



4th Year

September 22, 1975

Number 38

R - B Scores in Fresno

It was a virtual "turnaway date" for Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit at Fresno, Calif. (Sept. 3-7), which must have exceeded the record established in that city last year by the Blue Unit. The circus received good reception in this valley town throughout its engagement and patrons gave standing ovations to the show's Bicentennial spec and once even for the finale.

SHOW ACTS

Acts working at the "Old Chicago Mall" between Sept. 2nd and Sept. 8th included:

Mr. Bell, Loreli, Joyce Rice, Trio Angelos, Arturo Segura, Veno Venito, The Walters, Cleo, Rosell Troupe, Antonnuci chimps, The Burketts, Segreara Trio, Ms. April, Crazy Sailors, Bobby-Jane Duo, Ross-Martin flyers, and the Lang Family.

Announcing chores are handled by Saul Shafton and Mario Alberti.

The show's final performance at Fresno was dedicated to Eddie Howe, long-time circus pressman, for his many years of service on Ringling-Barnum and other shows. Eddie, his wife Megan, and their daughter Karen were seated as guests of honor in front of the bandstand. Karen took part in the production numbers and literally stole the show.

The circus was down and all loaded by 11 p.m. and the Southern Pacific started moving the train out of town at 1 a.m. The train and all its equipment are

(Continued on Page 15)

Replacement Act Named

Gary Alan and his African lions were signed in a last minute deal to tour with the Voorheis Bros. Circus which opened its fall tour in Michigan on Sept. 10th. The circus will be playing 23 cities within the state of Michigan, performing in many high school gyms.

The lion act replaces the Stoyanoff triple bar act, which was originally signed to travel with the circus. The Stoyanoffs were forced to cancel their contract after one of their troupe was seriously injured as the result of a fall.

PEOPLE

TIMO, the Clown, played the Woodland (Calif.) Fair during the latter part of August.

OTTO BROSINI'S wife fell from her trapeze during a performance at Detroit (Mich.) and broke her hip.

TAD TOSKY, retired clown, was a guest of the Carson & Barnes Circus when that show played in the Chicago area.

DON HEASTON played bass horn in the RBBB band at Fresno (Calif.) with the Red Unit.

ROBIN BISHOP was pictured on the front page of the Walla Walla (Wash.) Union-Bulletin on Sept. 4th. She was pictured during her tightwire act.

EDDIE DULLUM, clown, is at home this season caring for his aging mother and step-father.

PETER LUVAS recently fell during his Globe of Death act and suffered severe burns on his leg.

PHILIPPE PETIT, wire walker

At this time, says show owner Col. Bill Voorheis, there is no indication when the injured performer will be able to return to the circus ring. It is possible, he added, that the near tragic event could end the career of the Stoyanoffs as a circus act trio.

was featured by the AP wire service when he walked a wire over the audience at the Superdome in New Orleans (La.)

ABE GOLDSTEIN veteran circus clown and former Keystone Kop, was featured in the magazine "In The Know" for July 1975

DON NOTHDORFT, Polack ringmaster, visited the RBBB Red Unit during its date at Fresno.

LARRY JOYNER, formerly with Circus Vargas and Kaye Cont'1 Circus, has joined the elephant department at the Nugget Casino in Sparks, Nevada.

Hill's Great London Circus

by NORMAN WILBERT

Murray Hill, a former nightclub entertainer, organized his own circus on a 20 acre farm just south of Burlington, Wisc. Ever since the summer of 1971, Mr. Hill has been booking his circus acts at county fairs, Shrine circuses, plus Jaycees and Kiwanis organizations. Future dates are planned for Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, and of course Wisconsin.

Murray Hill got into the animal business in 1955 when he and his wife Denise added a chimp to their night club song and dance act. Next Hill purchased three baby elephants and soon thereafter were traveling all over the state. His twin sons, Alan and Adam (9 yrs.) also travel with the circus in the summer months, and present tumbling routines and a dog act.

All year long the Hill farm is crowded with trucks, cars and trailers of all sorts, as well as bears, monkeys, ponies, elephants and even lions. It is a mecca for show folks passing through the area, a place for them to rest and prepare for the next move.

On Sunday, Aug. 31st, the Hill's Circus performed at the fairgrounds at Plymouth, Wisc., before some 3,000 people packed into the grandstand. The 1½ hr. performance was warmly received and highlighted by several feature acts. These included:-

Carmen de Molino - tight wire
 Marcey Begary - trapeze
 Hill's ponies/bear/elephants

A LOST LION

A pet lion with a finicky appetite was apparently stolen from its home in a Los Angeles (Calif.) Auto Wrecking Yard last week. The animal, says Mrs. Florence Ennis, was missing last Tuesday when we came in to work.

According to Mrs. Ennis the lion, named Baby, is 2 years old and weighs 300 lbs. Whoever took her, she added, will find that Baby gets cranky and could be dangerous if it isn't fed its special diet.

The lion, it seems, prefers to eat white albacore tuna and moist canned dog food. She picked up the preference as a result of work in cat and dog food TV commercials.

The Lang Troupe - chimps

In his closing remarks at the end of the show Murray Hill asked the audience to write to their Senators and Congressmen, asking them to vote against the HR-70 Bill that, if passed, will ban animal acts from appearing with circuses of the future.

CARSON & BARNES

... by
DON SANDMAN

When the Carson & Barnes Circus played Aurora, Ill. (Sep. 5th) they had to set up on a two level lot about five miles from town, on Highway 50. Circus fans visiting the show that day included Gale Ahren, Don Sandman and John Brater.

On the lot's lower level the show had set up its pony ride, ticket wagon, marquee, ape show and menagerie. The big top was on the upper level.

It was a dusty and confusing set-up, but the show's elephants were having a great time tossing the dirt around. However things changed quickly when a storm blew in shortly after the matinee got underway. The gusty winds and driving rain hit all of a sudden and actually lifted one of the center poles, but fortunately it came down in the same position. It didn't take long to turn that ground into a muddy mess.

The program has was presented before the storm struck included:-

Open Spec - parade of performers
 Capt. Donald Carr - wild animals
 Loop the Loop aerial number
 Capt. Don Carr - lion/elephant
 The Clowns
 Juggling and Tightwire numbers
 Feature Spec - Circus Trip
 The Oscarians - risley number
 Harvest Moon Ballet with 8 girls
 and Magdeline aerialist
 Pony and horse drills - were
 just getting started when the
 storm struck.

Just as quick as it started the wind quieted down and folks started to leave, so the Morales Teeterboard act was brought in. Then the Flying Azteca act went on, but they were unable to work because of the wet rigging.

We left the lot about 7 p.m. and it was drizzling then, but probably would have been all OK for the night show.

This year's show staff:

D. R. Miller - President
 Ted Bowman - General Manager
 Geary Byrd - General Supt.
 James Crawford - Eques. Director
 Emil Hahn - bandmaster
 Johnny Richards - menagerie supt
 Kenny Ikert - elephant supt.

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TRIBUTE TO TAJANA

..... by BILLY BARTON

In January of this year, Struppi Hanneford (nee Gertrude Zimmerman) was elected to the Circus Hall of Fame. An honor she richly deserves.

Struppi's first appearance in the USA was with Mills Bros. Circus, arriving from Germany with her partner and mentor, Trude Luvass. Their arrival did not go unnoticed. By winter this ingenious team was featured on the Orrin Davenport winter dates where Struppi met and eventually married Tommy Hanneford.



It took a year for Tommy and Struppi to frame the act known as Princess Tajana, the Indian Goddess of Flight, but one appearance by the classically beautiful and technically brilliant Struppi to lay the cornerstone of a legend that has gained in stature over the years

Perfection - it is said - is unattainable. If this be true, then Tajana has flirted conspicuously with the unattainable. From her first majestic appearance astride a great white horse until her feet brushed the earth like a feather, Tajana held audience and performer enthralled with a performance so flawless and fluid as to be tinged with enchantment. She was, indeed, a

goddess, vibrating to the music of the gods.

Tajana became the idol of every aspiring starlet who could hang from a trapeze, and the most imitated artist of her time. We were inundated with a multitude of silhouetted Tajanas, none of whom became successful. Tajana was uniquely Tajana and, with the single exception of the effervescent La Norma, already a star in her own right, all other female single trapeze acts were run-of-the-mill.

Imitation may be flattering. It is also an irritant. Tajana grew disillusioned with the imitations her art had spawned and decided to create a single high wire act. One impressive appearance was made on national television when tragedy struck our goddess - making her mortal after all.

During a rehearsal of the riding act Struppi missed a fork jump, jamming her shoulder a-

(Continued on Page 13)

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo

Sep. 24-28 Scotts Valley,
American Freedom Train Calif
Sep. 23 Denver, Colo.

Beatty-Cole Circus

Sep. 23 Lexington, Ky.
24 Danville
25 Knoxville, Tenn.
26 Enroute
27 Birmingham, Ala.
28 Phenix City

Beck's Circorama

Sep. 22 Harriman, Tenn.

Hubert Castle Circus

Sep. 22 Gallup, N.M.
24 Yuma, Ariz.

Circus Vargas

Sep. 24-29 Worcester, Mass

Dailey Bros. Circus

Sep. 22 Basin, Wym.
23 Lovell
24 Powell

Gatti-Charles Amer. Cont'l

Sep. 23 Linden, Wash.

George-Matthews Circus

Sep. 23 Marion, Ohio

Hanneford Circus

Sep. 27 Kingston, N.Y.

Hanneford Family Circus

Sep. 22-23 Jonesboro, Ark
25 Cape Girardeau,
27-28 Ripley, Ten. Mo.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep. 22 Haddonfield, N.J.
23 Sicklerville
24 Deptford
25 Egg Harbor
26 Pennsville
27-28 Baltimore, Md.

Int'l All Star Circus

Sep. 22 Huntington, W.Va.
23 Charleston

Wm. Kay Circus

Sep. 27-28 Jacksonville,
Fla.

Emmett Kelly, Jr.

Sep. 27 Oakland, Calif.
28 Concord

King Bros. Circus

Sep. 22 Elizabethtown, Tenn
23 No. Wilkesboro, N.C
24 Lenoir

Panamerican Circus

Sep 26-Oct 5 New York, NY

Polack Bros. Circus

Sep. 27-28 Mobile, Ala.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Sep 23-Oct 5 Detroit, Mich

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Sep. 24-28 Denver, Colo.

Royal Bros. Circus

Sep. 22 Vauxhall, Alta.
23 Coaldale
24 Picture Butte
25 Vulcan
26 Bassamo
27 Hanna
28 Oyear

Royal Lipizzan Show

Sep. 23 Evansville, Ind.
24 Bloomington
25-26 Terre Haute
27-28 Cincinnati, Ohio

Sells & Gray Circus

Sep. 22 Cloverdale, Ind.
23 Spencer
24 Bloomfield

Stebbing Royal European

to Sep. 28 Richmond, Va.

Stebbing Superstars Circus

Sep. 26-28 Branchville, SC

John Strong Circus

Sep. 22 Fallon, Nev.
23 Yerrington
24 Lake Tahoe

ANOTHER HIT FOR KAYE

The strong program offered by the Kaye Continental Circus at San Jose, Calif. (Sept. 13-14) delighted patrons, the sponsors and the local press. All were enthusiastic about the Shrine sponsored circus which featured many acts never before seen in this area.

The circus band, which provided excellent music, was directed by Jack Cervone. The announcing chores were handled by show owner Paul Kaye.

The program featured:-

Ramon - single trapeze



Harriet Beatty - African lions
 The Jordanas - upsidedown cycle
 Clowns - The Birthday Cake
 Judy Jacobs and baby elephant
 Jim Dandy - unicycle/balancing
 Fay's Critters - mixed animals
 Clowns - Levitation
 Johnny's Old Time Leaps
 The Aerial Ballet
 Great De Mille - tightwire
 Clowns - long shirt
 Geronomo - sponge dive
 -- Intermission --

PEOPLE

JOHN MacKAY (Yoho, the Clown) is currently playing show dates in the Chicago schools.

ED and HELEN WILSON recently had their Animal Circus at the Ward Plaza in Winchester, Va.

ELDON DAY, long-time RBBB employee, was recently forced to return to Florida where he was hospitalized for an illness.

The Flying Ramos Troupe
 Clown Walkaround
 Rosaire's Perky Pokes
 Elena Omar - balancing
 The Circus Elephants
 Harold Alzana - high wire
 Patriotic Finale

Clowns with the circus were: Walter Stimax, Mildred Hall, Abe Goldstein, Harold Hall, Jim Parker, Roger Arroyo and Harry Ellis.

Visitors seen during the two day stand included: Jerry Booker, Tom Upton, Larry Pisoni, Russ Tully, Loni Ironberg, and Lloyd Harms.

Cycle Meet

The Unicycling Society of America, Inc. National Unicycle meet, held at Pontiac, Mich. on Aug. 16-17, was the greatest ever in terms of attendance, variety of unicycling activities and the general spirit of friendliness that prevailed.

With two perfect days the races, the group, trick and formation events and the entertainment went off like clockwork.

Bernard Crandall, current president of the USA, Inc. and his Pontiac Unicyclists who sponsored this years National Meet (and garnered a good share of the trophies) are to be congratulated for conducting such a large event so smoothly.

..... William Jenack

HISTORICAL FACT ...

In 1924 the Thomas Atkinson Circus played 11 stands in Hawaii then returned to play the West Coast with a tour that ran from Jan. 19 to Dec. 31st.

Photo Title

The picture on the opposite page was taken in the backyard of the Al G. Barnes-Sells Floto Circus of 1938. The girls posing with the elephants are: Diane Lovett, Evelyn Burns and Edris Hall.

Show Visitors

Recent visitors on the King Bros. Circus lot included: Don Rogers, Hugo Marquardt, The Maine Clown (Frank Hannon) and Frank McKenna.

YEARS AGO

Sells Floto Circus - June 1, 1924
Pittsfield, Mass.

The Sells Floto Circus went through here this morning, going from Boston to Utica.

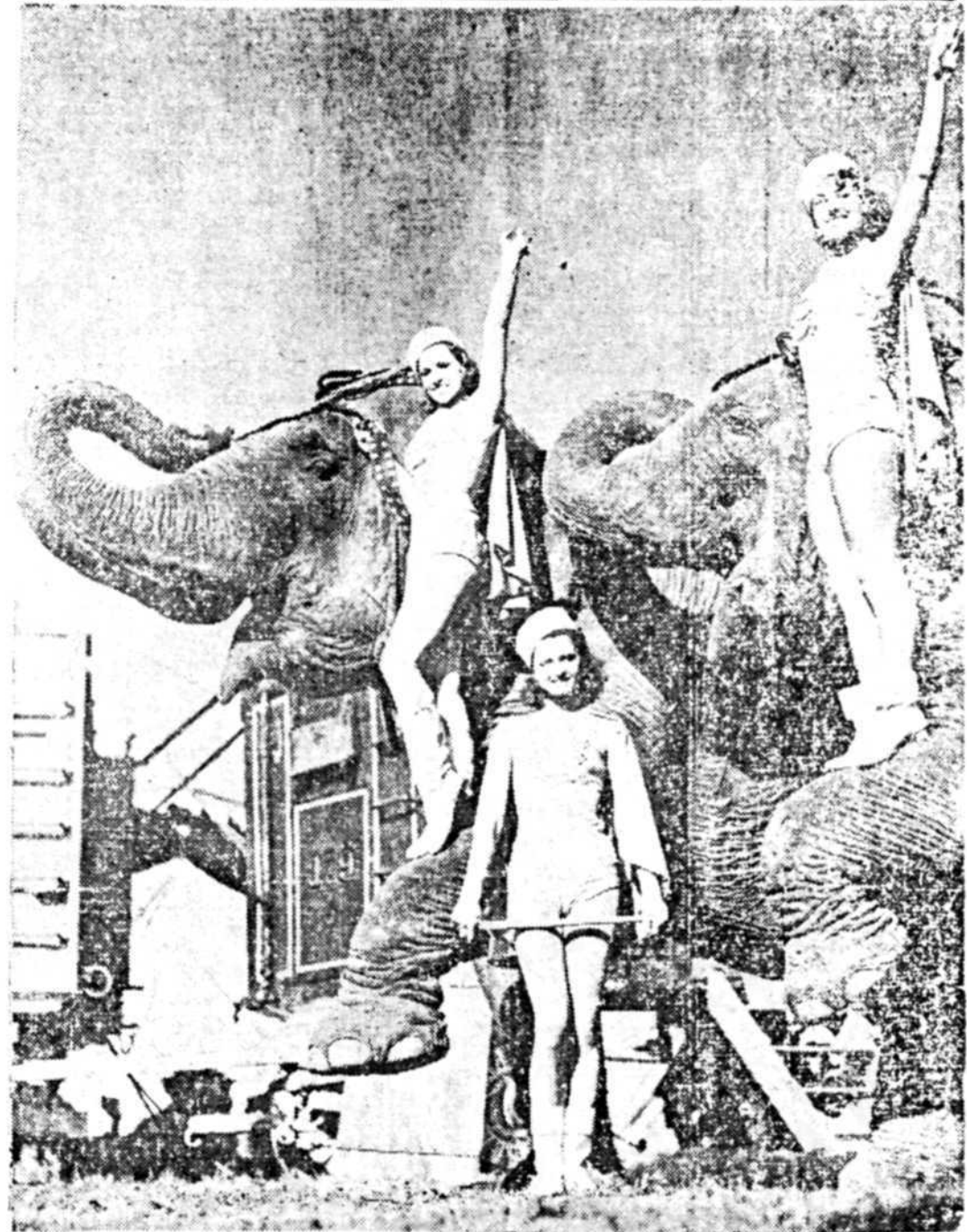
One section went through at 8:30 a.m. consisting of 29 cars while the second section passed through about 10:30 a.m. with ten cars.

In Memoriam

GENE LEWIS, retired circus clown who appeared on most of the major shows and was featured on RBBB for many years, died in Florida on July 2nd.

MRS. LEE (Jessie) SMITH, died Aug. 23 at her home in Rochester, N.Y. of a heart attack. She was a retired clown, having toured with Elmer Jones, G. W. Christy, Sells-Floto and Hagenbeck-Wallace.

CHARLES SIMPSON (80) retired circus man, died in Oakland, Calif. on June 27. He toured with Sells Floto and other shows and was a friend to the Polack Circus for many years.



VEGAS ACTS

A recent quick visit to Las Vegas showed the following acts were being advertised at various hotels in that city.

CIRCUS CIRCUS --

The Flying Michaels
The Charles - unicycles
Seven Endress - teeterboard

MGM GRAND HOTEL --

Jenda Smaha with "Tanya"
Gran Picaso - juggler
Siegfried & Roy - illusions

STARDUST --

Los Aquanitos - trapeze
Erich Brenn - plate spinning
Powers & Robbi - skaters
Luxor Gali Gali - magic

TROPICANA --

Reveen - illusionist
..... Don Covington

the

M&M SHOW

During their annual engagement at the Kentucky State Fair (Louisville) the M&M Circus presented two shows each week day, with three performances on Saturday and Sunday.

The show's program, presented under canvas, featured:-

Jim Douglas - announcer/clown
Eddie & Eddie - trapeze
Gee Gee Engesser - cougar/bulls
The Carlos Duo - perch
Zellmar's liberty pony
Ramon Espano - rola bola
The Cossack elephants
Los O'Bandos - high wire
Vernon Woerner, Don Birdwell, and
Carl Harrell - clowns
Boom Boom Browning - band leader



ROUTES

John Strong Circus (Continued)

Sept. 25 Quincy, Calif.
26-27 Chico
28-29 Oroville

Lewis Bros. Circus

Sept. 22 Allentown, N.J.
24 Bordentown
26 Cliffwood
27 Yardley, Pa.
28 Jackson

.... OTHER ROUTES

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
Sep. 22-27 Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
Sep. 22-27 Anniston, Ala.

James H. Drew Shows
Sep. 22-27 Marietta, Ga.

Foley & Burk Shows
to Sep. 28 Pomona, Calif.
Sep 26-Oct. 4 Bakersfield

Rose City Rides
Sep. 22-27 Sikeston, Mo.

PEOPLE

GLEN and ETHEL HENRY have their animal acts working on a few fall dates in Texas.

FRANK and BERNICE DEAN visited the offices of Circus Report last week enroute to their home in Palm Springs, Calif.

HARRIET BEATTY will be featured on the Houston Shrine Circus next month.

Show Dates

Three theatre dates in New York have been scheduled for Don Francisco's Panamerican Circus, starting this weekend. The event will get underway with a parade on Broadway, which is to be augmented with Bicentennial feature segments.

The circus will present 26 performances at the Beacon theatre (Sept. 26-Oct. 5) with prices scaled from \$1.75 to \$4.50. Since the house has 2,650 seats a \$200,000 gross is possible for the ten day engagement.

Ten performances will be offered at Loew's theatre in the Bronx (Oct. 8-14) and will be followed by seven shows at the Corona Plaza in the Queens (Oct. 17-19).



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Wallenda III

Karl Wallenda, famed circus high wire artist, says he is going back to the circus just as soon as he is well. The 70 year old circus performer underwent a major operation at a Sarasota (Fla.) hospital on Sept. 9th.

A hospital spokesman said Wallenda's operation, performed by a cardio-vascular surgeon, was to correct what is called a bubble in a blood vessel wall.

RBBB SCORES (Continued)

in good shape, looked after by Eddie Ward, a former member of the Flying Wards. He has been in charge of the circus train and its electrical plants for several years.

Acts hailed by patrons as outstanding were Gunther Gebel-Williams, the Carillo Bros., Wolfgang Holzmaier and his daughter Sylvanna. Bandmaster Keith Green cuts the music in real circus style and deserves much credit for his direction and solo trumpet numbers.

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LETTERS

Circus Report is an interesting publication and I enjoy it, especially the way you tell the truth about happenings.

.... Clarence Hastings

The more that I visit with circus people and fans alike the more I find they depend on CR for news of the circus world.

..... Allen Babcock

PEOPLE

PHILLIP MORRIS, illusionist, escaped serious injury when he lost his motorhome in an accident at Richmond, Va. on July 16th.

JIMMY ARMSTORNG's wife Marjorie, recently returned home after a visit to the Mayo Clinic Friends may write her at: P.O. Box 927, Muskegon, Mich. 49443.

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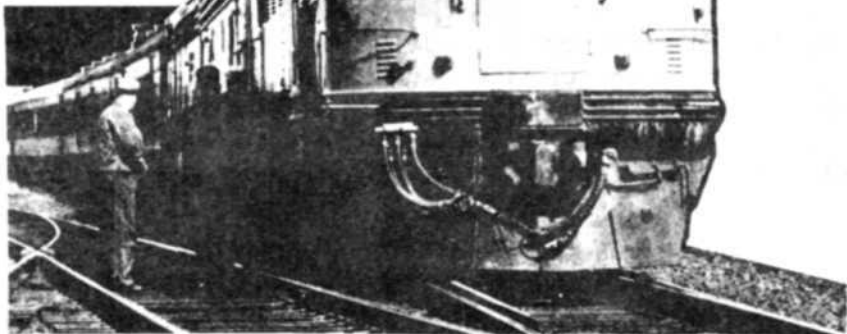
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BY PATRICK C



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Miscellaneous

Members of the Great Y Circus (Redlands, Calif.) recently worked for two shows in the Southern California area.

The Clown Guild of Metro Chicago plans to have some of the Ringling clowns as their guests during the Big One's stay in the Windy City.

Circus Coronas is creating a ten girl Aztec Aerial Ballet around Prince Najvez for their 1976 circus tour.

The Moscow Circus is set to tour important U.S. cities starting late this year.

RBBB's Red Unit had a nice photo spread in the Christian Science Monitor of May 6, 1975.

Madison Square Garden's annual report to stockholders includes a photo of Charley Baumann and Gunther Gebel-Williams.

PEOPLE

ELMER (Chuck) HAYES, who was with Circus Vargas last season, is recovering from a bad stroke suffered early this year. His address is: 3151 Olive Ave., Altadena, Calif. - 91001

PHIL and BONNIE BONTA are handling the clowning chores on King Bros. Circus.

New Attraction

Among the new attractions at Circus World in Orlando (Fla) are the Aerial Coronas which have a pyramid style wire act featuring approximately six people.

Other features include Buckles Woodcock's tricycle riding elephant, a motorcycle act, plus a cage wagon and baggage wagon.

..... Chris Berry

TAJANA (Continued)

gainst the ring curb, injuring it so badly that the high wire act was abandoned. The trapeze act was continued for only a brief time before the flame flickered and died.

But the gods had not yet consigned their goddess to limbo. Today, touched by a new magic, the legend lives, reborn, when Tajana appears, standing on two great horses, triumphant in Roman regalia, to enter a cage full of tigers and one huge African lion, cementing the cornerstone of her legend with a new consistency and a permanent brilliance.

Yes, in January of this year Struppi was elected to the Circus Hall of Fame. It is wondered, however ... is there really a Niche large enough to contain this incredibly talented creature who is truly the Darling of the Gods?