

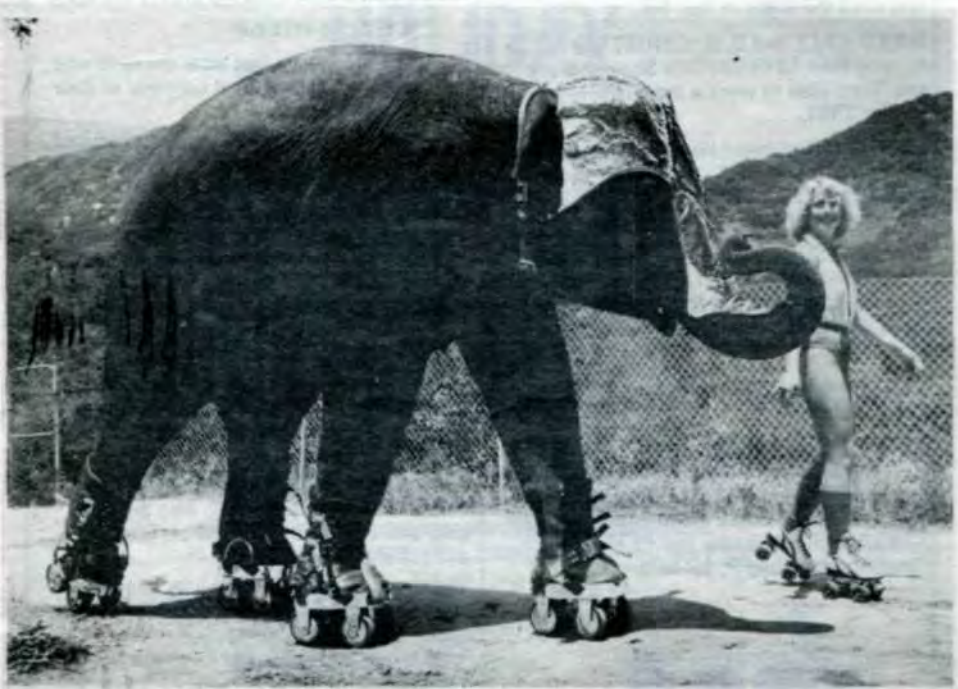
AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

Our 10th Year

# CIRCUS REPORT

Number 3

January 19, 1981



CAROL BUCKLEY  
and "Baby Tarra" The Roller Skating Elephant

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## PEOPLE

THE SCHALLER BROS., trampoline act, were on the Monte Carlo TV Show which was aired the night of Jan. 7th.

WARD HALL and C. H. CHRIST will not be touring their 10-in-One Side Show this season. They plan to work a more leisurely season for 1981.

TOM UPTON showed his old tent show movies for a group of CFA's and CMB's in San Francisco on Jan. 11th, where DON FRANCIS was one of the honored guests.

LARRY PISONI, operator of the Pickle Family Circus, and some of his show people will open in a stage revue in San Francisco, playing at the Marine Memorial Theatre, starting on Jan. 19th.

CARLEY BARNETT, comedian, is working clubs in Manhattan.

JOEY JORDAN, juggler, worked several dates over the Christmas holiday and at one point had to call in JERRY GOODSPEED, ventriloquist, BOB MALONEY, mime/musical, TIM JORDAN, clown/juggler and PETER HOFF, clown/acrobat/juggler, for help.



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## REPORT

### SOUTHERN OREGON HOLIDAY REVIEW

BY TOM WILDS

Medford and Grants Pass were the recipients of a special Christmas treat courtesy of their local Jaycee Chapters.

"The Holiday Variety Revue" was produced by Roy Kabat's Ark Productions and played a two day stand in each location. The pre-sale ticket promotion was handled by the lively Miss Vickie and her staff, who also doubled as Santa, his elves and the concession staff.

Acts for the show were: The Amazing Metz, juggling; The Newcomer Brothers, clown turns; Dave Siden's Birds of Prey; Dave Miller, ventriloquist; Tom Wilds' Animal Acts (single liberty pony, llama act, comedy goat act - pigmys). Finally, of course, Santa greeting all in attendance, with his elves distributing candy.

The entire show was musically supported by Medford's John Lazzari Duo who did a superb and versatile job with the performance and pre-show concert.

The show ran one hour and fifty minutes and was complete with lighting effects and follow spots. The shows received good reviews in all local papers and additional contracts have been signed for the promotion of future holiday dates. Both of the above mentioned dates were resigned, as well.

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# Show Dates

## Hubert Castle Circus

Jan. 23-Feb. 1 Grand Rapids, Mich.

## Circus Odyssey

to Feb. 4 Mexico City, Mexico

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Jan. 21-Feb. 2 Miami Beach, Fla.

---- MAGIC ----

## David Copperfield

to Jan. 21 Lake Tahoe, Nevada

---- OTHER DATES ----

## Billy Barton

to Feb. 4 Mexico City, Mexico

## Flight Into Imagination

Jan. 19-20 Los Angeles, Calif.

23 Irvine

— End of Tour —

## Galactic Dragons

Jan. 20 Pasadena, Calif.

22-23 Montclair

— End of Tour —

## Globetrotters

Jan. 19 Fresno, Calif.

20 Bakersfield

21 Tucson, Ariz.

22 Tempe

23 San Diego, Calif.

24-25 Los Angeles

## Poco Plus . . .

to Feb. 4 Mexico City, Mexico

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## Miscellaneous

### LOCAL AREA SHOWS

During the year of 1980, shows playing in and around the San Francisco/Oakland area were: Big John Strong Circus, Carden-Johnson Circus, the Royal Lichtenstein Circus, American Continental Circus, Circus Vargas, the Happytime Circus, Europorama, Swan Bros. Circus, Bentley Bros. Circus and the Pickle Family Circus.



# BILLY BARTON!

THE GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS will be managed this year by super-promoter ALLAN HILL who has bought 180 days constituting the show's entire season. In addition to managing the show, Allan's promotional enterprise will front the show's route encompassing dates Allan normally promoted for the Hoxie Big Top Circus. Further, brother TED and father BILL are buying dates from Allan which they, themselves, will promote along the show's route. Unquestionably this is one tented circus which will have a lucrative season as the Hill Promotions always were the show's biggest dates.

THIS information was gleaned from TED HILL whom I visited in Dec. in Waynesboro (Pa) where his "Merry Christmas Mother Goose" musical play was appearing. The show, produced by the Fanfare Theatrical Group, a professional and talented company from New York, played to a packed house in Waynesboro and Ted said the show was being very well received everywhere. I caught only a small portion of the performance which was excellent. The HILL Family is an unusual promotional team. Each member of the family has a promotional entity of his own. At the same time they help each other. Ted, the youngest brother and son, is the newest to form his own corporation and intends to branch out in other areas besides show business; is busy now setting up a marketing research center to be manned by an efficient staff and to embrace computerization.

DECEMBER was a very unhappy month. Coupled with my own problems with my mother's illness, emergency operations, and one crisis after another, I had just returned from a long drive to see her when the phone rang and I was informed that CHUCK MARINE had died suddenly of a heart attack. This is old news by the time this column sees print but GRACIE fully intends to carry on alone (she did all the business contracts anyway), assisted by such starlets as JIMMY DOUGLASS who, for years, has been with the show and who has had various productions of his own. M&M will continue to flourish without

Chuck (it must), but of course it won't be quite the same for those of us who have played the dates.

**SNAPSHOTS:** The Great American Circus has new winterquarters in Gibsonton. . . The KLEMENTIS played Christmas dates in the Virgin Islands and then returned to the "Bedazzle Revue" at Lake Tahoe. . . Though still working actor JACK LEMMON is dying of cancer - a courageous man. . . IRIS and TONY POTTER spent the Xmas season in Jacksonville with Iris' family. . . ERIK ADAMS, Jr. bowed out of Circus Odyssey's Mexico City date because of his father's ill health.

BILL and JAN BIGGERSTAFF have retired from circus life and plan to open a business in Las Vegas. They say they are "weary" and need a change of pace, but they think Circus Vargas is the "greatest" and have a deep affection for Mister V. . . The WAZZAN TROUPE will open with Garden Bros. Circus the end of the month; they decided against that Oriental tour. Currently the troupe is laying over at Las Vegas.

MIKE BEARD of the FLYING MICHAELS is back from two weeks in England and Germany. . . TIBI YOUNG and EVA, as most people know, have split up. Tibi is working as a stagehand and Eva is in the carousel number at CC where her family is also appearing.

JEANETTE RIX pens they are thinking of relocating in my area and opening an animal park, somewhere around Gettysburg. . . JIM and BEVERLY ROYAL expect to be with Carson & Barnes this season. When PHIL CHANDLER left Hoxie, Jim went over there as ringmaster and magician, now that Phil has vacated C&B it appears that Jim is following in Phil's footsteps there too. . . HARRIET WAGNER, now a stay-at-home in Johnstown (Pa) after several seasons with Bentley Bros. writes she has recovered from a recent gall-bladder operation. . . JUNE DEWSBURY, who is a Beasley if ever there was one and we must give her a Beasley name, flew to Florida to spend Xmas with PAM COOK, one of her Bri-

(Continued on Page 8)

# Sylvester & Barbara Braun

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tish cronies, and, no, she didn't fly in her wheelchair, but June, being a Beasley, knows all sorts of cooperative people, and, getting the VIP treatment, she limousined to the airport and I'd have given almost (almost) anything to be aboard that jet with our irrefragible June. I can just imagine now the uproar she caused. Anyway - her sojourn to Florida I think was for a week, but I'm not sure. Living life confined to a wheel chair can't be much fun but June knows how to make it work and for that she deserves an ovation. .

LEE MALONY writes that he hasn't made up his mind where he will go or what he will do this season. One thing for sure he won't lack for offers. . . JIMMY DOUGLASS and GEE GEE were planning to fly to Chicago for Chuck Marine's funeral but, owing to the holiday jam, couldn't get a flight out of Florida in time. . . BUBBA HASTINGS, Jr. currently helping old Uncle George out in the phone room at Mentor - crossing wires, probably.

The WILSON GIRLS are on the go again - DONNA back with Vargas with hubby BILL; JOANNE is working the Cuneo bulls with hubby PEE WEE; and TRUDY is flying around on her rocket ship on the Castle dates with Hubby BILL balancing the other end.

That incredible woman DAME KATE HANNEFORD, now in her 90's, is still going strong. She is the only one who can top HERBIE WEBER. Absolutely UNBELIEVABLE, that woman! . . . JON FRIDAY is ringmastering with the Castle show; ditto LUCKY LARABEE on the short route.

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BEV and ROSEMARY of Better Booking, since they moved, say they don't have their wild ducks anymore - now they have seagulls. Listen girls, seagulls ain't the same thing at all, no where near as much fun, so please go out and buy some baby ducks for Easter. . . HERBIE WEBER told me the Showman's Convention in Vegas was a mess - everybody was spread out all over town and it was almost impossible to see anybody - the convention was slated for the MGM Grand, before that fire.

LARRY JOYNER is now an elephant trainer for a zoo, which I believe is in Florida. What a mix-up. Someone had given me that information previously and I thought I had printed it and then Larry sent me a Xmas card which I promptly lost. So, Larry, write in to CR and tell us where you are and what you are doing. . . With all the problems I've had at home and trying to juggle three careers at one time my mind doesn't always function as it should (and no wisecracks).

BIG SCREEN REVIEW 'The Mirror Crack'd' Agatha Christie's excellent "English Village Novel" completely ruined by additions to the script not in the book and by not having enough of ANGELA LANSBURY as Miss Marple in it. EMI, who gave us Orient Express and Nile, did Agatha in this time and were she alive she'd be furious. They sacrificed the plot for the sake of Elizabeth Taylor and Kim Novak, so they could trade bitchy lines and Hollywood and an Old English Village mix like oil and water. Too bad. ANGELA LANSBURY is getting raves as Miss Marple so let's hope

(Continued on Page 10)

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JANUARY 21, 1981

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## SPECIAL

### U. S. WILD ANIMAL TRAINERS ASSOC.

Dave Sabo, chimpanzee trainer and breeder, has started the U. S. A. Wild Animal Trainers Association.

The U. S. Government is saying that chimpanzees and other wild animals such as leopards, and elephants are becoming short in supply and declining in population.

This is the way they stop the importation of these animals. We don't have any shortage at all. I have checked six different countries and I have legal reports stating there is more than 1½ million chimpanzees alone, absolutely no shortage.

Prices in this country run \$10,000 to \$12,000 for a baby male, \$12,000 to \$15,000 for a baby female. Even if you have the money to pay such high prices they are not available.

This is what damages the U. S. show business for circus, stage shows, fairs and other live entertainment activities.

The wild animal trainers have a choice now to get together and fight for the opening of importation of wild animals, and to roll the price back to 1968 or 1970 era.

We must import the minimum for 1981 of 50 to 75 baby chimps, and 25 to 50 baby elephants. These animals are not available to pet shops or for laboratory tests, only for the education studies and show business purposes.

To join the Wild Life Animal Trainers Assoc. you don't have to be an animal trainer, just a animal lover. Senior Citizens, and Circus Fans

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EMI realizes their mistake.

ITEMS: Misses LONI and BARBARA will be spot-dating KELROY dates, also Carden-Johnson and M&M . . . HARRY and ROWENA THOMAS to play for Garden Bros. and SAM T. Polack. . . JOE LEMKE writes that GENE RANDOW is still undergoing treatment at the Baylor Hospital for throat cancer. Get well, soon, Gene.

HANNEFORDS threw their usual Big annual Christmas Bash and STRUPPI has had a Florida room built on the back of their house. . . Author/Publisher JOHN McCONNELL flew down to visit in early Jan. . . The Hannefords have added three new tigers to the cat act now being readied by BILL GOLDEN. . . JO ANN JENNIER going to a university in Roanoke (Va) for the winter and spring. . . and finally, my mother (at this writing, Dec. 27) has been moved to my cousin's house in nearby Chambersburg as the doctors can do no more for her and it was felt by the family that she would be happier and more contented in comforting, familiar surroundings.

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

are welcome!

In future CR's we will offer more information on the animal situation.

For additional information write now to: U.S. A. Wild Life Animals Association, c/o Dave Sabo, Amenia, NY 12501.

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On Dec. 13, an old friend, in and out of magic, LAWRENCE ARCURI, died. Larry was Secretary of the Parent Assembly of S.A.M. (NY) for 12 years and also served as editor of their journal the "Spellbinder" for 141 issues. A founder of the N.Y. Round Table, he also served as an associate editor of the Linking Ring, was a member of the London Magic Circle, made TV appearances and organized the annual custom of a pilgrimage to Houdini's grave. He was 75.

MIKE and TINA CAVENEY were featured performers for a month at the Manhattan Savings Bank in their Christmas show. . . The Mitchell Field Aviation Museum is building a replica of the airplane that Houdini used to set a record (first flight) in Australia. . . GEORGE SCHINDLER is reported to be honored by a Texas magic organization this year as "Magician of the Year". He has written several books on magic, lectures, runs an active business of magic and vent material and performs - a busy man!

The young man who impressed on "It's Incredible" by causing a telephone book pages to turn, pencils to roll, all by thought so it is said has been featured in a newspaper article which discloses his long interest in magic. He convinced skeptic John Davidson that he was legitimate by letting him hold a hand over his mouth and yet made a pencil move. Will he be the next Uri Geller sensation? Or will envious magicians begin to duplicate his feats magically and call him a fraud? Watch this JAMES HYDRICK if you can and let us know

your estimation - Genuine or fake?

FRANK HERMAN, whose name should be familiar to you has a book on HOW TO DO INSTANT IMPRESSIONS that can be a big help to the comic, mc or magician looking for supposed ad-libs or comedy bits. There are some 3 dozen of them in a printed 32 p. book full of illustrations and suggestions. The few I have left even have a page of gags for magicians and the best part is - the price is only \$2.00 (postage 41c). For more sight bits using common object my favorite still is the M. C. BIT book by Algonquin McDuff. Only \$5.00 (postage 41c) lots of laughs and usable material in the 48 p. plastic comb bound volume.

THE ART OF EMCEEING by pro PAUL DES MOND is a good value at today's prices. For \$6.00 you get 30 p. of tested laughs, intros and advice. Being 4x9 you can slip it into the pocket and read most any time. Lots of space for your own material, too. (Postage 54c).

The 13th annual Festival of Puppets was held in Washington, DC, a first time for the affair in the U. S. Public Service TV recorded an hour program viewed locally on Jan. 4th. Jim Henson of the Muppet show was the m.c. aided by Kermit the Frog and a star appearance by Miss Piggy of course! Shari Lewis and her lovable puppet Lamb Chop proved show stoppers and later Sheri danced with a life-sized puppet Fred Astaire.

Part of the Smithsonian Exhibit was shown and puppet work in many countries was performed. Japan, India, Canada, Hungary giving an opportunity to show various methods used to work figures, rods, strings, by hand, and the wide variance in size, handling, routines and stories. One interesting example was the use of the feet in puppetry by the Japanese.

# MANY THANKS

TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR  
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FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF

## CHUCK MARINE

MY PARTNER AND FRIEND  
FOR OVER 20 YEARS

\*

## Grace McIntosh

## PEOPLE

**PETER STURGIS** will be the ringmaster and grounds announcer at Circus World Museum in Baraboo this season.

**HOLVECK**, magician, worked a series of holiday dates for Painted Desert Productions and is currently working dates for Big John Strong then on March 9-15 he will be at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles.

**DAVID K. BONNELL**, of the Flying Lanes, is working as a salesman for Zarco Supply Co. (building materials) in Tampa.

**DINA & ANITA**, wire act, and **YANA**, aerial lyra act, are now at the Circus World Park in Florida.

**CHESTER CABLE** and **WINI McKAY** are on tour with the National Unit of the Globetrotters.

**BOB STODDARD** was the subject of a special photo story in a Dec. 1980 Dallas paper telling about his work with "Clown Day" at the big Dallas Fair.

**CHRIS MILLER**, retired circus performer, who toured with the Flying Millers, makes his home in Binghamton, NY.

**MERLE EVANS** was serenaded on his birthday (Dec. 26) by a pianist and a 94 year old violinist, playing a hoe-down over the telephone. The serenade originated in Illinois at

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the home of a Windjammer friend of Merle's who will be in Sarasota for the Windjammers convention, which will honor Merle.

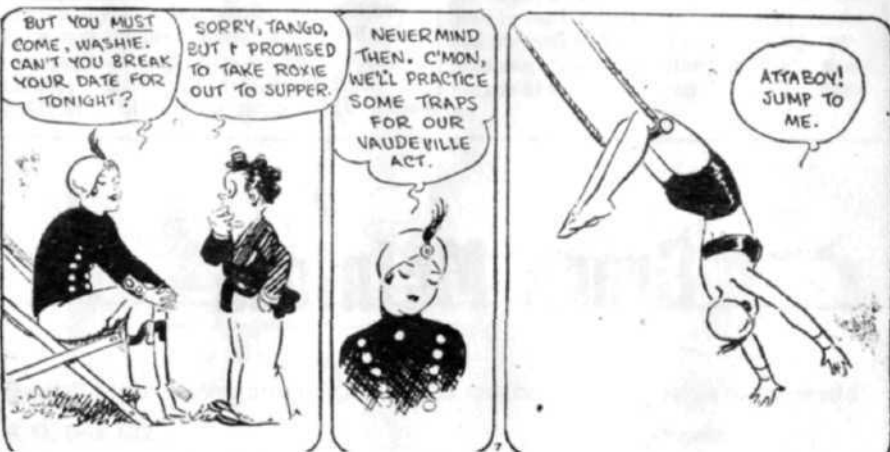
**DENNIS MICHAEL** would like to let all his "detractors" know that someone has finally given him a job singing. He's been delivering singing telegrams for the Merry Minstrels!

**VICKIE HENDRICKS** and **GARY BAKER** were honored guests at the Ed Millette Tent CFA's Christmas party. Just prior to this date they worked an American Airline Christmas Party show produced by Larry Carden as well as a Christmas show for Seymour Davis at the Central State College in Oklahoma City.

**ROGER MOORE**, marketing and sales representative for the Hubert Castle Circus, and wife **JUNE**, were also guests at the above mentioned party. Roger and June are booked dates and doing promotion for various Shrine temples in Texas, Kansas and New Mexico.

**STEVE BAKER** and **GARY RAY** visited Circo Atayde in Mexico City Jan. 1-5, where they spent time with **PAM** and **ROGER ZOPPE**.

## WASHINGTON TUBBS II



HERB MILLER, musical director for the American Continental Circus, directed a "Miller Sound" band for the "Gala Royal Charity Show" in London last Sept. 14th.

MURILLO & ULYISIS, balancing act, were guests on the John Davidson TV Show the afternoon of Jan. 7th.

ROGER PRSYTANSKI (Rumpy the clown) was pictured on the front page of the Toronto Sun on Dec. 29th. The photo showed him resting after a busy holiday season.

DAVID COPPERFIELD, magician, was a feature act on the Mike Douglas TV Show which was aired on Jan. 12th.

EVELYN HANS' poodles; NORBU, the Almost Human Gorilla; The CANESTRELLI FAMILY, trampoline act and VICTOR PONCE, juggler are with the combined Ice Follies-Holiday On Ice Show.

WILLIE TYLER and LESTER, ventriloquist act, were seen on the John Davidson Show which aired on Jan. 13th.

PETER JACKSON's "Circus" revue, reportedly with out acts, will debut in Atlantic City sometime this month.

R. J. LEWIS is doing magic and pre-show barker work for the Broadway musical show "Barnum."

TON VERA (Echeverria) is scheduled for a USO tour of the United States.

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## Miscellaneous

The annual Showfolks Circus which was held on Dec. 6th at Roberts Sports Arena in Saratoga, was produced by the Stebbing Royal European Circus.

By Crane



**SPECIAL****RINGMASTER TAKES A REST**

*(The following item was written by Charles Moses and appeared in the Dec. 15, 1980 issue of "Newsday" the Long Island/New York newspaper).*

After 28 years, nearly a million miles and thousands of introductions - "Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages" - Harold Ronk, the singing ringmaster of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, is leaving the show.

Well, not quite. "You never leave the circus," said the fifty-ish Ronk as he donned his red and blue sequined tails and rhinestone-studded top hat for his 600th show of the year, the last in the season for the traveling circus. "Who knows what's going to happen next week . . . I'm not committing myself to saying anything right now."

One thing is certain: Ronk will not be the ringmaster when the show begins its 111th edition next month. After 28 years of 11 month, 500 and 600 show seasons, he is taking a leave of absence of unspecified length. He refused to

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explain why except to say he needed a change. Ronk plans to live near Sarasota, Fla., which is near the winter quarters of the circus. His departure marks the end of an era for the "Greatest Show on Earth", said Charles King, chief executive of the King Charles Troupe, one of the many circus acts. "Harold is the finest ringmaster this show will ever have. He is going to be missed."

Ronk, a native of Illinois, was an aspiring actor and opera singer in the 1950's when he auditioned for the circus. He was invited to join soon afterward but was reluctant. "I wanted to be a singer, not join the circus," Ronk said between performances yesterday at Nassau Coliseum. He joined, but decided to sing his way through shows, rather than be a barker. "I had the voice and the scope that the show requires," he said.

It was the beginning of a lifetime of memories as ringmaster of the largest traveling show in the world. Ronk did his first show at the old Madison Square Garden. "The Garden and the Cow Palace in San Francisco were the only arenas we performed in," he said. "We performed under the canvas everywhere else." Today, all of the shows are performed in arenas. "I feel that I helped to herald the advent of the new circus."

# **ATTENTION**

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**I recommend that all potential buyers take the opportunity  
of viewing this fantastic cat act sometime during the  
Hamid-Morton Tour.**

# MAIL BAG

FROM HARRY JENKINS

In the item by Albert F. House, "Some Quick Show Notes", which I enjoyed, I encountered one error which made me wish to correct it.

He stated that the Ringling Blue Unit train was "spotted - the stock, tunnel, bi-level and flat cars placed in the rail complex of the old Mitchell Field, a former Navy base."

Mitchel (one 'L' as it was not named for Billy Mitchell) Field was a base started in World War I for the Army Air Service. It continued as an Army Air Corps Base; U. S. Army Air Force Base, and finally U. S. Air Force Base until it was closed.

To my knowledge it never came under the Navy as a Navy base. It is located at the Hempstead-Garden City area of Long Island.

As a retired Air Force man I just had to put Mitchel Field back in its rightful place. I trained there and flew in and out of there many times.

# REPORT

## FREE GRANDSTAND SHOW

BY PETER STURGIS

Free Grandstand shows seen by this writer during the past season, as I was managing a "Girl to Gorilla" show for Dick Johnson, included: George Hubler, Burton, Ohio; Coronas Thrill Show, York, Pa.; Zacchini's, Macon, Ga.; and Karla Wallenda, Charleston, S. C. There were also several acts such as magicians, aerialists, clowns, bands and local personalities.

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# HOTLINE

## HOSPITALIZED PERFORMER MOVED

Circus Performer Lubomir Bozjilov has been transferred to the Curtis Hickox Rehabilitation Center (Room 6309) at Tampa General Hospital, Davis Island, Tampa, Fla. 33606.

He is reportedly still in serious condition but does respond to commands even though he has not yet awakened.

He had been hospitalized in Detroit after being injured during a performance of the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit in that city last October.

## ELEPHANT PUT TO SLEEP

MAY, a 53 year old elephant at the zoo in San Francisco, was put to sleep by zoo veterinarians early this month. She was suffering from serious arthritis, foot problems and other ailments, then fell down and was unable to get back on her feet.

May was the oldest animal in the zoo and had been a gift to the city from the government of Ceylon in 1930. The 7,000 lb elephant had been in ill health since Dec. 24.

May's head was sent to the paleontology department at the University of California in Berkeley for study.

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My wish for you ---- "Happy Returns"

## SPECIAL

### GRADUATION DAY

The Circus Arts Center, of Hoboken, NJ, will hold a Graduation Show Program at 6 p.m. on Jan. 22nd. The special program will feature three acts presented by a husband and wife team, which will include: rolling globe and a sword balance act, a cradle act and a trapeze act.

The special acts, according to Nina Krasavina and Gregory Fedin, directors of the Circus Arts Center, are fully equipped to play any type of show program. They are presently available for circus dates.

Addition information concerning the special acts and the graduation program can be obtained by contacting The Circus Arts Center, 4121 Washington St., Hoboken, NJ, or by phoning: 201 - 963 - 3336.

## Introducing

### NEW ARRIVAL

DIANE and RAYMOND VALENTINE, of the Flying Valentines, are the parents of a baby girl AMANDELIN ANTOINETTE, born on Jan. 3rd. The youngster arrived at 12:54 a.m. and weighed in at 7 lbs. 13½ oz. and measured 20½ inches long.

## REPORT

### NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Acts featured on the New Years Eve Party produced by William Kay, for the Shrine Club of Sarasota, included:

Cucciolo, trampoline; The Drougetts, juggling; Debbie Kelley, single trapeze; The Arguillars, teeterboard; The Bertinis, cyclists; and Harry Dubsky, MC.

Gunnar Amandis was the talent coordinator and Keith Killinger provided the music for the show and dancing afterwards.

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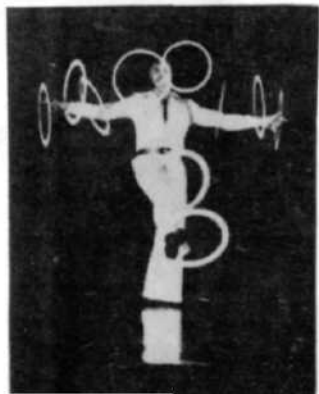
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## DONNIKER DIRT....

BY JIM PARKER

Sandi Windland fulfilled her Christmas wish early when veteran bear trainer Wally Naghtin introduced her to Superstar Gunther Gebel-Williams during a recent visit to Wally's busy trailer. Sandi claims she will never wash the hand that shook Gunther's and much to Jim Windland's dismay, upon her arrival back at the Windland winter quarters in Gibsonton, out came those Gunther posters! She has been on Cloud 9 ever since meeting her idol.

Wally Naghtin and Renee Turcios are very busy getting both rings of bears ready for the opening of The Greatest Show on Earth. Can't call Wally, Jr. a kid anymore as he is almost as tall as his father. Both Wally's and Renee's families are completely involved in the two bear acts and their fleet of trucks proudly bears the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus logo, making them a very sharp and colorful circus rolling group. Fifteen bears comprise the act; however, almost as much stock is carried in their house trailer as they are truly animal lovers and have a rabbit, parakeet, three dogs and a cat. Unfortunately, their little Chihuahua, Mousey, is rapidly becoming old and her trouping days are numbered. Tears well up in Wally's eyes when he thinks of the inevitable. Wally's mother, Ruth, still possesses her ESP powers and it is uncanny what she can predict.

Performance director Tim Holst seen running about tending to all the details involved with his job. Tim's wife is briefly enjoying a vacation with her parents in Hawaii and is due to return soon. Tim is a very busy man during this time of year, but never fails to say hello to a friend, which dispels the myth that is often heard about the Ringling show being 'cold'.

Along the same line, kudos to the Security Guard at the gate to the quarters, as he was extremely courteous in carrying out his duties. Many don't realize there is a need for security and rules and regulations during this hectic time and it is impossible for the quarters to be opened to the public.

Understand that Jan and Bill Biggerstaff have retired from the road and will open some sort of business in Las Vegas. Good luck to them, they will surely be missed.

Cattle Baron Jim Windland having a problem with a bloated calf, so consulted Johnny Welde who recommended if all else fails, use soap in the intestinal tract but not via the mouth, so

Sandi is hoping the animal gets well with the mineral oil since she has the smallest hand in quarters and is voted the one most likely . . .

Col. Jerry Lipko is now the official agent for Koizumi African Lion Safari, Inc., of Japan. Mr. Shinzo Yamaguchi and Mr. Hiroshi Uchida, accompanied by their two engineers, recently visited Jerry in Gibsonton, as well as Florida's major attractions. The late Leo Grund, formerly of Int. Attractions had the original contract account, but now World Wide Attractions, Inc., with Jerry Lipko as president has been awarded the contract.

A quick trip to the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus winter quarters around the middle of December found the DeLand circus winter home busy with the painting of bleachers and chairs for the forth-coming tented season. Missed were Harry Hammond and Bernie Kallman who were off on errands, but Art Branning, Gene Hicks, Wally Hall, and the Freddie Logans were there as was Dave Hoover.

Many show folks gathered for the Bradenton stand of Nordmark's Int'l All Star Circus as it was the show's next to last engagement of the season. Mike and Sally LaTorre's single elephant act is certainly fast-paced and tusker Stoney is really beginning to grow and the markings of a huge bull. Also, Sally's bird act is very entertaining but the funniest part the audience never catches on to is that all during the act the huge scarlet Macaw, Ruby, is taking a blue streak to her and she can barely keep from cracking up.

After all these years I was finally able to see the Bonnie & Clyde act and believe me, it is worth it. I also enjoyed Henrietta.

Joe Eddy and company present some unusual magic turns and Hines Rucker has to be one of the top notch announcers as his voice was consistently clear and easily understood with the correct emphases in the right place.

As guests of Tim Holst, Jim Windland and I, and Billy Rodgers, a guest of Wally Naghtin, attended the dress rehearsal of the new Ringling-Barnum show on Dec. 31st. This was the first time I had seen a full fledged dress rehearsal and it was quite an experience. Admission is by written invitation only and it was attended by about a three-quarters house, mainly made up of circus folks and fans. A large area is kept clear where the Felds and their assistants sit so they can see the entire arena without anything blocking their view.

Again, Don Foote and his staff outdo themselves with the wardrobe and each year I think

(Continued on Page 26)

they can't get better, but they do. Of course Gunther Gebel-Williams continues to be the superstar and again, he also continues to bring forth new and astonishing animals. Dickie, the young giraffe is the hit of the show and fortunately he is used both in the Spec and the elephant number, so the audience certainly receives maximum exposure to him. As we all know Gunther's showmanship is above reproach and he is just as full of energy as he always is, truly the master showman of our time.

Of special interest to me is Wally Naghtin's two rings of performing bears. Seven bears perform in each of the end rings with Mickey Antalek's chimps in the center, which sure makes for a strong animal display. This is the first time that Wally's assistant Renee appears as a full-fledged performer in his own right and he is ably assisted by his wife, Vickie, their young son David. Wally, Doris, Wally, Jr. and the scene-stealer this year, little Victoria, their daughter, command the other set of bears. Both bear acts are very well costumed and as they enter all 14 bears walk upright down the entire hippodrome track, truly an impressive sight.

Mickey Antalek has cleverly disguised his motorcycle as a bull to fit in with his western theme which is most original and unusual.

With the exception of Gunther, this three ring animal display is probably the strongest display in the entire show, for you just don't see a large bear act (uncaged) let alone two working at the same time.

The clowns are more evident than ever this year and I was pleased to see Richard Mann (King Richard) returning to the fold. They have an unusual number of clown jugglers and more stilt walkers than in the past, as well as some very clever joeys and this year the main production number is the Ole Wild West Saloon. Of course, the master of them all, Lou Jacobs, remains at his finest.

Spec is the old time circus parade and is sure to please everyone as it is fast-paced and moves right along with plenty of sparkle and razz-matazz and even Wally Naghtin brings up his bears in the center ring to lend to the old time circus atmosphere.

#### RED UNIT PROGRAM

Entro, Our Circus Toast to You; Gunther Gebel-Williams, tigers; Head balancing traps by Senor Juan and Senor Felipe; Cloud swing by Miss Tosca; The Leaps; Wally Naghtin's Bears; Mickey Antalek, chimps; Aerial produc-

## in the NEWS

### EMBEZZLEMENT CHARGED

A promoter who handled ticket sales for an Oct. 19th football game in Tulsa has been charged with embezzlement. Bert Munson, head of B-Promotions was charged in Tulsa County court with having embezzled more than \$6,175 from the fund-raising promotion.

### JUDGE RETURNS INFANT TO PARENTS

A Circuit Judge at Johnson City, Tenn., has returned a 6 month old baby to its parents who own seven python snakes and a boa constrictor. "I don't view these snakes as any more dangerous than people who own German shepherds or Doberman pinschers that attack people," he said. Officials from the state human services dept., took custody of the child last July after it was discharged from a hospital for treatment of head injuries.

### DOG PACK KILLS ANIMALS

The zoo director at Baltimore says "mob psychology" may have prompted a pack of dogs to attack and kill four animal at the zoo. Three pygmy goats and a southdown sheep in the children's zoo were attacked and killed by the dogs.

### BEAR HUNT OK'D

A federal judge in Penna., turned down an attempt by the Fund For Animals to block a scheduled thinning of the state's black bear population. Some 200,000 hunters were expected to kill about 1,000 bears in the one day hunt. The state reportedly has about 6,000 black bears.

tion "Good Ship Ringling" featuring Marguerite Michele; Liberty horses presented by Miss Tosca, Sigrid Gebel, Tina Gebel; Clowns; Flying trapeze, Flying Farfans, Flying Vazquez; Clowns; spec, "Circus on Parade"; Intermission

Clowns; Gunther Gebel-Williams, leopards; Miguel Ayala, tightwire; Dolly Jacobs, roman rings; Eric Braun, dogs; The Lonas, dogs; Miss Anna's Russian Wolfhounds; Teeterboard display with The Otto Troupe, The Boitchanovi Troupe, The Wozniak Troupe; Gunther with the giraffe followed by elephant number; The Carrillo Bros., high wire; The Urias Troupe, in the Globe of Death; Finale.