

THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 7

February 15, 1982



SABO'S CHIMPS

on TV's "Saturday Night Live" Show



Adriatic Animal Attractions, Inc.
Josip Marcan - President

For the 1981 and 1982 season, my new mixed act of lions and tigers has been exclusively contracted by the Hawthorn Circus Corp. for bookings. But the animals and equipment remain solely owned by me.

However, I have trained and added to my act - 8 tigers belonging to the Hawthorn Circus Corp., enlarging my act to 19 animals. My enlarged act shall be referred to as: Marcan's Mixed Lions and Tigers Combined with the Hawthorn Tigers.

Due to the fact that the Hawthorn Circus Corp. already owns an act referred to as the "Hawthorn Tigers", it has become necessary to distinguish the difference of the act which I own and the Hawthorn act.

I hope this will clarify the ownership and billing of my act.

Sincerely,
Josip Marcan

SHOW DATES

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
Feb 17-21 Richmond, Va

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Feb 10-21 Atlanta, Ga.

--- OTHER DATES ---

Auto Show
Feb 19-21 Oakland, Ca.

Byran's Clowns, Inc.
Feb 6 W. Middlesex, Pa.
12 New Castle

Disney World on Ice
Feb 9-21 Boston, Mass.

Holiday on Ice
Feb 16-21 Reno, Nev.

The Plunketts
Feb 19-21 Albuquerque,
N. M.

--- MAGIC ---

Abbott's Magic Exhibit
Feb 19-21 Hollywood,
Calif.

Hollywood Cavalcade
Feb 19-21 Hollywood,
Calif.

It's Magic Show
Feb 16-21 St. Louis, Mo.



Ron London
Feb 6 Columbia, SC
9 Huntington, W. Va

David Seebach
Feb 5 Decatur, Ill.
6 St. Charles
9 Manhattan, Kans
14 Grand Rapids, Mh
17 Austin, Texas

Mail room

The Post Office recently returned Circus Reports addressed to the following people.

Robin Heisinger
James R. Decker
Jack Miller
Elmer Wilson
Hedy Thomason
Kandy the Clown
Amel Zachal
Scott Taylor
Harry Thomas


CIRCUS BOOK. "The Circus Life and Adventure of Adam Bardy". A truly interesting life story for old-timers especially \$7.95 a copy. Adam Bardy Thompson, Conn. 06277


THANKS TO

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FOR THE PURCHASE OF
HEAVY CIRCUS EQUIPMENT

A SPECIAL THANKS TO

JOHNNY LAM



CARLOS DESIGNS

**CUSTOM-MADE CIRCUS RIGGINGS AND SAFETY
EQUIPMENT WITH 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE**

New Indoor Unit

Atlantic Southern Productions, Sarasota, is fielding a newly framed and titled variety unit for the '82 season. "All Star Cavalcade" is being added to their existing roster of "Holiday Magic Circus" and "Holiday in Magicland," all 90 minute magic and variety shows.

The new show will feature magic and illusions presented by show manager Mike Martin. In addition, Martin, will once again this season, include his popular comedy parody "Garganta, the Almost Human Gorilla."

Rounding out the performances, Martin will add other novelty and variety acts to compliment his themed production numbers. For the early March tour through Ga., Ala., Miss. and Arkansas, the Johnny Dubsy family will perform four turns: Ms. Zsa Zsa, single trap, Christina's Dress Dogs, a beautiful colored pigeon and dove production, plus Dr. Janos and friends, cat act.

A feature clown, as yet un-named, will be added to the show for further comedy balance, plus the Kaiser Sisters, Sabrina and Simone, will be work-

(Continued on Page 23)

Circus Vargas

by DON COVINGTON

Circus Vargas opened its 1982 season in the San Diego, Calif., suburb of El Cajon, on Friday, Jan. 22, after a short trip from its winter home in the Orange County theme park, Lion Country Safari.

Original plans had the giant tent scheduled to move south in time to set up the big top a day prior to the premiere for rehearsals. Unfortunately, logistic delays prevented this from happening and the opening performance went off with only hasty preparation.

Consequently, the initial show was plagued with poor coordination, dreadful timing and awkward transitions between displays. Work began immediately to trim some acts, rearrange others and to smooth the pauses caused by bulky props and missed cues. Announcer Joseph Pon hopes to be able to condense a show that took a painfully long three hours on opening night into two hours and fifteen minutes.

The show this year includes many of the acts from the strong and talented lineup of the 1981 edition, with some significant changes. Marcel Peters has replaced Wade Burck in the steel arena with John Cuneo's beautiful sixteen tiger cat act featuring the circus world's only performing white tigers. Peters, a British trainer, last seen presenting lions, is still learning the animals and tricks in the big group. His initial difficulties with this particular combination of animals should disappear before long.

John Cuneo is traveling with the show for the first few weeks to assist in developing the full potential of his new trainer. Marcel and the cats arrived just in the nick of time for the opening show. The semi carrying the act pulled onto the lot at 7 p.m. for the scheduled 8 p.m. opening show; this winter's brutal snow storms had delayed their trip across country from Chicago. Despite the late arrival, Marcel Peters was in the arena opening the show after only a 15 minute delay.

Dutch Crawford has replaced Henri Wagner as head of the horse department. Vargas has sold two rings of liberty horses to D. R. Miller and substituted a single ring of liberty horses, presented by Crawford, flanked this year by a ring of performing llamas and a second ring with two camels and two po-

nies from the show's lead stock. Crawford does a beautiful job presenting this act as well as assisting with elephants, exotic animals and dressage. The talented trainer, last seen on Hoxie Bros. Circus, was also responsible for breaking General Vargas, the show's beautiful pure white stallion, which now appears in the center ring dressage number ridden by a very capable young girl rider.

Two new feature acts are given solo billing in prime spots in the show. Les Victoria, a European style statue act made up of two men and a woman, are spot-lighted just prior to the spec at the end of the first half. They perform an elegant slow motion acrobatic turn under colored spots, the difficulty of which may, unfortunately, be lost on the average American audience. The near capacity crowd on opening night grew restless midway through the act. The audience did not have the same reaction to Les Bloch high wire act midway through the second half. The aerial trio had everyone riveted in their seats as they performed first a pyramid, then a three man high on the wire.

Returning favorites that continued to please the audience were Cimon's chimpanzees, Rex Williams elephants (reduced this year to three rings of three elephants, with ten bulls on the line), the Franconi Duo and the Flying Espanas, who again this year present both flying trapeze acts.

Also new this year is an elephant acrobatic number featuring two elephants, teeterboards, and two leapers. Billed as the Dimitrov, it's a real crowd pleaser as the performers are sent sailing high into the air from their pachyderm powered perches. Li Suang is also popular as he cavorts barefoot on the bounding rope.

Returning clown Billy McCabe has taken over as producing clown, replacing Dale Longmire, who has left the show. McCabe has two returning funsters and five new joeys in clown alley. Three production gags and a walk-around were hampered by poor lighting and lack of timing and coordination on the opening, but the group shows potential for good work together in the future. They'll have to really work hard to fill the huge Vargas tent with so few members.

Steven Carrol again leads the big show band an eight piece combo that adequately fills the tent with music thanks to a well designed

(Continued on Page 21)

Review

by GEORGE BINGAMAN

"CIRCUS SKETCHBOOK" by Ray Dirgo. Published by the author, 1981. Write to Ray Dirgo, 12 Glenvale Circle, Bridgeport, Conn. 06110.

Ray Dirgo's "Circus Sketchbook" is a treasury of circus drawings made during the last seven years of "catching the circus." Already acclaimed America's top circus sketcher by general consensus Dirgo's visits to lots, back-lots and arenas has enabled him to capture the charisma of contemporary circuses with the magic of his artistic hand.

In stops at Beatty-Cole Ringling Red and Blue, Monte Carlo Cirque, Hunt Bros., and Strates Shows the author interprets the features of his subjects with "as it is" reproductions adding enjoyable hyperbole in cartoonist

fashion. Nevertheless, he manages to preserve the personality marks we recognize and identify. Dirgo's humor delights with inoffensive dexterity running the gamut from Nellie's go-go to firehouse foolishness.

Those of us who enjoy everything that is circus from performers to the gear that moves the shows feast on the backlot scenes, pie car, Baker's sleeper, clown sleeper, "flag's up", "chow line", ropes and stakes, interior cookhouse, water truck, clown alley, and the water pails, clown truck, routing the show.

The back cover "looking into Laporte's clown shoes" is top art circus style. Anna Mae's eyeful of Barbara abd Buckles Woodcock is Dirgo at his best. Wandrey readying Prince Paul, Picollo standing tall, Red's aerial ballet, Gardner's Big Red,

(Continued on Page 19)

THE LION IS BUSY

by BOB STODDARD

King Arthur the Lion and Goldi have a comedy high wire act that is new and different, in many ways, for a lot of reasons.

It's different because the star of the act, Arthur Duchek, wears a lion's head (ala Disney) that is wired for sound using a cordless mike to carry on an endless line of chatter throughout the act with his partner Goldi (who's beauty should never be covered up).

It's not that Arthur Duchek isn't handsome and needs to cover his head. It's just that he spent five years with the Walt Disney organization where he learned about the magic in these oversized animal heads.

In his years with Disney, he was the creator



of countless stunts for all shows in connection with the Disney programs, including Herbie the Love Bug. It was Duchek who put Herbie on the high wire and made him do all those incredible, fantastic stunts.

When he quit Disney on Parade, he bought a house in New Jersey where he planned to enter the antique business. "I bought over a quarter of a million dollars worth of antiques but the pace of the business was too slow for me. So I kept most of the antiques myself and decided to go back on the road,"

he said.

During his short retirement, King Arthur the Lion was born. He had to learn to talk and balance at the same time and develop a special technique of breathing while performing. This was the difficult and unique part.

His beautiful assistant, Goldi, started performing with a rolling globe act in Germany at the age of 13. In 1963 she started working with Arthur and they were married soon after that.

Confidence is his long suit; optimistic by nature; Duchek plans to be the world's number one costumed character and has already developed a line of King Arthur toys and souvenirs.

Meanwhile, the act he developed six years ago for Sports Shows, festivals, fairs and the like has branched out and this year has become a circus act.

Everyone told him that the act wouldn't make it in a circus, and for a while circus owners believed that and it wasn't until this year that they got one spot with Hbler, one spot for Sam Polack and then the Texas Shrine dates. They are fabulous and are now in great demand.

At the Shrine date in Dallas, they followed the stick-out act of the Garza Brothers, Living Statues. In Dallas there was no act that would have been tougher to follow, but they did it successfully.

They are already signed for the Texas Shrine dates for 1982 and Sam Polack wants them back so we'll probably see a lot more of them on circus lots in the future.



The Last Circus at Belle Vue, Manchester

by JACK NIBLETT

For 53 years, the Kings Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester, England, has presented an unbroken sequence of circus shows, but this years Christmas/New Year season has sadly become the last. The Belle Vue Gardens, comprising an Arena, a Zoo, Restaurants, Dance Halls, an Amusement (rides) Park, and Sports Grounds had long been the pride of Manchester, but over the years, with changing tastes, the complex had become run-down with one attraction after another closing down, until finally the Kings Hall was the only building left on a decaying dilapidated site. Now the whole ground has been sold and builders are already constructing shops and houses.

Belle Vue Circus, since the closing of Bertram Mills' London Olympia Circus, has become the premiere winter circus of England and had featured many of the world's greatest stars. It always had a rich atmosphere all its own and was notable for its showland personalities, the greatest being George Lockhart (of Lockhart's elephant fame) who was ringmaster for 32 years, only being persuaded to retire when he was 90 years of age!

The Moscow State Circus played a short season at Belle Vue in the summer of 1971 and also during the summer months, there was boxing and wrestling tournaments, and pop music concerts with artists of the calibre of Bing Crosby and the Osmonds.

Belle Vue has always prided itself on the International aspect of its programs. In recent years this has become somewhat modified owing to the nature of Britain's strict animal importation laws, therefore for its last season, Martin Lacye's Lions, Sir Robert Fossett's Elephants, Clarrison's sea Lions, Mary Chipperfield's Farmyard Animals, Pamela Enos' football dogs, all hail from this country. The Garcia Family (teeterboard, Russian swing, Risley and Trapeze); the Bogino Brothers, cyclists from Italy; the Borge family, jugglers and the Bri-zio Troupe, slapstick clowns from Spain; while the Salvador Sisters with their rolling globes, and Jacko Fossett with Little Willy, house clowns, represented England.

Norman Barrett, Britains most distinguished ringmaster officiates over this last sad

season. Norman made his debut at Belle Vue 20 years ago, with his "Courier of St. Petersburg" riding act.

Belle Vue is going to be greatly missed by the Fans and general public of Northern England. It is not closing through any lack of business, the show has been as popular as ever during the last few years, it is just that the site has been lost.

Sadly, it also means the loss of one more "shop" for circus artists, in our diminishing winter circus season.

PEOPLE

DOUG and SALLY ASHTON are on a combined business and vacation trip to Australia where they will be visiting Doug's family as well as touring with an Australian show.

KEVIN HANSON, clown, along with JENA MAXSON and SHELLEY HARTWIG, wire act, were pictured in a Los Angeles Times story about the Wenatchee Youth Circus.



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SIEGFRIED & ROY, Superstars of Magic

Tumultuous applause, loud gasps and thunderous ovations were the order of the evening at the debut of the new Las Vegas super spectacle "Beyond Belief," starring master illusionists Siegfried & Roy. The Frontier Hotel's new \$3 million show room, renamed the "Beyond Belief" Room was filled to capacity and the enthusiasm of the star studded crowd testified to the enormous success of the new extravaganza.

With their inimitable blend of elegance and showmanship, the duo of German-born wizards held spectators spellbound as they made an elephant disappear, Roy, accompanied by a dangerous 400 lb Lep-jag, was blasted from a silver cannon across the show room, only to reappear in a cage on the other side, Siegfried suspended his partner and a regal Bengal tiger over the audience on a glittering mirrored globe, a beautiful young woman was instantly transformed into a 7 ft. snake, a horse dissolved in plain view and vanished completely. These incredible feats,

plus many more, have truly established Siegfried and Roy as legends in their own time and have earned them the title of "Superstars of Magic."

Siegfried and Roy and their exotic assistants are brilliantly showcased in this lavish, 90 minute production which doesn't stint on quality. \$2.5 million dollars worth of wardrobe and brilliant effects add to the incredible razzle-dazzle talents of the sensational stars.

Included in this amazing spectacle are dozens of gorgeously costumed showgirls and dancers, plus elaborate sets and props contribute to the imaginative, eye-filling extravaganza.

"Beyond Belief" was produced by Irvin Feld and Kenneth Feld, impresarios of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the show bears the same hallmark of quality synonymous with all Feld attractions, which also includes the Broadway hit show "Barnum."

"Beyond Belief" is truly a show to be remembered.

East Coast Notes

by FRANK ROBIE

Ringling Performance Director Tim Holst and family flew to England directly after the final performance of the show on Long Island (1981). It was a well deserved vacation and business trip.

A reminder to memorabilia collectors that the July 1981 issue of National Geographic Magazine has a 27 page article with numerous photos entitled "Buffalo Bill and the Enduring West". It is of importance because it covers Irma Cody Garlow's two sons Fred and Bill. It should be turning up at the used book stores soon.

The splendid Brooklyn exhibit "Buffalo Bill and the Wild West" had a special 24 in. x 36 in. poster obtainable for \$9.00, and a catalog of 96 pages for \$11.95. The New York Times pointed out that as a catalogue it was mis-named because it is not a check list of the items in the show, however, it does seem to picture everything in the exhibit and there is an excellent bibliography in the back. Write: Brooklyn Museum, Order Dept., Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11238. Postage will run extra.

Amelia Adler Mullen sent a Christmas card wishing all the Felix E. Adler Tent members holiday greetings. Amelia lives in Richmond, Va. and still works in the department store where she worked when she first met Felix.

Francis Brunn is now working at Harrah's, Lake Tahoe. His nephew Michael Chirrick is working at the Sahara, in Reno. Mike just made a TV spot film which will be aired sometime this spring on HBO.

Have you heard of the National Association for the Preservation of the Circus Arts in America and its funding branch The National Endowment for the Circus Arts? NAPCAA as it is called is a non-profit organization founded to promote, preserve and rehabilitate the circus to its former glory. The Endowment Fund will accept donations to further NAPCAA's cause. Membership is \$10.00 and there is a promise of a newsletter quarterly to report progress. I believe this is an effort to establish a National Circus in America. Anyone wishing to help should send their money to NAPCAA, 1648 Central Ave., Northbrook, Ill. 60062.

In Memoriam

CAPT. GEORGE CLANCY died on Jan. 24th. As the oldest Captain of the Hudson River Line he was accorded the rank of Commodore, in which uniform he was buried.

At the age of 15, following the death of his father, Clancy went to sea aboard a Norwegian freighter and became a seaman. During the next 15 years he sailed under four flags - Norwegian, British, Honduran and American. He was shipwrecked three times. He received his pilot's license in 1935 and his Masters in 1940. For 27 years he sailed the Statue of Liberty run for Circle Line and met his future wife, Helen Foster, a daughter of the superintendent of the Statue of Liberty. He was Captain of the Hudson River Day Liner for the last 10 years, up to the time of his death.

In the 1930's during his shore time he trained bears for Campbell & Fairbanks Circus and was a program seller on the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

Captain Clancy was an Honorary Member of the Felix Adler Tent, whom he knew very well as did others in the profession.

Survivors include his wife Helen, a daughter Sharon, a son Hamilton and a sister Helen Coughlan.

PEOPLE

BILL BURGER, CHRIS KENNINGTON, RON PACE and ART WEAVER visited the Circus Vargas lot and caught the show performance at El Cajon, Calif.

ANGELA WILNOW and Her Collies will appear with the Billy Gunga Show in Penna. and Ohio from March 7 to April 4th, after which she will join the Castle/Zerbini Show in Wichita.

On the very day that the Big Apple Circus fire was reported, the New York Post carried a two page spread entitled "Tears For A Clown". Circus star Paul Jung's gruesome murder in a midtown love trap shocks the world in '65. The killer trapped by a pawned typewriter was convicted on Nov. 20, 1967 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

East Coast News

by FRANK ROBIE

The exhibition "Center Ring: The Artist" two centuries of circus art, will leave Albany (NY) after March 7th and will go to the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., showing from April 24 to June 6th. Those who have seen it say it is good.

Nina Krasavina and husband Gregory Fedin, founders and instructors at the Circus Arts Center, 412 Washington St., Hoboken, NJ are licensed to teach students and just recently received permission to process student's visas from foreign countries. The building which the school now occupies has been sold, and eventually will be made into condominiums. New quarters are being explored in the Bronx and in Jersey City.

The 1983 CFA Convention is still under consideration. Possible cities are: Bridgeport (Conn), Parsippany, (NJ), and Philadelphia (Pa).

Mrs. Ora N. Ernst, surviving half of the Loretta Twin act turned 88 on Jan. 10th. These ladies are in the Guinness Book of World Records for having done the triple fly-away to the ground from fixed bars. These ladies should be in the Circus Hall of Fame.

From the Bird Millman Scrapbook: Rotogravure picture section, New York Times, Sunday, Feb. 10, 1924. Champion tight-wire walker, Bird Millman, walks from cornice to cornice on the Municipal Building, 25 stories above the street. This record was not broken until Philippe Petit walked between the twin towers of the World Trade Center (110 stories) on Aug. 7, 1974. Mr. Petit was a Guest Artist with the Big Apple Circus during its December to January run and has a very nice act which was wildly applauded at every performance.

"An Evening at the Moulin Rouge" hosted by George Hamilton is now playing on Home Box Office TV in this area. Lottie Brunn and husband Ted Chirrick joined circus fans to watch half-brother Montego (Ernst Kuhn) juggle.

Circus Model Builders of the Bailey Ring, Allentown, joined the Mummies Day Parade in Philly this year. Using five full scale circus wagons, plus Rick Eddleman in comic cowboy regalia and Bob Houston, in gorilla costume, helped the Liberty Comic unit win

Shrine Date

The Royal Hanneford Circus will produce the Shrine Circus this year for Florida's Egypt Temple. Performances will be presented at the Bayfront Arena in St. Petersburg March 25-26 and at the Curtis-Hixon Arena in Tampa, March 27-28.

Staff for the circus is: Tommy Hanneford, executive producer; Glenn Parkins, executive director; Kay Parker, musical director; Ray Orzak, costume designer; Tony Curbelo vocalist; Philip Morris, ringmaster; Dwight Hanson, supt.; David Jones, lighting director; Philip Morris, spec designer and director; Wally Jones, producing clown; Keith Killinger, musical arrangements; Costumes by Orzak Studios, Eaves of New York and Morris Costumes; Dr. Charles Mays, company physician.

The program will feature: Overture; "Everything Is Circus" opening number; Ada Smieya, wild animals; The Jupiters, aerial number; George's exotic animals; Philip Anthony, Hollywood Liberty Horses; Barbaras uncaged leopards; Wally and Dolly, clowns; Ben Williams with Ana Mae, the elephant and a leopard, assisted by Miss Debra; Le Francisco Troupe, teeterboard; Princess Morningstar, single trapeze; Mary Ruth's Canine Aristocrats; The Diane Sisters, poodles; The Famous George Hanneford, Jr. Riding Family, featuring Miss Nellie Hanneford and Diane Hanneford, with Mrs. George Hanneford, Sr. (92 years old) handling the whips; Circus Special "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" featuring the Herriotts; Intermission.

The Flying Gaonas, flying trapeze; Norbu, the Almost Human Gorilla; Alzono, the master of escape; the Cristiani Elephants, the Woodcock Elephants, the Hanneford Elephants; Finale with all circus performers and circus band.

first place in the Comic Division and first place in the comic float division. This was a first for the Bailey Ring and a first for a double win for the Liberty Mummies.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by BOB STODDARD

Shakespeare said that, "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," but it has always been a popular belief in show business that you might not get the smell of success at all, if your name was wrong.

Would Spangler Arlington Braugh have enjoyed so much of that sweet smell if he had not changed his name to Robert Taylor? Would Jean Harlow have become as popular as Harlene Carpenter?

I could come up with a hundred examples and so could you, so I think these two will suffice.

I think that we might agree that, if you had a name like "Spikeawopski" it probably would be smart to change it to something that had more of the smell of success . . . like . . . maybe . . . "Terry Parsons". Right? Wrong.



In this case, the guy's name was "Terry Parsons" and he changed it because he thought it all out and decided that "Spike Spikewopski" was easier to remember. He has a long explanation for it - which I'll skip. (you can see how that knocks the hell out of my whole first page).

Anyway, this "Spike" or "Spikeawopski" or "Terry Parsons" - whatever - doesn't seem

to be hurting as much as a result of his name changing switch. He's got so much of that sweet smell that it darn near makes you sick!

But he's not getting the sweet smell all alone, so we'll have to go back to seven years ago last October, when he got his own real live doll that he can almost put in the pocket of his baggy clown pants.

His wife "Danuta" is a petite 4 ft. 2 in. tall gal who weighs 80 lbs.

He is an excellent clown with dogs and a comedy car, who worked with Lou Jacobs as an instructor at the Ringling Clown College in Florida. His clown dog act was a featured act in the Roger Hess production of "Bugs Bunny Meets the Super Heros" in Madison Square Garden.

She is a graduate of the Polish Circus School in Warsaw; an ex-teeterboard artist, the first and only person (so far) to do a double backwards somersault to a six man high. She's an excellent perch-pole artist performing a double perch.

Right now she performs as the Spider Goddess and performs such feats as the upside down footwalk; head over heels cloud swing rope spin; neck spin; front and back levers; all done on the motorized chrome-plated spider web that he built. She finishes with a surprise break-away of 30 feet, sometimes higher. She doesn't perform the break-away with her legs. She uses her arms, making her exit (from the break-away) clean and graceful.

They left the Ringling show just last year. They were the circus skills instructors for the London production of the Broadway hit "Barnum".

By special invitation from Mrs. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, they performed in the Benefit Variety Show at the 1981 Winter Olympics in Vermont. A wonderful vacation in Parc Safari in Quebec, Canada. An eleven week working vacation, thanks to a real gentleman, Dave Jackson.

Terry had cataract surgery with nine weeks recuperation.

They made the Texas dates and are currently on a seven week stint in Australia where they are the company trainers for the Australian company of Barnum.

I am sure that (by now) you have a better understanding of why I'll never forget old "what's his name".

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(Video Tapes Available)

PEOPLE

ED RUSSELL served as the ringmaster for NBC-TV's newest show "The Greatest American Hero."

TIM BICKMORE, formerly a concessionaire with Circus Vargas, is now a student at Arizona State University, where he is majoring in Electrical and Computer Engineering.

BRUCE "Charlie" JOHNSON and BARBARA MARRONE appear on the cover of a birthday card recently released by the American Greeting Corp. Also pic-

tured inside the card are JOHN MARRONE and KADEE NIELSON. Other performers who have been photographed for the series of circus themed cards include LINDA FLORES, LUCIANA LOYAL, IRENE BAUTISTA, LAURA WALKER, HARRY LOCKER and TOM "Popcorn" SINK.

HARRY B. CHIPMAN, former circus man now keeps busy working on a newspaper in Southern California.

WILLIAM F. OGDEN worked as Santa Claus during the holidays in New Jersey. He is presently doing several clown jobs

DIRGO BOOK (Continued)

Gunther's leopards, sexy showgirls - all pinpoint Dirgo art at its best.

Giving the spotlight to Alan Kuntz and attention to the late Art Furlong and many more establish Dirgo's skill in portraying numerous stalwarts behind the scenes of the shows. In his subject selection the author shows the art behind his art.

Dirgo was careful to identify most of his subjects and scenes which helps both fans, perfor-

mers and general readers. His art form adds a fine new dimension to circus literature and helps the preservation of our appreciation of the memorable ones who are our circus today.

We have been looking for a publication which gives us a keepsake of Dirgo's art. "Circus Sketchbook" all sketched right on the spot, hits the spot!

Circus Espana

by BOBBY GIBBS

Circus Espana presents its program under a four pole top, a vinyl tent from Canobi, which seats about 3,500 people around the one ring.

The program, which is typically Mexican features: Mexican clowns; Small dog act; Single elephant "Ted"; Balance trapeze; Trampoline act; 6 girls in a dance number; Family contortion act; 4 elephant act closes show.

Not many animals on the

show, but all those that are look good. All of the family performs.

The elephants are: Ted, a male from Carson & Barnes, gentle and good; Terry, short good looking; Tess, a big high back female, from Manuel King; Mary, an African that does not work, and Judy, a working African and the lead bull.

Everything is clean and neat about the show, all trucks are in good shape and music is provided by tapes.

CIRCUS VARGAS (Continued)

sound system. The book is primarily big band and jazz oriented with only a smattering of traditional circus music. The band plays this music well, but it never seems to generate the needed excitement or establish quite the right mood for circus acts. The flying acts in particular could really benefit from the substitution of a good waltz in place of the jazz tunes that are now featured.

The season opened with last years canvas, which shows the effects of a hard season. The dark blue top is carefully patched so that each of hundreds of holes is repaired. Plans are to have a new top delivered next month and to move the current top into reserve as an emergency backup. Frank Pealer, a long-time stalwart of the Vargas show adds another job to his list as he takes over for the departed V. C. Arrivett, as canvas boss.

The midway this season remains almost unchanged with the concession semi, pony sweep, bubble bounce, and ticket wagon spotted outside the front door. New this year is a small three sided tent enclosing a commercial Polaroid special events camera set up to take photos of the kids with a show clown. The menagerie is set close to the front door with a low sidewall barrier to restrain the public. Elephant rides are available in the menagerie area as well as in the big top before the show and at intermission.

Cliff Vargas continues to do a masterful job of promoting his show. Radio and TV coverage of the opening was generous and numerous commercials were seen during prime local viewing times. The show liberally sprinkled the entire metropolitan San Diego area with posters and free children's general admission tickets, distributed in conjunction with local merchants and promotions. Tickets prices range from \$5.50 to \$10.50, with children's tickets going for \$2.00 less. Business for the show appeared good for the first few shows with concessions also appearing to do an excellent business.

Circus Vargas will play four stands in the greater San Diego area over a period of two weeks before moving up into the Los Angeles area where it will spend several months covering a territory which traditionally gives

the circus its best business. Dates will primarily concentrate on major shopping centers, capitalizing on their already proven location and demographic advantages.

Circus Vargas continues to sell its colorful 1980 program, now described as a souvenir magazine, and a stock coloring book. Both need to be updated to conform to the current show lineup. Confused patrons are constantly checking their "programs" to see what they've missed and asking about people long since departed to other shows. Hopefully a new program will appear with new wardrobe, canvas and costumes when the show reaches L. A.

The West Coast's major tent show continues to be a formidable entertainment package. As the early season kinks are worked out it promises to be an even more pleasing and professional presentation.

The program: Overture; National Anthem and unfurling of giant flag; Marcel Peters, tigers (16 white and Bengal); Aerial Ballet (4 girls on webs); Clowns (Stomach pump); Dimitrov, elephant acrobatics; Juggling by Rejean Robertson, Anastasini Bros. (risley) and The Perrys; Franconi Duo, double trapeze; Cimon's Chimpanzees; Liberty drills camels (2) and ponies (2), Horses (8); Dutch Crawford, Llamas (6); Low wire by Macaggi's (slack wire), Li Suang (bounding rope) Rianos Duo (double slack wire); Cradle acts The Kneisleys and The Parrays; Les Victoria statues; Spec "Circus Vargas on Parade"; Intermission.

The Espanas, flying trapeze (2 acts); Clown contortion gag; Dogs (3 rings of show owned Samoyeds); Clowns, walk-around; Les Bloch, high wire; Dressage (one horse in each of the 3 rings); Arriz Brothers, acrobats; Clowns (Superman); Elephants, Rex Williams (3 in each ring), Long Mount.

PEOPLE

"FROG LADY" or "A FROG FROM WISCONSIN" (Mary Jr. Wengryzn) who does a contortion act as a frog, manipulating her body into 4 wooden barrels, has just set a butt-busting record of contorting thru a 1½ in. (width of opening) barrel successfully for filming on P.M. Magazine TV show.

NEW INDOOR UNIT (Cont'd)

ing in the production numbers as assistants to Mr. Martin.

As with the other units "Star Cavalcade" will carry complete light, sound and scenery, plus a well balanced concession department.

Despite all efforts and time involved in creating the new unit, Mike still made time to include 23 charity hospital shows in

his schedule during the Holiday season. He was further asked to re-do press and publicity materials, including radio, TV and print ads and recorded spots for several other Florida circuses.

PEOPLE

WINI McKAY, CHESTER CABLE, BILL RICE and RALPH HORTON visited Circus Vargas during the show's San Diego engagements.



by LLOYD E. JONES

Art Jennings, organizer of the Int'l Assoc. of Jugglers in 1947, is credited with saying that jugglers have changed their attitudes in recent years. Once, they would not talk to each other because of jealousy. Now it is not show biz, but a sport. A funny comment is that today they also do "jogging" - that is running a mile while juggling three balls!

The new Siegfried and Roy Show opened to good reviews. Marvin Roy and his wife Carol, are also in Vegas.

Peter Gloviczki, who as

a medical student lectured in the U.S. a few years ago and was a standout at F.I.S.M. with his giant ball manipulation is now a doctor specializing in cardio vascular surgery in resident at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Smart convention heads will do well to sign him.

The Globe offers readers the opportunity to explain how David Copperfield made the Lear Jet vanish on his recent TV special. The winner will receive front row seats to the next Copperfield spectacular, and judging will be done by Copperfield. Personally, I think he sprinkled it with magical woofel dust but he must have had an awful lot of it.

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PEOPLE

MICHU, who is only 33 in. tall, performs as a doctor in a clown skit on the RBBB Blue Unit and also presents a troupe of trained ponies in the circus performance.

ED RUSSEUL, **DONNIE NELSON**, **HAROLD POTTER** and **KEITH WHEELER**, recently completed painting, resewing and redoing all equipment for the **BETTY WENDANY's Funs-A-Poppin Circus**.

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O. E. "Gene" LYNCH, former RBBB front door man and yellow wagon ticket seller, is a bartender at the Sarasota Elks Club.

FRANK L. MORRISSEY, former RBBB and Royal American Shows press agent lives in Miramar, Fla., and works as a pari-mutual ticket agent at Florida race tracks.

BEV KELLEY, former RBBB press chief is back home in St. Louis after completing a tour on the road

The Herriotts

The Herriotts have had a busy time since closing with Beatty, Nov. 27th.

The Showfolks Circus was on Dec. 5th, which John produced. Mary Ruth's Canine Aristocrats and Heidi on the trapeze were part of the show.

Immediately after they left for New York to deliver a horse to Katja Schumann at the Big Apple Circus.

Laura is the mother of a baby girl born on Christmas Eve, who was named Jennifer Nicole. She

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had to have an emergency Caesarian, which left her spending Christmas in the hospital. She didn't feel well enough to eat any turkey! New Year's Eve she had complications and had to return several times for more treatment. All is well now, and Laura and her husband, John, have gone to Chicago to take over the Cuneo elephant act. Immediately after New Years, John returned to New York to bring the horse home.

Shortly afterwards, Katja Schumann and Barbara Walters of London, flew

(Continued on Page 27)

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THE HERRIOTTS (Cont'd)

to Florida and spent a
week with the Herriotts.
They made a whirlwind
tour, including Ringling
Blue, the Lipizzan show,
Herrmann's Lipizzans,
Dorita Konyot, Woodcosk,
Gee Gee Engesser, Coron-
as, etc., plus several

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(re: January 25 issue)

stops at the Showfolks
Club!

PEOPLE

DINNY McGUIRE is making
his debut this season as
ringmaster for the RBBB
Blue Unit.