



5th Year

November 22, 1976

Number 47

## Lion Attack

London animal trainer Richard Chipperfield was mauled by four lions during a performance on Oct. 28th.

Chipperfield (32) features a make-believe attack scene, wherein he lays down and four of the big lions jump on him. This time they made the jump OK, but started biting and clawing for real.

The animals were finally driven off by other circus people and returned to their cages. Chipperfield was hospitalized with gashes on his arms and head.



## Suit Filed

Two acrobats, members of the Seven Alexanders, have filed a \$100,000 damage suit against Las Vegas magicians Siegfried & Roy. Their son was bitten by a tiger used in an illusion at the MGM Grand Hotel's stage show.

They claim the magicians failed to exercise sufficient control over the animal. They also charge the hotel failed to provide a secure area for the animals.

The youngster was bitten on the neck and according to the charges was "rendered sick and lame, receiving both internal and external injuries, severe shock to his nervous system, great pain and suffering."

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## PEOPLE

RAY VALENTINE's circus presentation at Conroe, Texas, will include: The FLYING VALENTINES, RAY VALENTINE, Jr., the BOBBY GIBBS animals, WANDA WARD, aerialist, plus the JIMMY DOUGLASS circus clowns.

FRANK DEAN, western performer, has returned to his home in Palmdale, Calif., after being hospitalized at Sacramento since early September. He is in a complete body cast awaiting the healing of a broken leg.

CLAYTON McNAUGHTON, drummer, was with Lewis Bros. Circus early in the year, after an absence from show business of 31 years. During his off-time he served as a guard at the Jackson (Mich.) State Prison.

JOE GERLACH was in San Francisco last week to publicize an Auto Show by making high dives in the downtown area.

### In Memoriam

BARBARA ABEEN (73) died late last month at Highland, Ill. Mrs. Abeen once owned a circus in Holland, is the mother of Loni Van Voorden, who, with her husband Fred and daughter Barbara are presently touring with Circus Vargas.

Experienced clown-mime seeks employment with a circus for 1977 season. Will send photo and resume upon request. Write to: M. Streeter, R.D. 1, Chester Springs, Pa. 19425.

## WANTED

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### In Memoriam

WALTER TYSON (73), of Guelph, Ontario, a famous circus and book collector died on Oct. 27th. He was considered one of North America's greatest authorities on the circus. He held card No. 2 in the CHS.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$2.50;  
Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00 (Color \$5.00 extra).

## NOTICE!

Please note that I have a new address:

Charlie Campbell  
150 - 10th St., N. E. - Apt. 203  
Atlanta, Georgia - 30309

I will again be publishing my weekly route sheet "Today Is Circus Day In -" during the 1977 circus season. (Many subscribers have a credit for the 1977 route sheet).

Please contact me regarding price and publication dates.

.....Charlie Campbell

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# ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Nov. 22 Naples, Fla.  
23 Ft. Myers

Circus Championships  
Nov 23-26 London, Eng.

Circus Vargas  
Nov 26-28 Stockton, Ca.

Bill Hall Circus  
Nov 25-28 Houston, Tex

Kaye Cont'l Circus  
Nov 25-28 Evansville, Ind

Lions All Star Circus  
Nov. 22 Wilson Boro, Pa

Olympic Int'l Circus  
Nov 24-Dec 5 Miami, Fla

PAL Circus  
Nov 20-21 San Francisco  
Calif

Polack Bros. Circus  
Nov 23-28 Hammond, Ind  
Ind.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue  
Nov 24-28 New Haven,  
Conn.

Royal American Circus  
Nov. 23 Wilmington, NC  
24 Fayetteville  
26 Henderson  
27 Norfolk, Va.  
28 Richmond

.....OTHER ROUTES...

Carnival of Brazil  
Nov 23-28 Pittsburgh, Pa

Fairmen's Convention  
Nov 28-Dec 1 Las Vegas  
Nev

Globetrotters  
Nov. 25 Baltimore, Md.

Ken Griffin (Magic)  
Nov 22 Madisonville, Tenn  
27 Sumptnwr, NC

Ice Capades  
Nov 23-28 Oakland, Cal.

Prof. Miller & Co (Magic)  
Nov 22-23 Schenectady, NY  
24 Glens Falls  
25-26 Troy  
27-28 Platsburgh

Royal Lipizzan Stallions  
Nov. 23 Saginaw, Mich  
26 Cincinnati, Oh  
27-28 Columbus

Santa's Rocket Ship  
Nov 26-27 Springdale, Ark

Santa's Rocket Sleigh  
Nov 22-24 Shreveport, La  
26-27 Magnolia, Ark

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# BILLY BARTON....

THE CARDEN-JOHNSON Circus recently purchased 24 acres of land at Seagoville (Texas) where they're constructing a large winter quarters and have been busy moving out of the old Clyde Bros. quarters at Edmond (Okla.).

THE FLYING CARROLLS (a Carden-Johnson feature) opened in Las Vegas Nov. 15th and will appear there through Feb. 15, 1977. FAY ALEXANDER had been in Texas helping the act prepare for their Vegas debut. Fay reports that he and Rosie had a first-rate season, that they will return to C-J in 1977. "I've been up in six different flying acts this season," Fay says, "catching and leaping. I guess it's just the 'ham' in me!" Well, Fay can be modest if he wants to be - I think it is the ageless consistency of a truly great flying star!

LINDA and BOYD KIMES (Uncle Heavy) joined JIM NORDMARK in October for the balance of this season and have signed for the 1977 tour. Linda says the All Star Show, which plays a lot of schools, is something new for them, but...."It's the friendliest show we've ever been on."

A last-minute, hurry-up call from the MIKE DOUGLAS show sent MARSHA HUNT JONES scurrying to have DOLLY (the baby elephant) ready for a noon taping the next day....BILL GOLDEN is no longer with WALT KING....Performers appearing at the Onstage Cabaret recently have been LES THINIS and the Great OTTINI....Lucky indeed was GENE MENDEZ who suffered only a broken arm in that Texas Shrine date tumble.

Don't be surprised to hear wedding bells mixed with sleigh bells for ANITA KEPPO and TOM DESIMINI sometime in December....'PAUL KAYE will produce a 11 day circus run in Puerto Rico

during December....And HERBIE WEBER, winding up his Page-Cavanaugh tour Dec. 5th, goes to Mexico for the FLUENTES.

The ROSAIRE FAMILY are now at home after a 7 month run at the Hotel Flamboyant in San Juan and have signed with Castle for '77. Along with Derrick Rosaire and his Wonder Horse, Tony, the family will unveil a new three ring horse display. The horses, from the famous Maple Grove Arabian Farm, will travel with the other Rosaire horses in a new tractor-trailer which also has a large wardrobe area. Two horses will be worked on long reins by Derrick Sr. and Jr., while the center horse will be ridden dressage by Ellian. The Rosaire's are headed for Florida to work on their land and finish up training for the new season;

Well, you'll never guess WHO is also joining the "horsey set"...None other than BARBARA LUXEM Barb will debut her new high school novelty horse, Smokey, next season. JOHNNY has his "Wheel of Destiny" set for a string of Fleckle's dates and the Cleveland Sports Show....GIL GRAY's Dallas State Fair Circus, sponsored by Dr. Pepper and Morton's Foods, featured: Lou Regan, tigers, elephants; The Conners, Bates and Linda's canines; Plunkett's trampoline; Chris James, wire; Los Latinos, wire; Huberto, slide; Aerial Ballet with Senor Florese; the Luvas and the Paulas, cradles; Hall's bears, and Abe Goldstein, clown.

For his San Mateo date (Nov. 3-7) SID KELLNER rented the Hartzell's Wallace & Rogers show intact. Sid says he will definitely tour under canvas in '77.. The ZAMPERLA Family visited BILLY RODGERS

(Continued on Page 13)

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King Bros. 46, 47, 48 . . . . . each \$4.00

Sells Bros. - 1944 . . . . . \$2.00

King-Cristiani - 52, 53 . . . . . each \$ 4.00

Sig Sautelle - 1926 . . . . . \$3.00

## PROGRAMS --

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1956 . . . . . Each \$ 5.00

Cole Bros. Circus - 1950 . . . . . \$ 4.00

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Circus Days - Clyde Beatty - Many pixs -  
Freedman - \$6.95 paper cover - \$13.00  
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Pictorial History of Performing Horses by  
Charles Fox . . . . . \$ 4.00

Circus Doctor - by Doc Henderson . \$ 4.00

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The deadline is Dec. 11th for copy for the Holiday Issue of Circus Report which will be issued on Dec. 20th, so send your ad requests now!

Space is definitely going to be limited so be safe and get your copy in the mail.

Don't forget!

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## Show Guests

Visitors at the Fort Worth (Texas) Shrine Circus included: Joe Lemke, chimps; Pee Wee and Jo Ann Pinson, elephants; Red Hartman, lions; Barbara Rice, elephants; Glen and Ethel Henry, ponies and dogs; Ed Weideman, retired elephant man; Gary and ZoAnn Henry clown and horse acts; Tommy Randolph, AB reporter and Bill and Trudy Strong, aerialists.

## PEOPLE

DOUG HENNING, magician, will be featured on an all new TV show "World of Magic" the evening of Dec. 23rd.

ENOCH COOK, an RBBB Blue Unit clown, is featured in the November issue of "Sepia" magazine. It's his first year on the show.

BILL BIRCHFIELD will operate his own show called "Vaudeville" from Jan. 19th to April 1st of next year.

DAVID SABO, DAVID SARGENT and GEORGE ROSS (magician) were on a Poughkeepsie (NY) TV show on Nov. 4th. Also present was MARSHA HUNT JONES, from the Famous Hunt Circus.

## Show Talent

The show presented at Houston's Astro-world Park (Oct. 29-31) included:

Cleo Plunkett, announcer; The Ashtons, risley; Nerveless Nocks, sway poles; the Flying Valentines; the Canestrelli Family, trampoline and swing; Lou Regan, tigers and elephants; Little John, chair balance; Ray Valentine, Jr. tightwire; Sensational Leighs, space wheel and the Jimmy Douglas clowns.

## OLD CHICAGO

Acts working at the Old Chicago Mall this month are: Saul Shafton, announcer; Emil Hahn, bandmaster; Cleo, the Living Fantasy; The Segrera Trio; Aneta Vargas, slack wire; The Flying Segreras and Enrique and his tops

## Miscellaneous

New regulations governing exotic birds have been proposed by the government. Read the details about these plans in next week's Circus Report.

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**76 - 77** - SUMMING UP

**THE LONG RANGE** forecast for 1977's Big Top Winners are Circus Vargas, Hoxie Bros., King Bros., the Great American, Sells & Gray and Famous Hunt. These predictions are based on the long seasons of each whose overall grosses top all other tent shows. These predictions are also based on past seasons of profit and loss as weighed against 1977 tours.

It will be no surprise to see Beatty-Cole not tour in 1977; nor will it be surprising to see a second unit evolve from Circus Vargas during the season to bow in 1978.

The planned extended routes of Rudy Bros., and of Page-Cavanaugh will decide their continuance in 1978. One is a well-known circus that has only to re-assert itself - the other is new. 1977 will also decide whether or not those Ringling tent rumors have any foundation. If this show does not emerge in '77, or does not plan for such an emergence, then it is doubtful that it will.

As in 1976 a few new shows will come out and promptly close, although probably not as many.

.....by BILLY BARTON

For one thing, there is no Bicentennial to blind the eyes with "gold dust". 1976 saw the folding of at least seven shows with Super Circus lasting longer than did Circus Galaxy or Showtime USA, Shows that died, succumbed from a disease known as "front end illness".

Any new circus must have plenty of money banked to see it through its first season. It's a proven fact that three years are required in which to build a route. Circuses operating on shoestrings have a way of breaking suddenly and it is next to impossible to go out with only the anticipation of promotional profits.

The new format, re-created by Circus Vargas, is "cold", bolstered by "saturation publicity" and built upon long stands where word-of-mouth carries into the densely populated areas. The trick here is a powerhouse performance to back itself up. The day of one swinging ladder and one Rhesus monkey has also come and gone.

The American tent circus is alive and well, to re-  
(Continued on Page 12)

### NATIONAL CONGRESS OF ANIMAL TRAINERS & BREEDERS, Inc.

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## Santa's Rocket

The opening of Santa's Rocket Sleigh in Mobile (Ala) on Nov. 3rd, marked the 18th year that the Santa Claus Rocket Ship units have been manned by circus people.

The operation was purchased this year by former circus owner Bill Griffith, from Lloyd Laster, of Tyler (Texas), and headquarters have been moved to Black Earth (Wisc) where Griffith is publisher of six west suburban Madison (Wisc.) newspapers.

Jack Gobble will manage Santa's Rocket Sleigh, with his wife Jean, and Jeff Earl, son of Roberts Bros. Circus owner, included in the crew. Jim Silverlake is manager of Santa's Space Sleigh and Don Washburn (Sparky the Clown) will manage Santa's Rocket Ship.

H. C. "Billy" Sheets, a full-time employee of Griffith's Santa Claus Rocket Corp., who is working in quarters managing the framing of three additional shopping center attractions for 1977, will manage Santa's Super Rocket.

## Miscellaneous

A new book "The Vaudevillians" has been published by MacMillan and should be on the book shelves by the holidays.

"Stoney" the elephant worked the Bozo TV Show, several malls and a parade in the Chicago area last month.

The Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit train pulled out of Chicago at 5:45 a.m. on Nov. 8th, with the temperature in the mid-20's.

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The units, which each carry a four person crew, all close Dec. 18th, for the home run to Black Earth.

## REWARD

### ATTENTION ALL PERFORMERS AND CIRCUS PEOPLE

Following the evening performance of the Shrine Circus at Fort Worth, Texas, on Nov. 4, 1976 - VICTOR and LINDA FLORES were observed removing "Smokie" from his stall in Fort Worth, Texas.

"Smokie" is 35 inches tall, a Shetland pony, stallion. For the past 2 years the pony has worked in acts presented by Mr. Bob Gibbs.

The pony was removed in the middle of the night and transported across several state lines.

Anyone with information as to the whereabouts of Victor and Linda Flores or "Smokie" the pony, please call collect to: (512) 585-1418

Or Write To:

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**76 - 77** (Continued)

main healthy only so long as it provides the American public with real circus entertainment. That it can be done has already been proved by several circuses, but not enough; that it **MUST** be done is a fact of life. Competition is fierce. The tent show that does not upgrade itself is lost at the starting gate.

The overall prediction for 1977 is to see a marked turning point in the American big top circus, in its quality and in its overall appearance. And while 1977 may not be the Boom Year shows are hoping for it will certainly be better than 1976.

Those great acts that have looked down their noses at canvas shows (with good reason) are now having a change of heart. More top-rated talent will be seen performing under canvas in 1977 than at any time since the 1930's. The shows are coming out dressed up in pride and dripping with class. Those that can't or won't might as well stay in the barn — they are a detriment to the industry anyway.

The revival of the Big Top, as America's Number One form of Circus Entertainment, in its original form, is a wonderful thing to see. The building shows, which once replaced the big top greats, are no doubt astounded to suddenly find themselves in competition, not with other indoor shows, but with the big top itself.

Let's hope the "big top" never leaves the circus scene again, that it continues to grow and to prosper as it has in the past several years. The American people are entitled to enjoy what is surely the only "pure" form of show business that remains.

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**Acts Named**

Acts scheduled to appear in the "Circus World Championships" in London on Nov. 23-26 include:

**FLYING ACTS** - Flying Oscas, Flying Ramos Rock Smith Flyers and Flying Terrels.

**HIGH SCHOOL HORSES** - Manuella Beelo, Mary Chipperfield, Katja Schumann and Mia Ziamo.

**HIGH WIRE** - Les Collins and Manfred Duval

**ACROBATS** - The Herculeans and The Tanager Troupe.

**CYCLISTS** - The Bertini Family, The Boginos and the New Dollys.

Judges for the event will include: Arturo Castilla, Burt Lancaster, Richard Meade, John Ringling North, Cyril Mills, Jean Richard, Carl Sembach, Enis Togni and Karl Wallenda. Serving as Chairman for the Judges is Jimmy Chipperfield, with Roberto Germains acting as technical advisor.

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**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

prior to his departure for bookings in Texas....Zampelas are leaving for Europe where they have a two year contract....Ringmaster AL DAWLEY will be with Fleckles in '77.

LILY KRISTENSEN tossed a gala birthday shindig for hubby SVEND - it was an outdoor affair. Son, KIM, is busy breaking his horse for "dressage-in-the-saddle" and hind leg. He will play dates for HUBLER in April. Lily, who just bought two new baby leopards, is set for a long run of dates with both Hubler and Polack Bros.

Comedy team WALLY & CHERYL visited me enroute to Baltimore for ROYAL HANNEFORD.....

Other acts that played the date were: the Flying Dells, Eddy Ventura, Walt King and the Hernandez Troupe....Producer ED MIGLEY is busy signing talent for his Circus Odyssey tour in Puerto Rico.: Cimse's dogs, Albert Rix bears, the Hoxie elephants (11), Prince Najvez, Stan Friedberg, musical director, and clowns J. P. Theron and Dougy Ashton. He is also negotiating for a flying act.

BILL BRICKLE, fully recovered from an attack of erysipelas in the left leg, played Montreal for Garden Bros. and the South Ala. State Fair for Eddie

**School Show**

Oak View Elementary School presented its annual fall physical education show celebrating American Education Week at the Tysons' Corner shopping center near Washington, DC on Nov. 3rd.

Sixty Oak View students, under the direction of physical education teacher Jim Moyer and Cathy Nolan, staged the gymnastic circus, featuring such acts as: vaulting; Chinese hoop tumbling; Roman ladders; bar gymnastics; rope twirling; plate spinning; ball and ring juggling; rola bola; rolling globe; German gym wheel; 7 man bicycle and modern dance

Zacchini. On the bill were the Vickinas, perch; Ron Urban, illusions; Brickle's poodles and emcee Bill Boren. The fair show was held onstage in the coliseum and drew excellent crowds.

ELLIAN ROSAIRE is a camera bug, is now doing professional black-and-white photography. Future plans call for publicity shots of performers by a gal who is proficient in model and action photography as well as special effects. When she starts snapping candid shots you'll see me running..... down the road, luv.

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## W&R

by DON MARCKS

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It's a one ring circus, whose blue and white big top still looks great after several years of use. The show moves on a minimum of trucks, each pulling a trailer, some of which are easy to erect seat wagons.

In addition to the marquee, the midway has a combination office and concession trailer. If there is one thing lacking it is a side show or some such attraction that could add a bit more color to the scene.

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### WANT

having to strain or be confused by a series of multiple displays.

The fact this show's program is appreciated is obvious from the smiles and comments of the spectators. Their enjoyment is real and the applause comes from a real appreciation of the skills and efforts that are required for each number.

Yes, it is a show that is sure to grow and become even more popular. So go and see it during the 1977 season — you'll be glad that you did!

## INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL TRAINER Col. E. T. BALE

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## COLLECTORS ITEMS YOU'LL ALWAYS TREASURE

Billposters' Union Stamp. Until the Union was abolished all lithos were hand stamped with 'the Bug'. This one was used on various Floyd King truck shows. A most unusual and exclusive item. . . . \$ 10.00

A Huge Clown Tooth. Very realistic. Made from the root of a tree. In '39 I played Centre Lisle, N.Y. with my tent show and bought this and other clown props from a retired wagon show kinker. Looks so authentic you can see it ache. Worth much more from a historical standpoint.. \$6.00

Clown Fish Monster. Unfinished from same person for walk (run) around gag....\$3.00

Junior Collector's Assortment. Includes a litho, passes (5), plus 5 show office forms 5 press agent items. All for just \$4.95, plus 50 cents for postage.

Senior Collector's Assortment. All of the Junior kit, plus more of everything and 2 extra lithos. Just \$9.95, plus 50 cents for postage.

Most unusual poster designed in Europe for Williams Standard Shows of New Brunswick, Canada (colorful) . . . . . \$ 5.00

1970 issue of Showman's Year Book. Lots of pictures of troupers plus signatures (reproductions) of many circus stars. A book you will always treasure . . . . . \$7.00

Half Sheet Panel Dates. "HERE" paper, used when shows wild cat for last minute locations. Special . . . . . \$ 2.50

Half Sheet Midway & Clown - bright and flashy item . . . . . \$ 3.00

One Sheet similar to above . . . . \$ 4.00

One Sheet Flat - Midway. Originally designed for Hennies RR Show (Various titles) \$ 5.00

Five ornate circus letterheads (all different) \$ 5.00

¼ Sht. Famous Cristiani Bros. riding act pictorial . . . . . \$ 3.00

¼ Sht. Wallace Bros.-Cristiani .. \$ 3.00

½ Sht. long out-of-print Globe (from Donaldson design). Midway scene. Beautiful colors (very scarce item). . . . . \$ 4.50

1 Sht. Similar scarce item . . . . . \$ 5.00

1 Sht. Theatre lobby posters from Phila. and Norfolk theatres. Billposting stock bins vintage of the '30s and '40s from stage and movie films. Titles and pictorials usually racy and sexy, etc. No two alike and a bargain at \$5.00 each (paper tender).

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BIG List plus a pictorial poster for November only . . . . Just \$1.00  
(NO FREE LISTS).

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## ATTENTION

Do you have information about Highway Truck Stations that would be of interest to shows planning their route runs? We'll be happy to print details of such facilities if the readers care to send it in.

For Example: There is a truck weigh station on Highway 80 just ¾ miles south of Fair-

field (Calif.). All trucks are required to stop for check-ups and weighing. The stop is located on both the South and North sides of the freeway. It is generally open from 6 a.m. to 12 midnight, sometimes stays open as late as 1 a.m., operating Mondays through Saturdays.



## Fraud ?

Telephone solicitors are fraudulently saying they represent the Contra Costa County (Calif.) Peace Officers Association, according to Sheriff Harry D. Ramsey. He said they are using "boiler room" tactics to sell books of \$25 and \$30 circus tickets.

Sheriff Ramsey said last week the Peace Officers Association does not sponsor sales promotions. People receiving such calls, he added, should call their local police or the sheriff's office.

## ROUTES

Santa's Space Sleigh

Nov. 22-24 Winston-Salem, N. C.

26-27 Gastonia

Santa's Super Rocket

Nov. 26-27 Cleveland Heights, Ohio

## Magic Show

The combination magic-illusion-variety show "Holiday in Magicland", now in its 6th consecutive year, reports that current grosses are up 25% over that of last year. The show tours primarily in the east, playing about 15 weeks a year, of fully sponsored dates. Performances are offered five days a week, with two shows on Saturday and one on weekdays.

This year's show features magic and illusions with five complete changes of scenery and dozens of costumes. A self-contained lighting system and sound facilities are carried for the two hour show which is divided by a 15 minute intermission, when programs are sold.

Illusionist Mike Martin is assisted by five female assistants and is on stage for the entire show. Acts include classic and modern magic with doves, rabbits, ducks and "Midnight" the leopard (2½ years old), who is featured in the girl-to-leopard production.

## MANY THANKS

*TO C-R, THE ACTS, CIRCUS OWNERS, AND FAIR COMMITTEES  
THAT MADE THIS OUR MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR.*

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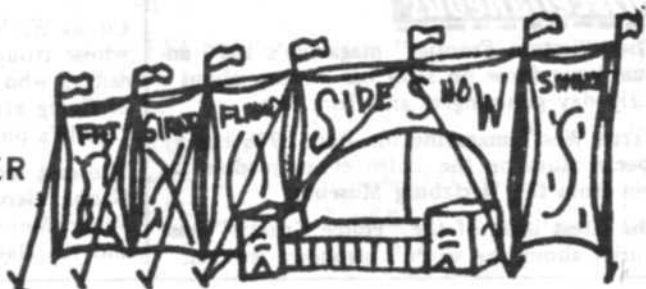
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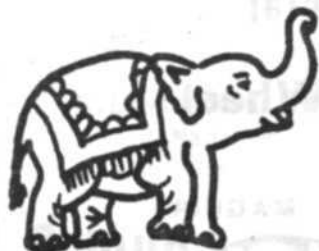


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**Miscellaneous**

The "Western Frontier" magazine's 1976 annual issue (now on sale) has a story about early day gun-slingers and Tom Mix.

"True West" magazine for Dec. 1976 has a special story on the stolen circus medals, taken from the Hertzburg Museum.

The latest issue of the "Police Gazette" has stories about the world's strongest woman.

**Park Feature**

Circus World Park features Victor Gaona whose troupe places mechanics on eager visitors who try their skill on the high wire, in flying acts and on trampolines in the "world's only audience participation circus".

The cast includes: Warren Bacon, Mario Gaona, George Del Moral, Laura Rapa, Gary Miller, Moises Ferrara, Antonio, the clown, and Kit Haskett, ringmaster.

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