



6th Year

January 24, 1977

Number 4

## New Contract Plan

In a move to keep the Ringling-Barnum Circus coming back, for at least the next five years, the City Council of Jacksonville (Fla.) has agreed to accept a lower gate percentage. There was no opposition to the move that would reduce the circus' contribution to the city by 2 per cent.

By meeting the same rates as other cities the circus will continue to play at Jacksonville, at least for the next five years, according to Coliseum manager Dick McMeekin. He said the circus objected to the 12% gate tax that is normally charged by the city. Other cities in the area — West Palm Beach, St. Petersburg, Lakeland and Miami — have a 10% gate tax.

The resolution authorizing the new agreement with the circus was submitted to the council by Mayor Hans Tanzler. It provides for a five year contract at the lower gate tax rate.

## Shrine Date

The 35th annual Al Chymia Temple Shrine Circus, at Memphis, Tenn., will offer performances at the Mid-South Coliseum, Feb. 9-13, according to Virgil H. Wilder, circus director. The big show, whose prices range from \$1.50 to \$4.50, will be produced by Hubert Castle and

Continued on Page 19

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## A REVIEW

The 8th annual tour of the Wonderful World of Horses got underway on Jan. 5th, at Jacksonville, Fla., before a crowd of about 2400. The 1977 show is much lighter than in previous years, lacking the production numbers and riders of the past. As a result it does not spark the audience's enthusiasm until well into the performance. But, what the performance lacks is more than made up with the outstanding Las Vegas style musical arrangements and conducting of bandleader George Weeden. The music keeps the tempo moving nicely and each number is penned to individual horses. This, plus special lighting effects makes the show well worth seeing.

The performance consists solely of acts as opposed to the past with acts appearing in the production numbers. As a result each act must stand on its own, and unfortunately, several fall short of this goal.

Outstanding in the show is Gaylord Maynard and Charles Skelton. Mr. Skelton makes two appearances, once in Spanish attire, riding a bay Andalusian stallion, and the second in modern dress, riding a golden palomino stallion. He offers both Grand Prix Dressage and riding while using no hands or reins.

Veteran Gaylord Maynard stunned audiences with his appearance of an American-bred saddle horse that performs a series of dance steps

to modern musical tunes. The audience came alive and cheered every step of the horse. At this point Weede and Maynard presented a contest wanting to outdo the other. The audience caught on and really showed their appreciation. Maynard's second number offers a drunk act with the horse, with real comedy in the Laurel & Hardy style, which the audience enjoys.

A western trick roping and riding act presented by two young ladies from California is one of the down spots of the performance. What could be a crowd pleaser needs lots of work and perfection for it to keep pace with other acts on the show.

Actor David Piel's commentary of acts and movements of various horses kept the audience well-informed. His pleasing voice and manner is welcomed, he was away for several years due to TV commitments. Other highlights, which were well-liked by the audiences included the "Airs Above the Ground" and "Grand Quadrill" numbers.

The show is traveling on two horse vans, both straight jobs, and each carrying nine horses. There is also a prop semi (carries flooring, back-drop, scenery, stabling and show-owned lights). A short winter tour of the southeast will end in February, after which a six week layover will follow, with the show opening in the late spring for its Canadian and West Coast tour. Several equine acts will be added for the summer run. All in all, this season's show is fast-paced and in general well worth seeing.

..... B. F. Frank

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**CIRCUS VARGAS**  
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**COLE ALL STAR TV CIRCUS**  
Jan. 24 Danville, Pa.  
25 Turbotville  
27 Bloomsburg  
28 Wingate  
29 State College

**POLACK BROS CIRCUS**  
Jan. 28-30 Roanoke, Va.

**RINGLING-BARNUM (Red Unit)**  
Jan. 18-31 Miami Beach, Fla.

**KEN GRIFFIN (Magic Show)**  
Jan. 24 Elsinore, Calif.  
27 Belen, N. M.  
29 Shamrock, Texas

## Show Acts

Australia's Burton's Circus is managed by Lindsay Lennon and his father, Mick. The show uses a big top that measures 73 ft x 109 ft. and has a 36 ft. center section.

The show's current program features: Paul Donnelly and Wayne Lennon, slip and slide; Mick Lennon, whips; Peter Waller, slack wire; Clowns; Adrian, hand balancing; Mick Lennon, chestnut pony; Lindsay Lennon and son, Wayne, the Honey Bee Gag; Bow Kwan, magic; Miss Cathy, single trapeze; Lindsay, Muldoon.

After intermission comes: Adrian, iron jaw; Miss Denise, contortion; Clowns; Mick Lennon, rope spinning; Wayne Lennon and camel; Bob Kwan, shooting act; Mick Lennon and monkey; Peter Waller, unicycle; Toltino, high wire.

**MRS. AMERICA PAGEANT**  
Jan. 29 Las Vegas, Nev.

**SOUTHWESTERN EXPO**  
Jan. 28-Feb. 6 Ft. Worth, Texas

**WIZARD OF OZ SHOW**  
Jan. 25-30 Kansas City, Mo.



# BILLY BARTON . . . .

WITH THE HELP OF Friends and his mother Col. JERRY LIPKO has replaced the chimps he lost in a fire on Dec. 10 and has his act ready for contracted engagements. He bought one, was given one as a gift, which he had sold last July, and then obtained two others from AL ANTONUCCI. Jerry has inked the Danbury and North Carolina State Fairs, will play dates for SAM T. POLACK and may tour with the Rudy Bros. Circus.

Little MARIO ZOPPE (son of Johnny & Betty) topped a year of accidents when he was dragged by a runaway pony. Mario received 14 stitches in his head. The accident occurred right after Christmas....VIVIAN SCOTT, last of the Scott girls to get hitched, is married to RICK HALBROOK. The couple lives on a farm (and loves it) in Madera, Calif....PAM & MERLE COOK are putting out two Funny Ford acts this season..... COUNT NICHOLAS paid a surprise visit to the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, visiting old pals EMMETT, Jr. and yrs. truly. The Count looks terrific and is as full of himself as always!....MARSHA HUNT reports the show bought a new low-boy semi and 5th wheel...ED RUSSELL will spot date CASTLE starting in March... DE MILLE is currently with Fleckles....SIGNOR RAI appeared at the Showfolks Party New Year's Eve.

It's been reported that ANETA VARGAS is now at Circus Circus....KARL WALLEENDA's Xmas gift to wife HELEN was an off-white mink stole....Doc HENDERSON (RBBB vet) who had open heart surgery last July, left St. Luke's Hospital in Houston the day before his scheduled surgery to remove a growth from an elephant's foot, then checked himself back in. That's what you call "duty" before "self"....EMMETT KELLY, Jr. presented his wife NANCY with a new 40 ft. Country Aire 5th wheel. Emmett's mother EVA MAE LEWIS, struck by a car while walking to a shopping center, is recovering nicely....That new smile TOMMY HANNEFORD is sporting is the result of some extensive dental work....JOE ZOPPE finally convinced the airlines he needed to land in Brownsville (Tex) and was finally reunited with his family in Mexico City. Joe says everything is A-Okay.

If you like "fish stories" you'll love comic juggler BOBBY SMITH who tells them with a flair. Bobby is an independent film producer and is readying a comic adventure action film to be shot and released in '78.... Top-notch rope-spinner KENT CLAYTON is a witty, warm-natured fellow, but - if you dress in his room

for heaven's sake DON'T step on his ropes. He turns into Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde!....YOLANDA ZOPPE (Joe's sister) is with JIMMY HALL'S bear act. Bossing Big Bruins ain't easy, but Yolanda does it!....The JAVANA Baboon act (Jeannine Hall) will have four baboons to start, more to be added later....More than one circus is headed for Japan this season - two that I know of and possibly three.

HEIDI (Gutis) and her husband JIM GROGAN (he pilots DAVE MERRIFIELD on his "Mission Impossible" aerial adventures) are blissfully soaring aloft in an atmosphere of rosy romance. Heidi, who has retired from the GUTIS act, says she is now a "bubble washer" in hubby Jim's Helicopter biz. He, by the way, is going to night school where he is studying Data Processing. The MERRIFIELD 'Copter Thriller will return for its 5th straight year to the BARTLETT water show in Wisconsin.

LOTTIE BRUNN has returned from the Bahamas, tanned, refreshed and positively aghast at the horrible Eastern weather which is BRRRRR!....PRINCE NAJVEZ was "re-run" on the MIKE DOUGLAS show on Dec. 30th and sez that "twice as many people seemed to have seen him the second time around"....FRED & LONI VAN VOORDEN spent the off-time between Vargas seasons having a custom Boles Aeros 5th wheel built with a special workshop for Fred and a storage area in the rear of the 40 ft. trailer. Loni says sge got

area in the rear of the 40 ft. trailer. Loni says she got tired of living with buzz saws, nuts and bolts and foot juggling props always underfoot....BILLY & BONNIE EARL report SRO biz at the Witches Brew night club where they are now working....TOMMY BENTLEY and WES & FLORINE OLER were among the guests attending RUDY & CAROLINE JACOBI's Christmas Wedding....GIL MILLER advises that although the VILLAMS, who are currently with HELLAPOPPIN are set for that show's run, producer ALEXANDER COHEN has agreed to release them for dates previously inked with M&M, Hubler and Wayne McCarey and another act will sub for them.

MICHAEL CHERRICK finally broke down and bought a trailer....THE ASHTONS may buy property next to the VALENTINES in Texas....LILA & CLYDE (Jr) and SONJA & NORMAN ST. LEON, of the now retired St. Leon Teeterboard troupe, have race horses

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## GENERAL INFO

The following information concerning the use of "subsidiary titles" by Ringling-Barnum is presented for the general interest of readers. Readers who care to check it out will find that starting with the 1973 programs of both the Red and Blue Units, under the heading "Production Staff," there appears the following credit: "Costumes Executed by Brooks-Van Horne Costume Co. for Hagenbeck-Wallace Costume Co." The title Hagenbeck-Wallace Costume Co. first appeared in a slightly different reference in the 1972 programs.

About this same time, the Ringling interests purchased the concession interests of W. E. Lawson and from that time until the present the title "Sells Floto Inc." has been evident on the cabs of tractor-trailer combinations. Corporate offices of Sells Floto are located in Mc Lean, Virginia, a suburb of Washington, DC, as shown in the Northern Virginia phone book, and another office is located on Ogden Road, in Venice, Fla., as listed in the Venice phone book.

## PEOPLE

EVEL KNEIVEL has signed a long-term contract with ABC-TV to perform motorcycle jumps and serve as commentator for stunts as presented by others. Under terms of the agreement he is to make at least one major jump a year.

## In Memoriam

Alice Jean Gurtler (38), wife and assistant to the world famous magician Andre Kole, died Nov. 28, 1976 in Arizona. She was known professionally as "Aljeana" and toured with her husband's show in the U.S. and other countries. Their programs were presented entirely for the Campus Crusade for Christ programs. Survivors include her husband, Robert Gurtler; a daughter, Robyn, a son, Timothy; her parents and a sister.

## New Show

The first Australian circus to receive a grant from the government is called "New Circus" and operates under the ownership of Mike Harbison. The entire troupe consists of either university graduates or students. The show plays as a side-walled thing with chairs that can accommodate 500 people.

The program features a high wire act, three web girls, comedy and announcer. They have already played 100 performances and plan a regular tour. Moving on three trucks, the show also has several private rigs. Show-owned equipment is yellow with red lettering.

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# SAWDUST TRAIL

Word has it that Mel Silverlake will be with the Dailey Bros. Circus this season, operating a second unit for Gopher Davenport. Last year Mel sold his Fisher Bros. then stayed on for part of the season as side show manager, before joining Mid America.

Jim Howle, RBBB clown for many years, is preparing a set of clown paintings, the first of which will be available in March. The others will be released two months apart.

The Northeast La. Shrine Club has again signed Eddie Zacchini as producer of their May 1-2 circus at Monroe's Civic Center. Last year they were able to give the Shrine Hospital \$11,000 after the annual circus event.

Reports reaching this reporter indicate that Man. Manuel King has filed a law suit against Mid America for non-payment from purchases. He makes his home in Houston and no longer goes out on the road.

Sallfield Publishing Co., printers of circus coloring books for years, has closed their doors and the business has been taken over by Child Arts Productions, who are putting out a new book with a cover picture of Lou Jacobs and circus cut-outs on the back.

The Earl Allens, of Sikeston, Mo., continue to entertain folks in their circus room. Earl says he is afraid that folks will get tired of seeing his and Louise's pictures in the paper. Never happen Earl, we need fans like you.

Archie Chan, former RBBB drummer, is with the Holiday on Ice Show in Mexico. This year the show will go into South America, too.

# ATTENTION

TO ALL OUR FRIENDS

on December 19, 1976

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## IT'S A GIRL

Jennifer and Larry Gill, of the Flying LarRays, are the proud parents of a baby girl — Elizabeth (Beth) Ann — born at Sarasota's Memorial Hospital on Jan. 2nd. The new arrival weighed in at 8 lbs. 6½ oz., arriving at 2:03 a.m.

Be sure to watch for the "un-ice show" called "This Is Hawaii on Ice" that opens in March in California. The show is performed on a revolutionary new "iceless" skating surface. It is quickly assembled anywhere and is not affected by temperature changes and is slipperly only under pressure from the skates.

DoDo, the Clown is out of action due to a pulled back muscle. When asked how he was feeling, he said, "man I needed the rest, but how do you get it standing up?"

..... M. L. Dupont

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## XMAS SHOW

The annual Paul Eagles Circus Luncheon Club Christmas Circus was held Dec. 20th at the Fairview State Hospital in Costa Mesa (Calif.). The show was produced by Don Heaston, who also directed the band. Phil McDonald was the ringmaster.

The program, presented under the DeWayne Bros. Circus big top, featured: Overture; Slack Wire; Cradle\*; Rope Spinning; The Castoldis, juggling\*; Henry Crowell and daughter, trampoline; Hair Hang; Fay Snyder, dogs; Irena Noblitt and Henry's Crowell's daughter, Double ladder; Whips; The Crassinis, teeterboard\*; Clowns; Miss Rene, web\*; The Great Mayo, illusions (William Patterson); Elephant and Eduardo, high wire. (\*)-denotes a Great Y Circus performer.

..... W. C. Wood

## Show Report

The program booked by the Royal Danish Circus for its Feb. 22-27 engagement at the Fun-coast Fair, Punta Gorda, Fla., will feature:

Dan and Baxen, clowns; Diana, Spanish web; Almiros, juggling; Bongo, Gorilla parody; Tina, trapeze; Alberto & Rosita, plate spinning; Les Thinis, trampoline; Miss April, 110 ft. sway pole and a Balloon-O-Rama Finale.

## PEOPLE

LILLI-ANN KRISTENSEN and her leopards were featured in the Roberts Arena Circus at Sarasota last month. The act opens with Polack Bros. Circus at Louisville for Feb. 2-6.

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# FIRE!

... PHIL JORDAN

It's been a third of a century since the tragic Ringling fire at Hartford, Conn. The toll was 168 dead, more than 500 injured, though there has never been a full count.

Those who were there agree -- no one need have died. Spectators who kept their heads got out safely. The dead and seriously injured were those who panicked.

There's also general agreement on one other point.... It could have been a lot worse!

Not that it wasn't bad enough. The fire broke out in the big top canvas near the main entrance. The first display, big tent and the end rings, had ended, Karl Wallenda had just stepped onto the high wire over the center ring. Some accounts credit Wallenda with being the first to spot the growing flames.

In the ring nearest the main entrance, May Kovar was still whipping the Alfred Court cats from the cage to the chutes.

The cat chutes at the other ring were low -- people could climb over them easily; the chute nearer the main entrance was six feet tall, according to Detective Tom Barber, Sr. of the Hartford Police Dept., who was there that day.

"I knew Karl Wallenda by sight," recalled Everett Dow, a Hartford newsman who was there with his stepson that day. "He pointed to the flames and yelled, 'The tent's on fire!'"

"There was a pause of two or three seconds, and then the people began yelling and screaming."

Most of the dead, Barber recalled, "were those caught by that runaway for the animal act had just finished, the one that was six feet tall. People would try to climb it, but it was too tall and they'd fall down.

"Then other people would go down, too, right on top of them."

If people had kept their heads, perhaps all could have escaped the flames. They could have simply walked to the other exits, or they could have climbed to the top of the stands, dropping no more than eight to ten feet to the

ground, and walked out beneath the sidewalls, which were not burning.

But it's not easy to keep your head in a fire, and panic spreads in a crowd.

As Ringling bandmaster Merle Evans recalled sadly, "so many people tried to get out the same way they came in..."

They were not only running directly toward the fire, for many, that way was blocked by the cat chutes.

But that was July 6th and the 500 foot big top with a seating capacity of 13,000 people, was only half full. Two days earlier, on July 4th, in Providence, R.I., the matinee had been a straw house.

Also lucky, as Evans recalls, was what at first seemed a bit of bad luck. The Hartford lot was small, so the menagerie top, through which spectators normally entered the big top, wasn't up that day.

"Suppose," Evans said, "the menagerie top had been up that day, the people had tried to go through it on their way out, it had caught fire and the animals had panicked; too...."

"That would have been so much worse!"

And Dow, too, agrees.

"In just a few more minutes," he told CR, "the spec, 'Panto's Paradise' was due to start. The entire hippodrome would have been filled with floats, people and animals.

"Kelly's float that year was pulled by 16 elephants...."

"If they had panicked..."

It could have been worse.

Barber recalled, there was an army anti-aircraft unit stationed next to the Hartford lot.

"Before the flames were out, they were there with stretchers and first aid kits, doing all they could. They really helped.

But Barber recalls one incident that has never before been published.

"At the cat chute nearer the main entrance," he told CR, "after the fire was out and we star-

# Circus Report

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**Q:** The late Will Rogers has always been thought of as a simple, lovable, self-effacing rural American. Wasn't he in fact just the opposite?

**A:** Rogers was no country bumpkin. He was a razor-sharp individual when it came to money, was excessive in his drinking and ego-centric in his behavior. His true character did not match his public image.



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### FIRE (Continued)

ted taking out the bodies, there was one woman still alive under six layers of the dead — she didn't have a thing wrong with her.

"She stood there complaining that her stockings had been ruined!"

(Next Week — "Photos")

## PEOPLE

**BARRY LAPPY**, unicycle star with RBBB's Red Unit for the 1975-1976 seasons, worked in a total of 1,013 performances, never missing a show during his contract engagement.

**WILFRED FACTEAU**, retired high wire and trapeze performer, lives in Starke, Fla., where he now makes half-scale circus wagons. One of his prize wagons is a copy of the old Swan bandwagon.

**DAN MILLER**, **BURYL HUNTER** and **TERRELL JACOBS, Jr.**, spent Christmas Day visiting and cutting up jackpots when Jacob's Candyland Circus played a holiday date.

**CLIFF GLOTZBACH** has been named chairman of the CHS Convention

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## Acts Named

The annual Christmas show for members of the American Legion and their families and friends at Delphi, Indiana, was held on December 20th.

A blizzard kept many from attending this year, but those who came had a merry time with the clowns, headed by Johnny Zoppe, Sr., and including George Crissinger, Caroline Warmbrood and Don and Diana Phillips.

Acts presented were: Susan Sheryll, singing; Sonja Zoppe, aerial; Don Phillips, unicycle and the Zoppe Rhesus Monkey Revue. There were also several clown numbers and of course Santa Claus., plus Christmas treats for everyone who attended the program.

..... Kaye Scheiman

## PEOPLE

GEE GEE ENGESESSER is busy making new wardrobe for her upcoming tour with Hubler's Int'l Circus, which opens in March.

EMILY and LEXIE MELCHER, unicyclists for the Great Y Circus, were regular features in the Fantasy on Parade at Disneyland.

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## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

and make the "track scene" annually.....WALLY & DORIS NAGHTIN were seen making the rounds in Sarasota during their off-season time.

The continuing story of BILLY RODGERS, BILLY RODGERS, (Circus Soap Opera) continues with so many "breakdowns" and "problems" during his recent Christmas run that it would take the whole CR to illustrate them. On top of which Billy has joined the "cast of thousands" being investigated by the IRS in Florida, who looks askance at the "travel deductions" the acts are declaring. If the IRS would reimburse us for our traveling expenses in exchange for our weekly salaries we'd really come out ahead! See you down the road, luvs.

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# *It's All Over*

A pet lion being moved from Las Vegas to Santa Rosa (Calif) took over the driver's seat of a moving van last week and refused to budge. The 500 lb. lion smashed through a partition and crawled into the driver's compartment, causing the two women drivers to flee.

Stanley, the lion, decided to take over the driver's duties just outside Fresno. For nine hours he refused to move, despite coaxing and offers of food. Finally, the local zoo vet shot Stanley with a tranquilizer and the rest of the trip was made while Stanley slept it off.

# PEOPLE

**JOSH SILVER** and **JOE SHERMAN**, clowns, plan to work as a team for the upcoming circus season.

**OTTO BEROSINI** plans to debut his "Berosini World Famous Circus" this spring, with an under canvas tour.

# ATAYDE SHOW

The program currently being presented in Mexico City by Circus Atayde features many well-known American show acts.

Feature acts include: Leonel and Miss Robin, cloud swings; the Zavattas, unsupported ladder; Raymond, rola bola; the Kolmedys, sword balance; Roman Schmitt, trained rhino and elephant; Dagmar Mootz, wire; Rianos Duo, wire; Don Mike, bounding rope; Herman & Petunia, comedy riding; Horst Merkle, lions and tigers; Guel Ramirez and Tino Rodriguez, aerialists; Ramon Esqueda, Ron Perry and the Rito Bros., jugglers; Alberto Atayde, elephants; Los Murillo, aerial motorcycle; the Olmedas, cycles; the Piro Bros., trampoline; Durante & Funcion, clowns; Zoppe's Arabian Riders and Hnos. Espana, flying act.

**THE FLYING LAR-RAYS** will tour with L. N. Fleckles, George Hubler and Wayne Mc Cary shows during the coming year. They'll be doing the triple as a regular part of the act.

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## Italian SHOW

American visitors to Italy would probably feel at home beneath the vast blue canopy of Circo Americano. I saw the circus at Piacenza (north-ern Italy) in the fall, where it was making a four day stand. The big top is red, white and blue, a six polor and most of the trucks and ticket wagon are lettered in English. The clown head's face dominating most of the show's advertising must be the twin brother of Lou Jacobs.

Inside the tent there was ring curb only for the center ring, although ring carpets were laid out for the two end rings.

The performance opens with a parade - a show train with performers disguised as animals. Then followed a three ring display, with a lady contortionist in each ring. The Jarz Family Chimps followed with a lively act incorporating a "flying trapeze" feature, while some do Cossack riding and a jazz band routine. An interlude of clowns then preceded three rings of low wire performers.

Well-known American circus star Galla Shawn is featured with her splendid trapeze number, flanked by Miss Carmen and Miss Josephine on rope and trapeze. The Ronny Bros. follow in a risley number and then all three rings were put into use with a display of jugglers.

With the erection of ring curbs on the end rings a display of horse numbers was presented with Bruno Togni directing the center ring. In all there must have been 40 horses in this display, a welcome sight in today's almost horseless circuses.

While the arena was being set three aerial acts (cradle, web and cloud swing) were presented; Pablo Noel is no stranger to audiences. He dominates the arena as he works with 8 lionesses and a male. He wrestles with them, lays down among them and puts his head into the mouth of one animal.

During intermission elephant rides were available and 8 animals were used for this purpose. Two excellent flying acts opened the second half - the Italian Jarz Family and I think from America, the Flying Gibsons. Both are superb acts and the only complaint is having to try and watch both at the same time.

## On Again

That on and off again sale of Polack Bros. Circus officially took place last week, according to generally reliable news sources.

It is said that the major buyers are Parley Baer, Bobby Cohen and Larry Davis. Several other un-named buyers were also involved in the transaction.



A noisy and lively wild west act followed, with The Dakotas. They do the usual shooting, rope spinning, knife throwing and fire eating. Then along came two Hungarian spring-board troupes both quite good.

Before the big elephant number the ring curbs were removed, giving the animals the entire arena. The 13 animals were directed by Willy Togni, who keeps the huge beasts under excellence control. The last of the acts was a typical European clown number 'the washing machine' gag, followed by a musical number.

The program finished with a spectacle in the RBBB tradition, called "2,000 Years of Circus." This spec started with Roman soldiers, gladiators and chariot drivers, moved to Chinese and Indian circuses with appropriate floats and animals. Then came the American Wild West show with Buffalo Bill and the Indians, covered wagons and cowboys, followed by the modern U.S. circus with its glitter and spangles, and with Galla Shawn as "Miss America".

Nothing could follow this but the Circus of the Space Age with a huge flying saucer invading the arena, from which emerged a "golden trio" (The Del Oros) who were superb in plastic poses. The the whole arena was filled with the gaily costumed company and it "was all over". Circo Americano carries a very large and varied zoo and stables, which must contain over 100 horses, ponies, donkeys and zebras.

..... Jack Niblett

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## PEOPLE

THE FOUR FLYING RAMOS are currently ap-  
pearing at Circus Circus in Las Vegas thru Apr.  
15th, then they tour with the Kaye Cont'l Cir-  
cus in Japan.

BETH ANNE NUFER, stunt girl and aerialist,  
along with GARY COLLINS, received a stand-  
ing ovation for their cradle act in the "Gala  
Gala" TV special. Beth doubles regularly for  
LINDA CARTER in "Wonder Woman" and  
she doubled for JESSICA LANGE, doing a 55  
foot fall in the film "King Kong."

KENT SLATTERY, the showman's favorite  
Dodge salesman, plans on retiring from Hop-  
per-Hammond Doge (Berkeley, Calif.) at the  
end of February.

### PRINCE NAJVEZ

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## Important Note!

A late schedule change for the TV showing of  
the Encyclopedia Britannica's special called  
"Clowns" was released just after last week's  
paper went to press.

The major city showings, according to the TV  
releases were scheduled for:

San Francisco - Jan. 17 - 7:30 p.m.  
Detroit - Jan. 23 - 6:30 p.m.  
Chicago - Jan. 23 - 5:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles - Jan. 23 - 6:30 p.m.  
New York - Jan. 26 - 7:30 p.m.

## PEOPLE

REV. L. DAVID HARRIS is a patient at the  
cancer research center - American Oncologic  
Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa. 19111. He would en-  
joy hearing from fans and show folks.

RAY and SUE MAREK, of the Flying LarRays,  
are currently working on second acts that they  
hope will be ready this summer.

JIM SWAFFORD recently visited with JOHN  
and HERTA CUNEO and WADE BURK in the  
Los Angeles area.

ROD WILLIAMS, of Associated Productions,  
provided a variety show for the Calif. Fraternal  
Order of Police at Riverside (Calif) on Dec. 3.

GENE KELLY will host the Ringling-Barnum  
TV special which is scheduled for viewing the  
night of March 15th.



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## Pot Pourri

Stilt walker Steve La Porte, on RBBB Red for two years is now boss clown on the Blue Unit... Gunther Gebel-Williams is no longer working his elephant/horses/tiger combo. Instead the act is being worked by Henry Schroer.... Pat Bissonette has photos of Emmett Kelly, Jr.'s recent accident.... Bernie Kallman is home after playing a Puerto Rico date.

Linda Chandler has trained one of her "Peerless Puppies" to dance the Hustle.... RBBB has full-color ads on the front and back of Variety now on the stands.... The Barry Miller Troupe is touring with the James M. Cole Circus.... The Cortez Family, high wire and trapeze, have all new wardrobe for their Hoxie 77 tour.... Janice and Dorian Blake are manufacturing new cartoon heads.... Mike Naughton is doing nothing interesting.... Johnny Walker, Jr. will head the bull dept. on Hoxie Bros.... Dennis Stevens is going back to Beatty-Cole.... Phone calls to Las Vegas brings Phil Chandler's white tiger closer to its debut.

..... Mike Naughton.

## TALENT WANTED

The Wisconsin Bureau provides programs for schools. Talent needed for 1978 - 1979 School Year.

Write: WISCONSIN BUREAU  
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Phone: (715) 787-3300

## Readers Please Note!

Because of increases in the price of chemicals, ink, plates and paper, which took effect this month, we are forced to increase our advertising rates.

Henceforth, the advertising rates will be: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$25.00. Additional colors are \$10.00 each.

## PEOPLE

WALLY BICKMORE and his wife, CVIGI, and their baby, visited practice sessions of the Great Y Circus at Redlands (Calif) enroute to their home in Oregon.

TOM and ROBIN BISHOP (The McKay Duo aerial cradle) are currently staying with WARREN C. WOOD, director of the Great Y Circus.

Among those touring with RBBB's Red Unit are: Kit Haskett, announcer; Keith Green, musical director; Dave King, organist; Bob Batchelor, drums; Wally Pyper, wardrobe supt. and Elena Ben Said, wardrobe mistress.

The Red Unit is reportedly traveling on 37 cars, which carry new car decals, applied just before the train left quarters.

## ARE YOU CRAZY

Circuses will never give up using baggage horses! Or quit traveling by rail!

Sounds silly doesn't it? Well real circus billers and lithographers are also a fast vanishing breed.

A worth while souvenir of their era are "Lithographers" sticks used to place posters high up in store windows. I have a few professional made pairs, tough light bass wood, carefully shaped, pointed and sanded - sliver free.

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## BULL DIES

A featured performer with the Italian circus Circo do Brasil died at Pisa on Jan. 4th, after starving to death. The 25 year old elephant "Sandra" refused to eat when her trainer left the circus.

Sandra and her trainer Helmuth Krone had been together for 15 years. Circus officials said the elephant just couldn't understand why Krone left.

Sandra played the piano and several other instruments in an elephant band number, along with two other elephants.

## Miscellaneous

Production numbers for the RBBB show this year include: Circus Magic, Simean Safari, The Mardi Gras and Elephant Disco.

Fun Unlimited has been busy booking U. S. acts into European night clubs and other show dates.

## In Memoriam

Capt. William Heyer (88), well-known circus horse trainer, died in Sarasota, Fla. on Jan. 2nd. Born in Holland he served in the Dutch Army in the 1920's. The Ringling-Barnum Circus brought him to the U.S. 40 years ago as their head horse trainer.

Survivors include: his wife, Tamara; a son, Wm. B. Heyer, of Las Vegas and a daughter, Mrs. Tamara Christina Enigi, of Las Vegas.

The CHS Convention at Sarasota (Feb. 3-5) will include special features at the Ringling Circus Museum, plus a visit to the George Hanneford Circus and practice sessions of the Sarasota Sailor Circus.

The Great Y Circus presented performances in six cities (Dec. 11-18) for R. T. G. Productions (Bob Grant). Cities visited were: Colton, Riverside, San Bernardino, Fallbrook, Escondido and Oceanside.

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**SHRINE DATE (Continued)**

will feature some of the top names in the circus world.

The show's staff will include: Hubert Castle, director; Col. Lucky Larabee, ringmaster; Robert C. Dunham, personnel director; Pablo Rodriguez, prop boss; Prof. Clement E. Toca, band leader; M. Tanner Castle, performance coordinator; Irma Dunham, wardrobe and Gene Randow, producing clown.

The program features: The Rodriguez Troupe, bar act; Clowns; Tarzan Zerbini, wild animals; Clowns; Deborah, Felipe, Juan, Chela, Venicio and The Davids, aerial balance/gymnasts; The Maple Grove Arabians, horse act; Wilson's Pets; Pam's Chimps; Dale Harney, magic/illusions; Lee Marx and The Droquettes, juggling; The Paulos, casting; The Martinez Trio, high perch; Dennis Sherman, high dive; Mlle. Jacqueline, aerialist; Intermission.

Second half features include: Jo Ann and Toma; Pamela's dogs; the Marhal camels and llamas;

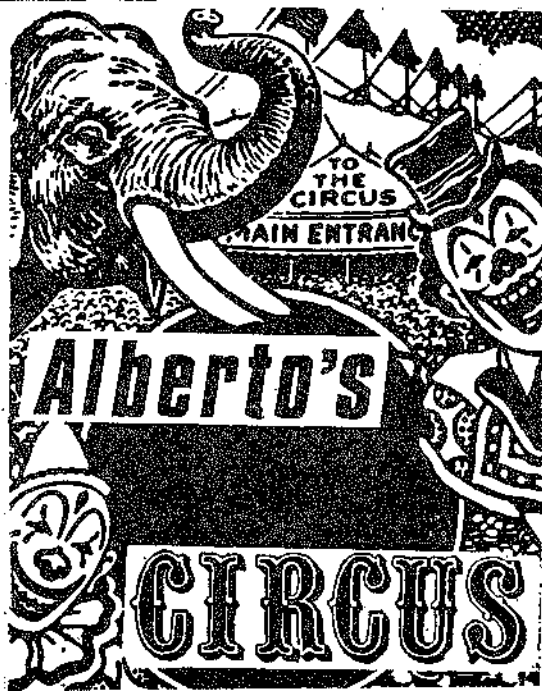
**From Florida**

That new leopard and panther act on RBBB's Red Unit is a good one and Gebel-Williams deserves a lot of credit for putting it together. It seems to me, however, that these smaller cats don't project to the audience like the larger ones do. Can't help but wonder what those folks, who have to sit in the far outer reaches of a building, will be thinking. One thing for sure, those smaller cats are fast as lightning.

The most thrilling act of the program is the high wire antics of the Carrillo Bros. They sure make a guy sit on the edge of his seat.

DOLLY JACOBS does a Roman ring act while the steel arena is being stored into the show's ring curb . . . . . John Sherwood

The Living Statues; The Rock-Smith Flyers; Clowns; Derrick Rosaire and his Wonder Horse Tony; Wendy, Elizabeth, Karen, Kathy, Juliana, Diana and Carry, aerialists; Clowns; The Diano and Pinson's elephants; The Marios, jugglers; The Friel-Smith Rocket S Cannon.



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