



7th Year

January 16, 1978

Number 3

'78 PLANS SET

Glenn Parkins, executive director of Hanneford Circus, Inc., has announced that Keith Killenger is currently writing new arrangements for this year's Royal Hanneford Circus productions and he will be conducting the band on all major dates, commencing with the Kazim Temple Shrine Circus in Roanoke, Va., on Jan. 27 through Jan. 29th, produced by Hanneford Circus, Inc.

Organist Kay Parker and drummer Bob Parker have also been signed for the 1978 tour of the Hanneford Circus.

Parkins has Tommy Hanneford's acts booked for a solid 15 week engagement at the all new Americana Great American Amusement Park at Le Sourdsville Lake, Ohio. The circus will perform twice daily and three times on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The big show will be presented in a brand new Portomod rigid steel frame and fabric membrane structure with inside dimensions of 72 ft x 102 ft x 30 ft high, with a seating capacity of

2,000 people.

Royal Hanneford will close at the Park on Labor Day and then starts a 10 week fall tour at Elkhart, Ind.

INSIDE

Learn who the winners at the Circus Festival in Monte Carlo were — see the item on Page 11.

HELEN WILSON, organist with own equipment. Drummer/Trumpet and MC. Members of American Federation of Musicians. P. O. Box 1167, Concord, N.C. - (704) 786-4563.

PEOPLE

BILLY EARL and **CHARLES SCHLARBAUM** shared the ringmaster and announcing duties at the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus engagement in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., last month.

LOOMIS, magician, spent the New Years Holiday presenting shows in Anchorage, Alaska.

DON and **MARY BULLITT** worked concessions in New Orleans over the Holiday, then spent Christmas providing presents for the patients of a Charity Hospital. They'll be working the Sugar Bowl Game and the Super Bowl Game.

HOLVECK & CO. is currently touring a Magic and Illusion show in Southern California, booked by **BETTY WENDANY's 'Funs-A-Poppin'**. Holveck & Co., will also be seen at the Magic Castle in Hollywood for the week of Feb. 21-26, doing three shows each evening.

DICK STUART joined **STU MILLER's** Magic Time USA Show after Beatty-Cole closed for the winter. In March he will start his 4th year on Beatty-Cole. He recently acquired a cougar and a 70 lb. snake which will be used in the circus side show during 1978. Later he expects to take delivery of some leopard cubs which will also be a show feature, and will be trained for an uncaged act. At the present time Dick is doing magic school shows in the mid-west.

DAVID DRAKE, magician, was pictured in the Toronto Star (Dec. 19, 1977) inconjunction with a story that Christmas Parties Are Big Business. The article mentioned that **DAN STAPLETON**, president of Golden Canadian Productions (14 Winfield Road, Toronto) books many of the acts that work the Toronto area.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year; \$15.00 a year for overseas delivery via surface mail.

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YEARS AGO

Milton Holland's Indoor Circus opened its 1933 season by playing the Coliseum at Sioux Falls. Touring with the show were: Milt Holland, band director; Miss Henderson, dogs; Dainty Marie; Aunt Jemina and her Three Pancakes; Riva and Larson; Waino and Moe; Capt. Cohill, trapeze; Mary Palmer, dogs; Evelyn Wright, contortion trapeze; Gus and Joe, hand balancing; Marie Mang, aerial rings and web; The DeWaldos, unicycles; Prof. Miquires, cloud swing; Iron Jaw Mott; the Four Flying Flemings and a group of clowns.

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Show Dates

Circus Vargas

Jan. 16-17 Lake Charles, La.

Cole All Star TV Circus

Jan. 16 Herndon, Pa.

17 Shamokin

19 Berwick

21 Lock Haven

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Jan. 17-30 Miami Beach, Fla.

.... OTHER DATES

Fantasy On Ice

Jan. 19-22 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Globetrotters

Jan. 21-22 Oakland, Calif.

22 Stanford

Holiday on Ice - Int'l

Jan. 19-22 Savannah, Ga.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l

Jan. 18-22 Albuquerque, N.M.

Ice Capades

Jan. 17-22 Calgary, Alta.

Ice Follies

Jan. 17-29 Toronto, Ont.

NOTICE

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Am an amateur contortionist and a long time fan.

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EXCLUSIVE: IAN GARDEN phoned to advise his Garden Bros. Circus will be the nucleus of a Toronto based one hour TV special, called CIRCUS, which has already been filmed (Jan. 10-13). The special is actually a pilot set to sell a weekly half-hour series to debut later this fall and to run possibly two years. The Canadian National TV program will also be marketed in syndication in the US and develops a three-fold dividend for Ian. (A) he will receive commission for booking the talent; (B) he will serve as technical advisor; (C) Garden Bros. Circus will receive prominent screen credit.

Garden revealed as well the possibility of his bringing a small tent circus to Canada for a lengthy engagement in one area; that he resigned the Atlanta Shrine date (despite a rival show's slanderous attempts to circumvent his replaying the date by saying he was due to go to jail because of the Phone Promotion uproar across the border!), and that he has extended his US tour for this season by at least 6 weeks.

Ian and his beautiful French vocalist wife, MICKEY, went to the Caribbean for their winter vacation instead of Florida and, while taking in the Las Vegas Showman's Convention, managed to see all the Big Room Shows.

XMAS X-INGS: GIL MILLER went off on a talent-scouting junket across Europe. . . BILL HALL visited the BAUERS at Deutschland Halle. . . SAM and JEN POLACK spent the holidays with son, SAMMY, in Topeka. . . JIMMIE COLE braved northern climes to spend the season of cheer with his son. . . EMIL and DEBBIE GOETSCHI journeyed to California. . . LILLI KRISTENSEN, BILLY and BONNIE EARL, EMMETT and NANCY KELLY, PRINCE NAJVEZ, JO ANN and ETHEL JENNIER worked (Dec. 25-31) at Ft. Lauderdale.

WHO, WHEN, WHERE: GEE GEE playing dates for Garden March 14-April 15, prior to her annual debut with Gatini. . . MICHAEL CHIRRIK, enroute to open in Las Vegas, Jan. 1st, stopped to phone his esteemed mother LOTTIE BRUNN, who is busy club-dating, while his illustrious uncle FRANCIS is a sensation at the El San Juan Hotel in Puerto Rico. . . ELKINS SISTERS on dates for Sam Polack/Geo. Hubler. . . BOB and KAY PARKER with Royal Hanneford. . . FEARLESS BAUERS set to return to Great Adventure. . . NERVELESS NOCKS to appear at Wisconsin Dells for TOMMY BARTLETT May 26-Sept. 16. . . Swedish Acrobatic Troupe THE STUPIDS at the Ca-

sino Roulh in Nice (France). . . CARLOS TWINS, RONRITAS, with Castle. . . there joined by returnees FRIEL-SMITH, TARZAN and JACKIE, and the HERNANDEZ TROUPE, plus FRANCARRO and ESTRELITA who are spot dating. . . Back again with Cirque Gatini are TONY and IRENE FOSSETT, LUCIO and GILDA CRISTIANI, and most of last year's performing group, but joined this year by the STRAZZANS, JEFFRIES and DINO and ANITA. . . To FLECKLES, who has picked up the St. Louis Shrine date, go the BURKETTS and the JOE ZOPPE RIDERS

GEORGE HUBLER reports his Troy (Oh) date played last November which featured a powerful program, was a financial loser in that the program was too heavy for the promotion...BUT...the show was so good, and garnered such favorable reviews (especially in the important Cincy papers) that many new dates came out of it, including the Dayton fair, making the date a Big Winner anyway. "The date is already set to be replayed this season," advises the producer, "and it will be better. Normally it takes 3 years to build a strong winner." In December George and his wife, Anne, caught the Moscow Circus and Ice Capades and raved about both.

SNAPSHOTS: RAY MAREK of the Flying Lar-Rays is recovering from a serious back injury and will be in action this season. . . Clown BILLY FORD visited the Showfolks Circus during the filming of the Wallenda movie, and then made a foray to Showfolks as the guest of the CHARLIE MOYERS. He also met actor LLOYD BRIDGES, remarks he is a "nice guy". . . Mrs. DOUMANI, wife of Tropical Hotel exec in Vegas, who heads that city's chapter of the I.O.I. (a project for the care of abused children) is waging a campaign to lure MAE WEST to town for a one night performance to aid the cause. . . FLYING RAULS now in South America. . . Add CFA'r LARRY KENT to the ever growing list of Circus Vargas devotees. . . CIRCUS ODYSSEY will not go to Puerto Rico this winter, may head south of the border later. . . BOBBY GIBBS turned back his elephants to DOREY MILLER last fall, citing animal and truck expenses as just too high, and plans to troupe without bulls this season. . . CLIFF VARGAS admitted on a Miami talk show that he takes only \$250 a week for personal expenses and bills, turns all profits back into the continuous upgrading of Circus Vargas - so now it's been revealed HOW that show manages to keep its Fabulous Image. A new gen-

(Continued on Page 16)

BETTY WENDANY'S FUNS-A-POPPIN

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Show Report

South Florida fans were treated to the third major circus to play the area in 45 days when the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus appeared under canvas in West suburban Fort Lauderdale. The grassy lot was adjacent to the beautiful "Sunrise Musical Theatre", 20 minutes from downtown Lauderdale and 40 minutes north of Miami.

The show opened Christmas Day and ran thru New Year's Day. They played to generally good houses, with three shows each day (10:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.). No night-time performances were scheduled for fear that chilly weather would hurt attendance.

Hoxie Bros. Circus furnished the big top, the light plant and gorilla show, along with seating and lighting. Reithoffer Amusements provided a carnival midway with 8 major rides, plus games and shows adjacent to the circus midway.

The circus line-up included: Lilli-Ana's leopards plus Johnny Walker, Jr., with 5 Hoxie Bros. elephants, Laura Herriott, working dressage, Ethel Jennier and her Greyhounds, Aerialetta II (Jo Ann Jennier), single trapeze and Prince Najvez (Billy Barton) and his sensational break-away aerial act, complete with fireworks. There

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was no Clown Alley as such; all clowning was handled by Emmett Kelly, Jr., including a very funny magic turn.

The big show band, consisting of three pieces, was headed by Charles Schlarbaum, with trumpet, organ and drums.

Billy Earl was the ringmaster and also handled the candy and color book sales pitch. Billy and his wife also presented their funny "Bonnie & Clyde" country music spoof

Tickets were scaled starting at \$4.50 for adults with no reserved seating. Advertising was exclusively via newspapers. This reporter caught the show on three separate occasions and based on what I saw, I believe the show would have done better with just two performances per day - perhaps at 2 and 5 p.m.

Also hurting attendance was the fact that the big "Circus Vargas" had played a lot less than 2 miles away, just two weeks earlier. Ringling-Barnum was due in town in Mid-January and their advertising campaign was already underway, with heavy advertising aimed at "Wait for the Big Show."

..... Larry Kent

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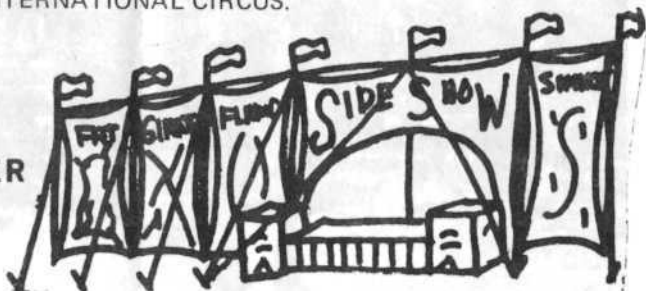


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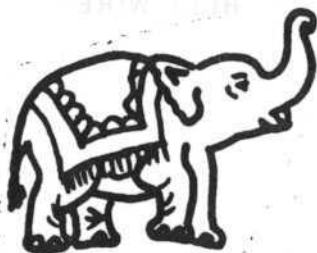
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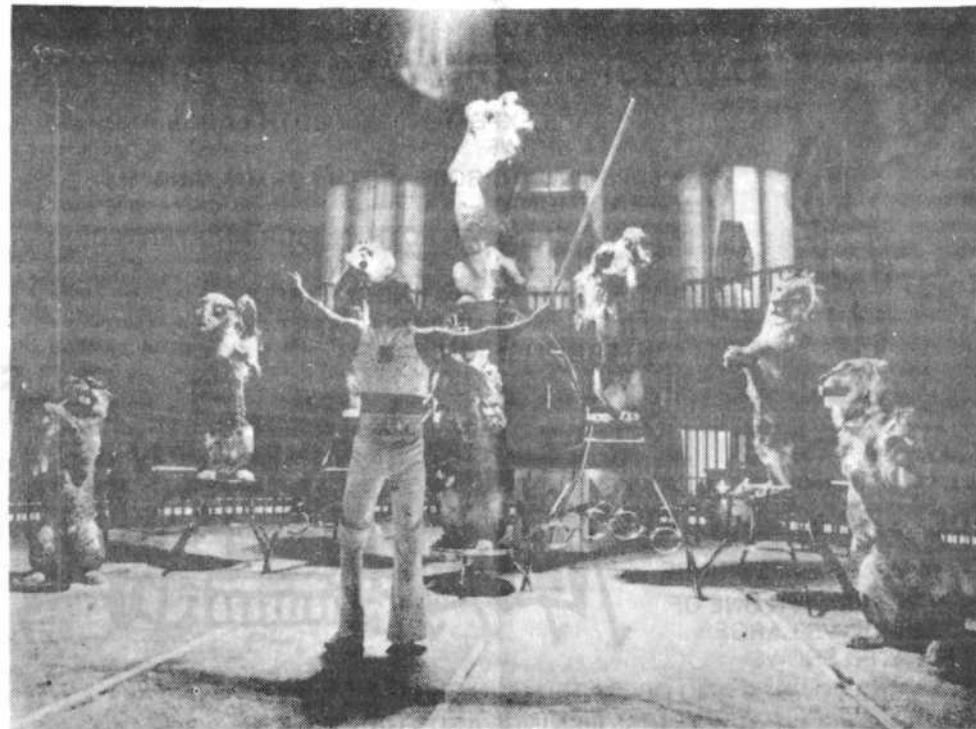
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Show Acts

Shows were presented at 4 and 7:30 p.m. at the Northway Arena in Kingsville, Texas, on Dec. 23rd, as part of that city's Christmas program for local residents. The hour and a half show was promoted by Gary Peterson and produced by Bobby Gibbs. Marie Loter provided the music, Glen Henry was in charge of props and Gary Henry was the producing clown.

The program featured: Marie Loter, overture; Bobby Gibbs, dogs; David Henry, the clown strong man; Rosa Gibbs, web; Zoe Anna Henry, bareback horse; Gary Henry, clown car; Bobby Gibbs, liberty mules; Mark Pilger, cloud swing; Gary Henry, clowning with eggs; Bobby Gibbs, camel and llamas; Rosa Gibbs, iron jaw.

The second half included: Bobby Gibbs, pony drill; Balloon Pitch; Gary Henry, clown and pony; Rosa Gibbs, swinging ladder; Gary Henry with juggling; David Henry, clowning; Mark Pilger, trapeze; Zoe Ann Henry, high school horse; Bobby Gibbs as 'Santa' for finale.

January Clearance Sale

10 Old Circus Duckets — \$1.13 p.p.

Special Circus Collector's Kit, FREE lithograph, p.p. \$10.00

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Miscellaneous

The CMB National Gathering of 1978, under the sponsorship of Al G. Barnes Ring No. 8, will join the Ringling-Barnum Circus in Anaheim, Calif., on Aug. 10-14. The National Gathering will be held in the same building with the "Big One".

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The Winners

Observers report that capacity crowds were on hand for each performance of the Circus Festival, held Dec. 8-12 at Monte Carlo. Among those attending the event were circus directors from throughout the world.

The Grand Prize, the Golden Clown, went to the Knie Family of the Swiss Knie Circus. The presentation was made to Fredy Knie, Jr, for his brilliant handling of trained horses and to Louis Knie for his work with both elephant and tiger acts.

The five Silver Clown trophies were presented to: The Canestrellis, of the U. S., for their popular trampoline act; The Antares, of France, for a trapeze act; an acrobatic couple trained in Moscow; and the Bulag Silagis Troupe from the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

The Internation Circus Festival of Monte Carlo will be televised throughout the country on Wednesday, January 18th, on the CBS-TV network.

In Memoriam

EVELYN (Robson) BYRON (88) retired vaudeville and circus performer died on Dec. 13th at Northfield, Mass. A native of Toronto, she moved to Jersey City, N.J., in 1919 and lived there until 1976 when she moved to Northfield.

In 1907 she joined the Bessie Valdare troupe of Lady Cyclists, staying with them for six years after which she joined Barnum & Bailey Circus working as an aerialist, cyclist, bareback rider, etc. She was also a partner in the acts of "Doolley and Evelyn" and "Evelyn and Dolly."

In 1919, she married Roy Byron of New York City and they moved to Jersey City. After the death of her husband in 1943, Mrs. Byron worked as a dental clerk for the Jersey City Board of Education and at the Jersey City Medical Center.

A Circus Fan and Windjammer (pianist) and his 91 year old friend (a violinist) recently wished MERLE EVANS a happy birthday by serenading him via telephone from Illinois. The serenade consisted of a Fanfare, Happy Birthday and Jungle Queen. At that time the veteran trouper had already received over 35 phone calls from all over the U.S., plus numerous cards congratulating him on his birthday, Dec. 26th.

THE GREAT CIRCUS STREEET PARADE IN PICTURES

Chappie Fox and F. Beverly Kelley, giants in the circus writing field, have co-authored this book for late January publication, so you know it's great. It's all here, from elegant equestrians to screaming calloope, in its 175 very rare and unusual photographs, 95% of which have never been previously published. It's 144 pages, 8 3/4 x 9 1/4 in., 175 black-and-white illustrations, of beautiful and thrilling circus parade description.

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show program

Circus Hall of Fame, in Sarasota, Fla., this season features the Royal Palace Circus, produced and presented by the Dubsy brothers and Jordan. The show opened on Dec. 14th and is presented twice daily through March 18th, and is drawing enthusiastic crowds for each performance.

The circus has a brand new red, white and blue big top and uses special lighting. Lights include those in chandliers, plus spots and flood lights.

The show runs an hour and 20 minutes, with Harry Dubsy serving as ringmaster and announcer. Music is provided by Mike Morgan at the organ and Tex Maynard on drums.

The program features: Overture; Dr. Jonas with chimpanzees; Moon web aerial ballet; Clowns; Cinderella's Birds of Paradise; Gordo, the human gorilla; Clowns with trick and fancy shooting; the Royal Hungarian Troupe, followed by intermission.

After the second half overture come the Jercaidus on trampoline; Christina and her dogs; the

Xmas Show

The Pan American Magic Show played dates in Pennsylvania last month, starting at Lancaster on Dec. 7th and closing at Reading on Dec. 21.

The show ran about an hour and a half and included: Yoxall's Merry Menagerie; Troy Milligan, magic; the Diaz Sisters (Millie and Judy) juggling; Intermission; Clown routines with Gigi and Jocko; more magic with Milligan; the Diaz Sisters, unicycles, followed by Milligan and the trunk escape.

At the end of each show, Santa Claus appeared with two elves and passed out presents. Georgiana Milligan and Jackie Voshell were the clowns. The show was produced by William F. Hill, Sr.

Jordana's Carousel in the Air; Door Prize giveaway; Clown boxing number; Jeronamo, high dive, Finale exit.

Gaylord Maynard and his horse Chief Bear Paw augmented the program on the opening night, which was presented for a special audience.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

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Showfolks of Sarasota Yearbook 1978

In the past there have been expressions that many of you would like to have a copy of the latest Showfolks Yearbook. So this year I bought and personally paid for 100 copies of the 1978 Yearbook. I'm selling them for \$3.50 a copy postpaid.

This book is probably the finest ever produced for the Showfolks. It has 60 enameled paper pages. More than 130 pictures and 450 faces of past and present performers and their friends. Two 8 x 10 photos of the Wallenda pyramid. The 1962 pyramid with Rietta as the top mount and the last Wallenda pyramid, done this past November for "The Great Wallendas" NBC movie with Karl's grand-daughter Rietta as the top mount. (To be shown by NBC-TV, February 12, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.).

Among the photographs you will find all of the Wallendas and the people playing the part of the Wallendas in the movie, i.e. Lloyd Bridges, Britt Ekland, etc. Then there are the Moroskis, Bob Dover, Maschino Brothers, Andre Fox (La Norma) family, the Cycling Therons, The Ivanovs, the riding Zoppes. Mary Jane Miller has a whole page of Here N There and This N That, just like she used to write for the Billboard back in the 40's and 50's. There are also photos of the Cristianis, Jack Joyce, Merle Evans, Sally Marlowe, Roman Schmitt, Elly Ardelty, Jack Leontini, the Dubskys and many more that I do not have space to mention.

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At Vegas

Acts appearing in the new Lido show at the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas are: Kris Kremore, juggling of hats, balls and boxes; Dewert, an aerial acrobat who twists, turns and contorts his body while swinging; Theo and Helga, ice skating duo; Ione, who defies the mind, with a small, amiable mechanized dummy doing gymnastics on an exercise bar; also appearing is a production number with 2 elephants, tropical birds, using an African Safari theme.

..... Jim Swafford

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

erator was bought in Miami when the old one went kaput and several shows had to be presented with only a small auxiliary plant mounted on a semi tractor. The midway went dark while people were in line, and clusters of lights kept going off during the performance, once during wire-walker ROGER REGOR's inclined walk. At one time the entire tent went dark for 20 seconds. Cliff was beside himself with anxiety and breathed a sigh of relief when the new plant arrived.

That RBBB Executive/Staff Member who mysteriously disappeared last season was located by a prominent Eastern lawyer, who hospitalized the Exec (suffering severe mental depression) and reports the gentleman is now on the road to recovery.

See you down the road, luv.

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SPECIAL

On Thursday evening, Dec. 29th, graduation ceremonies for eight youngsters, ages 7 to 12, were held at the Village Square Clown Academy of Bergen Mall Shopping Center, in Paramus, N. J.

Village Square is a new area of the Mall, developed by Lawrence Garfield. He conceived the idea of having an area of the Mall devoted to participation by children. He hired Albert Heilman to produce and develop this concept. The Clown Academy was one of his ideas.

The instructor for the course was "Hannabelle" from New York City, namely Brooklyn. Her credentials for the project included a teaching degree, graduation from RBBB's Clown College, plus further experience in teaching circus arts.

The 30 minute ceremony consisted of clown gags, such as the balloon chase, the washerwoman, skits and walkarounds. Some skills in juggling, unicycling and stilt walking were accomplished during the 12 week, two hour course.

Magic Show

Last month I was privileged to attend illusionist Dorian Blake's production of "Razzmatazz" at Zebulon, N. C., on Dec. 14th. The show was sponsored by the Lions Club and is a combination musical, magical, psychedelic light show.

While talking with Mr. Blake I learned that the show was set to play spot dates through Jan. 15 at which time it would close in Nashville, Tenn.

The show included eleven major illusions, and various small magic effects. The dance numbers are beautifully costumed and the lighting effects and sets are just unbelievable. The show is fast-paced and extremely entertaining, it has a cast of 10 and runs approximately an hour and 45 minutes.

..... Paul Eubank

Garfield and Heilman are developing another Village Square complex in Bethlehem, Pa., and hope to offer the Clown Academy there, too.

..... Albert House

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PEOPLE

MRS. AURELIA HALL suffered a broken ankle and pelvis as the result of an accident which occurred while she was attending a circus performance in Florida. She is hospitalized at the Clearwater Community Hospital, Clearwater, Fla., and would enjoy receiving cards and letters.

JOHN 'Tiny' PHILLIPS, AL HOUSE and Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. ticket man GEORGE BEECHER were seen at the Moscow Circus in New York's Madison Square Garden last month. George will return to Florida for the show's opening engagement soon.

TOMMY CLARK, former prop boss on the big Beatty-Cole Circus is currently working at the Coliseum in New York.

SYD MOORE and Family worked several Holiday engagements in the Central California area last month.

ANDEN'S POODLES are back at Circus Circus in Las Vegas after a successful tour in Europe.

THE HENNEBERRY FAMILY spent the month of December working dates in the mid-west, despite extreme cold and snow storms.

THE KLEMENTIS, featured bicycle act with Circus Vargas for the past several years, are in Europe and expect to be back in the states next month.

FLASH!

The movie "The Great Wallendas" will be aired on National TV on Feb. 12th at 7 p.m. Check your local paper for the station.

Miscellaneous

There are currently about 20 circuses playing in the Mexico City area.

Some excellent music is available on the Mercury record SRI-75087 entitled "Screamers: Circus Marches."

The regular meeting of the Paul Eagle's Circus Luncheon Club was the subject of TV's "Next Exit" show seen in the Los Angeles (Calif) area on Dec. 22nd. The club meets each Monday at noon at Philippe's Original Sandwich Shop, near Union and Alameda streets in Los Angeles.

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MORE WOE

Radio City Music Hall, the world's largest indoor movie theatre and home of the famous, high-stepping Rockette dancers, will shut down after its Easter show. Years of deficits and a projected loss of more than \$3.5 million for 1978 prompted the closing notice.

The facility was opened in 1932 and since that time some 200 million people have attended the Hall's lavish productions. However, attendance has fallen from an average of 5 million to less than 2 million last year.

A total of 450 people are employed at the big Music Hall and it is not immediately known what they will do. Officials hope they can send the Rockettes on tour as one means of keeping the famous dance troupe in business.

The closing has been rumored for months and the management has constantly complained about the scarcity of good films.

MUSICIANS WANTED

Trumpet - Trombone - Keyboard -
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MUSICIANS
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Box 205

PEOPLE

MIKE WINN, who made a sky walk across the Knott's Berry Farm on New Year's Eve, and DIETER TASSO, juggler, featured at the Hacienda in Las Vegas, were both booked through SANDY DOBRITCH.

CLOWN SOUP, with MESHIA T. CLOWN and WHEATSTRAW, portrayed themselves as performing street artists in a film for the United States Information Services. The film series "Visions" is a look at American life and is distributed overseas, translated into several different languages. The San Francisco sequence was filmed on Dec. 19th. Clownsoup, at the PAL Circus (San Francisco) was featured on ABC-TV children's news show "Kidswatch". This program was aired on Dec. 27th.

BOB and ROSA GIBBS, GLEN and ETHEL HENRY and MARK PILGER were seen visiting shows in Mexico City late last month. Mark was visiting and working, the Henry's visited their daughter and the Gibbs were visiting with Rosa's folks.

DIEGO CARRASCO, a former European circus clown, now resides in Canada and works as a 27 ft. tall Santa during the Holiday Season and as a stilt walking clown in the summer.

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