



7th Year

January 23, 1978

Number 4

Film Schedule Set

The filming schedule for Irwin Allen's 20th Century Fox production of "Circus, Circus, Circus" is expected to start next month in Hollywood. The movie, probably to be released late in the year, will be shot almost entirely on the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Just a few months ago it was announced that the circus and film studio had agreed on terms for the use of both show units.

Although it has not been confirmed, generally reliable sources in the circus and film industry report that both the Ringling-Barnum Blue and Red Units will arrive in Hollywood sometime early this year.

Current plans call for the use of everything possible from both units, with the shows to set up on the big 20th Century Fox studio lot.

The finished project is expected to create the days of the Ringling show under canvas, when that show mov-

ed on four trains.

Both the Red and Blue units will move into Hollywood on their own trains, and will be combined for the film work. At the conclusion of the filming both shows will depart for the east to pick up their respective routes.

This means that several show dates will either be pushed back or cancelled for this year. It is not sure if the film work will delay the usual opening of the circus at Madison Square Garden in New York City. This year's all new Blue Unit will be making that date.

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He's Home

Ghostmaster Dr. Silkini (Jack Baker) suffered a severe heart attack on Christmas Eve and was confined to intensive care for several days. By the time this is in print he should be back at his home in Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. Baker was the original creator of the Asylum of Horrors midnight Spook Show with Frankenstein's Monster and Dracula in person, and last toured around the world.

For the past few years Jack had been in semi-retirement. On occasion he worked some weekend dates and just last Halloween he appeared in an off Broadway show called "Passions of Dracula."

During his 40 years of scaring people he had many notable people working for him, such as Glenn Strange, who played Sam, the bartender, in the Gunsmoke TV series. He was a close friend of both Boris Karloff and Bela Lugosi, and on occasion they would pop-up in Jack's shows doing a cameo appearance, recreating the parts that made them famous.

Jack is not only an accomplished illusionist, but he also created many stage effects that are in use today.

He would enjoy hearing from friends. Cards and letters can be sent to: Jack Baker, 3927 Sylvania, Toledo, Ohio - 43623.

Miscellaneous

The Big John Strong Int'l Circus is set to open its 1978 season in March, and plays a series of west coast dates before heading east.

The Hubert Castle Circus opened its 1978 season at Flint, Mich., on Jan. 14th.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530 - Phone: (415) 525-3332.

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In Memoriam

WILLIAM ALLEN STILES (89) believed to be one of the oldest clowns from the original Barnum & Bailey Circus, died at Madison, Tenn., on Dec. 28th. Mr. Stiles started his circus career in 1912 under the name of Willie Davenport, but later used his own name. He retired in 1948.

Mr. Stiles donated his circus collection, including a 150 year old hand-carved Punch and Judy Puppet set to the Cumberland Museum and Science Center in Nashville.

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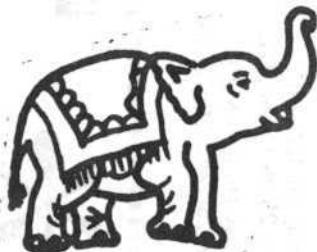
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Show Dates

Hubert Castle Circus
Jan. 23-29 Grand Rapids, Mich.

Cole All Star TV-Circus
Jan. 23 Jersey Shore, Pa.
24 Bellefonte
25 Wingate
26 State College
27 Brockway
28 Brookville

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit
to Jan 30 Miami Beach, Fla.

.... OTHER DATES

Vince Carmen's Razzle Dazzle
Jan. 28 Houmea, La.

Fantasy On Ice
Jan. 26-29 Cornwell, Pa.

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Jan 27-Feb 5 Dallas, Texas

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OPENING NIGHT for Circus Vargas and its 1978 season, which got underway Dec. 30th at Clearwater (Fla) was marred by the high wire poles falling and striking AURELIA HALL who was sitting in the box seats on the short side - directly behind center ring where the rigging was off-set. A steel railroad tie, supporting the deadman, snapped just as the SCHMIDT-ALBULET Duo prepared to climb the poles. A packed house watched in stunned disbelief as the two poles fell in deadly slow-motion to the seating area.

JOHNNY and BETTY ZOPPE (Currently at Circus World), who were sitting next to Aurelia saved her from being killed. Mrs. Hall was taken to the Clearwater Hospital where it was discovered she had a broken leg and pelvis. Aurelia was scheduled for a hip operation this month, and the injury was to the same leg.

Also sitting near Mrs. Hall was ringmaster MIKE GORMAN's father who narrowly escaped being struck by the rigging. Performing in center ring at the time were Susan and Cemon with their troupe of chimpanzees, which they managed to control during the initial panic. CLIFF VARGAS got on the mike, calmed the audience, and the first performance, which started late due to a heavy rain storm and a broken stake-driver, continued to its conclusion.

THE NEWEST edition of Circus Vargas is probably the strongest of its career, featuring an abundance of new talent, 9 new American acts, and a preponderance of young, good-looking people. The first performance ran nearly three hours and has since been trimmed by 30 minutes.

A sandy lot at Tampa (Jan. 2-5) caused a last minute switch to the shopping mall across the street and delayed the second opening night at which Ringling Blue was the "honored guests."

HOXIE GREAT AMERICAN Circus manager underwent open-heart surgery just before Christmas, and PAT ANTHONY had a kidney removed. Both men are "out of the woods" and Pat was seen visiting the Vargas show. Pat plays the Youngstown Aut Mori Grotto Circus in March.

JENNY WALLENDa and **ANDY ANDERSON** tossed a Hollywood Party for Tinsel-town's Twinkies (the stars of The Great Wallendas) at their De Soto Acres home in Sarasota and, despite a COLD night, every one was pitched into the pool with Jenny being the first thrown (which was SOME splash!).

FRAGMENTS: JERRY BEEMAN has remodelled his rocket ship rigging . . . ETHEL JENNIER underwent her face-lift on Jan. 4th at Orlando and is GOR-GEOUS . . . CHARLIE SCHLARBAUM, JERRY and BRIAN MAAS music'd the Stebbings West Palm Beach fair-circus date . . . DIAZ SISTERS to the Great American Circus . . . JOE EDDY, ex-bandmaster for Hoxie will be featured illusionist with JIM NORDMARK's new magic show. Jim spent the holidays in Mexico. . . BONNIE & CLYDE had to cut short their Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus date in Ft. Lauderdale due to the death of Bonnie's father . . . JOE MacMAHON is no longer associated with the Corp., shows, will be with the Hoxie combine . . . BERNIE KALLMAN is part of the Circus Vargas electrical dept. . . JIMMY HALL came down from Trenton (NJ) to be with his mother who is in the Clearwater (Fla) hospital . . . Rumor has it that TREVOR BALE will be with Famous Hunt . . . The HERNANDEZ TROUPE debuted their sensational new ladder routine, supported on young RANDY's shoulders, holding three persons - two brothers and SYLVIA doing a handstand on top. They will be with Castle this season . . . the CARLOS TWINS spent two weeks with Vargas prior to joining Castle. . . WALT KING takes his elephants to Detroit for FLECKLES, then plays dates for GARDEN . . . MARK KAROLY is with the Tommy Hanneford riding act . . .

SNAPSHOTS: DOROTHY and BOBBY YERKES are divorced and Dorothy has returned from a visit to Spain whence she journeyed with her two sons. . . SVEND and LILLI KRISTENSEN are buying the Yerke's Florida property which just happens to border their own . . . GEORGE CORONA is experiencing double vision and may be forced to undergo an operation to correct it. AVA tells me he is now interested in studying law . . . DOREY MILLER, it has been reported, bought the George Matthews Great London Circus. It's been rumored that he is sending a tent to California. . . THE VILLAMS were in Nassau over the Holidays . . . WELDE's BEARS were also caught in the "deep freeze" up North playing Xmas dates . . . BUSTER and HELEN HAIG are really enjoying their Florida retirement . . . JIMMY DOUGLASS will provide ring curbs, lights, backdrops, spec and clown alley for BENTLEY BROS. when it opens in May . . . WALLY NAGHTIN will not split up his 14 bears for a three ring display after all, having been convinced

(Continued on Page 16)

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Holiday Feature

Two Christmas shows played dates here in Indiana during December and offered good programs despite the severe bad weather that swept across the state at that time.

Big John Strong's Santa's Revue Show played at South Bend on Dec. 13th, giving a 7 p.m. performance with Bill Birchfield serving as announcer, while music was provided by Bob and Kay Parker (drums and organ).

The program included: The Jumping Jacks, trampoline; Michael and Pat Wudtke, juggling; Bill Birchfield, magic/illusions; "Smiley" Daly, break-away bike; Intermission and color book pitch; Joe Lemke's chimps; Princess Tanya, gorilla act and Santa Claus.

The American Legion Christmas Party show was presented at Delphi on Dec. 21st, with a 7 p.m. performance. This show featured: Johnny

PEOPLE

JIM HILTON, Jr., is currently in Long Beach (Calif.) V. A. Hospital where he underwent open heart surgery. Jim, who is also known as Sonny, was Asst. Timekeeper on Ringling-Barnum in the late 40's and also served as a lithographer on RBBB's No. One advance car. Jim, who is a cousin of EDDIE HOWE, former RB BB press agent, would like to hear from friends and circus fans.

GARY HOLVECK, magician, is playing dates in Southern California, booked by both Big JOHN STRONG and BETTY WENDANY. He also has a week set at the Magic Castle in Los Angeles.

Laddie, unsupported ladders; Clowns; The Great Lamberti, hand balancing; Clowns; Susan Sheryl and her Royal Afghans; and Santa Claus.

Music was provided by Gerald Scheiman and Clown Alley included John Zoppe, Sr., Frank Loudermilk, Caroline Warmblood, plus Jean and Chris Helt.

..... Kaye Scheiman

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Fla. Visit

December visitors to RBBB Circus World in Florida were CFAers Gina Ushler and Elizabeth Bartholomew of Jack Bell Tent in Seattle, Wash. They were most hospitably received by Brenda Stevens and Barbara Adams of Circus World's Public Relations Department.

Their first surprise came upon meeting an old friend Antonio, that mighty mite of mirth from clown alley, who incidentally, recently married a fellow member of Circus World. Then expecting to see another friend Manuel Zuniga, catcher for the flying act, they found he had been called away for a practice session with Tio Ga-

ona. Substitute catcher turned out to be another acquaintance Javier Gaona, who Miss Ushler had accompanied to the hospital when he suffered an injury while performing with the American Continental Circus in Seattle.

Victor Gaona and his staff of performers very helpfully answered questions about the participation circus and the visitors were impressed with its smooth operation. However, despite expert instruction from accomplished flyer Ricky Gaona, Miss Ushler didn't quite make the backward somersault in her novice attempt at flying. Jet lag on a trapeze?

The CFAers suggestion for a successful visit — see the IMAX show last and you'll leave the lot truly wishing all your days could be circus days.

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... Billy Barton, Circus Report

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... Great American Circus Directory

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PEOPLE

MARALYN ARCHER, a showgirl with RBBB's Red Unit last year, left the show to join the Broadway hit "Chorus Line." It has been reported that she will soon join RBBB's Blue Unit.

F. BEVERLY KELLEY, former Publicity Director and Press Dept. Chief for RBBB, is now doing advance work for the Broadway touring edition of "My Fair Lady."

GEORGE 'Red WHITE, former side show manager on many big circuses, lives in Las Vegas with his wife **BARBARA**, a former performer. In December he worked as a Technician for a TV studio in Hollywood.

ENE LYNCH, former RBBB yellow wagon ticket seller, now works at the Elks Club in Sarasota, Fla.

Hippo Run

Three of four hippos purchased by Gopher Davenport for his 1978 circus, escaped during an overnight stop at Pearland, Texas. The animals were routed to the show's quarters in the Rio Grande Valley.

The animals, caged in a trailer, were parked at Inger Miller's place, he is a former circusman. They apparently worked a small gate loose, which had been built into the larger gate of the trailer, and got out.

The hippos were rounded up with the help of zoo curator Richard Quick, and then sent on their way to the circus.

F. A. 'Babe' BOUDINOT, former RBBB general agent, now works for the Studebaker Theatre in Chicago.

Film Tale

Film buff Ann Elizabeth Baldwin sends in the following information:

"The late W. C. Fields was jealous of only one person in the world, Charlie Chaplin. He felt Chaplin's talent exceeded his own, and he refused to go to parties where he knew Chaplin would also be present. He avoided Chaplin in print, in person and on the screen. Fields' happiest moment came in his later years when his only son told him he thought he — Fields — was better than Chaplin.

"Isn't it a strange twist of fate that both great men, who were rivals in life, passed away on Christmas Day? Fields in 1946; Chaplin in 1977."

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Cole Bros.-Clyde Beatty, Train Unloading, Allen King, Parade, Menagerie, Ken Maynard, Jumbo II, Elephants (1935), Clown Band, Cristianis, Antaleks, Georgia Sweet, Con Colleno, Dorothy Herbert, Great Grimes, Hubert Castle, Nelson Family, many others.

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Programs: Ringling Barnum from the 1920's; Cole Bros. route books

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SAWDUST TRAIL

Word received here from the Houston Zoo is that Gopher Davenport purchased four hippos for his big 100 animal menagerie. He also purchased a bear and four birds in Monroe, La., plus several lions and tigers in Hugo, Okla. His new show will surely sport a fine array of animals.

Reports indicate that the Clyde Beatty-Cole Br. Circus has been contracted to play a string of DeBartola Shopping Centers and Malls. The big chain includes about 35 locations, which could easily offer the show some 3 months of dates.

Jack Bennett has closed down, or rather left his book store in Miami (Okla) and has joined the Silverlakes in Donna, Tex., where he is helping to prepare snake pit shows for fair dates. It is not known if he will go on with the Silverlakes to join the Davenport show.

Mrs. B. K. Silverlake plans to stay in Donna, at least for a time. She will get things rolling for the fair season, and will probably join the Davenport operation later on.

Do Do, the Clown, is currently turning down all engagements due to a recent illness. He has been advised to take it easy at least until the

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Show Acts

Currently appearing with the Harlem Globetrotters National Unit are: Francis Duo, rola bola; Dick Franco, juggler; the Merges Duo, hand balancers; The Knops, perch act and Lily Yokoi, ballerina on the bicycle.

The acts have all been booked through Simone Finner Enterprises of North Hollywood, Calif.

TALENT

Acts booked on the annual Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.) Christmas show last month were: Baby Tarra and Carol Buckley; The Saxtons, juggling/unicycles; The Steppin Stones; Durk Arthur's Magic and Woo Woo Stevens.

The booking was handled by Dorthea Gray.

middle of February. Meanwhile, LaMont, the Magician (Paul Hodges) has filled in for some party dates.

.... M. L. DUPONT



INTERNATIONAL

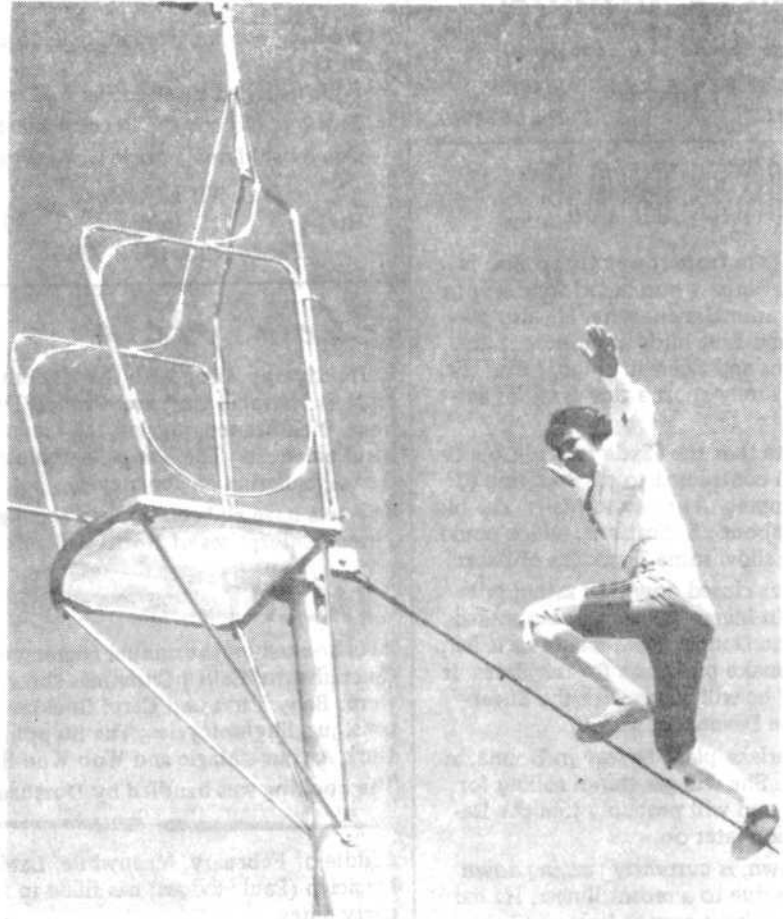
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SUIT FILED

Three white leopard cubs, believed to be the only ones ever born in captivity, are the subjects of a \$1,250,000 suit filed in Los Angeles.

The suit, filed by Joseph Maynard, of Simi Valley (Calif), original owner of the cubs' parents, claims that the operators of the Wildlife Way Station, where the cubs were born violated an oral agreement that entitled him to half of any litter resulting from the mating of his animals and the right to retain full ownership of the mother.

Maynard turned over Spot, a 7 year old male Asiatic leopard and Nickey, a 4 year old female Asiatic spotted leopard, to Martine Collette, of

the Wildlife Way Station in February 1977.

The suit maintains that Maynard consented to give Spot to the organization if they would provide free board for Nickey. The suit says that both parties agreed the animals could be mated.

The suit also states that Ms. Collette agreed to inform Maynard immediately if a litter resulted, with ownership of the cubs to be divided equally.

The cubs were born on Nov. 26 and are rare because of their light coloration. The suit says the cubs are valued at \$50,000 each.

Maynard is asking that the court award him damages, claiming he was not informed of the cubs' birth and that he

ROUTE

Circus Vargas

Jan. 18-19 Lafayette, La.
20-23 Beaumont, Texas
24-26 Galveston
27-29 Victoria

PEOPLE

DON and CAROL PHILIPS are the parents of a baby girl (Athena Noel) born just before Christmas. The newcomer's grandmother is BONNIE BONTA.

was deprived of half of the litter.

Ms. Collette reports the adults leopards were given to the Wildlife Way Station.

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

the act is more-than-effective as it stands. . . When the Vargas show had problems with its light plant during the Miami stand HOXIE TUCKER sent his generator to their lot - just-in-case. . . THE KLEMENTIS will be spot dating with Hubler . . . HARRY and ROW-WENA are playing spring dates for M&M . . . Spied at the Ringling opening in Venice, sitting a-trio were DOREY MILLER, CLIFF VARGAS and HOXIE TUCKER. . . KEITH KILLINGER is doing the musical score for NORDMARK's Int'l Magic Spectacular.

Of all the accolades tendered CLIFF VARGAS during his recent Florida junket my favorite came from veteran circus-owner JAMES M. COLE: "Mr. Vargas," said Jimmie, upon viewing the performance, "I've been in this business since 1925 when I started out on the old railroad shows and today I felt like a kid who had seen his first circus!"

See you down the road, luv.

PEOPLE

BILL BIRCHFIELD, magician, is returning to the Nugget Casino, after a successful tour of the west coast with his show.

GEORGE PERKINS, retired clown, continues to keep active helping show folks in Southern California. He reports that his wife, who was very ill, is back home now and improving.

SIMONE FINNER, artists manager and agent, of North Hollywood California, attended the Circus Festival in Monte Carlo where she was a guest of the Carl Althoff Family.

Please Note: FROM FEB. 1st ON, I AM AVAILABLE FOR ALL DATES

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Rare Find

Well-preserved remains of prehistoric mammals were recently found in northeastern Nebraska. The Museum at the University of Nebraska is supervising the work of reconstructing skeletons of 15 rhinoceros and the remains of a long extinct two toed horse.

The rhinoceros skeletons have specimens of both sexes of varying ages, including one female whose unborn is still intact in the womb.

The remains are reported to be intact at the site, rather than scattered or mixed as is often the case.

The skeletons are well preserved because the animals apparently died as the result of being covered by volcanic ash from a ca-

PEOPLE

BOB MOORE and his Mongrel Revue are touring with the Holiday On Ice show, currently playing in Los Angeles.

LEONID BREZHNEV, the Soviet leader, reportedly visited the Moscow Circus early this month.

PAUL WESSLER has been visiting friends in the San Francisco (Calif) area.

taclysmic disturbances common in the western United States up to 40 million years ago.

The specimens uncovered are about 10 million years old and were found embedded in a layer of volcanic ash.

In Memoriam

BERT PETTUS (63) a circus animal trainer, died following a heart attack on Jan. 11th at Mt. Athens, Texas.

He spent his entire life in the circus field as an animal trainer and is best known for his work with elephants. He toured with most of the major shows in the country.

Survivors include his wife, Marie, a son and a daughter.

NOTE:

Reports that Johnny Canole has passed away are completely false. Johnny wants everyone to know that he is alive and well and working every day.

THE GREAT AMERICAN CIRCUS DIRECTORY

Don't let time run out on you

Deadline for Ads in the March issue

IS FEBRUARY 1st

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In Memoriam

JOHNNIE MULLENS (93) the "bucking horse man" of the American Rodeo died at his daughter's home in Eagle Rock (Ariz) on Jan. 3rd. Burial was at Forest Lawn Park in Glendale, Calif.

Mullens was one of four people who were installed in the Cowboy Hall of Fame while still living. He helped launch the big Calgary Rodeo and produced the Madison Square Garden Rodeo for its first 12 years, and he is credited with influencing the course of rodeo, more so than any other man.

He is credited with innovations that changed the cowboy games into organized productions.

A champion steer roper and bronc rider, he appeared in the

Show Dates

Holveck & Co. (Magic)
Jan. 25 Jacinto, Calif.

Ice Capades - East
Jan. 24-29 Hartford, Conn.

Ice Capades - West
Jan. 25-31 Winnipeg, Man.

Bob Jones Petting Zoo
to Jan. 29 Plymouth, Pa.

Little Lion Land
Jan. 24-28 Clearwater, Fla.

Victor, the Rasslin' Bear
Jan 28-Feb 5 Philadelphia, Pa.

original Buffalo Bill Wild West Show and Ringling Bros. Wild West productions. He also appeared in many western films. As a young boy he worked on ranches in Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas and participated in cattle drives. During World War I he broke horses for the Army.

PEOPLE

DICK VAN DYK will be the host for NBC-TV's annual presentation of the 'Highlights of Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Circus' which will be aired on March 8th.

HORST MERKL, trainer with the Hawthorn Circus animals, was clawed in the abdomen and groin and bitten on his left knee when a tiger jumped him during a practice session at Libertyville, Ill.

Show Data

Acts appearing at the Sports and Recreation Show (Jan. 7-15) at Anaheim, Calif., were: Skiles & Henderson, comedy; Ray Sommers, dogs; The Fischer Bros., log-rolling; Victor the Rasslin' Bear and Montie Montana, Jr., MC.

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•

OUR DEAR FRIEND

WE WILL MISS YOU



..... **CHET and JO**