

# CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

9th Year

Number 46

November 17, 1980



BOB-O the Clown and his Friend "Me Too"

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## in the NEWS

### ANNUAL TURKEY DROP TO GO ON

Officials of the annual Turkey Drop at Yellville, Ark., have been threatened with cruelty charges by the Humane Society.

Each year, as Thanksgiving approaches, several turkeys are dropped from low-flying planes as eager citizens wait below to catch them.

According to Bill Moore, president of the Yellville Chamber of Commerce and editor of the Yellville Mountain newspaper, the Humane Society complains every year "but they never have filed an injunction to stop it."

The turkeys are taken from the slaughterhouse, and Moore says people feel this way they have a 50-50 chance. They usually descend on a glide pattern and if you catch one you can keep it.

Humane Society officials report Arkansas law prohibits torment and torture of animals, which includes improper loading and unloading - which might apply in this case.

Moore says he talked with an attorney who agreed the "torment and torture" law might stick in court. But, he said, we decided to go ahead with it anyway, since the people like it.

Turkey-raising is a vital part of the economy in the Yellville area. Turkey Trot pays homage to the industry with such activities as the Miss Drumsticks and Miss Turkey Trot pageants, a Wild Turkey Dance and the National Wild Turkey Calling Contest, which is in its 35th year and attracts would-be gobblers from all over the country.

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## Show Report

### CLYDE BEATTY-COLE BROS. CIRCUS

The program for the indoor tour of the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus lists the following acts:

The Flores Duo, aerial perch; The Albarra-cines, aerial perch; The Munoz Sisters, aerial perch; John Welde's Russian Bears; The Circus Clowns; The Robertos, pole vaulting; The Verdus, rolling globes; The Apollos, acrobatics; The Great Vashek, aerial motorcycle; The Clowns; The Flying Alvarez and The Flying Lantons; The Clowns; Cemon's Chimpanzees (after Dec. 25 Carmen Hall's Baboons); Aerialists Marie Christine, Senor Gabriel and Miss Darlene; Intermission; Dave Hoover, lions and tigers; Fay Alexander's comedy car (Al's Lemon-Zeen); Antonio and Julio, ground perch; Miss Sarazochil, sword balance; Los Argentinas, ground perch; The Herriotts in high school riding; The Wee Gets, balancing; The Clowns; The Martin Trio, The Ayala Troupe and The Estradas, teeterboard acts; The Clowns; The Albins, mid-air motorcycles; Capt. Fred Logan and Family, elephants; Johnny Luxem and His Wheel of Death; Finale.

The show's staff consists of:

Producers and Directors, Tom Scallen, John W. Pugh and Timothy J. Stinson; Jerry Collins, chairman; Tom Scallen, president/arena

(Continued on Page 30)

## License Plates

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# Show Dates

Carden-Johnson Circus  
Nov. 21-23 Springfield, Ill.

Hubler Int'l Circus  
Nov. 23 Cohoes, NY

Ringling-Barnum Blue  
Nov 18-30 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Hanneford Circus  
Nov. 23-30 New Orleans, La

Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
Nov 17 Baton Rouge, La.  
18 Lafayette  
19 Houston, Texas  
21 Austin

Wonderland Circus Revue  
Nov 17 Branchville, SC  
18-19 Estill  
20 St. George  
21 Holly Hill

---- MAGIC ----

Pf. Miller Magic Time USA  
Nov 18 Carroll, Iowa  
19 Fort Dodge  
20 Charles City  
23 Edina, Mo.

Felix Snipes  
Nov 21-22 Monte Bello, Cal

--- OTHER DATES ---

Century 21 Shows  
to Nov 23 West Palm Beach  
Fla

— End of Season —

Ice Capades  
Nov 18-23 Oakland, Calif

The Sikorskys  
Nov 22 N. Brunswick, NJ

Tommy Scotts Last Old  
Time Medicine Show  
Nov 17 Hollywood, Ala  
18 Dalton, Ga.  
19 Blairsville,  
20 Murphy, NC  
21 Sylva  
22 Demorest, Ga.



# Billy Barton

**DATELINE - New Braunfels, Texas:** AT THE writing of this column (Oct. 28) I received the good news that my mother, after four strokes, is making a miraculous recovery and that today she will be made to take her first steps, walking a little more each day, and also that her speech has improved. I flew back to San Antonio on San Antonio's closing day and was picked up at the airport by PEGGY MacDONALD, arriving just as the second Sunday show was breaking. On the next day BOBBY and I drove to EMIL and HANNA PALLEMBERG's home in New Braunfels where this column is being written.

Just as I was leaving the lot on Monday, I encountered HERTA CUNEO who had flown in Sunday night (arriving just after my plane landed). She had come down from Chicago to pick up two newly born tiger cubs. Before she got there the two cubs had died, so Herta made the flight for nothing. She was being driven to the grounds by WADE BURCK, leaving that day for California to tape "Those Amazing Animals."

Having been forced to miss the San Antonio engagement I can only comment on the date from what I was told by other performers. Despite the weekend day and dating by Circus Vargas, attendance was good with packed houses for the Saturday matinee and the first show on Sunday and I was informed that business was 60% over 1979. Business, I understand, for Circus Vargas, playing at Wonderland Mall some 10 miles south, was also good. Naturally I did not get to visit Circus Vargas, as I would have done had I been in San Antonio for the full run, but visits were exchanged between performers, with some people catching part of both shows, though not entire performances as the schedules conflicted. I heard that the aerial ballet on Circus Vargas is especially good (3 webs hanging on crane bars over each ring), that the girls work in perfect unison, that the web sitters are in top hat and tails, and that the number opens with a production dance. Over the crane bars, also, are chaser lights. Other comments are that the show was good (as it always is) and, that owing to a dirt lot, the old canvas was used. Those rumors that REX WILLIAMS suffered a mild stroke are unfounded and untrue. Rex suffered a neck injury as a result of a mishap with an elephant

last season and is under going treatment for that injury.

On Monday, Oct. 27, MACK MacDONALD was taken to the hospital for additional eye surgery on Tuesday. As I write this HANNA PALLEMBERG has just driven over to join PEGGY and the two will sit out the vigil until the operation is over. I will give you the details in my next column to be sent from Fort Worth, where most of us are headed for the layoff and where we will all get to see the TNT Mall Circus which opened there today for a five day stand.

**SNAPSHOTS:** HERBIE WEBER drove to Laredo to take MARCELLA's father and brother-in-law to the border so they could catch a bus back to Mexico City. . . BILL STRONG's parents visited in San Antonio and Bill and Trudy stayed over for a day to show them the sights. . . Trudy finally had a chance to visit, though briefly, with her sister DONNA, now with Circus Vargas. . . Some of the CV people seen visiting included the ESPANAS, BILL BIGGERSTAFF (busy taking pictures of WADE BURCK who is to be with Vargas in '81), AVA WILLIAMS and BILL and DONNA BARRISTER. . . HOWARD SUESZ was also on tap and I am sorry to have missed him. . . SANDY STRONG's mother is making a good recovery from a recent bout with pneumonia. The lady has been hospitalized in Michigan. . . FRANK CURRY is back in New York at his home base, but as usual is in and out. . . JACKIE and HEIDI KRAUSE flew to Las Vegas for the layoff. . . PHIL and FRANCINE are off the road for a spell, staying with Mack and Peggy. . . RON and JOY HOLIDAY opened at Atlantic City in the new revue "Hello Broadway". . . TIBOR ALEXANDER becomes busier all the time with his new agency business. . . GRACE McINTOSH has added several new dates to her 1981 route which I am happy to hear. . . Tried to call JIMMY DOUGLASS while I was at home but there was no answer so I think he and VERN were busy overseeing some production details for the indoor Beatty-Cole Circus. . . Members of the ATAYDES stopped in at San Antonio to catch both the Shrine Circus and Vargas; ditto folks from Circo Union. . . EMIL PALLEMBERG told me his last bear (and one of the originals) LAURA died about 6 years ago. The Pallenberg bear

(Continued on Page 31)

# open time



## 1980



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# REPORT

## TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC CIRCUS

BY DON SANDMAN

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus and the Bert Backstein Ring No. 72 CMB co-starred at the Hickory Point Mall, Forsyth, Ill., for Sept. 22-26th.

TNT presented a nice 35 minute show with the Saturday date being a four performance day. Two shows were presented on all of the other days.

Earl Tegge is producer/president, while Tim Noel Tegge is vice president/manager. Louise Tegge holds the titles of treasurer and wardrobe mistress, while Gena Marie Tegge is the technician.

A fine program is sold. It was designed and conceived by TNT Productions of Garden Grove, Calif. and was printed by the W. H. Hohenadel Printing Co. of Rochelle, Ill.

The performance as presented in Forsyth was as follows: Opening overture by the TNT Circus band (Louise Tegge on organ and Tim Tegge on drums); Parade of the stars with banners waving; Introduction of Miss Gena Marie who's magic powers present from the box, Mr. Earl Tegge, ringmaster of the show. Spielzeug with Gary Baker and Vickie climaxed with a one finger stand. Twinkles follows with his sale of "Yuckie Soda Pop" and clumsy finger balancing. Popini and Co. (Carlos and Carol Obando) comedy on the wire, joined by their daughter, 3 year old Pamelita Michelle, making her wire walking debut.

Both the morning and afternoon papers carried show coverage. The morning paper had a photo of Pamelita Michelle, while the evening paper had a picture of Twinkles the cir-

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This book will be available about the end of November.

cus clown and his balancing?

On the 25th and 26th, also appearing at the Hickory Point Mall, to really make a circus weekend, were 18 members of the CMB under the banner of the Bert Backstein Ring. No. 72, with circus models stretched all along the mall.

Displaying models were: Bob Flesch, Bill Backstein, Stan Dillon, Roy Lee, Louis Paulson, Ed Meile, Roy Davis, Bob Phebus, Bob Woodruff, Ron Goodchild, Cornelius Ollof, Belford (Porky) South, R. Ricketts, Ken McKinney, Don Erlenbush, Ron Hurst, Bill Klammerus, and Don Sandman. Also seen visiting the show was Allen Babcock, who brought along his great circus photos.

# MAILBAG

FROM ALBERTO & SANDRA ZOPPE

Just a line to say Hello and let you know we just finished taping "Circus of the Stars".

I feel this letter is very important, for as you know there is much controversy in our circus world about this TV show.

This is our opinion:

During our weeks of rehearsals with the stars we gained only respect for them and for the show. The dedication that they put into making the show cannot be measured. From the production company (Bob Stivers and associates) to the stars who perform in the show. The word circus is a magical word, and believe me they get just as excited and carried away as we do with the wonderful world of circus.

It is our belief that Bob Stivers could have chosen his show from many other types of entertainment, if he had wanted to. But, he chose "circus". Doesn't that prove we are chosen and highly respected artists? We believe that our world can only gain from this highly professional show.

Our special thanks to: Bob Stivers, Bob Findle, Julian Berkoricci, Gordon Smith, Susan Hecht-Lee, Adam Gilbert and Phil Braverman.

And our stars: Dona Plate, of Different Strokes; Susan Richardson, of Eight Is Enough and last but not least, Marty Allen.

"Circus of the Stars" we salute you!

P. S. Don't forget to watch CBS-TV on Dec. 14th.

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## Acts

### VAUDEVILLE SHOW

Acts appearing on the old-time vaudeville "Nostalgiafest" which was presented in Petersburg, Va., last month were:

Tommy Curtain, juggling unicyclist; 'Shorts' Davis, tap dancer; Bob Lewis and Ginny, a comedy banjo act; Karlton & Co., magic and illusions; Macklin S. Columber, comedy vocalist; Marsha Mc Reynolds, vocals and the Jean Lowe "Leggy Lovelies" a dance line.

# REPORT

## TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC CIRCUS

BY RON HURST

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus played to capacity crowds at the Hickory Point Mall in Forsyth, Ill., Oct. 22-26th. This show presents a delightful, fast-paced 35 minute performance. The opening spec presents all performers in a walk-around, followed by the lovely Gena Marie magically turning a waving scarf into a cane changing fire to a darling grey bunny, and climaxing her presentation by causing ringmaster Earl Tegge to miraculously appear from an empty booth.

During his opening remarks, ringmaster Earl graciously invited the audience to visit the myriad Circus Model Builders exhibits in the mall after the performance.

After the opening comments it was "on with the show". Appearing first was the lovely, talented Miss Loni with a marvelous exhibition of foot juggling, which she makes appear so effortless.

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Knecht, Circus Book . . . . .	20.00
Norwood, Circus Menagerie . . . . .	18.00
Robinson, Old Wagon Show Days . .	27.50
Wilson, King Panto: Story of Pantomime (mint in d.j.) . . . . .	16.50
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P. T. Barnum Circus daily synopsis sheet, 1878. Have several blanks removed from original record book . . . . .	6.00
Circus America program, 1974 . . . . .	4.50
RBBB program, 1933 (cover loose) . . . . .	15.00
RBBB program, 1935 . . . . .	15.00
Ringling Bros. program, 1915 . . . . .	40.00

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During the change of props for the next act, Twinkles the clown, who also is the show's band drummer, gives a coloring book program and balloon pitch.

Next is Speilzeug, a fine display of acrobatic talent with a wooden soldier and a rag doll in a toy shop setting, culminating with the wooden soldier executing the difficult one-finger stand.

And now, tune up the taste buds and raise the umbrellas, for Twinkles leaves the band to peddle Yuckee soda while Louise Tegge provides some melodramatic organ music. He even tries to get some recognition by balancing a case of Yuckee soda 40 ft. (?) in the air. Well, not quite 40 ft. but he deserves a point or two for trying.

The high point of the performance in Forsyth had to be the Poppini and Company, wire walkers magnificent. While the lovely Carla performs on the wire, the mischievous Poppini distracts the audience and proceeds to get himself on the wire where he finds himself in one ticklish situation after another. After Poppini extricates himself from both his trousers and the wire, the newest member of the Company is introduced. Three year old Pamelita Michelle made her wire walking debut on Oct. 24th. The act concludes with a difficult two man high balancing feat with the lovely Carla standing on Poppini's shoulders while Poppini sits astride a bicycle balanced on the wire.

# MAILBAG

FROM WILLIAM WOSTCH

I just read in our local paper that the Times Mirror Publishing Co. has announced, in principal, that they plan to buy the Denver Post. The Denver Post was started by Fred Bonfils and Harry Tammen, who also owned the big Sells Floto Circus from 1906 to 1920.

The Sells Floto Circus appeared in Cleveland (Ohio) in 1914 and 1919 and in 1930 the show played nearby as it did in 1931.

I remember the 1930 date at the East 9th Street Lake Front lot. As a 17 year old kid rooming near the circus lot, I saw a good part of the circus.

The American Circus Corp. bought the circus after the 1920 season. The show remained on the road until the end of the 1932 season, when it closed forever.

## PEOPLE

**JAMES "Kay" KYSER**, former big band leader and "the old Professor" is now a Christian Science lecturer and presented a free lecture in Oakland, Calif., on Nov. 13th.

**DAVID COPPERFIELD**, illusionist, was a guest on the Mike Douglas TV show which was aired on Nov. 4th.

**FRED REED**, national CFA president, and **ROBERT McCALL**, CFA district director, both of Phoenix, attended the season ending performances of the **Big John Strong Circus** at Yucaipa, Calif., on Oct. 26th.

**PAUL SAMUELSON**, magician, was featured on TV's "A.M. San Francisco" show the morning of Nov. 5th.

**SUE** and **RUDI LENZ**, will not be touring on the Ringling Red Unit next year. Instead they plan to enjoy their new home in Venice, Fla. They have been with the Ringling circus for 12 years.

**HOWARD WICKSTROM** (1418 No. 27th St. Kansas City, Kans. 66102) is looking for information about contortionists and where they might be working.

**GARY JACOBSON** recently traded 'Tina' the Nugget Casino elephant to **D. R. MILLER** for a young bull. Already the youngster has worked in the club's stage show.

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**BILL KARLTON**, of Richmond, Va., produced an old-time vaudeville show called "Nostalgiafest" for sponsors in Petersburg, Va. It went so well he has been asked to do the same thing again in 1981.

**THE ROLLING DIAMONDS** and **THE VILLAGE PEOPLE** enjoyed a visit last month in San Juan, P. R., where both were doing show work. The Rolling Diamonds will be doing Xmas shows for Howard Schultz Agency and Dwight Damon Agency.

**MARK WILSON**, illusionist, and his family are performing in China, at the request of the Chinese Government. Their shows will be presented in theatres, schools, factories and other places where people congregate.

**HARRY CHIPMAN**, former circus advance man and press agent, recently retired after working for several years for newspapers in Southern California.

**PAMELITA MICHELLE OBANDO**, possibly the youngest wire walker, at the age of 3,

was a real crowd pleaser as she spent her first week on the wire, with the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus at Ft. Worth, Texas.

**SYLVIA SAFRAN** (c/o Cider Mill School, Wilton, Conn. 06897) is looking for samples of circus posters that can be used for a class study project.

**BUSTER CRABBE**, who played Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers in the movies, and also appeared in the circus film "King of the Lions" has written a book called "Ergistics" which is designed for older people who want to keep in shape.

**ANGELA WILNOW** has been presented with a one year old sable and white collie, a gift from a leading Georgia Collie Kennel, whose owners saw their act and appreciates what she has done for the collie. The newcomer's name, is of course, Scarlett O'Hara.

**ALBERTO ZOPPE and Family** are playing dates in Canada, and will work Christmas dates in the Chicago area.

**SUSAN RICHARDSON**, star of Eight Is Enough, a TV weekly feature, named her new baby "Sandra Lee" after Sandra Zoppe.

**STEVE BAKER**, escape artist, will be featured on a TV special which is scheduled to be aired the night of Nov. 21st. He will be

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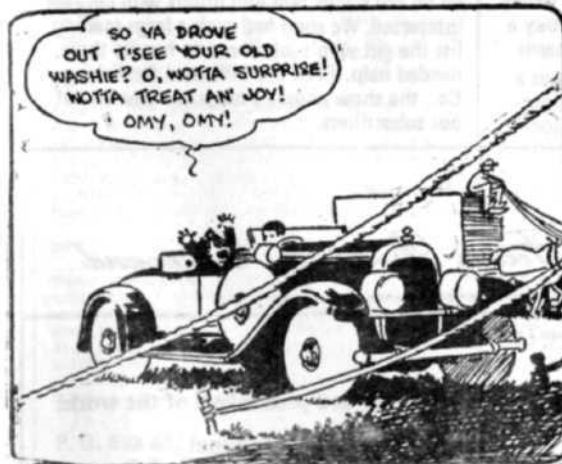
shackled to a big log that is being fed into a buzz saw.

**ENRIQUE WALLEDA**, whose successful "skywalk" was filmed in San Juan, P. R., will be seen on a TV special sometime later this month.

**POPO**, the famed Clown of Oakland's (Cal) Fairyland Park, has resigned after 22 years of performing there. He plans to work show dates on his own, as well as continuing his world travels.

**BOB GROTE**, tutor for children on the Ringling Red Unit, was featured in a recent newspaper article. His students include: **ANDREA** and **MICHELLE AYALA**, **MARK** and **TINA GEBEL-WILLIAMS**, **MICHELLE ANTALEK**, **KATHY** and **GINO FARFAN** and **EVY SLAYTON**.

**I**T'S CIRCUS DAY BACK IN WASH'S HOME TOWN.



# SPECIAL!

## THE MENAGE CLUB WEEKLY NEWS

BY DOROTHY HERBERT KENNARD

*(The following item was written by Dorothy Herbert Kennard, about her days on the Cole Bros. Circus. The item was intended to be a part of Dorothy's circus stories, but she has given CR permission to run this article).*

It started out rather like a joke.

Some where down the line in connection with my radio broadcasts I had purchased a typewriter. The fact that I did not know how to use it in no way deterred my determination. I hunted and I pecked and I still do. Never had a lesson in my life and it is obvious.

Anyway, it started out as a sort of report to the members. It was very dull so I asked the members to contribute little bits of gossip that might make it more interesting. Each member was required to buy a copy whether they wanted it or not. The price was 10c.

They liked the idea of furnishing gossip and before I knew it other people on the show were asking to buy a copy. This posed a problem as the paper was processed in my state room on my typewriter, using two carbons I could print only three sheets at a time.

I called a meeting. It looked like our newspaper might be a money making deal. However, I had neither the time nor the inclination to sit up half of the night making carbon copies. If the members were agreed we would take the money from our treasury and buy a mimeograph machine and print a real paper.

Everyone of the members thought it was a great idea. So was born the first newspaper ever to be printed on a circus. It was a suc-

cess from the start. We put a box on one of my trunks with a slot in it. Anyone was at liberty to contribute any item of news they wished. Everything was carefully screened so that one's feelings might not be hurt. We assigned two girls as reporters to interview anyone that might be of interest. Two girls were assigned to advertising.

Emmett Kelly, the clown, who was later to achieve such fame, was with the show and knowing that he had been a cartoonist with a newspaper before joining the circus I asked him if he would do the art work for us. We made him an honorary member of our club and he not only drew all of our headings but also the ads, and numerous cartoons as well.

The stencils were cut all during the week from items as they came in. The ads were set up and then came Friday. Right after dinner in the cookhouse we returned to the dressing room. Everyone in an aisle, one closed their trunks and we went to work. As many sheets as we thought necessary were printed and placed on the first trunk. Then on to page two and so on through all of the stencils we had printed.

As soon as the last one was finished two girls would gather them up one by one and take them to a girl who was waiting at the end of the line with a stapler, and she would clamp the pages together. Two girls would be waiting as news boys to go around the lot selling them.

All great fun this . . . but we hadn't counted on the circus fans and others who became interested. We soon had such a large mailing list the girl who's job it was to handle them needed help. Even the Billboard Publishing Co., the show people's magazine was one of our subscribers.

# REVIEW

## RICHIARDI'S CHAMBER OF HORRORS

BY FRANK HERMAN

"Richiardi's Chamber of Horrors and Illusions" a Cable TV Special, Showtime Production for Teleprompter Cable National Release. Hosted by movie personality Vincent Price, supporting acts David Goliath, acrobatic duo and Loyal James, escapist.

Richiardi is well known to the Hocus Pocus fraternity. He is a third generation rep of a famous Latin American magic and illusion family.

The TV special was lavishly mounted and Richiardi's presentation was outstanding. It opened with rice and water combo featuring Brahman Rice Bowls, Cocktail shaker and a stylized Foo Can. Routine was sharp and clean cut, a relief from the usual array of silks, feather flowers and livestock. Temple of Benares followed, French poodle placed in box, swords through, dog vanished, attractive girl emerged from Temple. Handling of swords and prop was like a ballet.

Next, two boxes of doves were vanished with dash and verve that would have complimented the late Jack Gwynne. Unusual levitation of girl was superb. Started with concentration and examination of steel hoop then girl was hypnotized and reclined on a smoke filled floor. Girl levitated to Richiardi's chest height, hoop passed over with great finesse. She then descended to the floor. Finally floated about 18 ft. in air and then disappeared in the flys! Marvelous!

Vincent Price then introduced Loyal James who did two escapes. Upsidedown strait-jacket and involved treadmill and spike danger escape. Loyal James is handsome, costume and props featured tons of skin and heavy leather costumes and props for dramatic effect.

## Miscellaneous

Tests conducted in Hamburg in 1907 showed that a tiger can leap over a 12 foot fence,

In Bangladesh, officials report there are only 250 elephants left in their country. These, they said, will completely disappear within 10 to 20 years.

Richiardi was back then with canary vanish and return, egg, lemon and orange combination. Price did special intro for this effect and presentation of this classic magic was superb.

Vincent Price returned to assure viewers that razor blades in following threading trick are real. Close-up camera work was perfect.

Full stage now with eight people to prelude visible beheading. Main prop was authentic looking tree stump. After severing the victim's cranium, Richiardi did not restore it, just made dramatic exit holding head by its hair.

Price then introduced David & Goliath, acrobatic duo who did a strong ballet and balance routine that closed to a big hand. Richiardi followed with vanishing girl from chair to box, which showed the girl right up to the last second.

The show closed with the gory presentation of the buzz saw through a girl. TV audience was warned by Price to avoid watching if they were squeamish.

Show was sold to TV audience as a Halloween feature and was sensational in every respect. Running time was one hour. Sets and costumes were outstanding. Richiardi sold everything and camera work left nothing to be desired.

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## PEOPLE

AL HALPERN, who operates Halo Enterprises (P. O. Box 2271, Anaheim, Calif. 92804) has available a series of clown bottles for the collector. For details write to him at the above address.

IONE, the mechanical doll, was featured on TV's "Monte Carlo Show" the night of Nov. 5th.

COLLEEN CORBITT, champion arm wrestler, was seen as she maintained her championship on TV's "Real People" program this past week.

## Miscellaneous

The USDA has charged Albert A. Erdtsieck, of Petaluma, Calif., with having violated the Animal Welfare Act. The charges are pending a review by a court judge and could result in having her license revoked.

Tommy Scott's Last Old Time Medicine Show will host a banquet for agents, promoters and performers at Demorest, Ga., on Nov. 22nd.

News photos showing the capture of a sniper from a store in Lakeland, Fla., also showed the Hoxie Bros. Circus lithos hanging in the store windows.

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## Miscellaneous

Poly-Vi-Sol, a chewable vitamin for children  
now comes in "circus shapes" which includes  
clowns, animals, etc.

Mandavu, a 12 year old elephant at the San  
Diego Zoo, was recently fitted with a cast  
after having broken her right rear leg as a  
result of a fall into the park's moat.

## PEOPLE

CRAIGE McCOMB SNADER, Jr., is looking  
for additional information and material that  
was written by the late Major E. Leslie May.  
This material will be put into a book about  
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## King Kong Zoo

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## in the **NEWS**

### CONCERN AT BRITISH ZOO

Britain's private zoo, owned by John Aspinall, faces an uncertain future following the recent deaths of two keepers, who were attacked by the same tiger. The zoo was established as a place where the animals were guests, where they could feel secure and be content and breed.

In August the tigress Zeya attacked and killed a keeper in what was described as a protective move over her cub. The attack in September was said to be deliberate and as if it had been planned. Aspinall himself, shot and killed the huge beast as it held the keeper along side a swimming pool.

Aspinall spent a fortune on his 55 acre zoo and was proud of the fact that some 200 Bengal and Siberian tigers had been raised there, at a time when the species are disappearing from the wild. He had the largest private collection of tigers in the world.

Each day Aspinall could be seen romping and playing with the tigers. He had a relationship with them that only a few people

**HELEN WILSON** — Show Organist  
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achieve. He urged his workers to build up a trust relationship with the animals, but none of the employees were ever able to reach the same rapport that he did.

Aspinall was breaking new frontiers in the handling of animals, especially the big cats. Animal people from all over the world came to his zoo to observe and marvel at the way he was able to work with the cats. It was obvious that his methods were working, for all of the animals in the zoo were breeding.

Just five years ago Aspinall was quoted as saying that "tigers have good memories." Then last year, he said, that a tiger is capable of harboring resentment for a variety of reasons and that they will bide their time to get results. This, he added, is true of all higher mammals.

The two deaths are under investigation by the Health and Safety Commission, which is responsible for safety in zoos. They have the power to shut down and close a zoo, to ask for improvements or to prosecute owners for negligence.

## PEOPLE

**DAVE KNODERER** is studying dressage work and plans to tour with "Sir Bingo the Painted Wonder" in 1981.

**THE FERGES TROUPE**, trampoline act, is back in the States after a trip to Venezuela where they appeared on a TV special with **CHERYL LADD**.

**TROLLIE RHODIN** caught the opening performance of the Beatty-Cole Circus at Pittsburgh, Pa. Also attending were **MARIE PETTUS**, **FRANK BALL**, **JIM HARSHMAN** and **HELEN DUNN**.

**THE SAXONS**, unicycle/juggling, **THE SHURAYS**, double trapeze, **SPIELZEUG**, balancing and one finger stand, **THE FERGES TROUPE**, trampoline, **MIKE WHITNEY**, ringmaster and the **DON BEAMSLEY TRIO**, musicians, have been signed to appear with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Knott's Berry Farm, Nov. 27-30.

**JAMES HARRINGTON**, of Puerto Rico, has been serving as a technical director for the indoor edition of the Beatty-Cole Circus.

## For Sale

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## Miscellaneous

### ELEPHANTS DIE

More than 1,000 elephants have been killed in Zimbabwe this year, most of them in the Wankie National Park. The park has become so over crowded that rangers were forced to destroy the elephants before they could turn the land into a desert.

The elephant population in Wankie Park has grown from 2,000 to 15,000, according to a report in the Sunday Times Magazine of London. That magazine quotes ecologist Basil Williamson as saying, "we hate it, but it's a necessary evil. If we left the elephants to themselves they would hammer the whole area until there would not be enough habitat for the rest of the animals."

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**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

props were sold to REX HORTON who stayed at the Pallenberg's home for several months breaking his bear act.

Hanna tells me that many circus people stop at their place, that clown MARK ANTHONY never drives through without stopping. They have a lovely home on the lake, four miles from town and BOBBY went fishing the day we arrived and caught a large perch. . . I first met Emil and Hanna on the Polack Eastern Unit in 1948 - my first full season with the old Polack show - and we have been friends ever since. Naturally we did a lot of jack-potting about those days when the Polack Circus was THE leading circus in the USA. There will NEVER be another show like Polack, believe me, which was class all the way and which had one of the finest and longest routes of any American circus. . .

Also had a chance to visit with Hanna's daughter KATHY who once did traps, worked bulls, etc. with the old King show. I had not seen her since she was a tot. . . RED GATES headed up the concession depart-

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ment on the San Antonio Shrine date and I saw him only fleetingly as I was preparing to fly home. He and his men had gobs of news for me but, unfortunately, I had no time to take notes.

This is just a "stop-gap" column until I arrive at Fort Worth, where I will assimilate all that has happened in San Antonio during my absence and where we will have hordes of visitors. I should get at least two columns out of that date.

Meanwhile, I wish to thank Peggy MacDonald for picking me up at the airport and Hanna and Emil for their wonderful "western hospitality."

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.