ice America should come home a winner. It is laden with talent and bursting with possibilities and thus deserves to click. It is, in fact, every bit as entertaining as any ice show currently on tour

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Late last month Marcella completed her final performance. She walked three miles from the show's quarters to a bank in downtown Venice (Fla.) where she closed out an account, left her foot print on a change of address card and then was presented with the key to the city.

During her circus career she traveled millions of miles and survived two circus fires, one at Hartford and the other in Cleveland. She also survived the poisoning of 1941, when 11 of her fellow elephants died after eating sprayed grass. She has been called the world's oldest performing elephant and now with her retirement she could easily outlive any elephant in history.

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PEOPLE

MARK ANTHONY, clown, has been busy during the winter months building props for the two RBBB shows.

THE KLEMENTIS, bicycle act, took a spill on Jan. 15th during a Circus Vargas performance at Beaumont (Texas) when a bicycle tire blew out, as all three people worked on the same bicycle. Luckily no one was injured.

MERLE EVANS, band master, will be honored by the American Bandmaster's Association at its convention in Sarasota (Fla.) on March 2-5.

In Memoriam

CHARLES M. KELLY (83) a former judge at Akron, Ohio, and an avid circus fan, died on Dec. 23, 1976 at South Bend, Ind.

HERMAN J. LINDEN (71) a former CFA president and secretary for the organization for the past 12 years, died at Aurora, Ill., on Jan. 7th

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