



"America's Favorite Circus Weekly"

4th Year

January 27, 1975

Number 4

## Show Rehearsals Are Underway

Rehearsals got underway on Jan. 17th, for the Ringling-Barnum Circus (Blue Unit), which will soon start its second half tour of America and Canada. The show's opening performances are scheduled for Feb. 3-5 at Venice, Fla., the circus' winter home.

Featured in the big circus production, which has already won praise from coast-to-coast, are: Charley Baumann and his tigers; the Samel Mixed Wild Animal act; Michu, the smallest man in the world; The Flying Gaonas; Elvin Bale, aerialist and Jeanette Williams, horse trainer.

The Bicentennial edition (Red Unit) of the Greatest Show on Earth has already started its 1975 tour. Highlights of this show were filmed during the St. Petersburg (Fla.) engagement and will be aired nationally on Sunday evening, Feb. 16th.

### HISTORICAL FACT .....

For their 1956 season the Marks Shows booked Ary Spencers Wall of Death, featuring 12 fighting lions; Moody, train-master and supt.; Jimmy Simpson and his Harlem in Havana show; James Chavannes Front Page Living Wonders.

## Cub Survived

When lion trainer Dave Chobanic started his performance at Worcester (Mass.) last November he told audiences that "if anyone throws anything into the ring, at the lions or at me I lock up the cages and the act is over."

Chobanic's warning came after a Nov. 6th performance when someone in the balcony threw a hot cup of coffee at an 8 week old cub.

He showed the scalded cub  
(Continued on Back Page)

# HOSPITALIZED

CLIFF HENRY was recently hospitalized at the Garfield Hospital in Monterey, Calif. Cards and letters can be sent to the hospital. (He has been on many shows and most recently was with the Rudy Bros. Circus).

RAY JOHNSTON has been hospitalized at Long Beach General Hospital, 2597 Redondo Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90806 (Wing 300). Cards and letters should be sent to the above address (Ray was with many shows including Roy Bible's Circus and most recently with Allen's Petting Zoo).

## FOR SALE

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## TV Acts

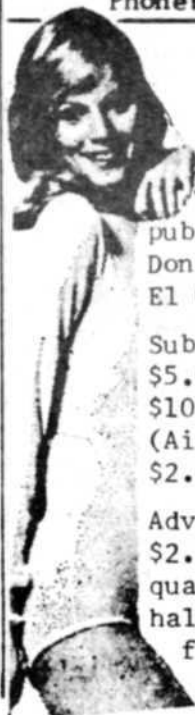
Several circus acts worked on the Mike Doulgas TV Show during the week it originated from Miami, Fla. Appearing the week of Jan. 13-17 were:

The Wallenda Troupe - high wire  
The Flying Farias - aerialists  
Rogana - rolling globe/balance  
Cristiani's elephants  
Michael & Michelle - aerialists  
Reynosa Bros. - aerial team

## AVAILABLE

Facilities for boarding hoof stock of all kinds.

CHARLIE ALLEN, P. O. Box 91  
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## Expansion Planned For 1975 Season

Commenting on the fact that 1974 had been his "best season ever", Murray Hill announced plans for expansion of his show for the upcoming season. There were no real problems last year, he added, although two spots (Red Wood Falls and Detroit Lakes, Minn) were rained out.

For the coming year Hill expects to have three units on the road. One large show will play the full season's route, the two smaller shows will be available for fairs, midways and various celebrations, etc. It is also expected that Murray Hill will have a unit of his Hill's Great American Circus featured with the Carl Harlan Shows.

Looking back over the past year, Hill reports his show was featured with a variety of affairs -- mall dates, zoo shows, fairs, the P. T. Barnum Festival and other events. We don't have the largest show, he said, but we do offer quality acts and animal numbers.

Although Hill owns his own elephants (5), ponies, dogs and various pieces of equipment, he books other acts for specific dates. Among the additional acts who worked with him this past year were: Burger's Chimps, Gus & Ursula, jugglers, Gaylord Parnell's monkeys, The Albertis, rolling globes, Rick's bears, the Sedion Twins, dogs, Nada's ponies, Javier Gomez, high wire and Fred Kersawe, bicycles.

### Miscellaneous

Sole's Circus, of Australia, recently reported their camel gave birth to a black camel.

## PEOPLE

HERBERT WEBER will be on the Circo Pan Americano in Pto. Rico from Jan. 31-April 20th.

WILLY LENZ CHIMPS have been wintering at Herman Brandmiller's farm in Michigan.

JOHN RINGLING NORTH is reportedly interested in getting back into the American circus field.

PARLEY BAER expects to open his new circus sometime in March, probably in Texas

## FOR SALE

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*Perry Phillips*  
1-14-75

LAS VEGAS—All the major hotels here offer lavish revues or headliners to attract the visitor. With one exception that is. And that is Circus Circus, located across the road from the Riviera. The name fairly well explains what the attraction is here and, since this one is a natural for visiting families it vigorously promotes the family trade. When Circus Circus opened, some six years ago, it had no hotel wing. A little over two years ago a 15-story, 400-room wing began receiving guests. Another wing will open in May this year.



Phillips

laughing clown. And if this isn't enough to keep the youngster entertained, there are more than 20 carnival games, arcades, concessions and rides to keep the kids busy if mama and papa want to take in some of the other activities in the place. This unique facility is a very large and permanent structure with tent-like design. Broad pink and white stripes decorate its exterior so it closely resembles the real thing. The 1974 Guinness Book of Records lists it as the world's largest permanent circus.

Circus Circus has a good deal to offer the youngster. First, there is eight hours a day of "Big Top" entertainment. The current lineup of nine well known acts includes trapeze artists, jugglers, tumblers and acrobats. Second, there is the swimming pool, which is shaped like a giant

## Hypnotist Free on Bail

Nightclub hypnotist Ronald Dante, sentenced to a seven to 20 year prison term for the attempted murder of a competitor is free on bail. A superior court judge ruled that he could remain free pending his appeal.

Last week Judge Alice Truman sentenced Dante, who is 53, on his conviction of a charge of attempted second-degree murder of a fellow hypnotist.

**It's more than just a circus of course, with such additional features as a gourmet restaurant, a steak and bean house and a Japanese pavilion, complete with restaurant. And all of the gaming favorites are there in an area separate from the others. So it's easy to see why the management justly boasts of welcoming visitors of all ages. Incidentally, the rooms are moderately priced to attract the family trade and Circus Circus is certainly getting its share in a town that fights for the visitors tourist dollar.**

Angel Naves, a Circus Circus executive well known in the Eastbay (he hails from Pittsburg) pointed out that the hotel enjoyed a banner year in 1974 in spite of economic conditions and the gasoline shortage. Naves isn't the least worried about 1975. With the new hotel wing coming and the family trade shopping for the best bargain Circus Circus will be discovered by countless hundreds of families making their first trip to Las Vegas this year. Naves' assistant, Mike Ensign (also well known in the Eastbay), agrees heartily.

# New Show To Bow Soon

A brand new show is expected to debut in early April, under the direction of Mitchell Schneider and Ted Allen, of Texas. The show will be called "Mitchell Bros. Circus, and is scheduled to operate under canvas, playing small towns.

The new tents are expected to arrive at the show's quarters in Denton, Texas, by the end of the month. The big top will be a 60 ft. round end with two 30 ft. middles, plus a 30x20 ft marquee. The side show top will be 20x40 ft, all made by the Norfolk Tent Co.

The circus will travel on two trucks and a trailer, plus a concession truck. Seating is to be the traditional jack and stringer style, five rows high.

No information has been released concerning the show's route or the acts that will be employed. These reports are expected to be released soon. The show will offer two performances each day (6 and 8 p.m.) with one show on Sundays.

## FOR SALE

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## ROUTES

### Hubert Castle Circus

Jan. 20-25 Grand Rapids, Mich.  
27-Feb. 2 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

### Circo Pan Americano

Jan 31-Apr 20 San Juan, P. R.

### Circus Vargas

Jan. 26-27 San Bernardino, Cal.  
28-29 National City  
30-31 Enroute  
Feb. 1-5 San Antonio, Texas

### Circus of Wonders

Jan. 29 Taft, Calif.  
30 Coalinga  
31 Riverdale  
Feb. 1 Visalia  
2 Fireball

### Cole All Star TV Circus

Jan. 27 Sherman, N.Y.  
28 Emporium, Pa.  
29 St. Mays  
30 Clearfield  
31 Kane  
Feb. 1 Randolph, N.Y.

# YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - May 27, 1922

The Sells Floto Circus arrived at 8 a.m. on one train of 29 cars -- 14 flat cars, 8 horse cars and 7 sleepers, plus 33 wagons, 2 tractors, a cart, 2 autos, a motorcycle and a mule mobile.

Everything was unloaded and on the lot at Elm Street by noontime.

They have 17 tents - a big top, 6 pole menagerie, 6 pole side show, two small side shows, two candy stands, three horse tents, a cookhouse, dining tent and three small tents.

They have an engine for the electric lights in the big show, also a stake driver, two spool wagons, a steam calliope and an air calliope. There is also an engine and a steam table set-up on a wagon at the cookhouse.

The show has all new steel flats and new horse cars this year. Both stock and flat cars are white with red trim and letters. The sleepers are white with red trim, and all the wagons are white with red lettering.

The parade left the lot at 12:30 and was back in about an hour when the side shows were opened. A tractor was used to pull the big hippo cage.

The big side show has 2 ticket boxes, 8 banners and inside is a 13 piece minstrel band; Mlle. Carmelito, long hair; V. A. McClendon, a tattooed man; Carl Thompson, comedy juggler; Lorenzo, sword swallower and fire eater; Mlle. Maigir, a bag puncher; Farrell Jacobs, untamable lion; Mlle. Lorena, second sight; The Macks, impalement; and four dancing girls.

One of the small side show features The Honduras Twins, while the other one has The Girl from Panama and Edith Kennedy with her snakes.

The afternoon show opened at 2:30 p.m. with a fair crowd. The night show started at 8 p.m. and drew only a small crowd. They offered a very good program.

# WHY WAIT?

## Arthur Bros. Circus

AMERICA'S NEWEST AND FINEST SHOW

COMING TO

## RICHMOND

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Two Days Only!

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TRAVELING ON ITS OWN SPECIAL TRAIN OF DOUBLE LENGTH. ALL STEEL RAILROAD CARS

The above advertisement heralded the arrival of Arthur Bros. Circus at Richmond, Calif., on its 1945 tour.

Show started, while the side shows were taken down shortly afterwards.

show started at 8 p.m. and drew only a small crowd. They offered a very good program.

The menagerie has 13 cages, 11 elephants, 4 camels, 2 llamas, 4 Indian camps, 2 candy stands and also some ostriches.

The 26 piece band gave a concert before each show. The Wild West show had 15 riders, 2 Cossacks and 12 Indians.

The cookhouse and horse tents came down about 5:30 p.m. The menagerie came down right after the night

show started, while the side shows were taken down shortly afterwards.

The big top was down at 11:30 p.m. and everything was off the lot by midnight. The train left here at 1 a.m. for Boston.

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### *Miscellaneous*

There's lots of rumors going around these days, some of which are due to the economy of the country. Among the current rumors are that one of the country's big shows is cutting back on size and personnel, that another important show will stay in the barn, that the band on a mid show show will be dropped, etc. etc. etc.

# TWO GOOD SHOW DATES

.....by KAYE SCHEIMAN

Despite the fact that Michigan is suffering from the ailments of the auto industry and its massive unemployment, attendance at the Patterson Bros. Circus was up in Battle Creek (Jan. 11) and Kalamazoo (Jan. 12). The circus was produced by Ida and J. C. Patterson and it was obvious that the sponsors had really put forth some extra effort to make these dates successful.

The program for both dates was announced by Les Gibson, while music was provided by Robert Harrison, clarinet and Judy Morgan, organist.

The show's program featured:--

Pre-show warm-up by Les Gibson and "Peanuts" Wayne Owen doing balloon animals.

The National Anthem

Lynn and Dennis Michaels - dogs

The Clowns - weight lifting

Chris Alberti Family - globes

Barry Miller Family - trapeze

Lynn and Dennis Michaels - jug.

The Irving Lang Chimps (2)

Gloria Peebles - "The Busy Bees" (dogs (8) and monkeys (2))

Lynn and Dennis - The Toothache

Chris Alberti Family - plates

Wayne Owens - magic

Amanda and Beatrice Michaels - Contortion - rola bola

Steve and Norm Miller - cradle

Visitors seen at the circus were: Bob Harrison, Gerald and Kaye Scheiman and David Reddy.

## ROUTES

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
to Jan. 28 Miami Beach, Fla.  
Jan. 30-Feb. 2 Jacksonville

Royal Lipizzan Stalltion Show  
Jan. 28-30 St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Feb. 1-2 Charleston, S. C.

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

Gem Exhibit  
Jan. 25-26 Concord, Calif.

Ice Capades  
Jan 28-Feb 4 Winnipeg, Mann.

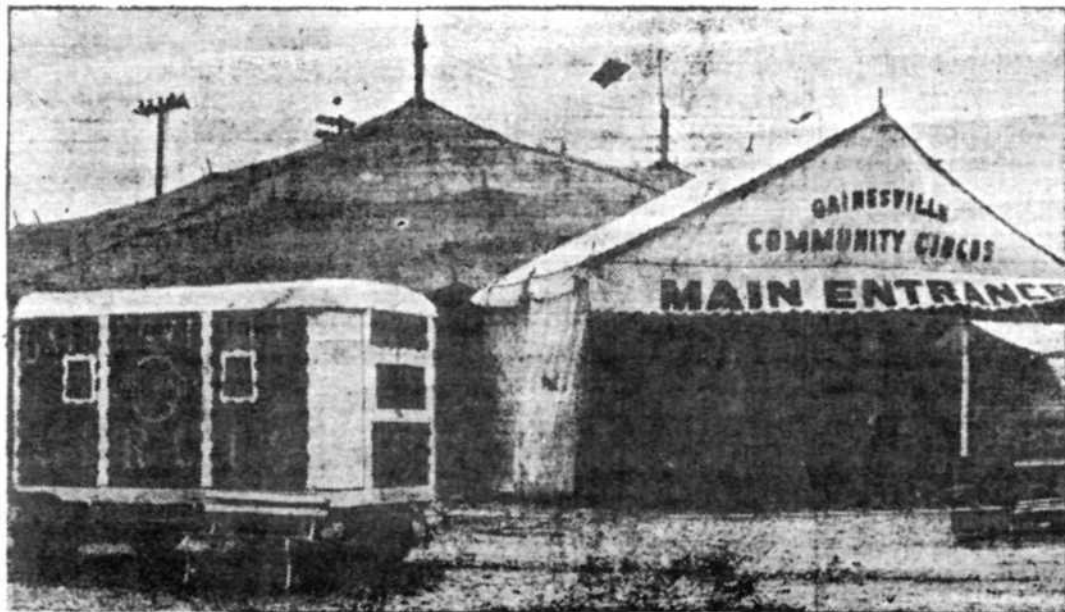
Int'l Promoters Organization  
Jan. 28-30 San Diego, Calif.

Kramien's Magic Capades  
Jan. 28 Globe, Ariz.  
30 Florence

## Notes

The two pictures on Page 9, of the Gainesville Community Circus (Gainesville, Texas) were taken in 1948.





**In Memoriam**

LAWRENCE HIGGINS, of Bridgehampton, N.Y. died on Jan. 11th. He was always interested in the circus, bought much of Hunt Bros Circus in the fall of 1963 and acquired three elephants worked by Bert Pettus. He later acquired some of the Mills Bros. show equipment, which was sold to Sid Kellner, of California. His elephants were sold to Hubert Castle. He owned the Downie Bros. Circus title. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth C. and five children.

AGNES KELLY, who toured as an aerialist and wire walker with her husband (Patrick Kelly) with Buchanan's Wagon Show, the Ringling Bros., Howes Great London, Hagenbeck-Wallace (1917). She and her husband also operated a family circus with the C.A. Wortham Shows, toured in Vaudeville and appeared at the New York World's Fair (1939). They also operated Singer Bros. Circus and were partners in the Kelly-Morris Circus. She passed away in Sarasota, Fla. on Dec. 25, 1974.

DON KIRBY (36) well-known circus clown died on Jan. 11th of a heart attack. A veteran of 20 years he appeared with the DeWayne, Rudy Bros. Gatti-Charles, Disney on Parade, Dobritch, Paul Kaye Circus, etc. Survivors

**PEOPLE**

HARVEY PHILLIPS, tuba player, has been performing in a series of concerts, including a Jan. 5th appearance at Carnegie Hall. He was with the Merle Evans band for many years.

VICTOR SANGER reports his Circus Sanger has been drawing big crowds at its shopping center dates in Australia.

PHILIPPE PETIT, high wire walker, was featured on the ABC TV Sports program on Jan. 19th.

JOHN HERRIOTT played the Polack opening date at Flint, Mich, in place of Smaha who was injured in an auto accident.

GUS, URSULA and DON, jugglers, are currently touring with the Globetrotters. Don has bought three bears he plans to break for an act.

include his wife Lois and four children. Burial was in Forest Lawn Cemetary at Glendale, Cal.

VOLNEY PHIFER, the owner and trainer of the original MGM lion and operator of the Phifer Animal Farm. He passed away at the age of 76 on Dec. 19, 1974 in Gillette, N.J.

SAMUEL WARREN, a retired show agent who worked for Bartok, Silas Green Show and operated his own tent show. He died at Sarasota, Fla. on Dec. 25th.

# Shipstad Dies

Roy Shipstad, who helped create the Shipstads and Johnson "Ice Follies" died on Jan. 20th at Stanford Medical Hospital in California. He was 64.

The traveling ice show

was originated at Chicago's Sherman House, where the partners were skating in 1933.

In addition to his brother Eddie, of Los Angeles, Mr. Shipstad leaves his wife, June; four daughters, Jill, an Ice Follies star, Joy, Janet and Julie, of Atherton, Calif.

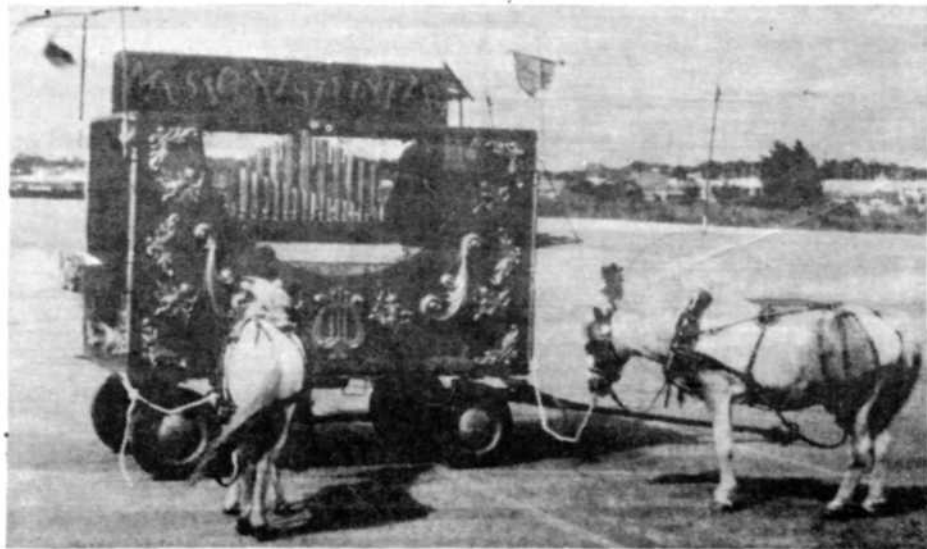
**FOR SALE**

## Calliope

**FOR SALE**

44 Note COZATT Air Calliope - Mounted in a Pony Size circus wagon. 12 H.P. Generator and has a 110 Volt Hook-up.

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# YEARS AGO

Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey  
Circus

Pittsfield, Mass. - Jul. 6, 1920

The show uses two electric light plants on wagons for the big top and one electric light plant for the side show.

The clowns use a Ford car and also have motorcycles in their act. Mme. Bradna's cart is carried in a wagon, and a buggy is also carried in a wagon.

The horse tents and dining tents were down and loaded and leaving the lots by 6 p.m. The menagerie and side shows were loaded right after the night show got started.

It was midnight when the big top was down and loaded and everything was on the train by 2:30 a.m. The train left here at 3 a.m. for Albany, N.Y.

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## LION CUB SURVIVED (Continued)

to the audience, with the skin peeling from its face, and said the lion would lose its sight and most probably die.

However, the lion has survived and its burns are healed. Today, the lion is living at a safari park in Florida.

"We don't put any of our cubs behind bars in a zoo," said Chobanic.