



5th Year

September 27, 1976

Number 39

## Successful Season

"There are still several weeks to go before our season ends," says Larry Carden, "but it has been a successful year, thanks to some very fine first class circus people."

The combined units of Carden-Johnson and Clyde Bros. will end the season with a total of 40 weeks, with 90% of the dates sponsored by Shrine clubs. The shows covered the U.S. from border-to-border and coast-to-coast and at one time used a third unit to fill scheduled engagements.

A large show was produced for the Mexican Int'l Circus at Los Angeles, while Clyde Bros. was in Canada and Carden-Johnson played Texas. The new Clyde Bros.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Elk's Show

Two shows were presented by Paul Wright's Aerial Circus at Glendale (Cal.) on Sept. 12, when

(Continued on Page 12)

AVAILABLE FOR LIMITED ENGAGEMENTS

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Contact

JUDY JACOBS KAYE

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# A Typo

Brenda Cuttin died in Fresno (Calif.) on Sept. 8th rather than the date reported last week.

The three railroad accidents of the year previously said to have occurred to the RBBB Blue Unit, happened to the Red Unit's show train.

Blue Unit Car #144 was used as a replacement for Red Unit Car #500 which was damaged in a New York railroad yard.

## PEOPLE

JIM DANDY, juggler/unicycle, has been visiting with relatives in Morristown, N.J., including a sister from Norway.

JOHN MacKAY is currently managing an apartment building in Daytona Beach, Fla. He is looking forward to Christmas dates and the 1977 season.

JOACHIM KRAUSE (Ronritas) celebrated his birthday on Sept. 25th. His act is currently working at Circus Circus Casino

LIPKO's COMEDY CHIMPS are playing the Shrine Circus at Montreal on Sept. 29-Oct. 3rd.

### MISSING PERSON

FRANK W. SLUCHER, circus booking agent, diabetic, age 39. Last heard from in March 1975, when in quarters of Hoxie Bros. Circus, Miami, Fla.

Please notify his aunt, Mrs. W. T. Cox, Catlettsburg, Ky. 41129

### In Memoriam

LAURENCE (Larry) RUCKER (50) died in Baylor Hospital at Dallas Texas on Sept. 9th. He spent 30 years in the circus and had his elephants and chimps with Carden-Johnson Circus for seven years, working them with his wife Jene. He often said "there is nothing else I would rather do than be with the circus."

### GOOD SEASON (Continued)

unit was managed by Andrew Kirby, who will have the same position in 1977. The third unit was managed by Don Johnson, while Carden-Johnson was managed by Larry Carden. Additional animals including the Cristiani, John Cline and Bobby Gibbs elephants were used at several spots. The all new Barreda lion act, presented by 21 year old George, will be premiered on the show next year.

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# ROUTES

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Sept. 27 Covington, La.  
28 Hattiesburg, Miss  
29 Pearl  
30 Demopolis, Ala.  
Oct 1-2 Birmingham  
3 Phenix City

## Circus Vargas

Sep 29-30 Pontiac, Mich.  
Oct. 1-3 Westland

## Garden Bros. Circus

Sep 29-Oct 2 Montreal, Q.

## Happytime Circus

to Oct 2 Bakersfield, Ca.  
3 Riverside

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep 27-28 Rockville, Md.  
29 Manassas, Va.  
30-Oct 2 Laurel, Md

## Hoxie's Great Amer. Circus

Sep. 27 Princeton, N.J.  
28 Parsippany  
29 Oxford, Pa.  
30 Mount Joy  
Oct. 1 Union Deposit  
2 Emmitsburg, Md.  
3 Taneytown

## Int'l All Star Circus

Sep. 27 Ahoskie, N.C.  
28 Suffolk, Va.  
29 Williamston, N.C.  
30 Garner

## King Bros. Circus

Sep. 27 Batesville, Miss  
28 West Helena, Ark.  
29 Forrest City  
30 Jonesboro  
Oct. 1 Kennett, Mo.  
2 Popular Bluff

## Olympic Int'l Circus

to Oct 2 Memphis, Tenn.

## Page-Cavanaugh Circus

Sep 29-30 Newport News, Va

## Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to Oct 3 Detroit, Mich.

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

Sep 29-Oct 3 Denver, Colo

## Royal Danish Circus

Sep 28-Oct 2 Cumberland,  
Me.

## Royal Hanneford Circus

Oct. 2-3 Fishkill, N.Y.

## Royal London Magic Circus

Sep 27-Oct 2 Dalton, Tenn

## Sells & Gray Circus

Sep. 27 Madison, Ind.  
28 Lexington, Ky  
29 Danville  
30 Bardstown

## Shrine Circuses

Sep 27-Oct 3 Austin, Tex.  
Oct. 1-3 Macon, Ga,

## Stebbins Circus

to Oct 3 Richmond, Va.

## John Strong Circus

Sep. 27 Yerrington, Nev.  
28 Carson City  
29 Kings Beach, Ca.  
30 Quincy  
Oct. 1 Oroville  
2 Willows  
3 Chico

## TNT & Royal Olympic Circus

Sep 29-Oct 3 Sioux Falls,  
S. D.

## Voorheis Bros. Circus

Sep. 27 Petosky, Mich.  
28 Kalkaska  
30 Alpena  
Oct. 2 Houghton Lake  
5 Montrose

**Moving?**  
**Let us know...**  
**before you go.**



## BILLY BARTON.....

MORE AND MORE the season of 1976 parallels the calamitous Depression season of 1938 when shows folded or closed early, and those shows remaining on the road did spotty business. The majority of tenters this year have had see-saw business at best - one day, good; one day, mediocre; or spurts of great attendance followed by dryspells.

It's been rumored that a Summit Meeting by Corporation Powers was held recently in the east and that Beatty-Cole may not tour in '77. Add to this the possibility that King Bros. may be enlarged and a cat act added. Be mindful, however, that each year we are deluged with rumors concerning the fate of the Empress Circus Beatty-Cole, and that each year the show goes out as usual. Only time will tell whether these stories have any validity or not.

Meanwhile - The Gossip Goes On: Aerial star JACQUELINE ZERBINI is off to Europe for a 3 weeks vacation in November, to visit her family. Daughter Patricia is breaking a Lipizzan horse and younger daughter Sylvia is going to school in France. Tarzan and Jackie return to Castle next season where Jackie will do her single trapeze feature, not the airplane act.

The St. Bernard dog, Gypsy, owned by the ROBERTSONS (now on tour with Garden Bros.) died of cancer...Aerialist ROGER DuBOIS

fell at a Fair early in the year and landed, fortunately, in the awning of a concession tent..... MARIE FRANCE is the only gal I know who can carry her entire dog act in her lap! The five "Yorkies" are adorable in the ring. One looks exactly like a mop with eyes

FLASH!! KARL WALLENDÄ will recreate the world famous 7 people pyramid for a BBC-TV feature to be released to theatres following its British telecast. Karl was the guest at a Clambake at JOE UZDAVINIS' Enchanted Forest in Old Forge (NY). Joe's wife, MARY EDNA, well known to circus folks, died this past June in an auto accident. GUNTHER WALLENDÄ's wife Sheila, is the sister of the late Mrs. Uzdavinis.

Concert bandmaster RICHARD WITMARSH presented "disc-mistress" MARLENE GROTEFENT with Volume 2 of his "Sounds of the Circus". The album is available from: South Shore Concert Band, Box 357 Bridgewater, Mass 62333.

That "Wild One" PETEY KINOSH left the concession dept. of RBBB trekked off to Sofia and Bucharest for 10 days, and is now with the concession dept. of the Freedom train. Joining him there were PHIL MIRANDA and LARRY VOLTZ. ....Trapeze star ROSE BEEHEE is wardrobe mistress at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, where she has been for the past 12 years.

(Continued on Page 16)

# PEOPLE

JOHN HERRIOTT and family recently joined the George-Matthews Circus after the Diamond S Rodeo ended its season tour.

CONSTANCE SMITH BOOKER has been named a director of the Cow Palace. The appointment was made by Gov. E. G. Brown, Jr.

GEORGE PERKINS, clown, is recovering from a recent accident in which he fractured his shoulder.

RON PERRY, PAULETTE BRAUN and BERT DANIELS were recent visitors on the G-M Circus during its Akron, Ohio date.

## In Memoriam

THOMAS J. AMATO (50) died in San Jose, Calif., early this month. Known as "Tomato the Clown" he worked for many shows and west coast fairs.

WILLIAM J. ORAZIO, died after undergoing open heart surgery at New Orleans, La. on Sept. 3rd. He was the husband of Joan Wach, youngest daughter of Arlo and Emma Spartan Wach.

BILL McCABE, clown, has recently opened a costume shop in Sarasota, Fla.



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## Show Closed?

Two days after the Willowick (Ohio) engagement (Sept. 12-13), Sid Kellner made a snap decision to close the George-Matthews Circus. The plan to enter California at Sacramento on Oct. 21st, stopping enroute to play three major cities was abandoned.

The circus equipment is presently stored at the Ascot Speedway in Akron, where the show was in its second day of a ten day layover, reportedly to repair trucks and canvas.

Performers and personnel laying over with the circus were left suddenly to fend for themselves. Some, including the Los Latinos and Wat-Tims, joined Charles Germaine's new show which opened at Hartford. Others, such as Alphonso Magana and LuAnn Jacobs, with the G-M elephants, began looking for work. Staff members and personnel scattered. Ed Russell and veteran clown Harry Ross were returning to California

Sid Kellner flew to California where it is rumored he will play some indoor and ball park dates starting in November. He

## The Program

Currently being featured in the program presented by the new Page-Cavanaugh Circus are:

Vynn & Vynn, musicians; Wade Burke, Hawthorne animals (12 tigers, 1 lion); Winnie McKay, single trapeze; Clowns (Don Bridwell plus Dukie Anderson & Co.); The Boskas, juggling; Tim Bickmore, rola-bola/juggling; Los Latinos, tightwire; Clowns, with Goofus and Harry, the Tramp, The Dentist John Cuneo, 3 baby elephants; Chester Cable, foot juggling;

After intermission is: Herta

(Continued on Page 15)

indicated to those left behind that he would have a series of dates in 1977 and that the Akron-Cleveland ten day combination run had been resigned for next year.

Meanwhile, in the Chicago area, at a Shopping Center where the circus was booked to appear, it has been reported that large crowds, including show people and fans, showed up only to find a vacant parking lot with a sign stating the circus had been postponed.

# G-M Notes

The unpredictable lake weather around Cleveland was up to its usual pranks on Sep. 9th, when a sub-seasonal cold snap, with rain, gusting winds and tornado sightings zeroed in on the Fairview Park area where the George-Matthews Circus was appearing. Only the masterful handling of the big top prevented its being lost to dangerous winds during the show's teardown and subsequent set-up at the Cloverleaf Speedway on Sep, 10th.

Eric Jaeger and the G-M big top crew labored around the clock when the show over-nighted from the Speedway to Shoregate Shopping Center in Willowick, where three shows were scheduled.

Problems with the stake driver prevented the first stake from being driven until 4 a.m., which aroused the sleeping residential area around the center and soon police arrived

Dave LeBlanc, in an effort to muffle the sound, tried putting a rag between the pile driver and the stake and trapped his finger. Only a piece of skin held the tip of his first finger on the right hand. He was rushed to Emergency by Ed Russell, where the finger was sewn together and a splint put on the broken bone.

Continued harrassment by the police stopped all driving of the stakes until 8 a.m., but the show made its opening matinee - just an hour late.

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As of November 10 Clyde Bros. Tigers (7) presented by Captain Lou Regan along with large Elephant Act (3)—Both acts first class.

**FOR SALE**—Complete Lion Act (arena-cages-tractor-trailer-props). Bear Act (2) complete with props. Chimpanzee Act (3) complete with props, cages and truck. Also Elephants (3) complete with tractor-trailer, all props, head pieces, etc. This act worked by Larry Rucker for the past 6 years. Elephants are 27 years old.

**YEARS AGO**

RINGLING-BARNUM CIRCUS  
Pittsfield, Mass.....June 7, 1925

The Ringling-Barnum train went through here enroute from Wilkes-Barre to Boston.

Section 1 - Went through at 4:45 p.m. with 23 cars - 4 horse cars; 15 flats; 4 sleepers and 51 wagons.

Section 2 - Went through at 6:50 p.m. with 26 cars - all flat cars, carrying 72 wagons.

Section 3 - Went through at 10:40 p.m. with 22 cars - five horse cars; 3 flats; 5 stock cars and 9 sleepers, with 12 wagons.

Section 4 - Went through at 11:15 p.m. with 26 cars - 3 flat cars; 11 stock cars; 12 sleepers and 12 wagons.

Cars and wagons were painted red and yellow. The sleepers are a dark green.

**Wash. Notes**

A small circus skirmish popped up at Sedro Wooley (Wash.) when both DeWayne Bros. and John Strong circuses were planning to play the city back-to-back. The action created some unusual interest and suspense for local circus fans of the area.

DeWayne Bros. were scheduled to play here on Sept. 11, with John Strong's Circus coming on Sept. 12th. However, because of the conflict, DeWayne Bros. re-scheduled their engagement for Sept. 18th.

The John Strong Circus is managed by Betty Wendany, with Bill Schreiber on the front door. The show is presented under a red and blue tent (150x80) with music provided by drums and organ. The show runs 1 hour, 25 minutes and is all circus! .....

.....Mike Sporrer

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P. O. Box 1062, Gibsonton, Fla. 33534

**THE SHOW (Continued)**

the show was sponsored by the Elks Club. The fund raising show was presented at the Casey Stengel Field and produced by Paul Wright.

The program featured: Mark Yerkes and Tim Hill, clowns; Peter Baker, MC; The Castoldis, juggling; David & Irena, cradle; The Crowells, comedy trampoline; The Lindens, balancing; Beth, high dive; Aerial Motorcycle Sky Riders (Paul Wright, David and Irena Noblitt); The Flying Artons; The Katinkas, costumed poodles; Mark Yerkes and Tim Hill, levitation; Davey, the clown, plate spinning; Beth, Ruth, Irena and Bonnie, web number; The Herons' O, low wire; Jose Gonzales Gonzales, comedy musical feature; David & Irena, trampoline and Tony and Pio Nock, Jr. on the sway pole.

**Miscellaneous**

During its recent Mexico City run the Moscow State Circus traded 4 bears for a hippo and a chimp which were sent back to Russia.

**NOTICE**

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 Show Folks - Please Write

**Kelly Show**

Western Washington fans were given a rare treat when the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus played at Fort Lewis (Sept. 4-6) under canvas. This was Kelly's first appearance in the area and it was the first tent circus to play the military facility.

The show, sponsored by the U.S. Army N.C.O. Fort Lewis Club System, used a square end tent (180x100) with three center poles. The tent came from the Lodi Tent & Awning Co., of Calif.

The program included: Local clowns in warm-up; Emmett Kelly, Jr. balancing a feather; Sandra Fullbright, ponies (6); The Martinos, high wire; The Villams, jugglers; Miss Evita, trapeze; Anden's Poodles; Emmett Kelly, Jr. magic; Long & Margine, magic; Jack Fullbright, dressage horse; Young Duo, cradle; Martinos, dance; Ben DeWayne and the Polack Bros. elephants (4). . . Mike Sporrer

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# TV Feature

TV's "Today" show for Sept. 14th did an excellent feature on Circus Vargas at its Manhattan engagement. Owner Cliff Vargas was interviewed and the TV camera roamed about the circus lot, offering a look at the circus, its people and animals.

## In Memoriam

DORA LEE STEPHENSON, sister of Peggy Zoppe, passed away on July 17th at Wichita, Kans., while visiting Peggy and another sister. Mrs. Stephenson was a registered nurse, but was never in show business. However, she was a great circus fan and many show folks called her their friend. She was a resident of Corpus Christi, Texas.

## Fair Acts

Acts appearing at the Tunbridge Fair at Tunbridge, Vt., on Sept. 16-19 were:

Miss Tina, trapeze; The Grimaldis, musical clowns; Les Thin-is, trampoline and The Great Erik high wire.

## Miscellaneous

The "Model Railroader" magazine for Oct. 1976 has a story on Albert Turner's model circus. The magazine also features a pull-out sheet that's loaded with miniature circus lithos.

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SELLS-FLOTO CIRCUS

Pittsfield, Mass....June 14, 1925

The Sells-Floto Circus went through here at 10 a.m. enroute from Schenectady, N.Y. to Boston. They had one train of 29 cars -- 7 horse cars; 14 flats; 8 sleepers and 61 wagons.

The cages were all open as they went through and they are painted white with red trim.

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

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 for the year; or \$6.00 for six months.

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad is \$2.50; Quarter Page \$5.00; Half Page \$10.00; Full Page \$20.00 and color ink run is \$5.00 extra.

## Complaints

Newspapers in Minnesota recently reported that Dailey Bros. Circus had left the state after running into trouble with the Humane Society. One circus official reported the show was being "harassed" by state officials.

When the circus played in Tracy (Minn) last month the Humane Society reportedly found all 35 show animals were in "bad shape" (elephants, lions, tigers etc.). At that time County authorities threatened to issue arrest warrants against the circus.

Society officials were waiting for the circus at Wadena (Minn.) when the show was scheduled to appear there. However, the circus failed to show up.

**BRENDA CUTTIN .....**

Our family is smaller today. Our hearts have shriveled with shock. Our tears have fallen uselessly. Our fears have been named.

We ask ourselves, "Why?" and our thoughts echo across an empty arena. No reply.....

Did she live so the arena would be filled with paying customers? Yes, but...No! All the peanuts from all the seats from all the performances from all the seasons could not justify the lessening of her life by one day.

Did she live so that people could be excited and entertained? Yes, but....No! Her life meant more than the surface and temporary thrills the audience experienced.

Did she live to display her skills? Yes, but...No! Her life meant more than making circles around a wire. Why?

I think back over the years. I think of openings, and and finales; good towns and bad towns; easy runs, and long runs; sleep, and no sleep. I remember weightless ecstasy; and I remember deep depression.

But through all these times, I remember being a part of "us".

When I was down, there was always one of you to pick me up. When we shared good times, knowing it was good times for all of us made it all the better. Without even knowing it, we have held each other up - and continued.

I begin to sense it now, though I'll never know "why?" Brenda has showed me how much we all mean to each other. We are not robots, blindly performing functions, to be able to buy products made by other blindly performing robots.

We are a family! And when one of our members is no longer with us, we grieve as a family.

**SHOW PROGRAM (Continued)**

Cuneo, White tiger riding an elephant; The Four Flying Ramos; Clowns, The Sharpshooter; The Wal-Tims, risley; John and Herta Cuneo, Hawthorne bears; The Great Huberto, slide for life; Clowns, Wash Day; John Cuneo and Miss Margaret, elephants (5); Long mount of elephants on the track.

The circus is produced by Charles Germaine and his staff includes: Jon Friday, ringmaster; Chester Cable, prop boss. The big top (150x300 - blue and white striped, bale ring, with aluminum seats) is supplied by Florida Tent Rentals (Walt Davis and his crew). The diesel generator has been leased from the New England division of Gooding's Million Dollar Midways, Inc. (Nick Santamaria).

So when we think of Brenda, let us think of how much we all belong to each other.

It is in this spirit that Brenda lived.

And it is in this spirit that we mourn her death!

.....Anonymous

Scandinavian Trampoline  
an Act With a Difference

Beauty on the  
Single Trapeze

# Les Thinis

with

# Miss Tina

ROYAL DANISH CIRCUS

Sept. 28 - Oct. 2

Cumberland, Maine

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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

TED and LISA STEWART visited DAVE MERRIFIELD prior to his Labor Day closing at the Wisconsin Water Show...And, South of the Border circus producer JIMMY HERRINGTON visited for the third time (at least) his "home away from home" Sells & Gray.

**EXTRA ACTIVITY:** Between nursing school courses, IRIS KEPPO is busy making "doggie dresses" for Sir VICTOR JULIAN...and JIMMY DOUGLAS will have his theatrical shoe company in full swing by the New Year. He wants it known that the new endeavor will in no way infringe upon his professional activities.

No people are more sentimental about animals than are circus folks. The following vignette illustrates that truth. A puppy, given to Arnie Jeffers by Evy Karoly was struck by a car. The dog languished in shock for several days but finally recover-

ed. A month later, as the dog was growing stronger, it somehow became entangled with its chain around the muffler of the Jeffers' motorhome and then proceeded to pad into a puddle of water which covered a bared bit of electric cable. Vilma and Antonio Lorenzo heard the dog scream as it was being electrocuted, ran out and freed the animal which was already stiffening, its eyes glazed. Frantically, the couple gave the dog mouth-to-mouth, began to massage its tiny body. They were joined in their efforts by Marie France and Bonnie Earl and, as Arnie raced the dog to the Vet, with Marie continuing artificial respiration, the animal began to display spasmodic flickers of vital signs.

Today, thanks to that dedicated group of animal-lovers, the dog is alive and well.

See you down the road, luvs.

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## Miscellaneous

During its recent Seattle (Wash.) Center engagement (Sept. 15-19) Ringling-Barnum resigned a five year contract with the Center facility.

Members of the Bette Leonard CFA Tent # 62 plan a dinner meeting and will attend the local Shrine Circus at Wichita, Kans., on Oct. 23rd.



### THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

As an amateur magician, I have performed for large sales meetings, conventions and a wide variety of audiences throughout the United States. Recently, after performing for approximately 45 children at a birthday party, a little girl six years old came up to me and said, "You certainly had me fooled." Being happy that I had fooled her, I said, "Oh, I did?" She deflated me by saying, "Yes, I thought you were going to be good."

—Bill Pitts  
Fort Smith, Ark.



## ROUTES

- Carnival of Brazil  
to Oct. 3 Washington, DC
- Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit  
Sep 27-Oct 2 Anniston, Ala.
- Century 21 Shows - Red Unit  
Sep 27-Oct 1 Tuscaloosa, Ala.
- Chinese Acrobats  
Sept. 29 Sacramento, Calif.
- Coco's Musical Comix  
Oct. 2-11 Danbury, Conn.
- James H. Drew Shows  
Sep 27-Oct 2 Cartersville, Ga
- Ken Griffin (Magic)  
Sept. 27 Greencastle, Ind.  
Oct. 2 Marion, Ill.
- Mitchell Marionettes  
Oct. 2-7 La Crosse, Wisc.
- Rose City Rides  
Sep 27-Oct 2 Dexter, Mo.
- Royal Lipizzan Stallions  
Sep. 29-30 Syracuse, N.Y.  
Oct. 1 Binghamton  
2-3 Rochester
- Tip Top Shows  
Oct. 2-7 La Crosse, Wisc.
- Vaudeville Revue  
Sept. 27 Minot, S.D.
- 40 Horse Hitch  
Oct. 2 Waterloo, Iowa



## Frank Dean says Thanks---

a word that still does not express in full my appreciation for the visits, letters, long distance phone calls, get well cards and telegrams -- from all you wonderful people.

BERNICE and I never realized how many great friends we have!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Frank Dean - Room 350-A  
Mercy General Hospital  
Sacramento, Calif. -- 95819

"Booked Solid Here 'til December"

## PEOPLE

THE BAKERS, jugglers, worked with the Happytime Circus at its Newark (Cal.) date on Sept. 19th.

JIM HOWLE and BUTTONS the Clown operate a mall show they call "Buttons Clown Alley."

STAN KRAMIEN has sold his "Magic Capades" show to DENNIS LOOMIS who will start working show dates in January.

## CUSTOM COLOR CIRCUS PHOTOS

Stop-Action Performance Shots,  
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BOBBY MOORE and his dogs recently were the winners of Tv's daily "Gong Show" program.

LONI IRONBERG and PATTI AN-TALEK visited the Happytime Circus at Newark, Calif. last week.

The ERIK ADAMS acts will be playing dates with Polack Bros. Circus in November.

C. A. FRANK's "Zogi Variety Revue" played an engagement at Sedan, Kans. early this month.

THE GRIMALDIS have a new white poodle, which is a brother for "Twinkle Star" the singing poodle and "Super Star" the trumpet playing poodle. The new dog's name is "Shiny Star."

## Collectors Items

Assorted Material from the  
Great James M. Cole Circus -  
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HOMER! STOP  
THAT THIS INSTANT!  
RIGHT OUT HERE  
IN PUBLIC !!



J.R. WILLIAMS