



7th Year

February 27, 1978

Number 9

## How They Did It

(We are indebted to the Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune for the following report on how the NBC-TV film "The Great Wallendas" was achieved.)

Weeks of technical preparation were required before any actual filming could take place. In order to obtain a genuine circus atmosphere the Wallendas were filmed performing the pyramid in front of a live audience. The film schedule was arranged to coincide with the annual Showfolks Circus at Sarasota and the Roberts Arena was dressed to resemble the Detroit Coliseum as it looked in 1962. One day later, the character of the building was substantially changed to resemble the Fort Worth building in 1963.

Stuntmen and film stars were coached by Karl Wallenda in how to walk a wire. Special cameras were required to simulate properly the wire-walking the actors do in the film.

The actual filming had to take place at the correct height — as much as 30 feet in the air — so that perspectives and distances were correct. Thus, an entire week of pre-production

time was devoted to devising an elaborate scaffolding system which could be used to implement the filming. Though all the actors, were in truth, walking a wire, a solid floor supported by scaffolding was a comforting eight inches under their feet. Forty-pound balancing poles used by all members of the Wallendas troupe were held by crew members out of camera

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## SPECIAL

On Feb. 11th, CFA Convention chairman Ken Kurtz; District director Dale Riker and the writer, met in Lansing, Mich., with Jerry Roe of the Michigan Historical Commission and eight legislators and members of the State Historical group to discuss a tribute to the fabulous showman James A. Bailey, to be held in September 1978.

With the blessing of Michigan's Governor Milliken we are having a Historical Plaque made to be erected in Cobo Hall (Jefferson and Cass Ave.) birthplace of Bailey.

When the circus plays Olympia in September there will be a \$25 a plate banquet to Honor this fabulous showman. Those participating will board buses at Cobo Hall and be whisked to Elmwood Cemetery; grave site of James A. Bailey, where RBBB President Irvin Feld will dedicate a monument designed by the writer and produced by Solters & Roskin, Inc., for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

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## In Memoriam

LES LEVANTE (85), renowned Australian illusionist, died in his native country on Jan. 21st. He taped a television show last summer in Australia which was run on New Years Day, which was his last show. He won awards in the U. S. and was featured on the I.B.M. Convention Show at Battle Creek, Mich. in 1939.

Then the participants will board the buses for a trip to Olympia Stadium to be entertained by the Red Unit of "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Following the circus performance a cocktail party will be hosted by the group for performers of the circus.

They will then board buses for Cobo Hall for a unique dedication of the Historic Plaque Honoring Bailey, by Governor William Milliken and the Governor will also honor Mr. Irvin Feld for his contribution to Amusement in America by carrying on with the gigantic Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

Following the dedication those concerned will meet in the Cobo Hall Banquet Hall for a dinner, with guest speakers such as Governor Milliken, Irvin Feld and various other celebrities and dignitaries.

The event will launch the James A. Bailey Festival, which it is hoped will become an annual affair.

"Don't Miss It!"

... George Da Deppo

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(Booked by Gunnar Amandis)
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- West Orange, N.J. — Coronas Shrine Circus
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•

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# Show Dates

Hubert Castle Circus  
Feb. 25-Mar. 5 Minneapolis, Minn.

Cole All Star TV Circus  
Feb. 27 Camillus, N. Y.  
28 Canastota  
Mar. 1 Lowsville  
2 Clayton  
3 Beaver Falls  
4 Adams

Great Y Circus  
Mar. 3-5 San Bernardino, Calif.

Hamid-Morton Circus  
Mar. 3-5 Topeka, Kansas

Harold Bros. Circus  
Mar. 4-7 Lansing, Mich.

Hubler International Circus  
Feb. 25-26 Elyria, Ohio  
Mar. 4-5 Galesburg, Ill.  
4-5 Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Wm. Kay Circus  
Mar. 4-5 Albany, N. Y.

Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit  
Feb. 28-Mar. 5 Norfolk, Va.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Feb. 28-Mar. 5 Raleigh, N. C.

Royal Lichtenstein Circus  
Feb. 27-28 Seattle, Wash.  
Mar. 1 Ellensburg  
2-3 Spokane

Royal Hanneford Circus  
Mar. 2-5 Greenville, S. C.

TNT & Royal Olympic Circus  
Mar. 1-5 San Jose, Calif.

Karl Wallenda Circus  
Mar. 1-26 Puerto Rico

## ----- OTHER DATES -----

Bugs Bunny Follies  
Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Johnstown, Pa.

Dondi, the Baby Elephant  
Mar. 2-5 Rock Island, Ill.

Do It Yourself Show  
Mar. 1-5 San Francisco, Calif.

Holiday On Ice - Int'l  
Feb. 28-Mar. 5 Pine Bluff, Ark.

Holiday On Ice - Nat'l  
Feb. 28-Mar. 12 Louisville, Ky.

Ice Capades - Eastern Unit  
Mar. 2-12 Chicago, Ill.

Ice Capades - Western Unit  
Feb. 28-Mar. 5 Saginaw, Mich.

Ice Follies  
Feb. 28-Mar. 12 Cleveland, Ohio

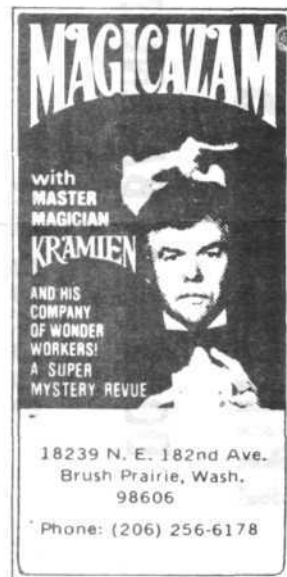
King Arthur, the Lion  
Mar. 3-5 Milwaukee, Wisc.

Sports Show  
Mar. 2-5 Rock Island, Ill.

Victor, the Rasslin' Bear  
Mar. 2-5 Syracuse, N. Y.

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**THE TELEVISION SPECIAL** featuring **GARDEN BROS.** CIRCUS will be aired over CTV in Canada on March 3rd. Naturally the show did not come off with out the usual pre-taping headaches: **KAY ROSAIRE** broke down at the border, had to be towed in to Toronto; and a cable becket on the **ARMOR's** motorcycle platform snapped, toppling the structure. Despite these incidents the actual taping was completed without further incident. **IAN GARDEN** tells me "big things" are anticipated from this Special in a later series form.

The Florida Tent Rental big top, erected in Washington, DC for that city's annual January boat show was flattened by the four-barreled snowstorms sweeping through the east. National TV networks carried film clips of the big top being fork-lifted out of heavy snow — in pieces.

Big "Adieu" to another "era" with the shuttering of Radio City Music Hall, the "Nation's Showplace". With the closing of this great theatrical landmark comes also the unfortunate disbanding of the world renowned **ROCKETTES**.

Flooding a successful tour with the **HARLEM GLOBE TROTTERS** (plus spot dates throughout the winter) the **WAZZANS** are prepping for a season's tour with **HOXIE's Big Show**, opening around March 22nd. While trouping with the Trotters, the Wazzans purchased a 28 ft. Cruise Air motorhome and a small cargo trailer. During the winter, Omar, Antar, Jr., and Alissa learned to ski. Between dates the trio takes off seeking snow-covered slopes. If they lived in the East instead of Texas, they would have no trouble finding their heart's desire, believe me!

Veteran showman, **JAMES M. COLE** was surprised by a birthday celebration following the opening of his show at Willow Grove (Pa) Jan. 11th. Participating in the surprise party were cast members of the Cole's All Star TV Circus, plus visitors, Albert and Anita Vonderheid, David and Carol Rawls and Marsha and Don Jones.

The tragic death of animal man **BERT PETTUS** evolved under even more tragic circumstances. According to a phone call received by **SANDY DOBRITCH** from **SANDRA FULBRIGHT**, Bert suffered a heart attack while driving his truck, fell out and the truck ran over him. CR extends its deepest sympathies to the Pettus Family.

**BOUQUETS:** To **DOLLY JACOBS**, whose delicately delineated performance on the flying rings (recently

seen on the Circus Festival TV special) is a delight. The gal has class and talent and certainly deserves the attention RBBB's publicity forces muster on her behalf.

**HANNEFORD HIGHLIGHTS:** The new show opened at Roanoke (Va) in late January, a completely renovated, updated edition in all areas. **TAJANA** has dispensed with her male lion and plans to add two tigers to a group of eight. She is featuring a three-mirrored ball set-up and revolve with 3 tigers in a blackout . . . **LU ANN JACOBS**, sister of the talented Dolly, is in the Champagne web number, with girls entering in champagne glasses. Lu Ann, the feature aerialist, is using a unique revolving lighted rigging on which a small platform is affixed. Here she does a contortion routine, then descends to the trapeze. . . Musical director for this year's show is **KEITH KILLINGER**, with **KAY** and **BOB PARKER**, organ and drums . . . A large "dressage" number is in the second half and introduces little **NELLIE HANNEFORD** with a high school pony . . . The show is strong overall, with many good acts and strong features, but the topper is still that Grand Gentleman of the Ring, **SIR VICTOR JULIAN** who brings down the house with his incomparable "Little Stars" plus his own inimitable style and showmanship.

Talent line-up for the **DOBRITCH INT'L-CIRCUS** date at New Orleans this spring will include: Lilli-Ana and her leopards, Vashek and Kathy, Aerialietta, the Flying Lunas, Paul Key's Hollywood elephants, Jo Ann and Sunny, Prince Najvez, Ethel Jennier and Jimmy Douglass with spec, clown alley, also providing lights and ring curbs.

**GUNNAR AMANDIS** took a lot of good-natured ribbing about My rib about **HELEN** being that agency's Guiding Light. The truth is the combine is a team-effort, just as it is with **GIL** and **BERNICE MILLER**. The men go out in the field and run their legs off while the wives stay back, do all the paper work (and that's **HARD** work), handle the phones and keep the "office fires" burning. In many ways, these gals are the unsung heroines, never really getting the credit they deserve!

**DOWN RUMOR ROAD:** That one half of a two-team flying act is having serious marital difficulties and may split. . . That a new circus is coming out of Dunn (N. C.) . . . And that a new, small tent show, may spring

(Continued on Page 16)

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Members of the James M. Cole-Robert G. Earl Tent, CFA, held a banquet and belated birthday party for James M. Cole and his circus personnel at the High School Gym in Olean, N. Y., on Feb. 4th.

The James M. Cole All Star TV Circus got off to a shaky start on Jan. 11th at Willow Grove, Pa., and for the first two weeks attendance was the worse one could imagine, due to the adverse storms in the northeast. Better times were coming and since Jan. 31st (Emporium, Pa.) the show has been packing them in like old times. The show moves like clock work and is a well balanced program, which the patrons really enjoy.

The combination banquet and birthday party made for a pleasant day, with many of the local fans in attendance. Robert G. Earl, who is also a part of our Tent's namesake was in the area booking dates for his Robert Bros. Circus and so was able to attend on this occasion.

The banquet was a well kept secret from the show folks, although a few knew that we were going to have a small luncheon between shows.

As a result the birthday party was a complete surprise.

At 4:30 p.m., following the first show, tables were set and the food was brought into the school gym. The coffee was hot, for the day outside was bitter cold. A huge birthday cake, a big "Pink Elephant" had aqua lettering which read "Happy Belated Birthday Jimmy Cole." This brought tears of joy to Jimmy's eyes, as well as ahs from the rest of the show folks. The cake consisted of three flavors - strawberry, chocolate and vanilla and Jimmy cut into the chocolate first, his favorite flavor.

The food was all prepared by Mrs. Ann Martin who has done this for the Tent since it was raised in 1975. We have provided numerous banquets for other shows playing the area.

Ann and I are the proud parents of Billy Martin, who opened the show with his juggling/rola bola, and who is a part of the Miller Troupe. (See show program on another page of today's Circus Report).

This was certainly a day to be remembered, for the show was great, two good houses to

(Continued on Page 17)

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## New Show Set

In a report from Bobby Gibbs the following information has been obtained:

Dorey Miller, long-time owner and manager of America's only 5 ring circus — Carson & Barnes — will send a second unit out on the road this year. The units will be called Eastern and Western, but both will carry the title 'Carson & Barnes Circus.'

Bobby Gibbs, formerly an independent act for some 13 years, will be with the Western Unit, which will go into the west and then into Canada. The show is scheduled to open about the 15th of April in Oklahoma.

Johnnie Frazier, former owner of Fisher Bros., and once a partner in the Royal Bros. Circus, will be show manager. The circus will use the former George-Matthews big top, a 120 ft., with 3 forty ft. centers. A herd of 12 elephants will be carried on the show, with Bobby Gibbs in charge of the animals.

Gibbs reports that Manuel King arranged for five flying acts to tour with Carson & Barnes, arrangements having been made during his recent trip to Mexico. Three acts will work on the Eastern Unit and two on the Western unit. Both shows will carry live bands and both will be using a 5 ring set-up.

..... M. L. Dupont

## PEOPLE

JIM KELLY, animal trainer, currently has a 3 chimp act, which he presents.

LYNDMILA SHEVCHENKO, is a featured lion trainer with the Moscow State Circus.

DAVID SLUSSER is returning to civilian life after a tour of duty with the Army. He plans to return to show business, working as a clown, a job he held before being drafted.

JOHNNY NUGENT is trouping with a show unit in North Carolina, Virginia and South Carolina, doing sword swallowing, trick roping and knife throwing.

JOE PORTER, retired clown, is no longer with the Security Police Patrol in Idaho, He recently left to take another job.

THE AMAZING CONKLINS, magic/illusions, report they will be working some early spring dates for Big JOHN STRONG and later will be working dates in Canada.

## GENERAL INFO

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has charged that Hampshire College, of Amherst, Mass., failed to file mandatory annual reports on its use of laboratory animals, as required by law.

Dr. Pierre A. Chaloux, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the college has not filed reports for either 1975 or 1976.

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## Variety Show

A Variety Show, presented at the Berkeley (Calif.) Community Theatre on Feb. 14th, was sponsored by the Firefighters Assoc. of that city. The single performance, at 6 p.m., drew a full house, which was enthusiastic about each number.

Booked by an agent in Portland (Ore.) the program featured: Billy Grant, MC/balloons; Clark McDermott's Cold Nose Five act; The Saxons, juggling/unicycles and Ken Card, ventriloquist.

## TALENT

The James M. Cole All Star TV Circus tour of eleven weeks will come to a close on April 1st in New York state. Throughout its run the show has encountered severe winter weather as storms continually rage through the Eastern states.

The hour and a half program features: Phil Chandler, ringmaster; Billy Martin, rola bola; Aerial Ballet featuring Miss Vicky; Paulette's

## Pot-Pourri

Illusionist Dorian Blake played the Oasis Shrine's Grand Potentate Ball (Jan. 28) in Charlotte, N.C. The performer received a standing ovation from the audience of 3500 people.

Paulette's Peerless Pups, presented by Linda Chandler, features a dog leaping through a fire hoop.

Emmett Kelly, Jr. played the Raleigh resort in South Fallsburg, N.Y., over the Washington's birthday holiday.

Karl Wallenda received lots of newspaper coverage in New York City when he was caught in the Blizzard of '78.

..... Mike Naughton

Peerless Puppies; The Barrys, comedy trapeze; the Bobby and Jane Duo, juggling; Phil and Linda Chandler, illusions; Norman Miller, the 12 year old trapeze star; Miss Linda Karl, cloud swing; Gorgo & Gorgo & Co., gorilla parody; The Lang Family, acrobats.

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## FLASH!

Wild animal trainer Michael Cecere was severely mauled by a lion during a night performance at Cape Coral, Fla. on Jan. 26th.

According to show officials Cecere was hurt during the opening of his act, and despite his deep gashes and severe bleeding he continued with the act, without missing a trick. Afterwards he calmly went out, loaded his truck and animals before allowing medical aid to be rendered.

After returning from the hospital, at his insistence, and before he could be stopped, he drove his semi 150 miles to the next day's stand. Then although he was heavily bandaged, he went out and performed all three shows on Jan. 27th.

Unfortunately, his wounds became infected and additional doctor's appointments were required. However, he has continued to maintain his daily practice sessions, despite the seriousness of his injuries.

## ATTENTION

The Trotter Brothers Productions, producers of Puppet and Magic Spectacular shows for five major amusement parks, is looking for experienced performers, or for performers who would qualify and can be trained for shows of this type. They are also in need of a performer to work with a magic show.

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# Review

## SAM T. POLACK, Breaks the ice in Louisville.

Sam T. Polack played his first date for the Korsair Shrine Circus, in Louisville, Ky., Feb. 1-5, and when I say we had "Ice", I do mean ICE, and snow, but the patrons came out, and the performers made it from many areas, with various problems.

However, the opening matinee had only a sprinkling of patrons, but even that built up, as they dribbled in to give a very light  $\frac{1}{4}$  house, by the end of the matinee. This was the first time in 14 years, this circus going gal has not seen the Kosair Shrine have a capacity house for its opening show.

Wednesday night was a good  $\frac{3}{4}$  house, Thursday and Friday, afternoon and evening were capacity crowds and Saturday and Sunday found all three shows "Wall to Wall" people, what a sight to behold. They were standing in the aisles and in all four upper corners of the building.

Mr. Polack brought in a good strong program, of top notch acts. The program featured: Clown - come-in with balloons; Overture, William "Boom Boom" Browning, musical director; Princess White Could (Peggy Mills), cloud swing; Pat Anthony, lions and tigers; The Apollo Duo (Phil and Fran), cradle; Jose Francesco, balancing blocks; Peggy Mills, tightwire; Miss Espana, contortion; The Fossetts with Killer Willard, the Boxing Kangaroo; Clowns and giraffe bit; The Elkins Sisters, acro/dogs; The Smahas, long rein dressage; the Clown Doctor; Baby Dondi, the elephant with Phil and Francine Schacht; The Obandos Troupe, high wire.

After intermission came: Christine's Chimps; Clown comedy; the Diano elephants, presented by Lee and Jeannette Keener; the Francony Duo, double traps; The Smahas with Lipizzan Stallions; Jorge's Comedy Car; The Fossett's Gorilla Parody; The Espanas, flying act.

The show staff included: Sam T. Polack, producer; Al Dawley, ringmaster; Boom Boom Browning, musical director; Georg Rosell, prop boss; David Drzewicki, electrician; and in Clown Alley were: John McKay (Yo Ho), producing Clown with Les Schmitt; Phil Granger, Mary Wise, John Benaka, and David Chabira.

Of special interest are some first-hand comments of the performers about the weather and their trip into Louisville.

The Smahas - 550 miles from Baraboo - From In-

dianapolis to Louisville, sheer ice and snow, every minute was a potential accident hazard.

Mary Wise, clown - 587 miles from Washington, DC - Not bad at all, some snow towards Louisville.

Tony Fossett - 711 miles from St. Paul Sports Show - Got caught in a snow storm around Chicago, then traveled on ice all the way to Louisville.

David Chabira, clown - 650 miles from Topeka, Kans. - Not bad until the last 100 miles, then snow and ice and hazardous roads.

The Obandos - 850 miles from Daytona Beach, Fla. - Roads were OK until Nashville, after that they were solid ice.

John McKay, clown - 850 miles from Daytona Beach, Fla. - Everything OK except for last 150 miles with very bad roads.

John Benaka, clown - 650 miles from Topeka, Kans. - Last 100 miles in were on icy roads.

Phil and Francine Schacht - 1,000 miles from San Antonio - Got stuck on ice about 60 miles out of Louisville.

Al Dawley, ringmaster - 1,000 miles from Sarasota, Fla. - No problems, nice trip, except for two flats.

The Rosell Troupe - 1,000 miles from Sarasota, Fla. - No problems at all.

The Elkins Sisters - 700 miles from Tulsa, Okla. - Only storm, snow, ice and blizzard, otherwise no trouble.

Phil Granger, Clown - 300 miles from Chicago - Ice on the road most of the way.

Lee Keener - 300 miles from Canton, Ohio - Brought in one truck with 2 elephants. The other truck broke down out in Canton. After working opening matinee Lee flew up to Canton, picked up the repaired truck with Big Tommy and another elephant and was back in time for the Thursday matinee.

## Show Acts

Featured in "The Wonderland Circus" program at Orangeburg, S.C., on Jan. 21st were: Wally Eastwood, juggler; Tom 'Popcorn' Sink, clown; Bill Brickle's Poodle Fantasy; Rex, the Wonder Lion; Dorian Blake, illusions, plus the Eastwood's gorilla parody.

..... by SALLY PAYNE

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## From Florida

by MAJORIE HACKETT

On Feb. 3rd, the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit opened in the Lakeland Civic Auditorium, doing a 7:30 p.m. show to a packed house, promoted by The Publix Super Markets, which has its headquarters in Lakeland, Fla. The big inducement was a discount coupon (available at all the stores check-out counters) good for a \$2.00 reduction from the regular ticket price. Because of this the Friday performance had a turn-away crowd.

The show was scheduled for 3 shows on Saturday (4th) and 2 shows on Sunday (5th). Problems encountered were the center's eternally leaking roof and a burst hydrant in the parking lot - all of which, according to "Tuffy" Genders, really slowed the set-up.

The center is supposed to be getting a new roof. Marjorie and David Hackett and houseguest Loni Barton, from Fox Lake, Ill., visited with Bobby Kay (Smiley). Both Marjorie and Bobby were members of the Young Nelsons' acrobatic risley act in the late 30s and early 40s. Then they all drove out to Milonga Cline's home on the old Tampa Highway in Lakeland for supper and drove Bobby back to the building for the show.

Lakeland's first annual City Fair brought out the James E. Strates Show and the George Hanneford Family Circus. All free admission and parking, and

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in spite of the cold and wind a good crowd was in the red and white striped tent, enjoying the fun of an old fashioned one ring circus. The great tradition of the Hannefords goes on with George and Vicky's daughter and son, appearing in this great little show. We need more fast moving family style shows that really amuse and delight the children and their folks. I for one am tired of seeing weary little people crying and sleepy, being carried out halfway through a long high priced Hollywood-Broadway production!

I'm not against big, long, elaborate shows, it is just too much for little kids to absorb. Hence this (personal) plug for more dog and pony shows, in tents on grassy lots.

Costumes, music and Vicky making announcements and the owner's kids in the show made the audience love it all. Music was provided by a good lady organist and a young (good) boy drummer. Dogs, ponies, aerial numbers, small elephants and the Hannefords riding act were augmented by the Ayallas (they will be back at The Circus World Museum in Baraboo, Wisc., for the summer season) with his stunning wire act and Marguerite Michell's hair hang-juggling act. Both of the Ayallas and all of the Hannefords were beautifully costumed.

Clown productions were ably handled by Alfredo  
(Continued on Page 15)

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**PEOPLE**

TOMI 'Hugo' LIEBEL, formerly on the RBBB Red Unit is now working at the Circus World Park in Florida. He is featured with his ladder balancing act.

AL DAWLEY, circus ringmaster, once aspired to be a career diplomat in the U. S. Foreign Service. He was bitten by the circus bug when he moved to Florida several years ago.

ROBERTA BALLANTINE teaches nutrition to students at the Ringling-Barnum Clown College in Florida. She is the wife of the College Dean BILL BALLANTINE.

THE GUTIS FAMILY, just back from Europe, played the Sports Show at Chicago (Ill) on Feb. 17-26, followed by an appearance on the Bozo TV Show, after which they jump to Lansing (Mich) for a Mar. 22-26 engagement.

KEN WILLER, juggler/one finger stand, recently was featured on the Mike Douglas TV Show.

TIM and LINDA DAVISON, he's the brother of juggler PAT DAVISON, have been visiting the Hacketts in Florida. Tim was associated with many circuses before he joined the Police Department in Minneapolis, Minn.

**Important Note!**

Our apology for the numerous letters from acts that time has not permitted us to answer this past fall and winter.

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**FROM FLORIDA (Continued)**

Landon and Theron. It is hard to be as funny as young Theron was on his comical break-away bicycle on lumpy ground.

Milonga and the Hacketts also enjoyed a brief visit with former circus wire walker Clara Berosini Hoffman, husband Eugene and son who have their food concessions on the James E. Strates Midway for this date.

We are looking forward to a warm weather visit to this carnival. We drive to Gibsonton often to visit around as this time of year finds it a veritable "smorgasbord" of circus and carnival people, unlike summer when it looks as if the town were evacuated!

BERNICE DEAN's high school horse "Black Knight" died last month at the age of 25.

JAMES I. HASSAN's 1882 litho of "Jumbo" is pictured in the CHAPPIE FOX story "Here Come the Elephants" in the RBBB Red Unit program book for 1977.

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### BILLY BARTON (Continued)

up on Canadian soil this year . . . It's been reported that a major big top enterprise plans to spend 90 per cent of its season in the west, will not play any eastern dates at all.

**SNAPSHOTS:** GEE GEE attended the Circusfest in Monaco, raves over a young Spanish tightwire artist, LUIS MUNOZ, who does a layout back, feet to feet on the wire . . . LOU JACOBS, in caseyadidn't know, is the only clown and living person to have his likeness enshrined on a U.S. postage stamp . . . PELUZA, now with the Ice Capades, has developed a clever new comedy act. His option has been picked up for 1979 . . . BOBBY MOORE's dog act is with Holiday On Ice. . . JACK BENNETT is back at his Oklahoma home . . . Biz for the Cole All Star TV Circus has been good despite rotten weather . . . JOHNNY and MARY RUTH HERRIOTT, now at Circus World, were driving along Interstate 4 near Orlando when a cow suddenly ambled onto the roadway. Johnny struck the animal broadside and, since the accident Mary Ruth has been experiencing neck pains . . . WALT and BARBARA KING appeared on the Garden TV special . . . BONNIE & CLYDE appeared at the Maine Fair Conven-

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tion and were a smash "hit" . . . Prop boss BOBBY DAVIS flies to California in May to organize the Bentley Bros. Circus set-ups, tear-downs, and prop moves. . . ETHEL'S GREYHOUNDS play Kennywood Park for 3 weeks in July . . . GEORGE HANNEFORD FAMILY plays dates for Bentley . . . Several persons have commented about the Showfolks' New Years Eve annual (held at Roberts Arena) which featured an Exotic Dance, feeling the act was in bad taste. Sub-zero temperatures froze the door fast to MARK KAROLY's living quarters during the Hanneford date at Roanoke. His cries for help were heard by SENOR RAI who had to chisel the ice from the door to set the young bareback rider free.  
See you down the road, luvs.

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**REPORT (Continued)**

play to, and the banquet which gave us all a chance to eat together and visit. Isn't this what our life is all about? What we can do for one another and enjoy it at the same time.

We the Circus Fans have our own secular work and the people we love in the circus, all being together, have one thing in common, "The Love and the Prospering of the Circus".

In closing, may I add, our son Billy graduated from Olean High School in 1977, doing so in three years instead of the usual four years. He did this with a 94.2 average. He couldn't wait four years to get with a circus, and last summer he was with the Famous Hunt Circus.

..... Harry J. Martin

**PEOPLE**

**EARL MICHAELS**, of Atlantic City, N.J., is the ringmaster for the Hamid-Morton Circus, which opened its tour at Hartford, Conn., on Feb. 15-20, playing in the Armory.

**RAYMOND VALENTINE** has become the catcher of the Flying Valentines since his father (SLICK) retired. The act is touring with the Hubert Castle Circus and includes **DIANE BERRY** and **TONY STEELE**.

**VLADO VLADIMIROV**, former Ringling-Barnum Circus rider, has joined **VINCE CARMEN's "Razzle Dazzle"**. Vlado is a superb close-up magician, and his wife **MICHELLE** is working in wardrobe, awaiting the birth of their second child in April.

**DICK** and **CONNIE GRIFFITH**, trick riders, will be in Southern California late this month so Dick can undergo a hip operation.

**FRANK DEAN** is teaching a class in rope spinning at Palmdale, Calif. He is steadily improving from his accident

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**HOW THEY DID IT (Continued)**

range to insure the actor's balance.

Three separate crews of the seven-member Wallenda troupe were recruited for the filming: the actors, the real Wallenda troupe; and a stunt crew (consisting of additional Wallenda family members) were used to simulate the Detroit fall.

The Detroit fall was filmed with an elaborate rigging system which connected the top three members of the pyramid to safety wires. Every precaution was taken to consider every possible contingency: balancing poles were also wired to enable them to be pulled out of the way of the falling bodies, which fell on foam rubber cushioning piled six feet high.

Four cameras were used, working from different angles and were engaged to shoot simultaneously. The cameras were covered with thick plywood boxes to protect them from the falling poles and bodies.

After days of painstaking preparation, the fall was filmed in one take — with no injuries. This

**Biz Up**

Concessions at the Shrine Circus in Flint, Mich. (Jan. 14-22) were handled by Art Barrett and the gross was the largest ever recorded for the date, breaking all previous records. As a result Art has been awarded a 3 year contract at Flint and a 2 year contract at Saginaw.

Tom Young, general chairman for the circus date at Roanoke (Va.) has announced that Art will handle the show and concessions there in 1979.

Barrett will also handle concessions for the Shrine Circus at Canton (Ohio), which is a four day engagement.

footage was shot in isolation, to be matched with the actual circus footage which had not yet been shot.

Added to the high degree of tension and risk was the fact that the final Wallenda pyramid was filmed on the next-to-last day of production, due to a schedule that was built around the real circus.

**THANK YOU****JACK and SANDRA FULBRIGHT**

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**JACK** — For sludging through the ice and snow with Phil, and driving our tractor trailer back to Texas.

**SANDRA** — For sitting home with Francine and worrying equally as much.

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..... THE APOLLOS

# SAWDUST TRAIL

Winter continues to take its toll - Circus Vargas had both freezing temperatures and sleet in Miss., and Louisiana, followed by heavy rains in Texas, while at Carson & Barnes they lost 3 hippos (just purchased), a tiger and some other animals due to extreme cold. Meanwhile at the Columbus (Ohio) Zoo, where CFA'r Don Nieman is a member of the board, they lost a number of animals. Don reports the chill factor at Columbus was Minus 69 degrees.

Shrine circus at Louisville, produced by Sam T. Polack (Feb. 1-2) had Al Dawley as ringmaster, Wm. Boom Boom Browning, bandleader and Yo Ho McKay, producing clown. Other members of the alley were: David Chabira, Les Schmitt, John Benaka, Mary Wise, Phil Granger and Michele Malvern.

The NBC movie "The Great Wallendas" was certainly enjoyed by this writer. A nice thing is that talking with people on the street disclosed they also enjoyed it.

Reports from Ken Benson, of World Wide Jungle Wonder Circus, indicate that business has been good for the show with many sell-outs during their stands in Arizona, and New Mexico. This month they moved into Texas.

Jackie Mitchell Jenkins, former RBBB Clown College graduate, and hubby Harry Jenkins, Jr. are expecting an addition to the family. They make their home in Dallas - our congratulations

Cliff Day and wife, Dot, are still in the Texas Valley. He writes that he remembers some rather cold winters of the past. He retired in 1974, after being an active circus man.

This reporter was saddened to learn of the pas-

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sing of Col. Tim McCoy. I first met him in the middle 30's and didn't get to visit with him again until 1973, when we spent several hours talking about the old days and looking at pictures and programs, etc.

Zacchini's Olympic Int'l Circus has the Shreveport (La) date for June 2-4. However, the date at Monroe (La) is still unsettled, although a tentative date of May 19-20 is hoped for.

Tex Dreyfus and Cliff Day report that when Circus Vargas was in Beaumont, Galveston and other local towns, rain and bad weather kept them from getting onto the show lot to catch the show - and they are real circus fans!

Over 50 clowns in make-up participated in the 32nd annual Clown Service at the Anglican Holy Trinity Church in London in early Feb. to celebrate the bi-centennial birthday of the famous clown Joseph Grimaldi, the great of all circus clowns.

..... M. L. DUPONT



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