



5th Year

October 25, 1976

Number 43

## Successful Dates

During its recent East Coast tour the Page-Cavanaugh Circus drew extremely good crowds, making it a successful engagement. "What it boils down to," says Charles Germaine "is that the circus paid its bills, including all performers and showed a profit. The sponsors made money too," he added.

Taking a circus into Connecticut is not all that difficult if one meets the necessary insurance requirements that related to the number of seats erected for any outdoor event — with or without a tent, Germaine told CR last week.

The Connecticut police make daily checks to see that no alterations have been made in seating and that all necessary police and fire protection — on a local basis — is maintained.

The use of the tent was prohibited in New Haven because the Connecticut State  
(Continued on Page 12)

## Lion Attack

A trained lion being presented as part of a shopping center promotion in Cleveland (Ohio) attacked a TV newsman on Oct. 15th. Dozens of shoppers were watching the lion and newsman Del Donahoo play with each other when suddenly the lion grabbed Dona-

(Continued on Page 12)

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## Wreck

A mishap during a night move into Gastonia (N.C.) on Oct. 5th caused damage to Hoxie Bros. stake driver and fork lift trailer, and injured its occupants. The truck reportedly struck something in the road, which caused it to overturn.

The for lift trailer was demolished and the stake driver required a considerable amount of repairs before it could be used. The rig's driver and a rider were both injured; another rider escaped injury.

## PEOPLE

THE KAROLY's missed three days with the Sells & Gray Circus when their diesel semi broke down at Bowling Green (Ky) on Sept. 20th and they had to wait for parts.

CLARK McDERMOTT and his Cold Nose Five dogs are currently in Texas where they plan to visit the Dr. Pepper Circus at the Dallas Fair.

PIZZA, the Clown, is recovering from a broken arm suffered as the result of a fall from his stilts during a parade at Marlboro, Mass., after falling he remounted his stilts and completed the parade.

IRVIN FELD was the subject of a special article in the Chicago Tribune on Oct. 3rd. The article included a photo of Feld, an old time litho reproduction and an ad.

## Wm. Kay Show

The program presented by the William Kay Circus for Jacksonville, Fla. (Oct. 2-3) and Orlando, Fla. (Oct. 15-17) featured:

The Bounding Kays, St. Armand Troupe and The Rubonias, trampoline; Senorita Raquel, aerial feature; Clowns; Kurt & Kallea, aerial; Hanneford's Dog & Pony Revue; The Navarro Cyclists; Clowns; Jeannette and Albert Rix bears; The Jordanas, upside down cycle; Intermission.

The Flying Dells; Geronimo, sponge dive; An aerial ballet (8 girls) featuring Princess Morning Star; Clowns; George Hanneford, Jr., elephants; Clowns; Kaylena, birds; George Hanneford, Jr. Family of riders; Karl Wallenda and family, high wire.

The show staff included: Bill Kay, producer; Patricia Kay, talent coordinator/auditor; Keith Killinger, band leader; Kathy Killinger, special lighting; Enrico Bogino, electrician; Manny Navarro, props; Bob Melvin, novelties; Vicky Hanneford, aerial director, with Jack Healy handling promotion at Jacksonville and Bob Sands handling promotion for Orlando.

DON NORTHDROFT has left the RBBB Red Unit and will probably work concessions with the Polack Bros. Circus.

THE ALEXANDERS, teeterboard, worked the Fresno (Calif) Fair early this month and then did a Merv Griffith TV show.

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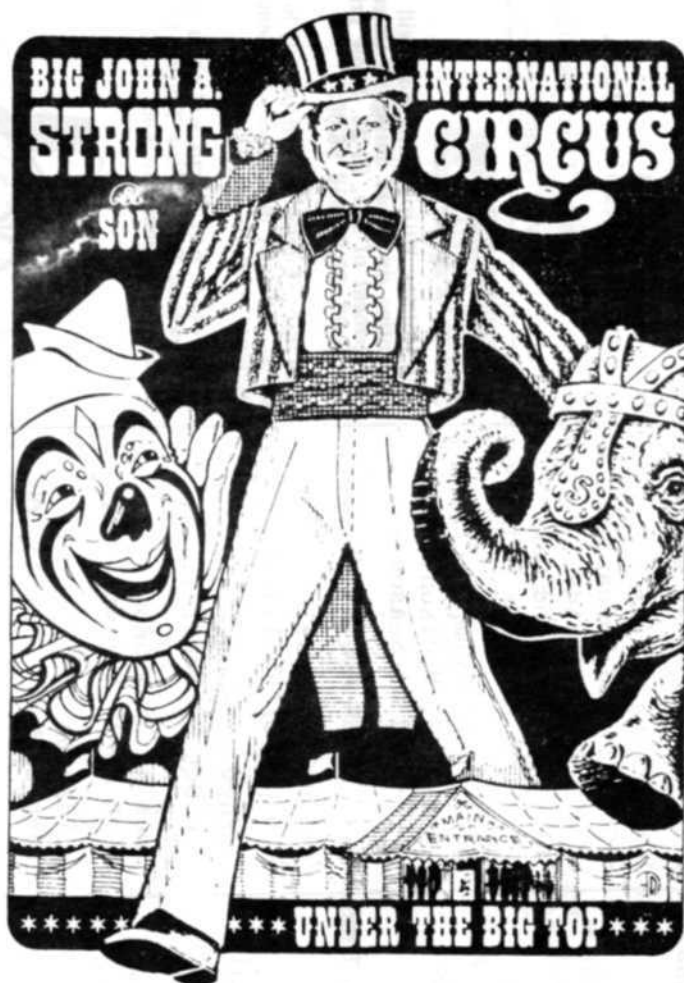
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# ROUTES

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Oct. 25 Alexandria, La.  
26 Vidalia  
27 McCombs, Miss,  
28 Greenwood  
29 Columbus  
30 Muscle Shoals,  
31 Russelville, Ala.

## Carson & Barnes Circus

Oct. 25 Batesville, Ark  
26 Walnut Ridge  
27 Blyteville  
28 Trumann  
29 Millington, Tenn  
30 Jackson

## Circus Vargas

Oct 25-27 Vallejo, Cal.  
San Jose

## Early American Circus

Oct 30-31 Half Moon Bay,  
Cali.

## King Bros. Circus

Oct 25 Leland, Miss  
26 Magee  
27 Tylertown  
28 Columbia  
29 Carthage  
30 Meridian  
31 Forest

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
to Nov. 7 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
to Nov. 1 Boston, Mass.

## Shrine Circus

Oct 26-31 Kansas City, Mo

## John Strong Circus

Oct. 25 San Bernardino, Ca  
26 Riverside  
27 Thousand Oaks  
30 Hacienda Heights

## TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Oct 27-31 Madison, Wisc.  
-- End of Season --

..... OTHER ROUTES .....

## Carnival of Brazil

to Oct 31 Philadelphia, Pa

## Century 21 Shows

to Oct 30 Mobile, Ala.

## James H. Drew Shows

Oct 25-30 Augusta, Ga.

## Holiday on Ice

Oct 26-Nov 3 Toledo, Ohio

## Ice Capades

Oct 26-31 El Paso, Texas

## Prof. Miller & Co. (Magic)

Oct 31 Waterville, Maine

## Mitchell's Marionettes

Oct 24-30 Mobile, Ala.

## Royal Lipizzan Stallions

Oct 27 Memphis, Tenn.  
29 Lansing, Mich.  
30-31 Kalamazoo

## The Swiss Clown

Oct. 31 Detroit, Mich.

## Western Canada Fair Assoc.

Oct 31-Nov 2 Saskatoon, Ssk

## Miscellaneous

The Holiday With Horses show will be presenting six shows during its Chicago engagement of Oct. 21-24. Show prices are \$4.00, \$5.00 and \$6.00.

King Bros. Circus played to half houses at Sarcoxie, Mo., where the temperature went to 30 degrees.

The William Kay Circus will open its 1977 season for the Zor Temple at Madison's Coliseum on Feb. 25th.





# BILLY BARTON . . . .

**RINGLING CREATED A CLOWN COLLEGE** but what this business really needs is a school for sailmakers, boss canvasmen, riggers, billers, etc. The few experts left are as rare as Buffalo and, while many are not up to the rigors of the one day stands, they are certainly able to teach.

**JON FRIDAY** visited Circus Vargas enroute to a Page-Cavanaugh date and almost got mud-bound..... **BILLY & BONNIE EARL** are playing club dates..... **MARIE FRANCE** sent her son back to school in France....**DEBBIE CHAPMAN** is no longer doing single traps on Royal Hanneford, has returned to Sarasota.....**HERBIE WEBER** played the Dallas State Fair Circus for 17 days....and **FRANK DEAN** is in wonderful spirits despite being tied to a hospital bed. A real trouper is Frank, who's making the best of a bad situation, even spins a rope off the side of the bed.

**KONGO**, the RBBB Gorilla on Great American goes home - for good. Hoxie Tucker bought a gorilla and an orangutan which he is featuring on the Great American next season....The **FLYING MEDALLIONS** were in Montreal recently swinging around.....Rumors are that **MAUREEN** (Cavaretta) **MITCHELL** may soon be doing traps at the **HACIENDA** in Vegas.

Bicycle stars **THE KLEMENTIS** tell me that Circus Vargas is their first real tent show experience and they love it so much they've re-signed for '77..... Remember **TORCHY TOWNSEND**? For a while this season she was a billposter with the Great American Circus.

Illusionist **J. J.** and **AMY** and **PRINCE NAJVEZ** were featured at the Onstage Cabaret - the third time in for both....**JOHN LEWIS** is finishing up the season as 24 hr. man on Hoxie Bros. (he is also purchasing agent)....**JIM SILVERLAKE** left the show earlier in the season....**DON MARCKS** moonlighted as an MC on a local date (it's one of his secret loves)....**ALBERTO ZOPPE** and Family are playing shopping centers. The trip to Italy is out - at least for now. The lire is too unstable, says Alberto.

Imagine G-A's manager **BILL HILL**'s puzzled consternation when he pulled into Hoboken to spot a poster declaring: **ONE DAY ONLY** - Sept. 20 and 21st....Now that that show is in the barn, Bill and

his son Allan are promoting three weeks of Xmas dates in the east.

If you wonder why I've nick-named **HARRY T. HUNT** "High-Seating Harry" the following should clue you in: Harry, during the '30s was requested by high government officials to seat thousands of guests at Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration. Harry accomplished this task (and was highly commended for his efforts) by jamming those 10,000 into the bleachers built to accommodate 7000. And that, my friends, is indeed "high-seating!"

**ABOUT ANIMALS:** **MARSHA HUNT JONES** has two adorable (and house-broken) pet lambs that really act like kids (ouch). She's named them the Revlon Girls - yup, you guessed it! They made commercials for the Cosmetic House.

Marsha and Husband Don took **HANNIBAL** the Camel to New York for a J. P. **STEPHENS** commercial (bedding, etc.) to find the photographer had trucked tons of sand to his **SECOND FLOOR** studio to acquire a "desert effect". Well, Hannibal balked at the stairs and could not be fitted into the elevator, so the project was abandoned; but not before Hannibal was the star at a Company Cocktail Party where he modelled quilts (and brought them home with him). Hannibal, declares Marsha, is the original cookie monster - loves oreos which the guests fed Hannibal - direct from their mouths!

Wait! I'm not done yet! **DOLLY**, the Hunt's elephant, who is featured annually in Radio City's Christmas Nativity Scene, was rented to pay a surprise visit to 30 year radio veteran **JOHN GAMBLING** of WOR (NYC) who was enroute to a real honest to goodness safari. Dolly came in and wrapped her trunk lovingly around his neck while he was broadcasting. The surprise fizzled, however, when Gambling smelled her coming. The **REAL** surprise was to those people coming on and off the elevators in the studio hall where Dolly was stationed. One man, rushing off, ran smack into Dolly's rear, registered total shock, and dashed back into the elevator. He's not been seen nor heard from again! And **THAT** is the end!

See you down the road, luvs.

## PEOPLE

MAC Mac DONALD's two young elephants - Mack and Toto - spent the summer season (May 5 to Sept. 6) at a park in Stockbridge, Ga. The animals were worked by TOM and POM POM DONOHO.

TIMMY LOYAL won rave reviews for his riding work with the George Hanneford Family of riders which appeared with the William Kay Circus at Jacksonville, Fla. (Oct. 2-3). He is the son of famous circus rider GIUSTINO LOYAL.

J. ALLEN DUFFIELD is taking over the responsibilities of Secretary/Treasurer for the CFA. He is replacing HERMAN LINDEN who held the post for many years.

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

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$2.50; Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year.

## Show Acts

Featured in the Al Sirat Grotto Circus at Cleveland (Ohio) on Oct. 8-16 were:

Spec, Circus Fantasy on Parade; Roberto, cloud swing; Alice, Ramon, Judy, Raul and Ruth, aerialists; Tarzan and his wild animals, The Jupiter Trio, aerial stars; The Juggling Jewels; Valdez Duo; Mr. Bell; Miss Astra, a 60 foot dive; The Smaha Family, horses; Katica's Kanines; Miss Lona's Pets; Cimse's Wolfhounds; Aerial Ballet featuring Arturo, heel-and-toe trapeze; the Kaye Circus elephants; Mademoiselle Jacqueline, aerialist; The Four Flying Ramos; Antalek's chimps; Barbara's llamas; Baby Dolly, the elephant; Karl Wallenda Troupe, high wire; The Mirielle Troupe, the Young Troupe and The Walters Family, acrobats; The Nock Bros., sway pole; Finale.

The big show band was directed by Jack Cervone and the show was produced by Paul V. Kaye. Clown Alley included: Alfredo London, the Daly Duo, Tim Hill and Miguel.

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## Acts Named

Acts working the Polack Bros. engagement at Charleston, W. Va. (Oct. 15-17) were: Lili-Ann, leopards; Walter Stimax and Mildred clowns; The Young Duo, trapeze/cradle; The Villams, juggling; Frank and Janet Burger, dogs/chimps; Ben DeWayne, elephants; The Fulbrights, horses/ponies; The Staneks, teeterboard/vaulting and the Flying Ibarra.

## PEOPLE

THE HENNEBERRY FAMILY worked a matinee and night show for the Covered Bridge Festival (Matthews, Ind.) on Oct. 2nd, which drew in excess of 38,000 people.

YVONNE STEHPENS and her Mini Circus have returned home after playing shopping centers in Iowa and Nebraska. Early this year the Stephens Family (dogs, pony and an aerial act) worked on Hunt's Circus.

## Show Visits

Show personnel from both RBBB's Red Unit and Circus Vargas were busy visiting each other during the shows engagements in the Detroit area.

Ringling's Red Unit was at Olympia Stadium while Circus Vargas played both Pontiac and Westland. Incidentally, it was at Westland, just exactly a year ago that the Circus Vargas new big top was christened.

George DaDeppo

CHERYL SHAWVER and her elephant "Ivory" recently worked an Airstream Trailer commercial, as well as a segment of the McDuff TV series.

YVONNE ROONEY, polio poster girl some 16 years ago, was a guest of the Al Sirat Grotto Circus, where she told the crowd she would still be in a wheelchair without the help of charity.

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## In Memoriam

DELIGHT B. MCGILL (58), musician, dancer and vaudeville performer, died at Stanford Calif. on Aug. 26th. She and her magician husband, Ormond, worked throughout the world. She started in vaudeville as a youngster and played a cornet while walking on a high wire. Survivors include her husband, her father, Ray C. Olmstead; a sister, Anna May and a brother, Robert.

In Memory

HARRY HOUDINI

Died Oct. 31, 1926

## C and B

Carson & Barnes had some good dates during their three week tour of the Sunshine State (Kansas).

At Independence (Sept. 24) the show played on a city park lot and drew a good matinee crowd with a capacity house that night.

The small town of Oswego (Sept. 25) had too many other things going -- antique car show, CB radio convention, bad weather. As a result the crowds were down.

Osage City, with a population of 2000 was played on Oct. 2nd to excellent houses, with folks coming from everywhere. Obviously the sponsors had done a good advance job. The weather was good, the lot was level and spacious -- all a repeat of a good day at Emporia on Oct. 1st.

The physical layout of the show has been changed quite a bit. They are using the old "white" top, which was last used in August of 1974. It is a 140 ft. tent which gives the show a somewhat wider track. The last time I saw this tent (which was the last time it was used) it was in horrible shape. They have done a remarkable repair job on it and it is surely good for some time.

The midway is somewhat weaker as the side show unit is no longer on the show. The performance is somewhat lighter as several members of one family are away due to an auto accident. However, Dutch Crawford has the show moving fast, at exactly 90 minutes. The Bi-centennial spec continues to be colorful and is a highlight of the performance.

....Charlie Bennett

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## Photos Wanted

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and

Want photographs of elephant "Ivory" and the leash leopard working on 1976 Lewis Bros. Circus.

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## Fair Date

Acts appearing at the Topsfield Fair, in Topsfield, Mass. (Oct. 2-11) were: Bobby & Cissy dancers; Cris Zarba Trio, musical; Joy Goodnow, country-Western; Vickinas, risley; Johnny Zoppe's monkeys; The Laddies, unsupported ladders; Les Thinis (Hansen), trampoline and the Conti Family, music.

## Miscellaneous

Polack Bros. Circus has been drawing good crowds at its east coast dates. Charleston, W. Va., was one of its biggest dates.

The Royal Danish Circus played to ten packed houses during its Sept. 28-Oct. 2 engagement at the Cumberland, Maine, Fair. Senator Dole attended the final performance and was invited on stage by MC Albert Sahlstrom, for an impromptu speech.

The George Hannedford Family Circus will open its winter engagement at the Circus Hall of Fame in Sarasota on Dec. 15th.

## Pot-Pourri

Ken and Vesta Grimaldi are now on tour with the Harlem Globetrotters.....The Barry Miller Troupe is once again criss-crossing the country.....Bernie Kallman is busy constructing clown productions for the winter season.

The Chandlers will work Christmas dates in the east.....June Dewsbury, lady dwarf, por' trays a housekeeper in the porno movie "The Joy of Letting Go." The film's pre-release title was "Michele."

Mike Naughton totes an extra trunk for wardrobe needed in the Michelangelo Paint Co., number.....Royal Hanneford's Kathy English is busy riding, working web and stooging for most of the show.....Dorian Blake will make the Baltimore Shrine date for Hanneford.

.....Mike Naughton

The Leanin' Tree card company of Boulder, Colorado, is featuring a birthday card with a circus theme. The card depicts a boy and his dog looking at old Ringling Bros. lithos on a backyard fence.

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## PEOPLE

Mrs. J. A. HOFMEISTER injured her knee when she stepped into a hole on an uneven show lot late last month.

BERNARD CARROLL clowned for several shows (Beatty, Carson & Barnes, Royal Wild West) and he also worked several parades during the summer season.

TARZAN ZERBINI won headlines of praise for his performance at the Cleveland (Ohio) Grotto Circus earlier this month. Other acts were also singled out, but writer Tony Mastroianni devoted half his review to Tarzan's wild animal act.

## All's Well

The 1976 season was a good one for the De Wayne Bros. Circus, according to show officials, who report they played throughout the western states, Canada and Alaska. The tour was made up of a combination of repeat and new engagements.

There were no days lost due to weather, and all shows went on time. A record was achieved in Alaska when the show was flown in to Barrows.

Plans for next year include a new big top, new acts and possibly some seat wagons. The 1977 tour will take the show into Alaska considerably earlier than in the past.

### SUCCESSFUL DATES (Continued)

stated the tent rental company had not provided additional increases in their existing liability coverage. Five shows were presented outdoors, in two days. Each of them was to jammed, packed house.

### LION ATTACK (Continued)

hoo by the neck.

Trainer Dave Chivonic succeeded in getting the lion away from Donahoo, who was then rushed to a local hospital. He suffered bites about the head and neck, and later was reported to be in good condition.

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**YEARS AGO**

Pittsfield, Mass. - June 10, 1926  
101 Ranch Wild West Show

The 101 Ranch Wild West Show arrived in Pittsfield today, coming from Kingston, N.Y. in one section of 28 cars. The train arrived at 10:15 a.m. and the train includes: 12 flats, 8 horse cars, 8 sleepers and 42 wagons (six trucks and one auto).

The horse cars and flat cars are all painted orange, with the sleepers being painted orange and black.

The equipment includes: a crazy clown car, a Buick car for Mr. Miller, a passenger truck, 4 circus trucks, a tractor, steam calliope, air calliope, stage coach, covered wagon, 4 cook house wagons, a pit show wagon, two ticket wagons (red and white), plus 12 oxen, 9 steers, 16 buffalo, 5 camels, and 6 elephants. They have 78 baggage horses, made up in 14 teams, and 14 tents. The tops are: arena, ring stock/dressing tent, wardrobe, side show, No. 2 side show, kitchen, dining, two horse tents four concession tops and one private top.

Everything was unloaded by 1 p.m. and the parade started at 2 p.m. with 26 sections, 13 mounted riders and 13 wagons.

The side show opened as soon as the parade was back at the lot. It features: Minstrels, Indians, Giant, Giantess, Fat Girl, Fortune

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Teller, Snakes, Bag Puncher, Sword Illusion, Punch & Judy, Gun Spinner, has 16 banners, an outside stage, two ticket boxes and is a three pole top.

The No. 2 side show has 4 banners and is featuring a talking horse, midgets and their baby. It also has an outside stand, two ticket boxes and is a 2 pole tent.

The wagon pit show features a gorilla and has just the one ticket box.

The big show didn't open until about 4 p.m. and had a fair crowd.

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## Ward Doings

When RBBB's Blue Unit opened its 4½ week engagement in Chicago, the opening night performance (Oct. 7) was sponsored by the 11th Ward Democratic Party (Mayor John Daley's home ward).

An overflow crowd turned out for the circus and as a result several thousand people were turned away, after being given rain checks. Later when the checks were being redeemed folks found they were good only for residents of that ward. Up to that point there had been no indication - either spoken or printed that rain checks were for specific areas only.

One observer reported that Party Workers were rude and indifferent to those attempting to explain or use the rain checks. Checks were refused for three small children who lived outside the ward, yet they were accompanied by their grandparents who lived within the ward area.

It has not been determined if any backlash has been directed at the circus. However, local people have been angry at the Democratic Ward officers.

**WALLY BEACH**, former circus press agent, was named press representative for the Chateau de Ville Dinner Theatre in East Windsor, Conn. He was previously managing director for a theatre in West Springfield.

## GOOD OLD DAYS

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# Oct. Date

Again this year the Early American Circus is being featured at the annual Pumpkin Festival in Half Moon Bay (Calif.). The show will play weekends during the month of October, offering a variety of entertainment.

A new format is being used, a combination of circus/side show presentations, all within a sidewall, without a top. Acts work on platforms before a stand-up audience, while animals are exhibited as an added attraction.

The circus has been set-up in the middle of a huge field and is completely surrounded by thousands of pumpkins, of all sizes. It is a colorful and inviting scene, that is proving to be a big drawing card for the thousands of people who attend the Festival and its pre-Halloween features.

# PEOPLE

BOB and MARJI LANGIN (Bob-O and Bobbino) are at the Circus Hall of Fame where they conduct tours and Bob doubles as the show announcer.

LARRY (Buster) CRABBE, former Olympic swimmer and star of an early 1930's circus film (King of the Jungle) is gaining new popularity for his film work as Flash Gordon and Buck Rogers. He is a native of Oakland, Calif.

# CUSTOM COLOR CIRCUS PHOTOS

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Berwyn, Illinois 60402

# Suit Dropped

A suit filed against three Good Samaritans in Akron (Ohio) who helped house three circus elephants has been dismissed. James Bierce, attorney for circus owner Sid Kellner, asked the court to dismiss the charges because "Mr. Kellner is satisfied now that he has the elephants back."

The whole thing began in September when the George-Matthews Circus played the Akron area. After the show closed elephant trainer Pancho Magana said he had been left with the animals, stranded, without money and only a vague promise of work in November.

After the story appeared in the news media local groups donated food and money and a farmer, James Carter, offered his barn as a shelter for the animals. Even the Humane Society got involved, but they reported the elephants were in good shape.

Circus owner Sid Kellner rushed back to Akron and denied the charges that he had stranded his animals. When he attempted to repossess the elephants the Carter family refused to release them until \$1200 in damages to their barn were paid.

As a result Kellner filed the suit asking for the return of his elephants and for \$190,000 in damages.

Part of the agreement in dismissing the suit provides that a \$1000 bond left by Kellner when he filed the suit will be turned over to Carter for repairs to his barn.

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I'LL BET IF THAT QUEEN UP THERE HANGING BY HER TEETH EVER GAVE 'EM A WORKOUT ON TH' STEAKS SERVED AT OUR COOP SHE'D HAVE 'EM LAID UP FOR REPAIRS!

THAT'S HER HUSBAND WHO HAS TH' OTHER END OF TH' ROPE IN HIS MOUTH - WOULDN'T IT BE A RIOT IF THEY STARTED AN ARGUMENT NOW?

AH - I'D BE WILLING TO SHARE MY CAKES AN' COFFEE WITH THAT THRILL DOIN' TH' BARE BACK RIDING - ALL IT TAKES IS A HORSE TO SUPPORT HER!



GENE AHERN



AMONG THOSE UNDER THE BIG TENT =

# PEOPLE

BOB SLATZER, film producer, is planning to make a movie about the life of cowboy star KEN MAYNARD. Not well known is the fact that for the last several years of his life Maynard was supported by GENE AUTRY and Slatzer. When Maynard died penniless it was Autry and Slatzer who paid the funeral expenses.

## Miscellaneous

The Windjammers Unlimited, Inc., will hold their 1977 convention at St. Louis, Mo., with headquarters in the Executive International Inn. The dates are Jan. 27-30.

The 1977 CFA Convention is scheduled for Las Vegas, Nev., on June 16-18 and will be held at the Circus Circus Casino and with the Polack Bros. Circus.

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Holiday time will soon be here, so why not tell your friends "Merry Christmas" via an ad in Circus Report?

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Yes, it's coming soon, a report on the year 1976 and predictions of what can be expected in 1977.

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Read what happened and what is coming up in the future!

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# Today and Tomorrow

While many big top circuses have found 1976 a rough-go, Circus Vargas has had its best season since its inception in 1973. Profits are up over 1975, the show has had no labor problems, no problems getting in and getting up, and has experienced only one major mishap -- the light plant truck (with only 1000 miles registered) which was completely demolished going through Las Vegas this spring.

In 1975, Circus Vargas played a 54 week season. The 1976 tour will run 49 weeks with a January reopening in Atlanta (Ga.). The Mexican tour, originally scheduled for December, has been cancelled.

Overall improvements in Circus Vargas during 1976 have been major and vast -- 8 new spotlights, a full circular center ring stage complete with full circular red carpet; cushion backed theatre-type chairs for the box seat sections with slip covers, new box seats/frames an elevated bandstand, a performer-prop top attached to the back door, all new seating, new canvas, and beautiful new diesels. In addition, Circus Vargas has the best tent crew it has ever had and its staff has been augmented with knowledgeable, useful intelligence.

The amounts of money poured back into this operation can only be guessed at, but it is a never-ending waterfall. The year 1977 will see greatly increased expenditures poured into what now has become that "Vargas Look."

The "Vargas Look" is no accident. A full maintenance crew is kept active at upkeep full time. The rolling equipment is washed frequently and woe unto the performer who does not do likewise with his private equipment.

A new big top, dark blue, will be raised in California this fall. It has canvas caps over the center poles, double-walled curtains (spec entrance, back door and marquee) to provide the show with a "night-time" appearance on matinees and to heighten dramatic new light-

ing effects being brought from Europe. A new side show/menagerie top, an 80 with two 40's, will also be unveiled. All show animals and spec will come from that point into the big top under a huge canopy cover. Rain or shine the spec will go on. New costumes, floats and animals are being readied for the Spec.

Circus Vargas will be featuring three rings of liberty horses over-seen and presented by the Baker family, with Judy Baker holding down the center ring. In addition to buying local animals an act is to be imported from Europe. The show has also bought the Carden-Johnson elephants, plus others to bring their herd to a total of 17 elephants.

A new double-wide flying act is being introduced from Europe, along with a solo high wire act - stilt-walking (no mechanic) its highlight. The Persian team of Said & Said (knife-to-knife balance) also bows in '77. The rumored three rings of bears, to be presented by Wally Naghtin, is a reality, but will not be ready until later in the season.

Returnees include: The Klementis, Frank and Estrelita, Jan Bickmore, Loni Van Voorden, Miss Barbara, Wally Ross, the Bakers, Jim Gibson with the band, Cemon's Chimps, Naghtin's bears, Magaly and Rueben and others.

Will Circus Vargas play Shrine Dates about which there has been so much speculation? The answer to that is a definite "yes"; but only when such dates fit into the schedule. Two already signed are Tucson (Ariz) and Beaumont (Texas). At least 20 Shrine Committees have visited the show thus far.

The majority of engagements will continue to be played "Cold", such as the 22 weeks in California, and the Canadian tour. Only about 10% of the route is played under sponsorship

(Continued on Page 9)

**The CIRCUS -**  
*as it was..*



**The CIRCUS as-**  
*it was meant to be!!*

*We're Not "Monkeying" Around*

*We Mean "business" –*

*Thank you - Cliff Vargas*

*Susan and Cemon*

*and*

*"CEMON'S CHIMPS"*

*For Four Wonderful Years*

*THE BAKERS:*

*Sir William*

*Judy*

*and*

*Tommy*

*Wishes Clifford Vargas  
all the best and thanks!*

*We thank you*

*Cliff Vargas*

*The KLEMENTIS*

*"Happy to be with you  
again in 1977"*

*Thank You,*

*Clifford Vargas*

*For 1976*

*FRANK and ESTRELITA*

*and*

*for*

*1977*

# A Profile

CLIFFORD VARGAS

The steady growth of Circus Vargas, built from the nucleus of the Miller Johnson Circus purchased from Charles Germaine in 1973 has been nothing but meteoric. Without the courage, however, or the persistence of the man whose name the circus bears, there would be no Circus Vargas on the road today.

Clifford E. Vargas, of Portugese descent, grew up on a farm in Indiana. Sixteen years ago he started out as a phone man and, almost immediately, fell in love with the circus, a love affair which has reached a fever pitch.

He went to work for Rudy Jacobi and, later, for Charles Germaine who had just formed the Miller-Johnson combine. When Vargas bought out that circus in 1973 he knew basically little about the circus industry and so he dared to pioneer new concepts his way -- to devastating results. That which clicks for Vargas clicks uniquely for Vargas alone. Imitations have culminated in failure. Only Vargas could tour his circus for 54 weeks as he did last season, playing 90% cold dates, and emerge victorious.

Vargas, himself, is probably the most enigmatic man on the circus scene today. He is a flamboyant showman reminiscent of the late, great Mike Todd who has, at once and in contrast, a Hollywood "flair" correlative with a deep-seated love for the circus as it once was in America.

No one reacts quietly to Vargas! He is, on the one hand, widely feared, disliked and talked about by either those who do not know him or those who have grounds to feel as they do. He is, on the other hand, admired and respected by as many, and loved by those few who do know him and realize that he is a grossly misunderstood showman who insists on perfection in all things and who lives by the rules he imposes.

Much of this "fear" and "dislike" springs from a current circus population unused to the strict discipline which was an every-day procedure in the circus world of yesterday -- a discipline Circus Vargas has re-established for the ultimate good of us all.

Those early seasons found Cliff driving a semi, often covered with mud, and sleeping in the office. Today, Cliff Vargas, will still be found driving a semi, often covered in mud, but sleeping in a luxurious fifth wheel, as elaborate as a penthouse, which he designed and to which few persons ever have access. Vargas, the visitor discovers, is unreachable (except when he wishes not to be); a genuine throwback to those great circus moguls of our circus past.

There are exceptions to every rule in every industry. Once in a while, and rarely, there comes along a showman -- like I. J. Polack or an Al Dobritch -- to whom "rules" are exceptions. Such a showman is Clifford Vargas gas now making a new kind of circus history all his own.

## Some Facts

A mounted Gorilla Show with two gorillas and two Orangutans will be a feature of the new Circus Vargas midway in 1977. Many new exotic animals have been obtained for the side show/menagerie. In addition to buying the Carden-Johnson elephants, the show has also purchased elephants in Europe.

A new, mobile sanitary unit will be toured with the show in 1977. Also, a "snow fence" will be used to enclose the whole circus, ala European style. As in the old days, visitors must secure passes from the front office to enter the backyard area, once this enclosure is put into operation.

Highly stylized seat wagons have been designed and modified by show owner Cliff Vargas. The original model was built on a revamped version of the seat wagons now in use by many shows. They go into production soon and should be in use during the 1977 season.





# BILLY BARTON....

GREETINGS TO CIRCUS VARGAS on this...."Circus Vargas Week", thanks to WALLY NAGHTIN who dreamed the whole thing up! CR's thanks to all for their interest and support and my friends for the two fabulous dinner parties tossed in my honor.

And now to CV Gossip: PAT ANTHONY was raving about Ringmaster MIKE GORMAN's invaluable assistance during the cat act when WALLY NAGHTIN remarked: "Pray a cat never lifts its leg or you'll never see him again!"

Would love to adopt Cliff Vargas' expression "Spin to the Moon" for my column tag line but I hate to be a copy cat....BARBARA VAN VOORDEN is working in the front office as a secretary....Band-leader JIM GIBSON is not overjoyed with his new Cobra trailer, especially when the bumper fell off on the Long Island Expressway.....JUDY BAKER accompanied CLIFF VARGAS on his European talent scouting safari.....They mentioned seeing GALLA SHAWN over there and Cliff engaged two outstanding European importations - both aerial acts.

Applause please, for FRED VAN VOORDEN's clever lighted sign he created which frames the CV elevated bandstand.....And, visitors, have you noted the jeweled back door curtain hanging beneath it? Applause is also in order for FRANK & ESTRELITA who do an outstanding perch act (hanging) and that incredible straight-legged heel hang performed by Ruthie - nothing that perfect seen since the days of TAJANA.

CEMON has broken all seven of his chimps to do the 3-Chimp-Handstand on the perch he supports..... Now, when one gets sick the trick stays intact..... The audience, during the New York half-run, was so uncontrollable the chimp act had to be cut - The chimps, believe it or not, were afraid of the audience.

Those special color-books on CV actually contain drawings of all the acts that appear in the show and that is unusual!.....WALLY NAGHTIN is NOT living the Life of Riley now that wife DORIS is in England. Being a bachelor just ain't what it's cracked up to be, eh, Wally? Everybody has to "do" for him and he can't find anything!

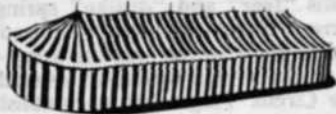
The FLYING LANTONYS were out for several shows when one of the flyers pulled a shoulder - all A-OK now.....Both the head-balancing display (3) and the foot juggling display (3) are assets to the performance.....One must see the luxurious fifth wheel designed by Cliff Vargas to believe it. The living room has a fold-out addition, is heavily draped, has a polar bear skin rug on the floor and is decorated with antiques. One gets the feeling of being in a lavish penthouse far, far removed from any circus scene. I'm probably letting the cat out of the bag, but Cliff Vargas is a gourmet cook. He should get together with Sir VICTOR JULIAN who is also one.

ANNA DEL MONTE is going crazy trying to make those elaborate new elephant blankets for the 1977 Spec and will be glad when the show moves to California where she'll have a place to work. Her son PINKY has the Conure Parrott that belonged to the JOANIDES family. It talks - but only in Italian!.....And, in case you didn't know it, JAN BICKMORE (Nicole - trapeze) is working in the WALLY ROSS elephant display.

That must have been SOME meeting between Hollywood Mogul IRWIN ALLEN and Circus Mogul CLIFF VARGAS at 20th Century Fox this past winter! From the stories I heard they could have filmed those meetings and forgotten about the circus script. The movie CIRCUS, incidentally, is not completely shelved and Allen does plan to make it eventually, using Circus Vargas.

When does the NEGATIVE become the POSITIVE? When WALLY NAGHTIN says that JUST BECAUSE Vargas has a second big top, plus poles, seats, ring curbs, stage, lighting and other secondary equipment, it DOESN'T NECESSARILY mean Vargas is putting out a second unit!

Good Luck to Circus Vargas in 1977 and hope to see you all "down the road, luvv."



**Thank You - Cliff Vargas  
for 1973-'74-'75-'76**

**The NAGHTINS**

**Wally      Doris      Wally, Jr.**



**And Thanks In Advance  
for 1977**

*Announcing a  
"great, big, Thank You"*

*Clifford Vargas*

*MIKE GORMAN  
Ringmaster*

*Thank You,  
Cliff Vargas*

*SEÑOR ANTONIO*

*Thank You, Cliff Vargas*

*JAN BICKMORE*

*Thank You, Cliff Vargas*

*THE FLYING LATONYS*

*LUCY and LASZLO TOTH*

*Say*

*Thanks, Cliff Vargas*

*Thank You, Cliff Vargas*

*V A S H E K*

*Sandra and Jim Windland  
and the*

*Circus Vargas Side Show*

*say*

*Thanks, Cliff Vargas!*

*Thank you, Clifford Vargas*

*For 1975 - 1976*

*ADELE and GORY*

*Gorilla Parody*

*Thank You, Cliff Vargas*  
**JIM GIBSON**  
*and the*  
**CIRCUS VARGAS BAND**

*Thank You,*  
*Cliff Vargas*  
**PAT ANTHONY**

*Thank You, Clifford Vargas*  
**MAGALY and RUBEN**

*Thanks, Cliff Vargas*  
**ANNA and PINKY**

*Thank You, Cliff Vargas*  
**FRANK PEALER, Supt.**  
**VIC. ARIVETT, Boss Canvas**  
**JOE DAVIDSON, Assistant**

*Greetings Cliff Vargas From*  
**CLOWN ALLEY -**  
**Johnny**  
**Zapatta**  
**Mohammed**  
*And Thanks!*

**PHOTO CREDIT:** The marquee photograph on the front cover was supplied by circus photographer Tom Gray of San Francisco.

Circus Vargas carries a variety of devices to connect with fire hydrants and other water supplies so water lines can be run directly to house trailers, concession units and to the animal departments.

That huge box compartment built on the prop truck tractor is filled to the brim with bags and bags of ..... sawdust!

**TODAY and TOMORROW (Continued)**  
 and then the circus is "bought out" with Vargas retaining the "fringe benefits."

The present "saturation advertising" format will be utilized on all cold dates and those "free kids' tickets" utilized only with certain shopping center or mall tie-ins.

The policy of having its front door people in gowns and tuxedos will also be continued.

The Circus Vargas season is longer than that of any other show on the road today. Last year the show played for 53 weeks.

# Tax Woes

"Circus Vargas in Canada"

THE TAX SITUATION for American shows in Canada has not declined; it has, if anything, increased. The following report has been released by Clifford Vargas and CV manager Wally Naghtin exclusively to CR.

## CROSSING THE BORDER....

To cross into Canada each person must be certified by the Labor Board. Excluding performers, if the individual is not deemed essential, he must be replaced by a Canadian worker. This creates additional problems for a show and involves excessive paperwork. Circus Vargas entered Canada for a tour of ten weeks. Its manifest was scanned by Tax Officials and a 15% income tax was levied against it immediately, which the circus paid out in advance. Each pay day 15% was deducted from each person's paycheck. These individuals may file for a refund.

## ADDITIONAL TAXES....

There is a 10% ticket tax, a 7% concession tax. Circus Vargas deposited \$50,000 against taxable admissions in the Province of Ontario. The circus also deposited \$97,000 on an "income corporation tax" which is 50% against the net income. A deposit of this amount was demanded regardless of a final accounting for the show's net income when it completed its tour. A refund is expected but the amount is unknown.

If Ontario gave the circus tax woes, Quebec initiated new headaches. CV was required to pay a \$200 per day "playdate fee". There was a fuel tax of \$469. The light plant used "blue" diesel, the trucks "white". Were one or the other put into the wrong tanks (which each day was investigated by flashlight), the show would have been fined \$10,000.

## TRUCK LICENSE DILEMMA....

In Montreal, Circus Vargas appeared at two separate locations. At the first, the show was told it would not have to pay a truck license fee. At the second, on the very last day, the show was told it would - when it was too late to secure them.

Prior to the dilemma, on the show's move from Montreal to Quebec City, it had been arranged that the entire circus would meet at a rest area 40 miles from Quebec City and then "parade" caravan-fashion to the lot,

with people lined up along the route. (Thousands of people were actually on hand at the lot to greet the show's arrival). Now, however, Cliff Vargas was struck with a license permit problem for all show-owned rolling stock.

Via phone calls, the show was finally permitted to move with a special letter of authorization, and the necessary licenses would be negotiated the next day in Quebec City. At the designated meeting area Clifford Vargas awakened to see his entire circus surrounded by police. They demanded \$11,000 before the show could move - this, despite the letter of authorization. A check was written out and handed over, which meant that Clifford Vargas paid a year's license fee for each vehicle when the circus was only in the Province for a few weeks. "I'm supposed to get a rebate of \$9,000," he says. "But I will have to see the money to believe it."

## THE GOOD SIDE....

On the Good Side, business was phenomenal, weather was perfect. In Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, thousands of people were turned away at every performance, even on three shows a day. Only one town was less than satisfactory - Kitchener - where trouble over past phone promotions had erupted into scandals and where these problems were re-hashed by the press daily during the circus engagement. Circus Vargas was dismayed by this turn of events. All Circus Vargas engagements were played cold, without sponsors and with no promotion other than the show's lavish publicity format.

Will Circus Vargas return to Canada in 1977? "Why not," says Cliff. "I'm sure next year will be easier. They know us now and we know what to expect in advance. Besides, the circus made money and the Canadian people were thrilled to see a first class, major circus back in their country under the big top."



*Thank you, Clifford Vargas  
for the Past  
the Present  
and the Future!*

*Fred, Loni, Barbara  
VAN VOORDEN*

*A "Trunk Full" of  
Best Wishes to  
Cliff Vargas*

*Thank You!  
WALLY ROSS  
elephants*

*BILL BIGGERSTAFF  
WES and LONNIE*

*Express  
Their Thanks To  
Clifford Vargas*

*The "GANG" is "ganging up"  
to say:*

*Thank you, Cliff!*

- Rhona — Rickie*
- Gary — Pam*
- Gail — Gay*
- David — Bruce*
- Jack — John*

**Great in 1976!**



**greater in 1977**



**The Leader in its field!**