

# CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY  
OUR 11th YEAR

Number 47

November 22, 1983



REV. AUSTIN MILES  
Show Business Chaplain

# In the mail

*from Art "Doc" Miller*

Here is a little squib for the mag to settle many arguments on how late I got into show business and with whom.

Bette Leonard and I both worked on the Sol's United Shows, a railroad operation in 1922. Bette was a performer in the circus division of the show and I was on concessions, during the Chicago stands.

Bette was on all season, from quarters in Metropolis, Ill., 'til the seasons end. At that time I resided in Chicago, on North Menard Street.

## Visit to Ford Bros.

by RALPH HARTMAN

I sent in a review of Ford Bros. Circus last spring, as it passed thru Texas enroute to a long season of stands including a tour of Alaska. I was anxious to see how the new top and the show had weathered the milage as it was heading back to it's quarters.

Two days ago on Nov. 6, we drove down to LaGrange to catch the matinee. This is the town that was famous for "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." That is now gone and the famed Sheriff died a couple of weeks ago.

As we arrived we were held up at a crossing for a local parade to pass. The fair was on. Near the end of the parade, here came three of Ford Bros. elephants, managed by Turtle Benson, along with the circus sound car.

We soon were on the lot at the fairgrounds where a carnival was also playing.

The red and white top still looked beautiful on the lot. On closer look, we noted a few minor rips and holes, which can easily be repaired in quarters and it will be fine for another season.

The baby African male bull, which was flown to the show in Alaska, was on the lot. The other three bulls soon returned to the lot.

We were greeted by Gopher Davenport and Turtle Benson, and made to feel at home. This was the day before closing.

In the tent, things looked a bit different. The arena was set near the back, in the cen-

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ter of the tent, rather than at one end. The flying act rigging was shifted to the opposite side of the tent. Gone was the canned music and present was Buddy Manley, organist.

Harry Locker, who had supervised the bulls, worked the cats and bears, had been recently injured and had to leave the show. Therefore, the lion act was worked by Gopher Davenport, and the bear and elephant acts were eliminated. Gone were Wally Eastwood and his mother, Chona, but added were the fine acts of Victor and Linda Flores, which included dogs, cloud swing

(Continued on Page 14)

## Show Dates

Brickle's Wonderland Cir.  
Nov. 22 Blackville, SC  
23 Williston  
24 Cope

Carden-Johnson  
Nov 19-21 Springf'd, Mo.  
23-28 Hammond, Ind

Holiday Hippodrome  
Nov 22 Charleston, SC  
23 Augusta, Ga.  
27 Attalla, Ala.  
28 Dothan

Mahia Temple Shrine Circ.  
Nov. 10-14 Miami, Fla.

No Elephant Circus  
Nov 27 Rochester, NY

Pickle Family Circus  
Dec 1-4 San Fran., Calif.

Polack Bros. Circus  
Nov 13-14 Raleigh, NC

Ringling-Barnum - Blue  
Nov 17-28  
E. Rutherford, NJ

Roberts Bros. Circus  
Nov 24-28 The Fair at  
Martin County, Fla.

### --- OTHER DATES ---

Disney Great Ice Show  
Nov 23-Dec 5 Chicago, Ill.

Disney World on Ice  
Nov 23-28 Des Moines,  
Iowa

Int'l Auto Show  
Nov 20-28 San Fran. Ca.

Royal Hanneford Circus  
Nov. 22-28 New Orleans,  
La.

### --- MAGIC ---

Magic Book Fair  
Nov 27 Oakland, Calif.

Pf. Miller-Magic Time USA  
Nov 22 Keokuk, Iowa  
23 Centerville  
24 Mt. Pleasant  
26 Washington  
27 Ft. Madison  
28 Peoria, Ill.

## Samantha



## Progress?

Because of my health problems and the fact that the Circus Report is running so late, we are not going to actively seek Christmas Greeting ads and other such material.

It is hoped that with this issue we will soon caught up, but we cannot guarantee that at the present time.

Several complications and related problems seem to have developed since coming home and it is going to take time to resolve all of these and then get back to a normal routine.

... Don Marcks

Gosh! I thought we'd be off for Thanksgiving and then I could be at home.

However, this turkey dinner is pretty good and there is a Holiday spirit on the lot. So, it's not all bad.

Hope that each and every one of you are having a nice Thanksgiving Day and will enjoy a good weekend as well.

# PEOPLE

GENE and DORIS McDonald recently ran into PAUL PUGH (now a tour director) in Reno where they were all at the Circus Circus Hotel. Later they also had a chance to visit with LILLIAN LEWIS, of Redding, Calif., who was also in Reno.

FRANK DEAN, western performer, dashed off to the Orient this month, with plans to celebrate Thanksgiving Day in Hongkong. He expects to be performing and touring in the Orient for several weeks.

# PEOPLE

"SIMPLEWITZ" (Kevin Brooking) has just completed a long and pleasant season with *Circus Hassani* in England. He appeared on British TV, and newspapers. During Nov. he appeared with Billy Smart's Super Circus and then he'll be walking on stilts and clowning with *Circus Krone* for Christmas.

JOE and LINDA REED are the proud parents of a baby boy - Joshua Ian Reed - born Oct. 22nd. The new arrival weighed in at 7

lbs. 11 oz.

CAROLINE QUETHERA and BEVERLY ROYAL will debut their new cradle act with the Sally Chipperfield Circus (Christmas Show at Bingley Hall), Dec. 15th to Jan. 5. JIM ROYAL will serve as the show's ringmaster/announcer.

JOHNNY FULGHUM recently visited the Royal Hanneford Circus where he enjoyed visiting with TOMMY HANNEFORD, and JOHN McCONNELL.

## Doing OK

Brickle's Wonderland Circus has scored hefty houses this season with concessions about 25% ahead of last year. Walterboro, Laurens, Manning and Lake City have been the winners thus far.

Sponsors are generous in their praise of the performance, "the best in years" which is featuring Grinn and Barrett, casting; Annie and Her Soldier; The Bakers, perch (Vicki and Gary); Ming Wong, hair hang; Carlo, head balancing; Bill Brickle's Poodles, Yum Yum, unicycle and contortion.

David Belcher, a newcomer, is doing an excellent job in handling clowning and the clown numbers.

Also appearing in the show is Lee Fong with Oriental illusions. Brickles handles the ringmaster's job and manages the show, while all performers are contracted to help with the concessions.

The show is booked into January with the tentative closing now set for Jan. 22 at Orangeburg, SC. In all some 19 new dates have aided the show's upswing.

## Oktober fest

by *GLENN WELLER*

The Weller Family presented an Oktoberfest program for a church benefit in Oakland, Calif. The one hour show included an Echo Harmonica Duet, Button box accordion group, Schuhplattler dancers, Swiss yodeler, Alp Horn, Russian Cossack Dance troupe, and an acrobatic dance.

After several "Ein Prosens" Paul Knauer, a senior former circus performer amazed the audience with his "startling" feats of strength and free headstand on top of a giant beer stein. He physically is a carbon copy of the "Mr. Clean" commercial person.

The entire production was backed with two accordion players and the full cast wore authentic German costumes.

---

The Royal Lipizzan Show presented one performance at the Civic Center in Wheeling, W. Va., on Nov. 7th.

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## Attention

The originally scheduled birthday party honoring the Master Clown, Mr. Lou Jacobs, has been indefinitely postponed due to Mr. Jacobs recent surgery.

Circus performers and friends are still encouraged to send birthday greetings to Lou at either of the following addresses:

Lou Jacobs, c/o Lou Jacobs Family Tent No. 139, P. O. Box 1386, Stone Mountain, Ga. 30086

Or: Lou Jacobs, c/o Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus Red Unit, P. O. Box 1528, Venice, Fla. 33595.

## PEOPLE

**GEOFFREY HANSEN**, escape artist, is presently touring in Indonesia, which will be followed by dates in Manila and Honolulu.

## Opening Set

James M. Cole will open his Cole All-Star TV Circus at Williamsport, with a three day engagement (Jan. 10, 11, 12) at the Scottish Rite Auditorium. This is the 45th annual tour of the show and the tour is expected to run about 12 weeks.

Some of the acts already set for the upcoming tour are: The Amazing Arlise, an aerial double cradle; Billy Martin, announcer; The Walkers, high unicycles; John 'Egg Roll' Kane, clown; Miss Lee Walker and Cherrie, aerialists.

## Mail Returned

The Post Office has returned Circus Reports addressed to the following people:

Jim Hand  
Bob Jones  
John Posty

Gyula Urszini  
Bob Grimes

## HOTLINE

Oct. - A Krone Circus elephant being led into the Los Alcazares arena in Murcia, Spain, knocked down its trainer, Felix Kedge, of West Germany, and stomped him to death. His wife, Lucia, was injured when she tried to stop the elephant. The animal was shot and killed by local civil guards.

## PEOPLE

DOUG ASHTON, CHRIS BRICKER, JOHNNY DAY, STEVE LaPORTE and TOMMY MADDEN along with MARK YERKES are featured in a clown sequence for the film "Magic Journeys," which premiered in October at Disney's new Epcot Center in Florida. The film, produced by Disney and directed by Murray Lerner, is done in state-of-the-art 3-D and shown at the Kodak Pavilion.

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## PEOPLE

LANCE BURTON, "The Monarch of Mystery" is featured in the Tropicana's "Folies Bergere" show in Las Vegas.

JOHN RAMIREZ, magician, is featured at the Las Vegas Inn & Casino where he offers both close-up and stage magic.

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# PEOPLE

CHRIS BRICKER, his stepson Chris (13 yrs.) and his son, Noah (2 yrs.) were featured in a September tabloid layout in the San Diego Union. The article was titled "A Family of Clowns." It had a full-page spread of color photos of the three in wardrobe and make-up. The Associated Press, in early October, carried a photo and caption of Bricker and his sons, titled "In Dad's Footsteps."

## FORD BROS. (Continued)

and high wire.

Jack Gobble, supt., had left the show to return home.

We had great visits on the lot with Snooks (Plunkett) Swain, who lives in LaGrange, Fred Icke (CFA, Victoria, Tex.) and "Termite" Davenport, brother of Gopher, who is presently living in San Antonio.

From all appearances, the show had a good season, and all seemed to enjoy the Alaskan tour.

## Special Show

The "Chills & Thrills Halloween Spooktacular," produced by Norbu, Inc., was well received at the New Orleans, La., Municipal Auditorium.

Line-up included: J. P., warm-up; Maurico & Julie, balancing over the ladder; Kents, hand balancing; Great Huston, magic; Vicquinas, risley and teeterboard; Intermission.

J. P., rocket gag; Aguilers, perch pole; The Drougetts, juggling; Claytons, whips and rope spinning; Great Huston, illusions and the Almost Human Gorilla, the original Norbu.

Kent Clayton served as Master of Ceremonies and music was provided by Lee Reynolds at the organ.

J. P. was a surprise asset to the show. He made numerous appearances in front of the curtain, getting many laughs while allowing for smooth prop changes. By the end of the show he was a favorite of young and old alike.

The high caliber show was produced on

## Thanx

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the stage and has been rescheduled again for 1983.

## PEOPLE

ELLI FELDMANN, former Ringling star, whose first American trouping was on the John Robinson Show, is the daughter of Theodore Schroeder, wild animal trainer and the widow of Slivers Johnson, and later married to Heinrich Feldmann, resides near ART 'Doc' MILLER's home. They frequently get together for gab-fests. Elli would enjoy hearing from friends in care of Ashmur Publications, Starke, Fla.

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## Model Circus

Recent visitors to Jim Cole's Miniature Circus exhibit at the Colonial Mall in Orlando, Fla., were Ben and Vickie Rossi and their 5 year old son, Ryan.

Ben, who was a wild west trick rider with several circuses, is now a production manager for the Polynesian show at Walt Disney World. Vickie is a daughter of Oscar and Marion Cristiani, and is a part time model. She recently portrayed "Mae West" in a TV commercial.

The Rossi's have another son, Ben, Jr., who is a student at the University of Florida.

## In the mail

from CHARLES RUBEN

I found your mention of the noted Convict ship "Success" of much interest, inasmuch as "Success" gave the late Harry Houdini considerable publicity when that prison vessel visited New York City some

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six decades ago, or so.

Houdini, on a challenge, escaped from one of the cells and dove overboard - the only human ever to do so, as per the log.

Such vessels, by the way, are part of the sordid chapters of history, including the slave trade that played such a great role in U. S. history as well.

# Hoxie Bros.

by GORDON TAYLOR

In the decades since Hoxie Tucker launched his first brave little circus (he was 33 yrs. old then, the year was 1943) scores of other circuses have come and gone, closed and busted. Almost alone, Tucker has somehow survived where so many others have failed. For 1982, in what must be the 72nd year of his life, Tucker trouped the 39th edition of the show as the longest continuous owner of any American circus. Still brave, still unique, the 1982 Hoxie Bros. Circus is not so small at all and is filled with wonder.

The addition of circus *Ancienne Noblesse*, Mr. John Herriott, and the coming of age of Bill Cramer's now breath-taking cat act are two major reasons why Hoxie Bros. Circus closes 1982 with an even stronger show than the bill that opened the season.

John Herriott appears twice. First, just before intermission with a traditional dog and pony review. Using five poodles and one pony, the stylish and fast moving act is climaxed with a crowd pleasing five-dog long-mount. Later, astride a high school horse named 'Apache Bandellero,' Herriott gives a beautifully executed equestrian display. In addition, Mr. Herriott appears to know everything in the world about the staging of classic circus skills with intelligence, dignity and showmanship. His act was greeted with frequent and emphatic applause by the rural audience.

The big story on the Hoxie lot has to be the development of trainer Bill Cramer into a patent star. Who, these days, would make a living stepping into a cage of lions and tigers? The answer, in Bill Cramer, is a publicist's dream: a tireless, middle America farm boy; so decent, so all-American, he could have been named Dwight Eisenhower and could do the act in a red plaid shirt and Levy's.

How does a person start a tiger act? Cramer bought the acts with a credit card, a true son of the eighties. Not from a circus family, never having worked with any circus before, at the age of 27, Cramer managed to get himself employed and undertook the formidable business of training, feeding, transporting, managing and presenting a lion and tiger act.

Cramer's appearance is more Fort Worth

than Las Vegas. He wears no gold chains. His hair is dark blond. No Paroxide. No tattoos. His diction is good, his voice is easy and deep, his subject - verb agreement is perfect, and he would be fine on the Johnny Carson show. Think of Wayne Franzen's kid brother.

Ringmaster Gary Holveck introduced the act, "In the huge steel arena, a mixed group of Royal Bengal Tigers . . . and Nubian lions! Untamed! Snarling Jungle Fury! Trained and presented by WILD BILL Cramer."

That approach concerned him. "Snarling Jungle Fury!" Cramer repeated the words like a disease. "You don't suppose anyone believes that any more, do you?" he asked. What he'd like to do is just what he'd done back at the zoo. "Hug them some. Pull them around by their tail. Let them do a few leaps. Nice stuff, like Gunther does. And they want 'Snarling Jungle Fury!'"

So he wore a gun and there was even a Clyde Beatty style bentwood chair in the cage too. And, there was the act. Five tricks. To say that the act was polished, back in April, would be a gross exaggeration.

The three lions had come from Lion Country Safari. "One of them," Cramer had said, "is pretty inbred. I'm not sure he's exactly right in the head. The tigers are O.K. One of them is a lot brighter than the other."

Now, after six months, much has changed. The chair and the gun are both gone. Gone, too, are the three people with poles who worked outside the cage in April. Cramer wears a white suit and white trousers with high black boots, not unlike Dave Hoover. An imitation leopard vest is an odd contrast to the cats natural beauty.

And the act? Wonderful! It's not just a matter of the cats knowing the tricks now. And it's not just the new stuff. Yes, there's the obligatory leap through the Butane loop now. Sit-ups now too. Although the "giant steel arena" is quite small - it is, I believe, the same cage in which Michael Cecere worked two lions in 1978 - Cramer manages to have three cats circling the cage, running, leaping at the same time, a spectacular sequence. For sheer goose pimples, the moment Cramer styles between two lions - right in there between the whiskers - is visual dynamite and probably as exciting

(Continued on Next Page)

## HOXIE BROS. (Continued)

as anything in the act.

What hasn't changed is the open rapport Cramer seems to have with his cats. Cramer smiles a lot while he's working. He jumps and grins and plays around and winks and "interacts" with the cats. He's clearly having a great time - it scares hell out of us.

As the act concludes, only one last tiger remains in the arena. Not, thank heaven, because he wants the trainer to say "please" What the tiger wants - and gets - is applause. If you guessed this works, you're right. Seconds later, as he emerges from the cage, Cramer is greeted with a near ovation.

All those USDA regulations of the last few years did not come out of a political vacuum. If Americans, these days, see working with animals as a special trust, then to the great extent that he personifies the sensitivities of the eighties, Bill Cramer must be regarded as a showman of very significant potential.

On the midway I asked Cramer about the "clawing" mentioned by Charlie Campbell in his newsletter.

"Not in the ring. No," Cramer said.

Loading the truck one of the tigers had his paw out of the cage and his claws were out. "I'm not sure what he was thinking," Cramer said, "or if he even meant to do it. Usually, I get out of the way pretty fast."

It was true, "the cats are larger now. I thought the act would be better if they looked bigger. They've been eating pretty well this year. We've added a few things to the act. And we're working on some stuff that's not ready to go in yet."

As we stood talking at the edge of the midway a large, darkly clad figure materialized.

"Good evening, young man," the figure said softly.

"Good evening, Mr. Tucker," Cramer responded.

It was a moment, that late September night, when Tucker might well have felt good about his judgement. No question about it, he had been right about the farm boy who wanted to be a tiger trainer. Six months ago it was all judgement, tonight his audience had seen a world class act that would honor any circus.

## Circus Display

by DON SANDMAN

The Center of Science and Industry, 280 East Broad St., Columbus, Ohio, opened a Collection of Circus Memorabilia on Nov. 5. The exhibit is scheduled to run thru October of 1983.

Circus Models in the exhibit are on loan from the collections of Belford South, of Dayton, Ohio, and Albert Conover, of Xenia, Ohio.

In addition to the circus models, a colorful collection of Circus Posters is also on display, loaned by Fred Pfening, Jr.

The Center of Science and Industry held a Continental Breakfast Reception at 10 a.m. on Nov. 5th, with all Circus Fans and Model Builders present to kick-off the exhibit.

The Center is a private non-profit organization, sponsored by the Franklin County Historical Society.

## In Memoriam

HENRY M. COGERT (81) died on Sept. 28th, and is survived by his wife, Jacy (Collier) Cogert, residing in Margate, Fla.

Henry was a former vaudeville star, headlining throughout the country as part of the team of Cogert and Motto. He was also a popular MC, especially during the 1930's thru the 1950's, and acted as "office MC" for George Hamid, Sr. for many years.

Henry and Jacey had their own office in Boston, the Jacy Collier Agency and produced shows for parks, fairs, circuses and numerous other events. They handled many name attractions and secured dates for literally thousands of circus and novelty acts over the years.

It's an American success story. And why not? As he stands alone silhouetted against the Georgia sky, one realizes that, far more than for many men, the American Success Story is something Mr. Hoxie Tucker knows well indeed.

# From Florida

by MARJORIE J. HACKETT

Two typographical errors appeared in my column (Oct. 25, issue of CR) which need a little clarification:

Bill Kay who lives in Sarasota is the long-time producer of Morocco Shrine Temple Circus at Jacksonville. Bill Kourmpates who lives in St. Petersburg (former high act performer) was at Jacksonville on Shrine business!

So now, you who know them, know that they are two different "Bills" but to add to the I. D. story, both are married to former performers.

Also, the Imperial Shrine met in Orlando, not in October as printed but in June!

Considering who is without error and considering how far apart Dunedin, Fla., and El Cerrito, Cal., are, we think it all comes out very well indeed, plus Don Marcks has health problems and somebody other than himself doing the printing at present. We are just happy to know it gets printed at all because there would be very little circus news without this paper.

Current rumor out of Monaco is that due to the untimely death of Princess Grace, that there will be no circus this winter

Chicago, Ill., used to be a hub of activity for all show people and many circus acts lived in the area, the old Billboard magazine was published out of there; Harry Atwell, one of the best photographers of circus people lived there and one could often see the late E. K. Fernandez in the lobby of the Sherman Hotel. Nostalgia comes with memories of "Super Circus," "Bozo the Clown's Show," etc (Yes, Herbie Weber was there too) . . . as well as Mary Hartline, "Scampi" Dobritch and many more.

If any producer revives that Super Circus Show, I'm going to apply for the role of "Mary Hartline," its taken a long time but my hair finally turned "silver".

David's first chimp "Suzy" came from Ed and Darlene Sellek who lived at Eola, near Aurora and Rockford and owned the famous "Jinx" on Super Circus. Suzy, who ice skated, appeared in a long running ice show at the Conrad Hilton Hotel in Chicago. Murray Hill debuted his cute chimp

(Continued on Next Page)

## FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

"Chatter" around this 1956-57 time of which I write.

I think a letter from "Wimpey" Bernard Hiles, a clown friend made me think of those days. "Wimpey" who lived at Murray Hill's place in Burlingame, Wisc., now resides at Lyons, Wisc., Box 64, zip is 53148. He'd like to hear from you as he is still recovering from his knee surgery.

Acts used to practice at the old Performers' Club on North Clark Street and often ate at "The Corner Room" and lived at the Raleigh, Croydon or Devonshire . . . any of you out there who played the Mid-west will remember.

Are you a fan of Gilda Radnor of Saturday Nite Live? Gilda grew up in Detroit in a small theatrical hotel owned by her late parents, right off Woodward Avenue. Small wonder that she is such a versatile performer, she had a chance to watch some of the best! Comic Joe Piscopo of the same show has an uncle who lives here at Westwind II, where we reside.



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Clyde Beatty will close soon and we plan to see it at Ocala on Oct. 31st. Our next show will be Hanneford for the shrine, New Orleans, Thanksgiving week . . . Royal Hanneford will also do the 1983 Moslem Shrine Circus, Detroit, March 11-April 27 and the 1983 Houston Shrine date, April 28-May 8.

The Coronas Family will do Sahib Shrine Circus, Jan. 6-8 at Sarasota's Roberts Sports Arena. First circus for this is one of the new est Shrine Temples. The family plans a move to a new winterquarters from Myaaka, Fla., to near Bradenton or to a facility near Atlanta, Ga. They have also purchased a tent and it looks like a busy year ahead of them.

Carson & Barnes will go into the barn at Hugo, Okla., on Nov. 1st (learned this from agent Jesse Jessen over the phone) and plan to go out again in March.

Kirby Grant (Sky King) makes frequent appearances around Florida to promote the hiring of older workers. Grant who underwent a triple by-pass heart surgery was a long-time public relations man for Sea World of Orlando. He also travelled with the circus.

## FROM FLORIDA (Continued)

Concept Inc.'s of Clearwater, Fla., has developed an "E. T. finger light" which is the exclusive product of Knickerbocker Toy Co. Inc. of New Jersey. We don't know if it will be sold at circuses but its going to be a "hot" item in toy stores selling for \$2.50 to \$3.00!

Circus Alleluia (Outreach of Calvary Temple) Tampa, Fla., has October shows in Brandon and Winter Park. Clown Ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Clearwater recently gave a history of the art of mime and a demonstration of clown make up for residents of the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch. Their appearance was sponsored by Eta Psi chapter of Beta Sigma Phi. These groups are religiously oriented and do not accept salaries.

Camden Community News (No. Minneapolis, Minn.) did a feature story about Tim Davison and family and their interest in the circus. Tim and Linda and their two children live in our former Minneapolis home and recently entertained about 80 neighbors and Circus Fans in the enclosed yard.

Tim's mom, Elinore, played the calliope owned by the senior Davisons. Tim is State Chairman for Minnesota CFA. Brother Pat who juggles professionally was featured.

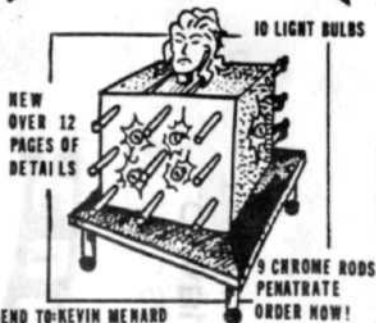
That brought back memories of many such gatherings at "Sleepy Hollow" our country home, when we hosted the CFA and Tim and Pat and Scott were small kids doing their acts on our patio. Elinore would hit a few notes on their calliope and kids came running from all directions.

Tim, who is a Minneapolis policeman worked with the crew at the "Great Chicago Circus Parade" on Memorial Day.

They were fun times and we are happy to know the "kids" grew up to continue their interest in and love of the best entertain-

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ment in the world, the Circus. Wish we could have been there with them!

## PEOPLE

JEANETTE and ALBERT RIX will have their polar bear act in Japan for a Dec. 10 opening, for a 8½ week engagement.

MEL SILVERLAKE will be taking out a one-night tented show with a Western motif, opening in January. JIM KERNAN will have the concessions. Both men are currently working phone promotions in front of the show, which opens in the Rio Grande Valley, then heads into the southeast after leaving Texas.