

THE

# CIRCUS REPORT



"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"



December 19, 1977

Second Section

## ACT SURVIVES WRECK

All four members of the skating act, The Rolling Diamonds, were injured when a truck-trailer rig overturned and smashed into their truck, just a few miles outside of Waycross, Ga. John Hansen, his wife and two children, were coming into Waycross for a performance at the local high school.

"I saw the wheels on one side of the truck come up off the ground," said Hansen shortly after the accident. "I knew it was going to turn over on us."

But Hansen indicated the accident could have been a lot worse and their injuries could have been serious. As it is, he said, our truck is a total loss and will have to be replaced. Fortun-

ately, the props and skating platform were not damaged.

According to the State Police, the trailer rig, driven by John Rowell, working for a construction firm, was traveling west on Georgia Highway 50 when the rig overturned on a curve about six miles west of Waycross, striking Hansen's vehicle.

Police said that Rowell suffered serious injuries and that damage to the truck and its contents amounted to about \$22,000.

"We were lucky we weren't really hurt," said Hansen, who reported that he and his family would return to their home in Florida.



Happy New Year

SCOTTY, the CLOWN

c/o Gene & Dales  
Leggett, California

## SPECIAL

The giant Circus Vargas arrived in South Florida, and will be playing three separate dates within 13 days in what is hoped will be an annual event. The show drove non-stop over 650 miles from Macon, Ga., arriving in Miami late on the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 28th. The next day saw the raising of the big top on the lot at the Miami Baseball Stadium. All tents were up and rigging in place by 2 p.m. That afternoon, Cliff Vargas made the rounds, visiting Miami radio and TV programs, plugging the show's first South Florida appearance. That night's 8 p.m. performance was for V.I.P.'s only. . . by invitation. . . for Radio/TV personalities and local dignitaries. Vargas acted as Ringmaster for the opening night event.

The first lot is in the middle of Miami's large Cuban area, and tickets for the show are printed in both English and Spanish. Circus Vargas also bought both English and Spanish language ads on radio and in Miami newspapers.

After four days at the baseball stadium, the

show moves 40 miles south of downtown Miami to the suburban area called "Homestead" for three more days. There is a large Air Force Base nearby with over 15,000 residents who are expected to turn out in large numbers. Then, back north to Broward County, and a 3 day engagement in west suburban Fort Lauderdale.

The Vargas show is, without exception, the No. 1 tent circus playing in America today. The raves that this writer had heard in advance are all true, and Vargas has proved all the experts to be wrong. The show is immaculate, trucks freshly-painted, personnel in clean and neat uniforms and Circus Fans are given a friendly, cheerful welcome on his lot. The show runs slightly over 2 hours and is fast-paced and exciting all the way thru. The big show band is outstanding . . . the best since Merle Evans . . . and features 100% old-time favorite circus music. Wally Naghtin's bear act is unbelievable; all bears roam free in the ring. Clowns are genuinely funny. Sound system is excellent and Vargas' traveling zoo (which is spotted on the midway) is an outstanding value. C-V has dropped

(Continued on Next Page)

# Seasons Greetings and A Happy 1978 Season to all

\* - With special thanks to my parents, Merle and Pam Cook for their love, help and encouragement on our 1st season.

\* - Thanks also goes to: Eddie Zacchini, Paul Kaye, The Williams of Thrill Show Productions, Duke Rohrbacher, and Gastoni.



\*

COOK'S ORIGINAL COMEDY CAR

Jack and Patti Cook

**SPECIAL (Continued)**

the side show, and carries the large menagerie in its place.

Circus Vargas closes its '77 season here in Florida, and after 14 days off will open the 1978 tour in Jacksonville, Fla., heading west along the Florida panhandle into Texas.

In a Miami radio interview, C-V owner Cliff Vargas was asked why he has succeeded with his show where others have failed; why he has shown the so-called experts to be wrong. His answer was plain, blunt and to-the-point. He replied "Because I am in the circus not for money but rather because I love the circus . . . I eat, breathe and sleep the circus. Despite our large weekly cash flow, I take out only \$250 to live on and pay my personal bills. All the rest is plowed right back into the show . . . to buy better equipment, pay higher salaries. That's the only secret that I have."

..... by Larry Kent

**NOTICE**

This issue is the last one for the year. The next copy of Circus Report will be out for Jan. 2, 1978.

We'd like to thank everyone for their help and support during the past 6 years. Now as we are about to start our 7th year of publishing The Circus Report we look forward to a great future and ask for your continued interest and assistance in producing this paper.

..... Don Mareks

**WARM AND HAPPY WISHES**

for  
Christmas  
and the  
New Year

GLEN and ETHEL HENRY

**From Florida**

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus appeared at the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 25th, over the Thanksgiving Day Holiday. Basically two different programs were offered, a longer one for the first show and a shorter one for the second show. Attendance for the one day event was light.

Headliner Karl Wallenda appeared only during the second show. He executed a spectacular sky walk over the "bowl" despite recent injuries sustained during the filming of the NBC movie "The Great Wallendas".

An additional highlight was an impressive 80 ft. hind-leg walk by Kim Kristensen's dressage horse, a "first" for the animal.

The program featured: Emmett Kelly, Jr. and wife, Nancy; Karl Wallenda; Lilli-Ana's leopards; the Zerbini, riding act, teeterboard, comedy tables; Kim Kristensen; Al's Lemonzeen; Miss Maya, traps; Welde's bears; The Geraldos; Cronos; Barrie Sloan, stilts and heads, and Bill Kay, ringmaster.

..... Billy Barton

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AND THE NEW YEAR**



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**PEOPLE**

THE STUPIDS, acrobats, were featured on the  
TV Special "Las Vegas Awards".

LOOMIS, magician and illusionist, worked se-  
veral dates in the Northern California area dur-  
ing the first half of the month.

SUE McMILLAN's mixed group of animals,  
a tiger, dog and horse, were among the acts fea-  
tured on TV's "Circus of the Stars" this month.  
Other performers seen on the show included  
VIC HUNTSBERGER, BETH NUFER, and  
DAVE NELSON.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

from

**Sylvester & Barbara Braun**

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## In Memoriam

FRANK SEIGEAR (93), retired circus man, died at the Community Hospital in Moberly, Mo., on Nov. 6th. He was assistant train master working under Alvin "Happy" Price on the 101 Ranch Wild West Show. Later he became train master of that show and also served in the same capacity on Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck-Wallace, and other shows out of Peru, Ind. His last show position was with the Al & Hattie Wagner's carnival Calvacade of Amusements.

## PEOPLE

GEE GEE ENGESESSER and her son BILLY POWELL dashed off to Europe where they were to visit the Monte Carlo Circus, as well as vacation in London and Paris. They are expected back in the states in time for Christmas.

WILSON's Playtime Animal Circus has been booked to play Christmas dates in Tennessee and Virginia. The show features poodles, chimps and organ.

## Greetings of the Season

to All  
Circus Personnel  
and Friends Everywhere

CHESTER and MARYLU SLUSSER

HARRY J. JENKINS, Sr., organist, was recently released from the Balboa Naval Hospital at San Diego, Calif., where he underwent a total hip replacement operation. He reports he will be back playing the organ soon.

GLEN and ETHEL HENRY had their animal acts on the Red Unit of the Carden-Johnson Circus this past season, then played dates at Corpus Christi, Harlinger, Austin and Oklahoma City.

FRED, BARBARA and LONI VAN VOORDEN were planning to visit their home at Highland, Ill., during the off time when Circus Vargas layed over for the winter.

# Season's Greetings

\*

## JACK KING

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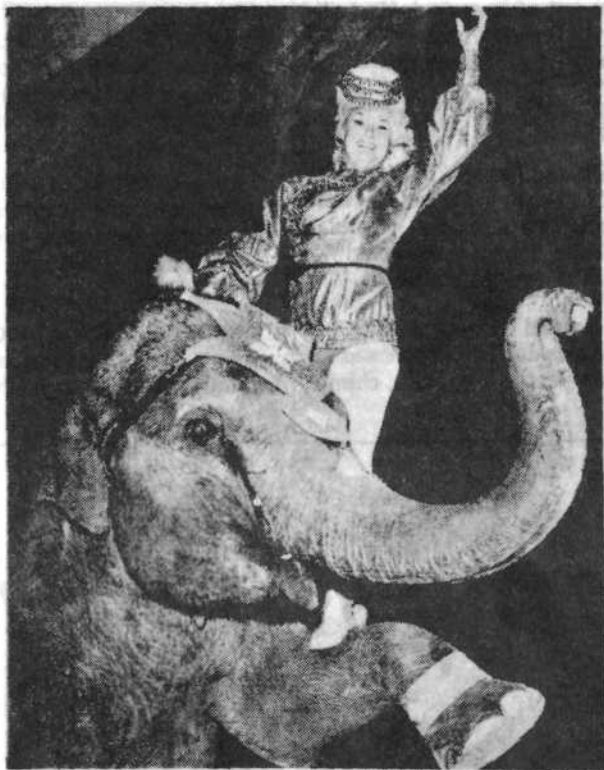
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Member of American Federation of Musicians

# Gee Gee

# &

# The Cossack Elephants



WISH ALL OUR FRIENDS A

## MERRY CHRISTMAS — HAPPY NEW YEAR

\*

— LOOKING FORWARD TO THE 1978 SEASON —

# Season's Greetings

JERI - VI - TOM MARTIN

## PEOPLE

LUCILLE BALL and TELLY SAVALAS were two of the ringmaster/announcers for the new "Circus of the Stars" TV show.

RAY DIRGO, whose drawings appear regularly in Circus Report, went back stage when he visited the Moscow Circus where he was able to do several on the spot sketches.

ART PROVENCHER, of Merrimack, N. H., owner of an elephant, was featured in the Dec. 1977/Jan. 1978 issue of "Modern Maturity" magazine.

RICHARD NASCH, of Seattle, Wash., will be joining Ringling-Barnum's Clown Alley for the coming season. He was one of 24 Clown College graduates who were offered a job with the circus.

JOHN ARMSTRONG (comedy break-away bike), JOHNNY JOKER (magic), The KURSAWES (unicycle), LEON & LUBA (unsupported ladders), JOYCE RICE (baton and whips), ARWOOD'S DOGS and THE KELLYS (rola bola) were among the acts working with Borger Bros. Circus this year.



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Best Wishes for the New Year*

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO

KARL and SHEILA WINN  
"Vaudeville '77"

JOHN and BETTY REID  
Grand Circus Safari

MR. and MRS. JOE KING  
Van Bros. Circus

BOB EMERICO - Hi Fi the Clown



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Best Wishes for the New Year*



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# Seasons Greetings

From the **BARTON-JENNIER**

CENTER RING ATTRACTIONS



ETHEL

JO ANN

BILLY

ROCKY

BOBBY

and

"SUNNY"

\*  
"We'll see you down the road, luv's"



*Merry  
Christmas*

*Happy  
New Year*

AND ALL THE BEST OF  
SUCCESS FOR THE 1978  
SEASON

TO

MR. CLIFFORD E. VARGAS  
AND THE ENTIRE STAFF  
AS WELL AS TO ALL OUR  
FRIENDS IN AND OUT OF  
SHOW BUSINESS.

\*

.....THE KLEMENTIS

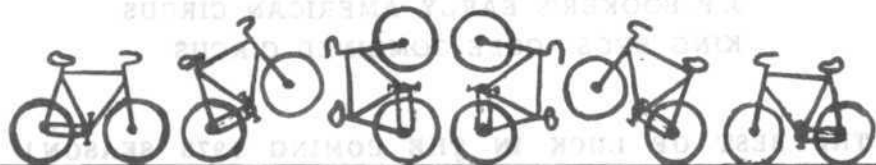
*Thank you*

*Mr. Clifford E. Vargas*

*for over 3 seasons  
from Sept. '74 to Dec. 1977*

*The Klementis*

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Perm. Address U. S. A. from January 29, 1978: c/o G. T. SPINK

5915 Reinhardt Drive, Shawnee Mission, Kansas 66205, Phone (913) 362-7089

# Happy Holidays

TO ALL OUR CIRCUS FRIENDS

AND A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE SHOWS  
WHO TOOK DELIVERY OF NEW TOPS DURING  
THE 1977 SEASON!

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CIRCUS GIRARD  
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CIRQUE GATINI (Quebec)  
DE WAYNE BROS. CIRCUS  
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# Happy Holidays

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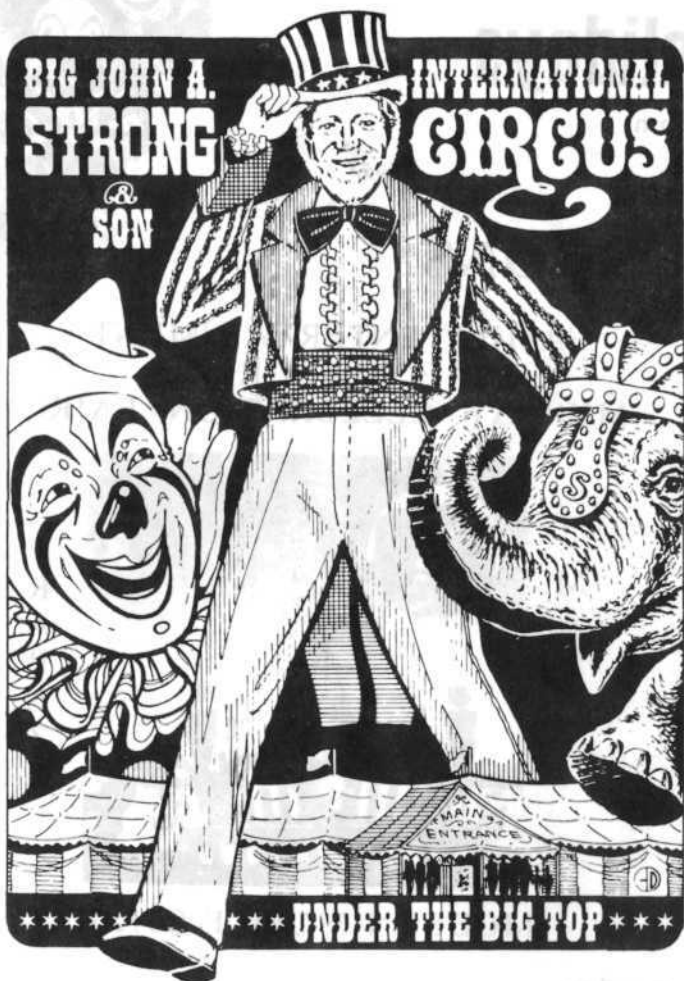
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# Season's Greetings



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# Holiday Greetings



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The International Magic Spectacular Show, a two hour program produced by the Amazing Conklins, offers magic, illusions and some interesting variety type acts.

Featured with the show are Billy and Betty Earl who do their comedy singing act, plus a sword balancing number and vent routine. Also with the show is Buddy Big Mountain, whose vent act is always well received. They carry a three piece band with Lou Costillo on drums, his wife Grace at the organ and Gene Holmes on the trumpet.

Stage manager for the show is Mike Conklin, and the technical director is Cindy Big Mountain. In all the show has 11 people and carries several ton of equipment. It is completely self-

## In Memoriam

Sgt. ERNEST PRESSLY, of Charlotte, N.C., passed away on July 22. Officer Pressly was with the Police Dept., in Charlotte for many years and upon his retirement he presented a Safety Program at schools throughout the country. He had a unique dog act as the theme of his Safety Program and many children all across the country knew and respected him, as well as his many friends in show business. His wife, Betty, survives him.

contained with it's own lighting and sound system and even a portable stage for use in arenas and other such facilities.

The show is booked by Jim Nordmark and has been receiving praise and good coverage wherever it plays.

**Please Note:** FROM FEB. 1st ON, I AM AVAILABLE FOR ALL DATES

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## SEASONS GREETINGS



To  
ALL OUR FRIENDS

THE La TORRES and LITTLE STONEY

## ACTS SET

Some of the talent inked for the Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus engagement at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Dec. 25-31, includes: Lilli-Ana's leopards; Kim Kristensen's dressage horse; Bonnie & Clyde, comedy musical; Aerialetta II, trapeze; Ethel Jennier's greyhounds; Jo Ann and Sunny, the seal and Prince Najvez, aerial. The last four acts were set by Rose Adair.

### Miscellaneous

Members of AFM Local 136 at Charleston, W. Va., set-up an informational picket line in protest of the recorded music used by the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show when the horse show appeared at the city's Civic Center. Local papers and the AFM paper gave the event considerable publicity.

## PEOPLE

LILLI-ANA's leopards and PRINCE NAJVEZ, aerial act, worked the Medinah Temple in Chicago on Dec. 10th for Christmas shows.

Happiness is not a station you arrive at, but a manner of traveling.

THANK YOU MR. VARGAS  
FOR A VERY HAPPY THREE  
SEASONS . . . .

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MISS ALEXANDRIA  
MISS SUZETTE

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Bakersfield

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# Season's Greetings



to all my friends

A special thanks to Bob Emrico for the best year  
ever and our most successful season.



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Available After Dec. 20th

JIM MIGHELLS, Hanneford Circus  
2621 Mall Drive, Sarasota, Fla.

**CLOWNS**

A number of students attending the Midwest Clown College, of the Clown Guild of Metropolitan Chicago, were graduated in special ceremonies last month.

Graduates included: Barton K. Adams (No-trab), Jennifer Alter (Jefi), Jo Anne Edwards (Peaches), Cherylann Gleason (Peabody), Marlene Iandolo (Whispers), Timothy P. Miller (Tamale), Patricia O'Day (Meme), Michael Joseph Onesto (Rac-O), Cecilia Pozorski (Piccalo),

Miguel A. Rios (Leugim), Dorothy L. Rodes (Beep), Richard M. Roma (Professor Dum Dum) and John Taplin (Flip Wig).

The Clown Guild publishes a regular bulletin called "Walkaround" and information about the publication or the Guild itself can be obtained by writing to: The Clown Guild, 10537 Forest Lane, Chicago Ridge, Ill. 60415.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
TO  
ALL OUR FRIENDS  
EVERYWHERE

**THE JOE ZOPPE FAMILY**

PEG	JOE
ROGER	PAM
DENNIS	ANITA

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

# Season's Greetings

1977

from the staff



BARABOO, WIS. 53913