



6th Year

January 17, 1977

Number 3

## The '77 Plans

A complete change in policy has been announced for the 1977 season by officials of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus. The show, which opens about April 7th, will play extended engagements at major shopping centers in cities of over 75,000 population.

Only two dates are to be played under a sponsorship arrangement and they are: Nur Temple at Dover (Dela) April 29-May 1 and Lu Lu Temple at Wilmington (Dela) May 19-30.

The show has named David Mobb, who was formerly with Ringling-Barnum, the Freedom Train and Hoxie Bros., as National Marketing Director and he is scheduling the season route.

The King Bros. Circus has been renamed "King Bros.-Cole Combined Circus" and will open at Apopka, Fla. on April 8th, with B. H. "Whitey" Black returning as manager. The Sells & Gray Circus has been renamed

"Hagan Wallace Sells & Gray Circus" and will open at Brooksville, Fla. on April 4th. Wilson Storey will return to the show, serving his 10th year as manager.

Both of these latter shows will play on a one stand basis and will use a 4 pole, 3 ring top, and will offer a strengthened program. All their dates will be sponsored and they will pick up the towns formerly played by the Beatty-Cole Circus.

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

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Contact

JUDY JACOBS KAYE

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## Show Report

Stars appearing in the TV Special "Gala Gala" include:

Ringmasters — Jack Cassidy, George Hamilton, Jean Pierre Aumont and Bernadette Peters

Circus Opening — Liza Minnelli and Totie Fields

Firemen of Paris - parallel bars; Wayne Rogers, Karen Black and Mark Wilson, illusion; Ed Asner, magic; Elephants and dancers followed by Valerie Perrine and a single elephant; Jack Cassidy and an uncaged cat; Joey Heatherton and Bobby Van, illusion; Anny Duperey, single trapeze; Deborah Raffin and Moore's Mongrel Revue; Mary Ann Mobley and the Parley Baer ponies; Charo and comedy zebra; Lynda Carter and Davidi Janssen, sharp shooting and knife throwing; Roger Owens, peanut vendor; Jack Cassidy, Susan Strasberg and Mark Wilson, illusions.

Other features are: Gary Collins, attacking tiger; Roger Owens, peanut vendor; Claire Motte, tight wire; Bert Convy, eggs and glasses; Jean Stapleton, birds; Janet Leigh, Niki Dantine and Mary Ann Mobley, swinging ladders; Peter Fonda and Claudia Cardinale, with Mark Wilson, Zig Zag illusion; Raymond St. Jacques, sword swallowing; Marty Allen, trained seals; Joanne Worley, clown vocalist; Jackie Vernon and a 16 bell trumpet; Clowning with Marks and Carisson, blocks; Grier and Barty, bar bells; Worley, balancing balls; Peter Lupus, trained chimps; Marie-Christine Barrault and Guy Marchand, trapeze; Ed Asner, magic; Bert Convy and Joanne Worley, plate spinning.

Concluding features are: Kris Kristofferson and Rita and Casey Coolidge, with Kathy Batchelor, dressage horses; Peter Marshall, Margeaux Hemingway and Bernadette Peters, trunk escape; Bernadette Peters and Peter Marshall, magical effects; Pat Morita, clown; Lilliane Montevecchi, aerial rope act; Shields and Yarnell, clown dance number; Rue Mc Clanahan, David Doyle and Eduardo's Gypsy Bears; Ed Asner, magic; Gary Collins and Beth Nufer, aerial cradle act; Billy Barty and eight girls, musical bells; Jane Birkin and M. Beverly, rollerskating act; Firemen of Paris, acrobatics; Finale with all stars, followed by a closing speech by Joanne Woodward.

## PEOPLE

THE BULLEN FAMILY is presenting the animals in Australia's "The Greatest Circus On Earth" and present an 18 male lion act, 4 young elephants, 6 liberty horses and 6 Dalmatians.

BOBBY GIBBS and his animals will appear with Circus Odyssey and the Olympic Circus before spending the summer at the Circus World Museum. ROSA is improving steadily and the two spent the holidays in Mexico.

DAVE MERRIFIELD's helicopter trapeze act has been booked to appear at the Jan. 31st Evel Kneival TV special, by Paul V. Kaye.

TOBY REED, high wire performer who fell at San Francisco's Cow Palace in November, broke both legs, both elbows and both wrists. He is in Mary's Help Hospital, 1900 Sullivan Ave., Daly City, Calif. 94015, and would enjoy cards and letters from show folks and fans.

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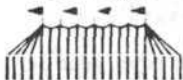
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The Globetrotters

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Ken Griffin (Magic)

Jan. 18 Oceanside, Calif.

20 Tehachapi

Int'l Magic Show

Jan. 19-28 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Sports Show

Jan. 22-30 Philadelphia, Pa.

Wizard of Oz Show

Jan. 18-23 Charlotte, N.C.

## ROUTES

CIRCUS VARGAS

Jan. 19-23 Houston, Texas

COLE ALL STAR TV CIRCUS

Jan. 17-19 Williamsport, Pa.

20 Canton

22 Skickshinny

POLACK BROS' CIRCUS

Jan. 15-23 Flint, Mich.

RINGLING-BARNUM (Red Unit)

Jan. 14-16 West Palm Beach, Fla.

18-23 Miami Beach

... OTHER ROUTES ...

Johnny Cash Show

Jan. 21 Hershey, Pa.

28 Augusta, Me.

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# BILLY BARTON . . . .

**SANDY DOBRITCH** co-ordinated the side show attractions and most of the circus talent for the MGM Grand Hotel's 3rd anniversary Gala Celebration. Circus tents billowed from the ceiling, clowns, gorillas and showgirls paraded through the audience bearing trays of peanuts and popcorn. Talent consisted of the **HASANI TROUPE**, **MISS KIM**, aerialist; **TANYA**, baby elephant; plus **JACK WALLER**, fire eater; **ANGIE**, snake charmer; **BOBBY REYNOLDS**, iron-tongue; **PAMELA**, femme fakir; **BILL UNKS**, sword swallower; **CHUCK FRANKLIN**, knife thrower and escape artist **DON DRIVER**

**LAZSLO VILLAMS** was injured in a freak fall from the three high when a curtain at the National Theatre in Washington (DC) interrupted his "back off" and he landed with a thud on top of a heavily rhinestoned juggling club. The act continued in "Hellzapoppin" but minus the three high and some of the acrobatic routines. Lazslo is fine now and the act is back to its show stopping perfection at the Colonial Theatre in Boston.

Producer **ED MIGELY** has finally set all talent for his Circus Odyssey tour in Puerto Rico. Added to the line-up of acts are two cat acts, **HARRY THOMAS** and his tigers and **JUNIOR** (the Black animal trained) with the Cuneo lion act. Replacing **LOUIS MURILLO** who is heading for Mexico, is **VASHEK**, the motorcycle thriller previously with Circus Vargas.

**EVEL KNEIVEL** was a surprise visitor to the Sarasota Showfolks Circus....**BETTY HUBER**'s son, Bobby joins his mother on Hamid-Morton as head rigger and daughter Fritzie joins the Production Ensemble. Betty will handle wardrobe and it's great to see her back on the road. Betty was originally half of the **SENSATIONAL KAYS**, a high wire act in which she did the craziest comedy cut-ups ever contrived in mid-air!

**NEWS BRIEF:** **ERIK ADAMS**, Sr., advises his wife, **VIBEKE** was hospitalized in Dec. for 6 days. "Nothing serious," he reports, "except the bill"....The **QUASSARS** are set for the Texas dates....**RAY VAL-ENTINE**, who had a string of dates in Texas in '76 will have the same dates again, lining them up between the "Texas Majors." He also added a week of new dates to follow....**JUNE DEWSBURY** pulled a muscle in her leg on the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus but that didn't prevent her "clowning around"....The gal **KIM KRISTENSEN** has "tucked away" in Texas is **ANGEL NOEL** (translation: Christmas Angel). Well

...that's one way to keep the "spirit" all year long!... Ex-flyer **JUNE MALKO**, retired, re-married and living in Texas, says she finally realized a life-long ambition - to be a housewife....**TOBY REED**, who fell at the PAL Circus, was brought into the business by the STEWARTS when Toby filled in for an ailing Teddy on the Europorama tour....**BARBARA HUNTER**, part of Famous Hunt's all-girl clown alley, is the daughter of an old Army General, formerly in charge of Southeast Asia and thus responsible for much of the action in Vietnam. He is now in Africa.

**GOING TO THE DOGS:** **LINDA CHANDLER** has a new act of "mixed" breed and gender which she calls "Paulette's Peerless Pups" and **TRUDY STRONG** is grooming an unusual combination of Dalmatians and Appaloosa ponies for a 1978 unveiling.

I wasn't sure I heard right when **JIMMY HALL** called one of his bears **HERTA**, but I did!...Reports are that newcomer **BRIDGET BALLENTINE** is doing a trapeze act from a Chandelier (Ala Betty Pasco) and was trained by, I am told, superstar **LA NORMA**....Everything you've heard about **MIAMBA**'s (Carmen Hall) **BABOONS** is true and then some. It's a fast-paced act, well presented, with colorful props. The fascinating baboons do the maximum of tricks in minimum of time....**TURBAN**, the "Prince of Magic", plays six nights at the Cabaret and one night at the Royal Las Vegas, plus several benefits, every week....Auditions for **MARRIOTT'S GREAT AMERICA** (jugglers, variety acts, tumblers) were held in L.A. Dec. 11-12 and again in Sacramento on Jan. 6th;

It's not surprising that **IRVIN HALL** is an accomplished unicyclist when one considers his father **MEL HALL** had a top-rated bike act for years, and that **Irv**, along with his brother **Jimmy** and sisters **Carmen** and **Jeanne** wheeled thru Show Biz, during those early years, as the famous **Whiz Kids**....Irv now does a super comedy bike act, on top of which he is a fine clown.

**WHEN THE ZOPPE ARABIAN RIDERS** trotted off to Old Mexico, Joe sent the family ahead with plans to meet them at the border. Evidentially the airlines and **Sheik Joe** couldn't get together - each time he started out he ended back in Dallas. I haven't learned the outcome yet, so it's questionable as to whether **Joe** is in Mexico City where he's supposed to be **OR** ...still up-in-the-air.

See You down the road, luvs...

## Kelly Ok

Emmett Kelly, Jr., who was injured in Com-mack, L.I., in mid-December, when he collided with a still moving aerial apparatus, wound up with over 100 stitches in his face, which were expertly attended to by a plastic surgeon. Emmett will be unable to wear his make-up until March, otherwise (with the exception of some slight dizziness from the concussion) he is fine.

Emmett's wife, Nancy, took over for the injured star at the Premier Theatre (Tarrytown, NY, Dec. 26-30), making her debut as a "solo" performer and without rehearsal. Only when she removed the hat, permitting her long hair to fall to her shoulders, did the audiences realize it was not the real Emmett Kelly, Jr. She was then introduced as Emmett's wife. The accident received such total coverage in the New York area that Emmett's absence in the show was accepted without complaint. Emmett did appear, however, in the show's finale for a final bow - sans makeup.



## Ready now:

Experienced show organist - Has own Equipment and sound system capable to handle any show.

Please Contact: Organist, c/o Circus Report, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.

The Kellys, who are still newlyweds and whose marriage gained national attention in PEOPLE magazine (Aug. 2) never had time for a honeymoon. Emmett's accident has rectified that and the couple are on an extended tour of the Western U.S. until late March when the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus, produced by Leonard Green of New York, resumes its tour in Texas.

..... Billy Barton

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

PRICES ARE CASH OR BEST OFFER

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# SAWDUST TRAIL

Route cards for both RBBB units were out the first week of the month. The Red Unit opened the earliest ever with a Dec. 30-Jan. 2 date at Venice, Fla. They will be in Florida through Feb. 6th, then jump into Birmingham. The Blue Unit opens Jan. 30-Feb. 2 at Venice, then goes into Lakeland and moves on, both units will be playing dates ahead of Circus Vargas this year.

Now fans can be assured that the Beatty-Cole Circus will be back on the road. However, the show will drop many towns, which will be picked up by either the King or Sells & Gray shows.

Charles Koehler informs this writer that he did not sell all his circus equipment to Luvas and Strong. He retained some cages, a calliope, the P.A. system and other items.

Due to a heart attack of his mother who was visiting in Jackson, Miss., Do Do, the Clown had to cancel a week of December dates.

A brochure received last week shows that "Showtime Entertainment Corp., a Division of McKay Corp. is presenting "This Is Hawaii" an ice show produced by E. J. McDaniel. It is directed by Michael McCarthy and features Pat Kaono'i, Hawaiian-born skater. Also associated with McDaniel is Ross W. Christina, of Los Angeles. The show is designed for "Small Town America" and has already been described by reviews as a "smashing success". The only thing this reporter can think of is the 5 page contract is much too long.

An uncomplimentary letter recently appeared

# ATTENTION

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

on December 19, 1976

The Circus was burned by persons unknown

CIRCORAMA ESPACIAL

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I, Fred Teurman, brother-in-law of the family am asking for your support

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# PEOPLE

TONY AGUILAR, popular Mexican star, is reportedly helping to back an American tour for a Mexican Circus produced by the Fuentes family. They will use the Circo Union big top.

FRED D. PFENING writes to correct an error in the CR of Jan. 3rd. He says that Emanuel Zacchini did not appear with RBBB until 1970 when he had his X-15 double cannon. For full details about cannon acts read the Nov./Dec. issue of Bandwagon magazine.

in an issue of the Shreveport (La.) Times and was called "A Rip Off". It concerned a visit to the George-Matthews Circus by a local woman whose complaints seem untrue.

..... M. L. Dupont

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## clowns

"Clowns" a documentary film produced for the American Broadcasting Corp., and the Encyclopedia Britannica, will be televised in five major cities across the nation this month. It will be screened in San Francisco on Jan. 16th, at 7:30 p.m. on Channel 7.

As a look at present day clowning the film focuses on clowns at work:

"Mesha T. Clown" romantically performs on the streets of San Francisco. With a small black hat at her feet, she mimics the tourists, juggles apples from a fruit vendor and creates balloon creatures for the children. As an experienced and accomplished mime she reveals the newest (or is it the oldest?) avenue of clown work:

In a more traditional vein, "Buffo the Clown and Mrs. Buffo" from Los Angeles entertain from their stage presentation show. The circus rehearsals and performances seen in the film were supplied by the Wenatchee Youth Circus. The accredited clown class at San Diego State University is also included as the training grounds for future clowns.

The film was directed by Bob Boucher and produced by Avatar Learning, Inc., of Los Angeles. The film will be distributed through the school system by Encyclopedia Britannica.

Order Circus Report now and be sure of having your own copy each week. It's just \$12.00 for the full year.

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## PEOPLE

DICK SPARROW drove a 48 horse team in the Cotton Bowl Parade at Dallas (Texas) last month. The circus feature was sponsored by O's Gold Seed Co.

GENEVIEVE LERCHE and BETTE LEONARD former show girls, spent the holidays visiting friends in Texas.

VELMA LOWRY writes to ask whatever happened to Mr. Misten after he finished his tour with the Ringling-Barnum Circus?

JACK GOBBLE plans to have a pit show and Moon Bounce on the midway of the Roberts Bros. Circus this summer.

J. A. HOFMEISTER, also known as Chief Joseph, sold on of his Appaloosa stallion liberty horse acts to Circus Vargas. He will stay with the horses for an undetermined time.

STU MILLER's "Wonderful World of Magic" appeared at the Westbury (L.I.) and Valley Forge (Pa.) Music Fairs on Dec. 26-28 and 29-30

VENO VENITO (sword balance and birds), the GUTIS FAMILY (comedy) and DENNY & LEE (Illusions) augmented the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus recently;

## Show Visitors

Visitors to the Emmett Kelly, Jr., Circus at its Washington (DC) and Tarrytown (NY) dates were: HEIDI (Gutis) and JIM GROGAN; MARSHA (Hunt) and DON JONES; COUNT NICHOLAS; PAUL NEFF; HENRY BUSH; ROSE ADAIR; LEONARD GREEN; MARY WISE; the VILLAMS; and the VOLANTES.

In Washington the Kelly Circus folks were invited to a performance of "Hellzapoppin". Attending were: the HALL Family; KENT CLAYTON; the VALENTINES; the ASHTONS; JUNE DEWSBURY; BOBBY SMITH; VENO VENITO and STAN FREEBURG.

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## NOTICE

BILLY BARTON is back on the road for the 1977 Season

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## THANK YOU

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Jack Gobble, Jim Silverlake, Don Washburn, Phil Shear, Billy Sheets, and to your crews, including: Jean Gobble, Jeff Earl, Torchy Wilson, Wes Barton, Tom Gauger, and all the rest.

Our 1977 season opens in early November, five rocket ship units and three moon rocket units. Anyone who is at liberty at that time of year for about five weeks work (Santa Claus, hostess, driver, manager, etc.), please contact us early.

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# BIG TOP MUSIC

The following musical score was compiled by Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick during a visit to Hoxie Bros. Circus on Oct. 11-13, 1976. The show's band leader was Joe Eddy.

## Bicentennial Spec -

Fanfare

America On Parade

Stars & Stripes Forever

Red, White & Blue

Yankee Doodle Dandy

## Cat Act -

Shaft Theme

Born Free

Love Is A Many Splendored Thing

Jungle Queen

Big Cage Galop

## Henry's Comedy Car -

Merry Oldsmobile

Take Me Home

## Miss Graciello and Web Number

Grand Old Flag

Killing Me Softly

Go Galop

Dear Heart

Fascilation

Dear World

## The Franks - Horse Act

Its Not Unusual

Chim Chim Cheree

Spinning Wheel

Strike Up The Band

## Cortez Family - High Wire

Almanaza

The Breeze and I

Mr. Lucky Theme

Going For A Walk One Day

La Palome

Exodus Theme

Zingarella

## Clown Gag - Popcorn, the Clown

Telephone Gag

## Diaz Sisters - Unicycles

That's Entertainment

Zing Went the Strings of My Heart

Swanee

Somebody's Taking My Place

Baby Face

## Bradd Franks - Whips and Ropes

El Rancho Grande

Hello Dolly

Buttons and Bows

Bonanza Theme

Oklahoma

## Circus Elephants -

Elefante

Hindustan

Baby Elephant Walk

Kismet Theme

Burma Patrol

Turkey In the Straw

Lady of France

Int'l Vaudeville March

Night Train

Arche de Triumphe

Beautiful Lady in Blue

Rock-A-Bye Baby

Schermick March

Stars & Stripes Forever

## Clown Gag -

Avant la Guilla

## Diaz Sisters - Juggling

Mombó Jambo

Bridge Over River Kwai

El Cumbanchero

## Gary and Popcorn - Clowns

## Flying Columbians - trapeze

C'est Paree

Norwegian Wood

Floating Down the River

Merry Widow Waltz

Belle of the Ball

Vienna Life

Winter Sports Galop

## Finale - All Show Personnel

This Is My Country

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$20.00; each additional color \$10.00 extra.

# In Memory of JOHN HARTZELL, Sr.

WHO LEFT US ON JANUARY 1, 1977

John passed away in his sleep following a massive coronary attack while on a booking trip.

Born on May 11, 1915, he spent 48 years in the circus business. He started as a bar performer and for 30 years he had his own flying act, which featured his family. For the past four years the family operated their own circus — Wallace & Rogers — playing the west coast, Canada and Alaska.

Survivors include his wife, Helene, who he married on Jan. 9, 1938; four sons John Jr., Mike, Ray and Ross; two daughter-in-laws, Diana and Vickie; three grandchildren, Christopher, Kip and James; a sister, Lois and his mother, Elizabeth.

## Mattel Says

The following material has been copied from Mattel's Report to Shareholders dated Oct. 30, 1976, and is presented here for the general interest of readers.

"...Mattel Toys division, Monogram Models, Inc and Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc., all contributed to increases in total domestic and international sales for the nine months reported."

"...as of January 31, 1976, the Company modified substantially the concept of the Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus World, Inc. (Circus Theme Park) and invested additional capital of approximately \$3.2 million in the Circus Theme Park. As of October 30, 1976, the Company's investments were approximately \$11.6 million in Circus Theme Park assets and \$7.4 million in the adjacent land held for future use or sale. For the nine months ended October 30, 1976, Circus Theme Park operated at a substantial loss because of higher than anticipated operating expenses and reopening costs. On November 4, 1976, the Board of Directors of Mattel, Inc., approved capital expenditures of approximately \$2 million for expansion of the Circus Theme Park facilities. A long range development program which may require further capital development is currently being studied by management.

## PEOPLE

WILLIAM S. KEEZER has recently authored a book about a small circus playing in Montana in the 1800's. It will be published by Thomas Bourege & Co., Inc., of New York.

BILL WILLIAMS (Cotton Candy), along with THE JAX MARIONETTES and LONI IRONBERG worked two Christmas show dates in late December for the Hal Morris and Edna Muir agencies.

ART (Doc) MILLER is planning to stay at his Florida home this year and will not be out on the road.

"There is no assurance that the Company will realize its investments in Circus Theme Park assets and the adjacent land or that, after the additional capital investment approved by the Board of Directors, the Circus Theme Park will operate successfully; however, in the opinion of management, such investments should be recovered through future operations or disposition of the land and, accordingly, no provision for loss is deemed necessary at October 30, 1976."

"...higher operating costs in the Circus Theme Park.....related to marketing objectives that were not fully achieved in the first first nine months of fiscal 1977. Such operating costs... consisted primarily of start up costs...."

## *It's All Over*

The Freedom Train pulled into Miami (Fla), just before Christmas for its last public viewing. The red, white and blue train wound up its two year tour on New Years Eve.

Early this month the train went into Washington, DC, where it is being dismantled and the exhibits will be returned to their owners. However, the train and its equipment is to be placed on the sale block.

The Freedom Train started its 25,833 mile tour at Washington, DC, on April 1, 1975. During its two year tour the train stopped at 138 cities and some seven million people viewed its exhibits.

Peter Spurney, president of the American Freedom Train Foundation, says he expects the non profit foundation to break even financially, or maybe even in the black. The train's biggest crowds, he added, came out in Anaheim (Cal) where the daily average was 17,846 people.

## MAN vs TIGER

A fight between a Karate Champion and a Bengal tiger will be held in Haiti despite protests by the World Wildlife Fund. The event, set for Feb. 5th, will the tiger and man against each other in a sealed cage.

The Wildlife Fund calls the event a "degrading spectacle" and has asked that it be cancelled. Bengal tigers are on the Endangered Species List.

The promoter says several countries refused to sanction the contest until Haiti ok'd it. The event is supposed to be televised on a world-wide basis. It's purpose, the promoter says, is to prove that Japanese hand combat techniques are superior to those of the Chinese.

The HEAD BROS' Miniature Circus was featured at the opening of the new Ringling Museum of the Circus in Sarasota on Jan. 15th. The model show is built on a one inch scale.

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# Coming

Several special features are coming up for future issues of Circus Report, so don't miss a single copy.

Jack Niblett writes a review of "The Circo Americano" with a full report on this fine Italian Circus.

## FOR SALE

### WOW! WHAT A FIND!

1926 Heritage Bros. Circus cards - dated Grand Junction, Aug. 14 - very tender but priceless \$10.00 (Extra \$1.00 for wrapping and mailing)

N. Y. FANS ATTENTION! - Just 5 cards 'Couchmans Dog & Pony Circus, dated Herkimer, May 9, \$10.00 (Extra \$1.00 for wrapping and mailing)

Hippo Poster designed for and used on most Floyd King shows . . . . . \$5.00

Famous Floyd King pink newspaper herald. Dated E. Providence for 1954. \$3.50

Beautiful Pictorial Panels designed during the 30's - Sols Liberty Shows - 2 styles One \$8.00 or both for \$15.00

Misc. titles on posters, somewhat tattered or soiled. Real Bargains . . \$2.00 each

Half sheet of Performing Elephants title is Bailey Bros. Circus (Big Bob Stevens Show) . . . . . \$8.00

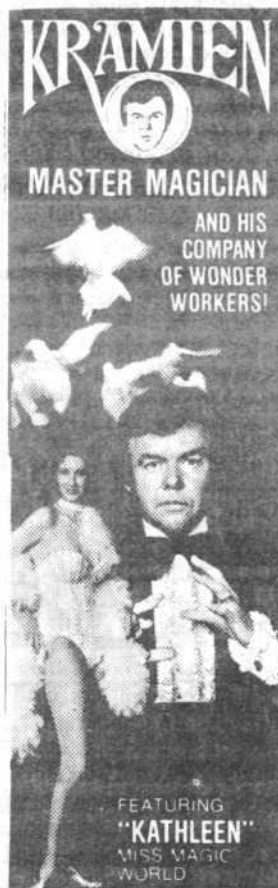
### NOW READ THIS . . . .

Before Cetlin & Wilson (wagon show actually old Sheesleys) were destroyed at Richmond, I ripped off a few portions of oak bracings. These have gradually started to dry rot though still bear tell/tale show paint. I've cut these into 2 inch pieces and will share them, free of charge, with orders placed this month, while the supply lasts.

ART (Doc) MILLER

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## I Love It!

Don't ya love it? Don't ya just love this business? It seems that every show has its fill of grumblers. And I have to admit I frequently find myself guilty of complaining as much as the next guy. What traitors we are!

I was not born a "circus brat", I did not have that privilege. It's in my blood just the same as though generations of it coursed through my soul.

The sawdust ring is where my heart is. It is a way of life to me, but a way I have chosen and had to work for. For that reason it is more precious to me.

I love this life: the mud, and the rain, the snow the heat, long drives, hard set-ups, late tear-downs, the bad lots and worse audiences, the lean times. These are a challenge to me. Oh sure I belly ache a lot, but when I've come through it I feel a certain sense of accomplishment. When I hear my fanfare and step into the ring, nothing else matters, only that moment of exquisite bliss. The pain is forgotten and I feel a rejuvenation. This is why I stay. My soul is here with the sounds, sights, smells and people of the circus.

## Not Yet

The reported sale of Polack Bros. Circus has apparently not been completed despite generally reliable reports last year.

One source close to the show reports the sale did go into Escrow in the early weeks of this month, but no further action has been taken. In the meantime the show is playing at Flint, Michigan, under the direction of Louis Stern. Parley Baer was reportedly handling the announcing chores for this engagement.

I take a great pride in my adopted "circus family". I am only a child in my mastery of skills, but the spirit is there. The spirit of centuries of backdoor hustle and bustle.

I love it and I want to see the circus thrive and continue to be an immortal being. That is why I would like to say:

"For 1977 may we all remember the love that surrounds us, from the ring to the backyard and work to keep 'the spirit' alive! Lets keep our family united and strong, our business living and our pride intact. No one can defeat us if we work together."

..... Ruth Hill

## AN OPEN LETTER -

FROM VICTOR FLORES TO MR. BOB GIBBS AND ALL SHOW PEOPLE

In The November 22nd issue of Circus Report I read your ad accusing me and my wife of removing a pony from the Fort Worth Shrine Circus.

In the first place you know this pony belongs to my wife and has been hers since 1968. We have a considerable amount of proof to this, along with evidence, including a Notarized Bill of Sale.

I didn't remove the pony as you accuse me of doing! You could not have seen me as I was not anywhere near Fort Worth at the time. The pony was returned to my wife.

In the second place your word is worthless because you will not pay the reward. As you know exactly where we live.

VICTOR FLORES  
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## Survey Set

A census-survey of Active and Retired Circus Personnel on the West Coast of Florida is now underway.

The survey being conducted by Alva Johnson, Jr., Sarasota President of the CFA in cooperation with the Ringling Museum of the Circus has a two fold purpose.

The first is to get an accurate count of circus people in the area for use of those interested in better Public Relations for those citizens and to achieve more favorable rulings in the Zoning Regulations that are a constant threat.

The second is to establish an accurate file of

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statistics of Circus Personnel to be stored in the museum archives to be available to Circus Historians who use the extensive research library of the museum. For the latter use Circus People nation-wide are urged to file a survey form which can be obtained by contacting Mr. Johnson at the Ringling Museum of the Circus, P. O. Box 1838, Sarasota, Fla. 33578.

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## OK TOUR

After a slow start the Harmes "All Star Revue" had a good summer and autumn season. Outstanding dates were Rehoboth Beach, Dela., with turn away crowds, and various towns in Maine, played during the summer months. All dates are 100% sponsored and presented in high school auditoriums.

Acts with the show included DeLage & Margaret, magic. Al DeLage received the Magician of the Year Award in April 1976, presented by the Society of American Magicians Parent Assembly No. 1. Other acts included: Bernice Dante and her baby chimps; Mike Monroe, trampoline and stilts; Jack Bland, novelty music; Don Bridwell, clown; Joe Smiley, magic; Denny & Lee, magic and many others.

The show staff consists of: Chet Harmes, Jr., senior advisor; Jacqueline Harmes, manager; Joann Drasher, office manager; with bookings

## PEOPLE

BARON and MARY ANN VON UHL are parents of a baby boy (Nathan Stewart Von Uhl) born in Peru, Indiana on Jan. 7, 1977.

JOHN HARTZELL, Jr. recently worked his seal act on the Merv Griffin TV Show in Las Vegas. The program is expected to be aired early this week.

handled by Jacqueline Harmes and Bob McFarland.

Serious consideration is being given to re-establishing the Scott Bros. Circus title in conjunction with Scott Bros.-Hoopes & McMillian Combined Circus. Both Frank Hoopes and Jack McMillian are principals in the circus scene in the South Jersey area. Harmes toured Scott Bros., as an outdoor side wall circus during the 1960 season and also toured several years in New England and the south as an indoor circus.

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## Xmas Magic

The "Christmas Magic Show" produced and promoted by Jim Swofford, of S&H Advertising, of Marysville, Calif., played a series of pre-Christmas dates in Northern California to good response. In each city the show was sponsored by the local Police Officers Association, with proceeds from the two Yuba City shows going to children of the recent school bus accident.

The tour included stops at the Yountville Veteran's Home (Nov. 20); Yuba City (Dec. 11); Chico (Dec. 12) and Eureka (Dec. 13).

The program featured: Santa Claus (Bill Williams) who opened the show and introduced Richard Boylen, Mr. Magic, who was also the show's M.C.

Fire Eater (Moz) Moz Wright, was followed by the M.C. who had a running gag with a magic

trick that failed to work until along towards the end of the show.

Other acts included: Eric Van Duzer, with dove magic; Mary Culley's Poodle-Aires; Eric with the Doll House (assisted by Jeff Petters and Dana Nussbaum); Moz doing sword swallowing (assisted by Dewinn Brady); Cotton Candy the Clown (Bill Williams) clown magic; Linda Phillips and Pipsqueek, vent; Eric and the Zig Zag illusion; Finale.

Bill Williams, who worked as both Santa Claus and Cotton Candy, the Clown, opened the first show as Santa, then switched to clown make-up for his number and closed the show as a clown. The second show was opened by the clown, with Santa coming on for the finale.

Thanks for reading Circus Report today. We appreciate it very much.

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