



6th Year

November 14, 1977

Number 46

## BIG CHANGES

Lots of new faces will be in evidence in the 1978 Circus Vargas program. Set to join the big circus are Ron and Mitzie Gill, Bridget Ballantine, The Plunkett Family, Christopher James, the Flying Lanes, the Schmitt-Albulet high wire duo, plus an as yet unnamed cat act.

Leaving the show after three years are the Klementis, who will spot date; others leaving after one season are the Carlos Twins, Roger Regor, high wire, the Braun's Rocket Ship act, Frank and Estrelita, now in their second season, who will also spot date during the upcoming year. Rueben and Magaly, foot juggling and head balancing trapeze, are reportedly going to the Carden-Johnson Circus next year.

New on the show now is Rex Williams who is breaking the Vargas herd of elephants for new routines. The show acquired two baby elephants at Alexandria (Va) bringing the herd to 17. By 1978 the herd is expected to be increased to 20 bulls. Rex is putting three rings of 5 bulls each, and adding a walking long mount with the entire herd in the program.

A new Grand Entry type Spec, Midnight in Las Vegas, is having its finishing touches

readied in California under the direction of Millie Ward. Judy Baker will join Sir William and Tommy Baker with a liberty drill of 6 horses now being trained in California. She will appear in the center ring, with twin 8 horse drills in both end rings.

Wally Naghtin will be debuting two acts of 4 bears each for both end rings, while his own large bear act will be featured in the center ring.

(Continued on Page 12)

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## PEOPLE

EDDIE BACKSTEIN and his father delivered the old Carson & Barnes tent to the show at Huntsville, Ala., where the tents were switched. The run from Decatur (Ill.) took 20 hours.

ALBERT BARNARD, Jr., has been elected president of the Bette Leonard Tent CFA for the coming year.

ALTON JONES and his wife, formerly of Joplin, Mo., have moved to: Westminster Village, 5601 Bethel Road, Muncie, Ind. 47302. The couple celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary on Nov. 2nd.

## Miscellaneous

Circus Kirk has been drawing good crowds for its fall tour and on Oct. 23rd won a special local write-up in the Greensboro (NC) Daily News

The Seils-Sterling Tent CFA plans to erect a historical marker at Sheboygan, Wis., to honor the three Lindemann brothers of circus fame. Overseas options for 'This Is Hawaii...On Ice' have been picked up for the month of January. The show's 1978 edition is scheduled to open on March 2nd at Greenville, Ohio.

Two former guards at the Memphis (Tenn) zoo have been charged with grand larceny and re-

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## In Memoriam

CHESTER 'Chet' C. SIEDELL (63) died at Lincoln, Nebr., on Oct. 4th. Chet was an active circus fan, collector and historian.

CONCHITA M. SCHNEIDER (Erikson) of Tampa, Fla. died in that city on Oct. 25th at the age of 71. She had been an aerialist for over 60 years and traveled with such shows as Ringling Bros., Clyde Beatty and other major indoor and outdoor circuses. Survivors include her husband Karl Schneider (Erikson), a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Yerkes, of California, two sisters and two grandsons.

ceiving and concealing stolen property in the theft of several ostriches from the zoo.

Phillips 66 has donated projection equipment and two movies (Day of the Thundering Herd and Law and Order) to the Tom Mix Museum at Dewey, Okla.

Both Circus Vargas and the Royal Lichtenstein Circus played Memphis (Tenn) on the same day last month and both were pictured on the same page of that city's Commercial Appeal (Oct. 29)

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Nov. 19-26 New Orleans, La.
- Royal Lichtensetin Circus  
Nov. 14 Mobile, Ala.  
15 New Orleans, La.  
18 Baton Rouge
- Wonderland Circus Revue  
Nov. 14 Eastover, S. C.  
16 Denmark/St. Matthew
- .... OTHER ROUTES ....
- Ice Capades  
Nov. 15-20 Fresno, Calif.
- Showtime Follies  
Nov. 12 New Orleans, La.  
17 Durham, N. C.
- This Is Hawaii . . . On Ice  
Nov. 16-20 Wellington, N. Z.

Magictime USA - Prof. Miller  
Nov. 16 Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
19 Hoboken, N. J.

The Canadian tour of the Moscow  
Circus included the following cities.

- Sept. 21-25 Ottawa, Ont.  
27-Oct 2 Montreal, Quebec
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13-17 Vancouver, BC  
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## BILLY BARTON....

**THE INDESTRUCTIBLE AURELIA HALL** jack-knifed her rig enroute to the Dallas Shrine Date, suffered two broken ribs, was wrapped in bandages, then drove an additional 600 miles to make the date. She told wild animal trainer **ROGER SMITH**: "When Nini gets a scratched finger we have to put HER in Intensive Care." (They did, too. Jeannine almost lost her arm to infection).

Aurelia is scheduled for a hip operation following the Texas dates, will get a new "ball and socket". She speaks of the forthcoming ordeal as if she's already got it whipped, promises to be back on her feet in 3 days, home in less than 10 — knowing Aurelia, that's the way it will be!

Speaking of infections, **VASHEK** cut a fingernail too close, ended up with a serious case of blood-poisoning which was this close to being fatal! On top of it all, he hung his rigging and worked several dates with a bandaged hand, in agony throughout, and never once complained. Talk about troupers!

It's indeed true that **JIM NORDMARK** has fielded two units, the second one a magic variety revue, which is on the road. Both units reopen in late January. NOW it can be told — just as I quietly predicted to intimate friends since the start of the season **CIRCUS VARGAS** positively plays the Sunshine State this winter and will NOT make a California fall tour as in the past.

It's rumored that **AL** and **JOYCE VIDBEL** will be at Storytown USA in 1978, and a fact that **LES BLOCKS** will appear for the summer at Fantasy Island where **JON ZERBINI** annuals for 13 seasons! Jon, it is reported, will manage the **HUBERT CASTLE Circus** and be on tour with that show all season.

**FANTASY ISLAND** Bigwigs trekked to the Bentley Circus in Johnstown (Pa) to look over **FRANK** and **JANET BURGER** and **LILLI-ANA** with an eye to having those acts at the Theme Park this coming summer. Janet and Frank's chimp **KELLY** was such a success on National TV playing tennis opposite **ELIE NAS-TASE** that more such major sports events have been inked for this talented simian.

**SNAPSHOTS:** **CARMEN HALL's** precocious Baboons are the HIT of the Texas dates....**TOMMY BENTLEY** wound up with "producers' feet" in Johnstown when he kept one eye on the show, spun Candy Floss, "sat" Vashek's inclined wire guys, and walked a hundred miles daily....But, this I'll say: he remained calm and cool throughout....**BILLY EARL** had a small granuloma removed from his leg (which was benign). The stitches have now been removed and he is doing fine.

Billy has added a "rocker base" to his sword balancing ladder which gives it a "sway pole" effect...**GEE GEE ENGESSER**, who returns to Cirque Gatini in 1978 for her 3rd season, was forced to layover in New York State enroute to Florida when one of her elephants demolished a pony stall in the animal semi....After breaking both wrists, **LONI VAN VOORDEN** decorated her casts with jewels, draped the jeweled plaster with feathers and went right back to work!....Dame **KATE HANNEFORD** was honored on her birthday at the Shrine Circus in Knoxville with full center ring honors....**KARL** and **CONCHITA ERICKSON** are both hospitalized in Tampa, Conchita's condition is serious....**ED RUSSELL** is now back home in California....**BUCK NOLAN's** CB "handle" is the "Wanderer" (should be "Browser" since he's such a flea market freak)....**EM** and **OSSIAN WIRENGARD's** son, **B. WIRENGARD, Jr.**, had a successful season in Denmark with his breakaway sway pole thriller....Fine trumpeter **ROY ROBINETTE** has a varied background of classical and Broadway musical experience....**WES** and **FLORINE OLER** wound up their long fair season Oct. 29th. Meanwhile they and son, **PHIL**, are touring with Garden's **SHOWTIME FOLLIES**....The poodle, **ABNER**, which was acquired from **JIMMY DOUGLASS** years ago, finally had to be put to sleep....**JANET** and **FRANK BURGER** are breaking a small dog for **ETHEL JENNIER's** sword balancing act.

**ON THE SCENE WITH BENTLEY BROS:** Clown **RICK SMILEY** is the nephew of famed **BOBBY KAYE**....**LILLI-ANA** was presented with roses by the producers on the second show opening day, was thrilled, said: "First time this ever happened to me!"....**JOHN-NY CANOLE** was a daily visitor throughout the run....The **PLUNKETTS** arrived, sans June, who stayed behind to look after her daughter Jan who was having an operation....**DEBBIE (Toca) PLUNKETT** worked in **MARK ALLEN's** Magic Act....Deb's sister is now flying in the Carden-Johnson flying act....**VASHEK** and **KATHY** have, by this time, flown to Switzerland for a month's visit....Johnstown marked **Kathy's** final performance until the baby is born in March — meanwhile sister, **Cindy**, subs for her in the act....**WALT** and **BARBARA KING** went from the Johnstown date to spots for **HUBLER** and will make the Evansville Shrine Date.

**CHUCK SCHLARBAUM** ran into 80 yr. old retired bandmaster **RAYMOND ESCORTIA** on a visit to Baraboo this summer. The pair then visited **DOMBROW-**

(Continued on Page 8)

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Acts currently being featured at Old Chicago include: Martin Lamberti, juggling; Miss Barbara, web; the Nachans Trio, trampoline; Martin Lamberti, hand balancing; Bruski's Dolly and Her Darlings, bike balance; The Flying Ibarra. Other features at the facility are: Charlie Baffle's Magic Show, the Old Chicago Keystone Kops Banjo Band, Alberta Massee at the Bell Wagon and the Old Chicago Duo.

Members of the International Circus Band at Old Chicago are: Emil Hahn, director and circus coordinator, Lloyd Fengel, cornet, Jerry Zezulka, cornet, Del Bergeson, trombone, Joe Drick, baritone and Steve Young, drums.

### Miscellaneous

The Sells Floto Ring, CMB, held its Fall Model Circus Exhibit at Woonsocket, R. I., on Nov. 11-13.

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## Hanneford Circus

Talent appearing with the Royal Hanneford Circus at White Plains (NY) on Oct. 22-23 included: Charles Schlarbaum, Jerry and Brian Maas, band; two hair hangs and two ladders; Tajana, tigers; The Lancelots, high wire; Clown Wash Day; Los Latinos, low wire; Mr. Monarch, one finger stand; Isabella, balancing; Mr. Aristocrat, one finger stand; Aerialetta II and the aerial ballet (3 webs and 3 ladders); Sir Victor Julian and his Little Stars; The Oscarrians, risley; The Riding Hannefords; The Flying Azteca; Senor Rai, magic; Karen, doves; Jo Ann and Sunny, the seal; Tajana and Rama; Hanneford's elephants and the Great Huberto, foot slide.

..... Mike Naughton

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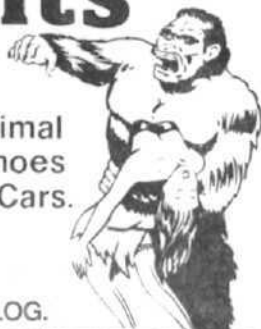


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## Show Features

The program presented at Huntsville (Ala) on Oct. 28-30 by the Sam T. Polack Circus featured:

Clown come-in; Local Shrine Units; Overture; Miss Caroline; Lilli Ana, leopards; the Burkett Duo, aerial perch; Clowns; Miguel, tightwire; Clowns; The Dymeks; Jack and Sandy Fulbright and their horses; the Obandos, high wire; Miss Lydia, single trapeze; Vidbel's ponies; Fulbright's ponies; Clowns; the Carlos Duo, perch; Hair Hang; Clowns; The Elkins Sisters; Vidbel's elephants; the Espanas Flying act.

The show was produced by Sam T. Polack; Al Dawley was the announcer/ringmaster; Ron Kelroy was prop boss; John Asbury directed the music and Clown Alley included: John and Lorraine McKay, David Chabira, Les Schmitt, Tom Phelps and Machele Malvern.

## PEOPLE

JOHN HERRIOTT was the guest speaker at the Robert Dover Tent, CFA, annual meeting, held at Camp Hill, Pa., on Oct. 29th.

KIRBY GRANT (Sky King) recently visited his ex-long time personal manager STAN KRAMIEN, at the Kramien Bird Farm in Brush Prairie, Wash. Kramien was the manager who signed Sky King for his long tour with Carson & Barnes Circus starting in 1965. Sky King will be appearing on some of Kramien's Christmas shows this year.

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## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

SKI'S BAR (a subscriber to CR) where a convention of Model Builders found themselves serenaded by trumpet duets.

**COUNT - COUNTER-POINT:** WES and FLORINE OLER were flying to their Orangeburg Fair date by separate air routes, she from Showtime Follies, he from the Bentley Bros. Circus engagement. At the Charlotte (NC) stopover they found themselves together on the same flight into Orangeburg - and completely by accident!

See you down the road, luvs.

LIBERACE and the Acrobats of Taiwan are appearing at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nev., through Nov. 20th. The show also features the Casino's elephant "Bertha".

BILL BIGGERSTAFF expects to take delivery of a new trailer unit which will enable him to work more efficiently as he tours with Circus Vargas.

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## MAGICTIME USA

by Atos Aras

It's tough to project magical illusions from a small stage tucked away in the backend of a barn-like gymnasium.

The audience in the Rider College Gym, Lawrence Township, N. J., on Saturday, Oct. 22 had to sit on either those small, hard, metal folding chairs spread out on the basketball court or equally uncomfortable wooden benches, perpendicular to the stage, which probably afforded a good view of a basketball game, but a lousy perch from which to see Stu Miller and all the rest make magic.

The unlighted scoreboard made it clear neither Rider nor Visitor scored a point all afternoon, but Magictime USA scored a lot of them as evidenced by the enthusiasm of the SRO house (gym). Which goes to prove that when a theatrical production can be successful out of it's element, it's bound to score points in a familiar setting.

Without any ado whatsoever, Rabbi the clown got the kids higher than a kite shouting "Hello's" and other nonsense. Even the mummies and daddies were laughing. Rabbi did his job. The come-in had 'em warmed up.

"Another Opening, Another Show" was the lead off number of the overture as things got going musically. A trumpet, organ, percussion combination cut the show with precision. The selection of charts was imaginative and reflected a long-time familiarity with, and knowledge of, show music.

Flanked by three flashily wardrobe female assistants, Stu began with the doves. He pulled them from impossible places. He worked the water vase and a few silks. Rabbits and ducks came from nowhere; Sara (Mrs. Miller) was everywhere, always smiling.

Next came the Doll House. Stu's many days and nights on the bally stand in front of Circus Side Shows prepared him well for his oratorical style of presenting magic.

Stu and Rabbi came back for some sure-fire laugh producing, face transplanting, flapdoole which saw Rabbi survive without a scratch. Stu then had four kids from the audience come on stage for several participation stunts.

A Trip to the Orient and dividing a girl in six equal parts showed that Stu still has a magical way with the ladies.

Adding variety and changing the pace, Misako Sen presented some excellent unicycling, club juggling and giraffe unicycle dancing, twirling two batons. Ms. Sen finished juggling three fire torches. A polished presentation.

In white shirt, white tie and white tails, Prof. Miller made the white-gowned, dreaming Princess rise; hooping her risen form from all possible directions — proving beyond doubt — and then resting her down again. A masterful presentation of levitation.

Next, Rabbi, the last of the circus buffoons, as Stu dubbed him, had three members of the sponsoring group on stage for a balloon inflation contest.

The Olde London Punch and Judy Show followed, easing into the bag of magic tricks pitch — 50 cents. The economics of the Circus Side Show appeared in the limelight of MagicTime USA. From the response, MTUSA had plenty of gas money to get out of town.

Intermission.

Satan's Bride, the girl to leopard illusion, began the post-intermission part of the program. The audience was happily astonished.

Prof. Miller, in sequined jacket, pulled a dog from an empty cylinder and then a girl appeared from an empty box just after a sword had been thrust downward through it's center. Impossible.

Stu had two kids on stage for some rope cutting and joining. And then he cut Sara (his wife) in two. Naturally, he put her back together again. The daddies in the audience seemed to enjoy this one the most.

Rabbi returned with some magical comedy.

The Joe Horwath Chimps (3) were amazing. An excellent presentation. The simian boxing match had the crowd in stitches.

The Trunk Exchange followed with some pleasing comedy diversion using two members of the local sponsoring organization.

Lastly, Prof. Miller presented the Amazing Mr. X, ala green and red frocked Trappist monk with the head of a devil. A beautiful switch. He really fooled 'em with this one.

(Continued on Page 12)



for 1978

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### BIG CHANGES (Continued)

Also returning next year are Miss Loni and Miss Barbara, foot juggling in end rings in identical wardrobe and routines. While they are working Christopher James' wire rigging will be set in the center ring.

Remaining with the show are Semon's Chimps, the Baker Clown Trio, Ringmaster Mike Gorman, Bandleader Jim Gibson, clowns Johnny Pierce, Zapatta and Habibi, and the Brauns from Germany who will function in a "front end" capacity.

The Circus Vargas side show format has been abandoned and has been turned into an elaborate menagerie and petting zoo, with more animals being acquired almost daily. The Windlands remain in charge of this operation which features a two-headed cow.

### REVIEW (Continued)

Finale. All members of the cast were introduced. They received a well deserved, long lasting compliment from an appreciative audience that had just witnessed a fine, lustrous performance. Truly an afternoon of mystical entertainment.

Surely Prof. Miller and Company have some sort of divine connection with supernatural agencies, or forces of nature. At least it seemed that way to me, for awhile, on Saturday afternoon, October 22, 1977.

The Company: Prof. Stu Miller, Magician; Sara Diaz Miller, Lead Assistant and Misako Sen; Jerry Weintraub; Rabbi the Clown; Joe and Ava Horwath, Chimpanzee act; Bernadette Bowman and Rennie Wong, Show Girls; Jack King, Musical Conductor; Doc Swan and Peter Montalbano, Musicians.

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## Expecting

Two African elephants at the Knoxville (Tenn) Zoo - Toto and Sapphire - are expecting and the births due next year will be the first in the Western Hemisphere for captive African elephants.

Appearing unaffected by it all is Ole Diamond, the 27-year old father-to-be, who, it is claimed, is the largest African elephant in captivity.

Zoo director Guy Smith III announced the expected births last week and has launched a campaign to raise \$65,000 for construction of facilities for the calving and to keep Ole Diamond away from the mothers when they give birth.

Toto belongs to the Bronx Zoo (NY) and has been on loan to the Knoxville Zoo since 1975. Her calf is due next March.

## Improving

Actress Nanette Fabray, admitted to a hospital last week after being knocked down by an elephant, has been moved from the intensive care unit, hospital officials report.

Miss Fabray was said to be improving steadily after the accident during the filming of a scene for "Harper Valley PTA."

The elephant reportedly was irritated by a prankster and hit Miss Fabray in the chest with its trunk knocking her across the set.



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## PEOPLE

THE GREAT MAYO (Wm. Patterson), escape artist, was the main attraction at the La Cumbre Plaza Shopping Center in Santa Barbara (Calif.) Oct. 28-31. His appearance there died in with the anniversary of Houdini's death on Oct. 31, 1926. Following the Santa Barbara date he left for performances in the Palm Spings (Calif.) area.

ELTON JOHN, rock star, announced his retirement from live stage performances at the end of a concert in London last week.

# THE CIRCUS

George Hubler produced another great circus for the Hajji Grotto at Bedford, Ind., on Oct. 29 and 30th. The show was presented in the Bedford Jr. High School Gym, with performances at 2 and 8 on Saturday and 2 and 5 on Sunday.

The show opened with Joe Sherman directing the Clown Come-in and Boom Boom Brown-ing's Trio played the overture.

After the National Anthem the program got underway with Johnnie Laddie & Co, balancing; Clowns with 'Hot Dog' gag; The Joselito Bros. and their Madcap Chimps; Miss Cathy English, trapeze; The Stevens Troupe, tramp-oline; Mr. Sherman and Mr. Hardy, magicians; Susan Sheryll and her Royal Afghans; Aerial Ballet with Miss Bumpy and Miss Cathy; Clown number with Joe Sherman and Mr. Hardy; Johnny Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; Jorge Bar-reda, lions (8).

George Hubler's next date coming up is at Troy (Ohio) on Nov. 12-13. .... Don Sandman

## IT'S NEW

Bobby Gibbs and Don Anderson have formed a circus and horse spectacle for select spring dates which will feature the Gibb's animals and the Anderson's Texas White Horse Troupe.

The show will run about 1½ hours and will carry its own concessions, a 60 k.w. light plant and seats for 4,000 people. A wild west type canopy will be used instead of a tent.

The show will be geared to play rodeo arenas, ball parks and shopping centers. General manager for the show will be Don Anderson of the White Horse Ranch, Troup, Texas. Information about the show is also available from Bob Gibbs, Rte. 4, Box 550, Mission, Texas.

## Fair Date

Oler Entertainment Productions have set a large number of fair dates for 1978, including the Orangeburg (SC) fair Oct. 9-14. The program at that fair will headline the Barton-Jennier Center Ring Attractions (5 acts) and the Bonnie & Clyde musical comedy team. Organist Florine Oler will back up the show.

# Acts Wanted

## FOR 1978 SEASON

— (Doing Two or More Numbers) —  
FOR TENT CIRCUS

Send: Photos, description of acts, and salary requirements

## Kelly Bros. Circus

6106 East 32nd Place — Suite 103  
Tulsa, Oklahoma · 74135

## PEOPLE

**MIKE PIKE**, bandleader for Clyde Bros.-Carden-Johnson Circus, has just completed musical scores for TV commercials to be seen nationwide in '78. Mike's latest spots are for Warner Lambert Industries, makers of Schick products.

**DON** and **INGA WOODS** are wintering their horses in the Texas Rio Grande Valley area for the winter months.

**GLEN** and **ETHEL HENRY** played Harlington, Texas, for Carden-Johnson on Oct. 29-30.

**DION YOUNG**, lion trainer with Carson & Barnes Circus left that show to work for **JUNGLE LARRY** in Florida.

**RON** and **JOY HOLIDAY** have their big cats at the "Million Dollar Dump" for the 2001 Nights show in Houston.

**MELVIN SILVERLAKE** was seen with his big snake show working the Fair at Dallas (Texas).

**GUNNAR AMANDIS**, **GIL MILLER**, **HOWARD SUSEZ**, Sr. **ATAYADE**, **M. GATINI** and **GEORGE HAMID** were all visiting the Shrine Circus at Houston, Texas, last month.

**BOBBY** and **ROSA GIBBS** have signed to work with the **GERALD SOULES** "Circus Girard" in 1978 (May 30 thru Labor Day) where in addition to their animal acts they will work a pony ride and elephant ride.

**GARY HENRY** is playing dates for **JIM HETZER** in the West Virginia area, with his comedy car and pony.

**LOU REGAN** worked camels and elephants at

## AGENTS WANTED

FOR 1978 SEASON

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Phone: (503) 779-7441

## He's Fined

A state jury at Antlers, Okla., has found Bill Boatright, of that city, guilty of maintaining a public nuisance by keeping animals at his local truck stop. A fine of \$100 was assessed against Boatright, who represented himself in court.

Boatright said he would be getting rid of his animals this winter, including a 600 lb bear, a tiger a leopard and two lions. He said he would probably give them to the Carson & Barnes Circus when the show returns to its winter home at Hugo, Okla.

Boatright was brought to trial after his tiger nearly severed the left arm of a local man who ventured too close to the cage on April 17th. On Aug. 27th the bear bit and severely injured a 5 year old boy who with his grandmother posed for a picture alongside the cage, the animal was uncaged at the time.

the Dr. Pepper Circus in Dallas, Texas.

**STAN KRAMIEN**, magician, was featured on TV's "Knockout" show seen on Friday, Nov. 4th.

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with Barbra Streisand



## THE MOSCOW CIRCUS

by Gordon D. Brown and George Chapman

Following a seven city tour of Canada, which Canadian impresario J. Sergei Sawchyn said could only be described as a "monster hit" the Moscow Circus heads into Chicago for an opening of the U. S. tour on Nov. 8th.

The animals and props sailed Aug. 30th from Murmansk aboard the S.S. Andreev, arriving in Montreal on Sept. 14th. The 65 member Soviet company arrived by air on Sept. 15 and 17, to be joined by 25 Canadian travelling staff. The animal contingent consisted of 20 bears, 12 horses, 8 house cats and 3 dogs. The show moved on six 45 ft. semi-trailers and one 40 ft. semi horse van, all rented in Canada.

The circus was presented in a more intimate manner than in previous tours with a new reduced seating plan involving an ingenious curtaining reducing the capacity of some arenas up to one-half. Every seat was advertised as a "great seat". The single European-style ring, which travels in its own 45 ft. semi, is about 45 ft. in diameter with a specially developed rubberized and 3-M Tartan surface, eliminating the fussy sand and clay composition previously used on other tours.

The show opens with a brief colorful Grand Entry with capisoned horses and flags. Trim Ludmilla Kanagina after intoning "Welcome to the Moscow Circus" grasps a cable and is whisked up to roman rings and swinging single trap and a finale with some Vickie Unus-like one arm planges in the dome of the arena. The Zamotkins offer good teeterboard, climaxed by the unduplicated catapult from the board through a somersault on stilts.

Russia's newest great clown, Yuri Kuklachov, at age 28 is heralded as the inheritor of the laurels of the great Popov. Without make-up, but with an amazing rubber-face he imitates a rock and roll musician, plays an accordion, jumps off a teeterboard, rides a unicycle, climbs a perch pole, juggles and balances his tabbycat on his finger. His work with kids, young and old in the close-in audience is classic.

Larissa and Victor Sungurov bound up and down a 15 ft. giant staircase of barrels with vigor and lots of fun. Marina Osinskaya solos with a tricky rigging and three types of high wire work.

Valeri Guryev juggles and then catches on his neck, solid steel balls with occasional passes when the cannonballs hit the floor with a sickening thud, but he continues to smile throughout. Marina and Larissa Petrova have a good aerial gymnastic whirl on a very high circling rigging. The first half closes with "The Incredible Dancing Bears of Nellie and Rustam Kaseyev", winners of the Gold Medal for Originality of the European Federation of Circuses. Highlights are the "dress-ups" a la Victor Julian, great comedy with five "Fierce, Fighting Lions" alright bears in great antics and the soccer game with some expert drop-kickers. The ballet, a gypsy dance and the Masha dancing the Kalinka brings down the house.

Oleg Lozovik's team of six start the second half with "The Dream Aerial Flight". After early standard flying trap tricks, two men set 15 ft. below the pedestal pump as on a giant swing. On the second flight, the foremost flier takes off and literally soars in a high, long trajectory to the hands of the regular catcher. With the house lights out, and luminous suits, and heavenly music, and then the revolving mirro-ball while all the fliers revolve, this is without a doubt a real first.

Mareyev and Korsev show split-second comedy and skill on a poorly inspected perch pole. Sergei Ignatov, the finest young juggler in the USSR is called the "Juggling Juggernaut".

Again in the dome, Ludmilla Golovko and Peter Lubinchenko on independent moveable trapezes show some unusual ball balancing.

Tamerlan Nuzgarov on his brilliant white steed races down a steeply inclined ramp to begin the Cossack Riding finale with their "Mountain Legend". Audiences whistle, yell and clap in appreciation and continue with the Grand Finale when Kuklachov, tired of trying to "beg off" finally distracts the ringmaster and exits through his legs.

Boris Tatish ili, with a fair amount of maracas playing himself, leads a trip of a featured pianist, a drummer and trumpet with the show and local helpers with 3 more trumpets, 5 saxaphones, 2 trombones and 1 electric bass, 1 rhythm guitar and a violin, through a varied and far from traditional book.

Director N. Yadrenov and Technical Director E. Akifyev head the staff.

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## It's A Law

It's against the law to molest a skunk ape in Florida. Just last week the legislature's House Justice Committee approved a bill making it illegal to molest the legendary anthropoids occasionally reported seen in the swamps of Southern Florida.

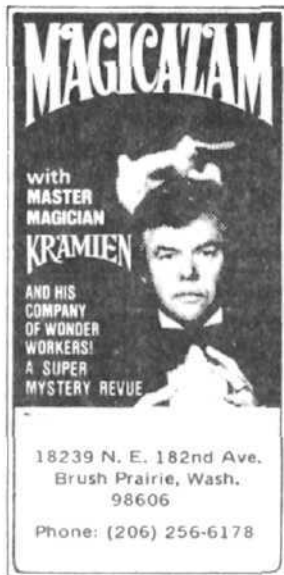
The committee approved a similar bill by Rep. Paul Nuckolls, in its last session, but it never reached the House floor.

Nuckolls rounded out his pitch this year with pictures of a purported skunk ape. He refused to vouch for their validity, but said, "If you talk to some of these people who think they've seen it, they believe it."

## PEOPLE

LLOYD BRIDGES and BRITT EKLAND star in "The Great Wallendas", a film about the spectacular career of the famous circus family. Production is now underway in Sarasota, Fla., with Bridges playing the part of KARL WALLENDEN and Miss Ekland playing JENNY.

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## Variety Show

A Variety Show sponsored by the Firefighter's Association has been playing cities within the general San Francisco (Calif) area this past week with good attendance at all performances. Talent for the pre-holiday show was booked by Waldon Webb Entertainment Agency, of Van Nuys, Calif.

The program, backed by Verne Rolle's 12 piece orchestra, featured: Tom Kelly, MC/comedian; The Wheelers, musical comedy; Wally Lee and Linda, magic/illusions; Gale Robbins, vocalist and Johnny O'Brien, comedy/harmonica.

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## The Kelly Show

The Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus, produced by Leonard Green, appeared at Mount Lebanon (Pittsburgh, Pa.) on Oct. 29th for three performances, sponsored by the Performing Arts for Children in cooperation with the Mt. Lebanon Jr. Women's Club and the Parks and Recreation department. Business was excellent with two packed houses and a  $\frac{3}{4}$  house. Response by the committee was enthusiastic and a return appearance looks favorable for the show in '78.

The show was housed in the Mt. Lebanon Ice Rink with boards covering the ice for the one day showing. The program featured: Overture; Introduction of Ringmaster; Greeting by Emmett Kelly, Jr.; Cimse's Wolfhounds and Poms; the Kneisley Duo, cradle; Emmett and rope; The Aristocrats, trampoline; Emmett and Nancy in the levitation; Jo Ann and Sunny, the *musical comedy sea lion*.

The second half included: Kastle's Kingdom of Bears; Emmett and feather; The Pisanis, tumbling; the Cyclonians, unicycles; Aerialetta II, aerial thriller; Charlie Van Buskirk was the an-

ELEPHANT MAN

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nouncer, while music was provided by Giles Austing, drummer and Al Dilemia, organist.

An extra added attraction was scheduled outside the arena when Donna (Wilson) Kneisley performed a slide for life from the football stadium, across a field, stopping just in front of and across the street from the Ice Rink, which was too low to accommodate the slide.

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus will play a date about Thanksgiving time in Florida, followed by a week-long Christmas engagement (Dec. 25-31) at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



# Want

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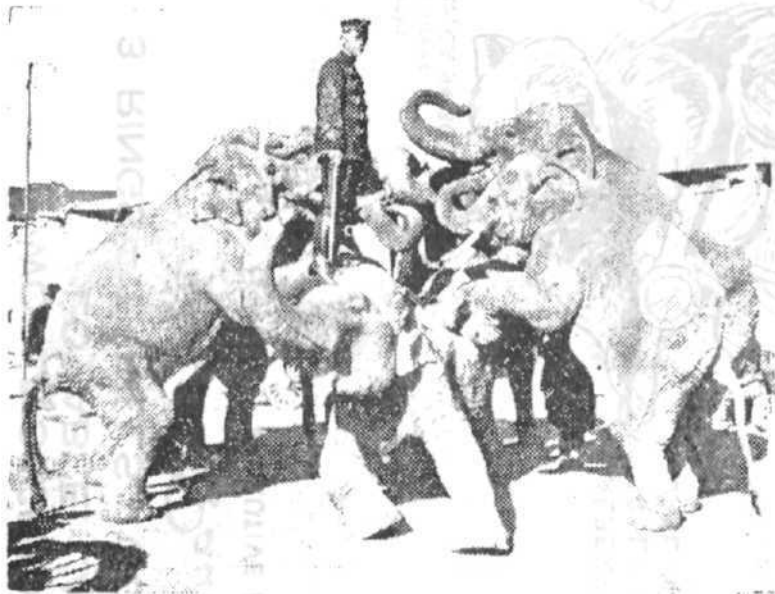
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