



6th Year

February 21, 1977

Number 8

Storm Tour OK

The unusual cold wave which swept through most of the eastern part of the country last month, bringing blizzard conditions to most of the area, provided record business for Borger Bros. Circus which opened its 15th anniversary tour on Friday, Jan. 28th.

As the storm swept through Illinois, radio and television announced that all public and parochial schools and most businesses would be closed because of the severe weather. There was concern on the part of everyone as show officials and sponsors conferred - should the circus go on as scheduled or be cancelled? The show was to play in some of the areas that were hardest hit by the storm, but because there were no dates available for a rescheduling it was decided to have the circus play all dates as advertised.

As a result radio, television and the news papers were contacted to spread the word - the circus was coming. The resulting publicity provided the show with turnaway crowds for its Jan. 28th date at the St. Florian's Church in the Hegewisch Area of Chicago and the Jan. 29 date at suburban Dolton.

Despite the hazardous driving conditions

everyone with the show arrived on schedule, with Lydia and Alphonso Burkett coming in just before show time. The matinee audience was thus treated to an added attraction as they watched the Burkett's aerial rigging being put into place.

(For a line up of the acts appearing with the show see inside pages)

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Miscellaneous

Hoxie Bros. Circus will open its 1977 tour at West Palm Beach, Florida, on March 19th.

Among those working in the George Hanneford Family Circus at the Hall of Fame are: The George Hanneford Family, Belinda Amandis, Jack Joyce, Maryse Bosco, Rudy Dockey, Alfredo Landon and Bobo, of the clown team Bobo and Bobino.

YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass.

June 19, 1927 - The Ringling-Barnum Circus train went through here on four trains, going from Schenectady to Worcester.

July 10, 1927 - The Miller Bros. 101 Ranch Wild West Show went through here today on one train, going from Springfield to Albany.

Show Acts

Side show acts booked for the recent MGM Hotel anniversary party in Las Vegas were:

Bill Unks, sword swallower; Bobby Reynolds, magic; Chuck Franklin, knife throwing; Jack Waller, fire; Miss Pamela, iron skin; Don Driver, escapes and Angela Waller, snakes. The booking was handled by Sam Alexander.

Talent Named

Acts appearing with the Borger Bros. Circus included: Freddy Arwood, clowning; Claudie, juggling; Lydia Burkett, trapeze; The Karpis Trio, risley; Arwood's Dogs; The Crazy Sailors, comedy acrobats; Leon and Luba, unsupported ladders and juggling; and the Kellys, rola bola.

Acts scheduled to appear at other engagements include: John Armstrong and his "Hardluck Harpo" comedy bike; Ken Benge, juggling; Carol and the Rapid Rabbit; Crystal and John Alberti, rolling globes and Giovanni and Co., plate spinning.

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clown Club

A new clown club was formed in Wisconsin late last year and members selected the name "Wisconsin's Fabulous Jesters." The club has already established a Junior Jesters Circle, for youth under the age of 8 years, who will be instructed in the art of clowning.

The organization is to be an entertaining and historical group and is tracing the art of clowning back to the 12th Century. Long range plans call for the sponsoring of a circus, similar to the YMCA Circus in California.

Officers of the new club are:

Court Jester (Pres.) - Art "Jolly" Petri
The Fool (V.P.) - Kitty "Blossom" Wiest
The Scribbler (Sect.) - Barbara "Ba Ba" Sellman
The Exchequer (Treas.) - Ginny "Molly" Giles
Friar (Rev.) - Marlin Carlson

Those interested in the organization can write to: Wisconsin's Fabulous Jesters, P. O. Box 16562, Milwaukee, Wisc. 53216.

EMMETT KELLY is featured in several poses in Kodak's "Special Effects" booklet for the printer.

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PEOPLE

LARRY BENNER, retired flea circus operator, recently donated his tiny circus props to the Circus World Museum (Wisc.) for a special display this summer.

LANG's Peppy, the Chimp, recently appeared on a Green Bay, Wisc. TV show. During the Christmas season he was booked by Variety Attractions.

ART PETRI, Jolly, the Clown, worked the Milwaukee Boat Show (Jan. 29-30) and is currently doing party and banquet shows. He also appears as "The Jolly Ole Prospector."

THE LANG CHILDREN presented a Magic Show on New Years Day for their family and friends. Proceeds went to a local charity.

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BILLY BARTON

THIS IS A REPORT on my whirlwind visit to Sara-sota (by way of Circus World) to spend 36 hours gathering news, partying, phoning and catching Ice America. I want to thank JENNY and ANDY ANDERSON for turning their home into a Central Operational Headquarters, transferring calls and welcoming friends, news-bearers and strangers into their home at all hours.

Arriving tired from Circus World I found myself in of a Welcoming Party - PATSY JORDAN bounced it, upset that JOHNNY was stranded in Michigan snow-drifts; followed by NETTA and HARRY DUBSKY (reporting a good year with their Royal Palace Circus) with CUCCILO....MARIA THERON expressed concern over son J.P.'s imminent debut on the break-away sway pole, but GEORGE BRUNO who designed the double poles for the Red Unit (the second pole is being worked by his daughter MELODY) did his best to alleviate her fears....The party broke up at 4 ayem....at 8, FAY and ROSIE roused all of us from bed....The day started: KENNY DODD's mother is in very poor condition....IRENE and TONY were in Palm Beach with the Stebbings Circus (CAROL had just got married, but no one seemed to know to whom)....HELEN WALLEENDA's voice was grey with worry about KARL's impending Sky Walk....KATHY SCOTT called that snowstorms and a power failure forced cancellation of one show on HUBLER's Mentor date, reduced attendance at others, and KATHY said she was coming straight home and to hell with the North! PETEY KINOSH made his entrance, followed by CARLA WALLEENDA who has to be different from everyone else by having - are you ready - SORE EYE-LIDS!....GUNTHER WALLEENDA's daughter SANDY was with her.

Off on my appointed rounds, stopping at JOE and ELIZABETH BAUER's House Beautiful where Elizabeth showed me her grande swimming pool and where Joe, recovering from a recent illness, fed me pages of news and said they would be off soon for a Sports Show....GUNNAR AMANDIS popped over, on the rib, as usual; and I saw REBECCA NOCKS (Charlie's daughter) all grown up and very beautiful, as is "little" LISSY who grew up first!....STRUPPI's sis, ANNA, greeted me at Osprey and I found Struppi lying on a Queen size bed, cuddling a tiger (Needless to say I closed the door quickly!)....Looked for Wally and Cheryl to discover the pair had emulated ANITA KEPPO and TOM DESIMINI by going off to get

married (They're still off)....DAME KATE looked chipper, but is having trouble with her eyes....TOMMY flashed his new teeth at me (thought he was going to bite me at first)....RAY ORSZAK, once dark with a beard, is now blonde with a mustache....DON BASHAM made good his threat at last....he bought a Greyhound bus ticket to COME BACK to the Hannefords!....The house was full of people, costumes, bed-lam and a birthday party, so....off to....pick up JENNY and ANDY to head for SHOWFOLKS, first saying Hello to TINO and OLINKA enroute to the ONSTAGE CIRCUS....Chaos went in the door with me at Show-folks where I traded insults with ALFREDO LANDON (whom after 20 yrs I still can't understand)...kissed MARLENE....said "Hi" to ARTHUR....Embraced NANNETTE THERON....Hailed RUDY DOCKEY...dished with LOLA DOBRITCH...yakked with TINA and JOHN HANSON....Bumped into JOHNNY WALKED (his wife in tow)...kidded TIPPY...and HANS....and TOTO....waved to many I couldn't get to....assured FLO THERON that, of course, I remembered her...was re-united with PETE IVANOV (from old Polack days) who introduced me to his wife GRACE...Off again....On a pub crawl with JENNY and ANDY, returning at 3 ayem to find Andy had forgotten to turn out the dogs and they had strewn garbage from one end of the house to the other!....Oh, God! to bed.... ROSIE, the waker-upper, arrived on schedule and helped us bundle JENNY and CARLA and others off to Miami Beach for the KNIEVEL Special where they would join HELEN, KARL, DAVE, HEIDI, JOHN Talked to KEITH KILLINGER, up to his ears in musical arrangements, then headed for Roberts and DICK GARDEN's new Ice America (a good show)...Hobnobbed backstage with the cast, including juggler BOB WELZ, and was joined by PETEY and JIM and REGGIE NORDMARK....Reviewed the show sitting between Reggie and Petey (and I'll never do that again)...stayed afterwards until the ice melted (literally, as they were moving out)...Visited with JERRY MAAS and his Entourage, ARLENE and RON MORRIS (with their new baby), LEO and KLARINKA, JOHNNY WALKER, PRINCE BOGINO, DICK GARDEN, JOHN WERTZ) and CLAUDE (of the Dubskys) ...and ROY HOUSTON assured me the beer he had was his last, but somehow the glass filled up again (Roy said it was magic)....Back at Headquarters LU ANN

(Continued on Page 12)

Biz Off in Storm

Attendance at the Saladin Shrine Circus, produced by Hubert Castle for the Detroit Shrine Club, was down 13,800 admissions, according to a Feb. 6th newspaper report. That paper reports the smallest crowd ever attended the circus on Jan. 28th, for the matinee - a total of 1,127 people. The evening performance was only a little better.

The show played its Jan. 24-30 engagement during the worst weather ever seen in western Michigan. There was snow and sub-zero temperatures every day and on Jan. 28th a blizzard swept through the city.

The Civic Auditorium is a small building and is a nightmare for riggers. Bleachers are placed on all four sides, leaving room for one ring and a small stage area, on which most of the clown numbers are presented. Aerial equipment required for the show included: the flying act, aerial bars, three balancing trapeze, a double set of pulleys for the living statue curtains, Mlle. Jacqueline's single trapeze, a platform for the high dive, etc. Three different nets were required - the flying act, aerial bar act and the cannon. The latter net was erected over the heads of patrons in one section while the show was underway.

Tarzan Zerbin continues to be a top attraction offering comedy and running conversation during his act. The camels, llamas and elephants are presented by Jo-Ann and Dennis Pinson, who have introduced a teeterboard backward somersault to the back of an elephant.

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In Memoriam

PAUL FLEMING GEMMILL, one of the greats of magic, died Dec. 20th after a long illness. Born in Pennsylvania, he became interested in magic as a youth, then became an assistant to Gene Lausant and later Karl Germaine, whose show he acquired when Germaine retired to enter Law School.

Paul graduated from Swarthmore College in 1913 and by 1919 he was a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He retired in 1959. He toured his own show during the summers, starting in 1923. In the 1940's he started publishing magic books.

Survivors include: his wife, Jane, a son Robert and a daughter, Jean.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530.
SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 per year

Dale and Sheila Harney now feature sensational escapes - straight jacket and an underwater escape in a plastic bag. The Droquettes are tops in juggling and Mlle. Jacqueline continues to shine as an outstanding aerialist. The Davids, cradle act, is presented by Dave Smith and Debra Friel, of the Rock-Smith Flyers. Incidentally, Dave makes an unusual appearance via a roof opening and/or balcony, ala Superman or Batman.

The living statues has 6-7 girls in white leotards posing with scenery to represent the four seasons. Drapery is lowered to cover the pedestals while the girls change scenery and get into their new pose. This is an elaborate production number and deserves to be featured as such rather than as a number between clowns and chimps.

..... Jon Friday

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Zor Shrine Date

Acts to be featured in the annual Zor Shrine Temple Circus at Madison, Wisc., (Feb. 25-27) will include: The Sensational Leighs, space wheel; Nerveless Nocks, sway poles; Maryse Begary, trapeze; Aerial Ballet; Oneco's, trampoline; The Flying Armors; Rejanines, aerialist; The Navarros, cycles; Geronimo, high dive; Little John, balancing; Eugenio, tight wire; The Wallendas, high wire; Racquel, aerialist; The

Jordanas, upside down cycle; Rix's Bears; Vidbel's ponies; Killer Willard, boxing kangaroo; Tony Fossett, bounding rope; Christinas chimps; Irene, Tongo & Co., gorilla parody; The Elkins Sisters, acrobats; Vidbel's elephants.

The show's staff includes: William Kay, producer/performance director; John Malett, musical director; Bob Hedberg, Zor Circus Director; Gurnee Bridgman, publicity.

Circus clowns are: Benji Miller, Joe Sherman, Rudy Dockey, Bubba Hastings and Al Ross.

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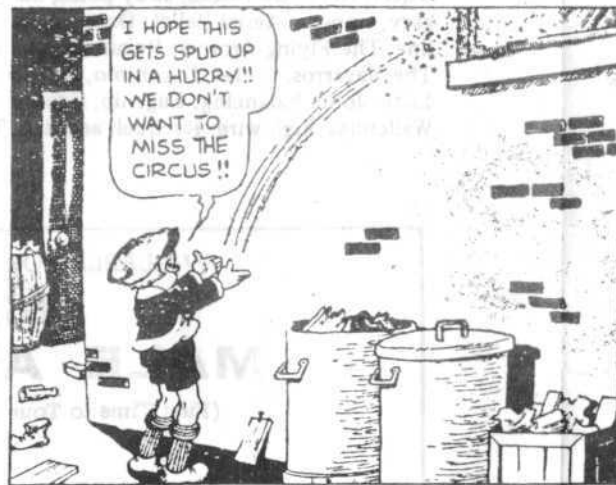
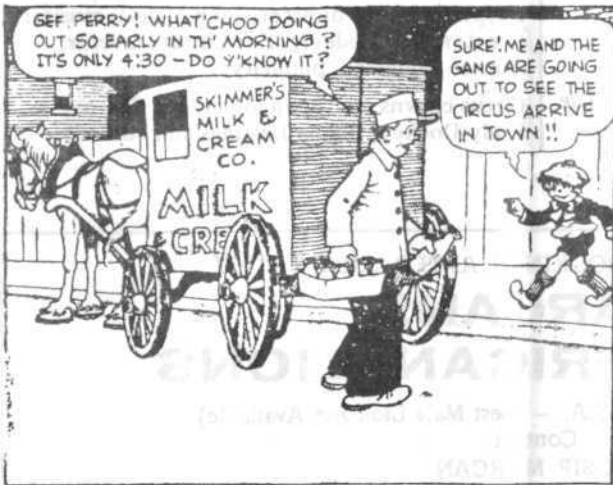
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(Continued Next Week)

ROUTES

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CIRCUS VARGAS

Feb. 15-17 Laredo, Texas

18-22 San Antonio

23-25 Austin

26-Mar 3 Arlington

COLE ALL STAR TV CIRCUS

Feb. 21 Towanda, Pa.

22 Jasper, N. Y.

23 Mansfield, Pa.

24 Dansville, N.Y.

25 Holland

26 Perry

27 Alexander

EXCHANGE CLUB CIRCUS

Feb. 25-26 Lockport, N. Y.

L. N. FLECKLES CIRCUS

Feb. 22-27 Milwaukee, Wisc.

HAMID-MORTON CIRCUS

Feb. 25-27 Topeka, Kans.

WILLIAM KAY CIRCUS

Feb. 25-27 Madison, Wisc.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit

Feb. 22-23 Savannah, Ga.

25-27 Asheville, N. C.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Red Unit

Feb. 23-Mar 1 Norfolk, Va.

ROYAL DANISH CIRCUS

Feb. 22-27 Punta Gordo, Fla.

ROYAL PALACE CIRCUS

Feb. 22-26 Warwick, R. I.

TNT & ROYAL OLYMPIC

Feb. 16-20 Westminster, Calif.

.... OTHER ROUTES

BUGS BUNNY SHOW

Feb. 24-27 Springfield, Mass.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Feb. 26-Mar. 5 San Francisco

KEN GRIFFIN (Magic)

Feb. 21 Madisonville, Tenn.

22 Jackson

23 Bowling Green, Ky.

24 Davidson, N. C.

26 Warner Robbins, Ga.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

Feb. 26 Edmonton, Alta.

ROUTES

ICE AMERICA

Feb. 24-26 Cherry Hill, N.J.

PROF. MILLER & Co. (Magic)

Feb. 21 Hamilton, Ala

22 Sulligent

23 Caledonia, Miss.

24 New Hope

25 Houston

ROYAL LIPIZZAN STALLIONS

Feb. 22 Dallas, Texas

SPORTS SHOW

Feb. 22-27 Omaha, Nebr.

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PEOPLE

REX WILLIAMS has a herd of African elephants at his facilities in Florida.

IRWIN and DENISE ROYES were married on Jan. 14th. He plans to work with Polack Bros. during that show's April 1-3 engagement at New Orleans.

THE LANG FAMILY Acrobats and BOBBI-JANE DUO, juggling act, currently with the Jimmy Cole Circus will spend the summer on Carden-Johnson Circus.

JIM ROYAL will be the ringmaster on Hoxie's Great American Circus, which opens its 1977 tour in Miami (Fla.) on April 2nd. His wife BEVERLY will work in the illusion act.

HUGO MARQUARDT recently visited the Hanneford Family Circus at the Circus Hall of Fame, as well as other circus friends in the area.



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JOHN and LORRAINE MacKAY (Yoko and Cookie, the Clowns) are proud parents of a son (Edward John) born at 4:22 p.m. on Jan. 26th. The new arrival weighed in at 7 lb 6 oz.

In Memoriam

LEWIS D. BADER (78) retired circus musician and an honorary member of the Harold Barnes CFA Tent, died on Feb. 1st at Washington C. Ohio. He had been a member of the Ringling-Barnum Circus band from 1923-1955 and played trombone with the Sells Floto Circus prior to 1923. He also played for various deville show houses.

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Hollywood, California 90028**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

and PANCHE came for dinner....a roast beef cooked to perfection by sweet DELILAH whose baby is due in April....later joined by FAY and ROSIE....then PETEY swooped in to swoop me off to a party with the skaters from Ice America....

Revisited Circus World and the WOODCOCKS enroute back to Daytona...and had a drink with SERGE and STEVIE who made me nervous (her baby was due any minute)...Joked with Glamorous BONNIE BALE who does a great imitation of BILLY BARTON imitating MAE WEST...and suffered thru the EVEL KNEIVEL Special....Returned FINALLY, to JIMMY DOUGLASS place (Sequin & Feather Ranch) in a state of total exhaustion....If I missed mentioning anyone, I am sorry but I lost that page of notes....NOW ! Next Week I'll tell you ALL the news!

See you down the road, luv.

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CROWD PLEASER

The program for the Hubert Castle produced Saladin Shrine Circus at Detroit, Mich. (Jan. 24-30) featured:

Tarzan Zerbini, wild animals; Clowns; Venicio, Felipe and Juan, balance trapeze; The Droguettes, juggling; The Marhal camels and Llamas; The Davids, cradle; Pamela's Dogs; Dennis Sherman, high dive; The Rodriguez Troupe, aerial bars; Clowns; Mlle. Jacqueline, single trapeze; Pinson's Elephants; The Rock Smith Flyers; Clowns; Living Statues; Pam's Chimps; Dale Harney, escapes; The Aerial Ballet (iron jaw, hair hang, revolving traps); Der-rick Rosaire and his horse Tony; The Marios, hat jugglers; Clowns; The Friel-Smith Cannon.

Show officials included: Hubert Castle, producer; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster; Prof. Clement Toca, band leader; J. Albert Smith, electrician; Pablo Martinez, prop boss and Gene Randow, producing clown.

PEOPLE

CY MURRAY, retired circus trouper, was hospitalized by a heart attack, but is getting along well. He toured with many of the major shows from the 20's to 50's, and would enjoy hearing from friends. Write him at: Western Mass., Hospital, 91 East Mountain Road, Westfield, Mass. 01085.

KARL WALLENDEN won national newswire coverage for his recent skywalk between two Florida hotels.

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RON BACON, Agent, Hoxie Bros. Circus

EARLY START

The 1977 season got off to an early start for the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus, which played its first California engagement last week (Feb. 160)

The 1977 season got off to an early start for the TNT & Royal Olympic Circus, which played its first California engagement last week (Feb. 16-20) at Westminster.

Show personnel are currently enroute to dates in the mid-west and east as the full tour gets underway. Early engagements will include the Mar. 1-5 stand at Mesquite, Texas and a Mar. 17-19 date at Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Acts currently being featured on the show include: Winnie McKay, aerialist; Hunkie Johnson, bears; Jose Cole, balancing; The Carlsons, juggling and Tim Tegge, clown. Announcing and ringmaster duties will be handled by Earl

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