



6th Year

February 28, 1977

Number 9

Storm Stops Show

When the unusually severe winter storms swept through the eastern states earlier this it forced the James M. Cole All Star TV Circus to shut down for three weeks. "We showed for the first week and then the schools were closed in Pennsylvania," reports Jimmy Cole, and as a result we just could play during those weeks. In addition to the shut-down time, some other dates were cancelled when schools were unable to obtain heating fuel to keep their buildings warm.

During the height of the storm, local gas companies told schools they would be unable to provide heating fuel for their needs. Businesses and schools throughout the east were closed as a result. Huge drifts of snow and strong wind gusts also prevented citizens and businesses from operating at their normal pace.

The show reopened at Allegheny, Pa., on Feb. 11th and hoped that with subsiding snow and winds, they would be able to continue the tour as planned.

"This has been a really bad winter," says Jimmy Cole. "I lost more dates this year than in all my 38 years of operating a winter show tour."

Circus Death

Two 12 foot pythons strangled their trainer before hundreds of horrified spectators during a circus performance at Naples (Italy) on Feb. 10.

As the pythons intertwined themselves around
(Continued on Page 7)

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A DELAY

Animals and acts going by ship to Puerto Rico for Circus Odyssey were delayed when the ship captain reported his vessel was having engine trouble. Originally scheduled to sail from Jacksonville (Fla.) on Feb. 12th, the circus folks didn't leave until Feb. 15th.

Faced with the prospect of nothing to do, elephant trainer Bobby Gibbs put in a call to the local zoo. Both John Zara and Frank Thompson quickly made room at the zoo for Gibbs' 5 elephants, Harry Thomas' 10 tigers, Manuel Ruffin's 8 lions and the Sills' dogs.

An interesting note is that both John and Frank are well known to circus animal people. Frank's wife is the daughter of Felix Morales, a former well-known circus wire act performer.

Visiting at the animal encampment was "Brownie" Brown, who is prop boss with Hoxie Bros. He was formerly with the Diamond S Rodeo and worked at the Circus World Museum in Baraboo.

SHOW FEATURES

Three special specs were designed and produced by Philip Morris for the 1977 edition of the Royal Hanneford Circus, which opened its 1977 tour at White Plains, N. Y. on Feb. 19th.

The numbers — "Jungle Drums" includes an 11 ft. high gorilla and is an introduction for Princess Tajana's mixed cat act.

"Happy Holidays" is a salute to the Shrine Circus and "It's A Small World" is the show's finale.

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Show Visit

Visited Circus Vargas at Brownsville, Texas, on Feb. 10th, where the show was using its new royal blue big top for the first time.

They certainly have a beautiful spread of canvas with the big top, menagerie and marquee. All are equipped with yellow nylon guying and connecting ropes.

The weather was bad — rainy and foggy — however the show was continually enjoying good business, which speaks highly of this circus.

..... D. E. Reid

Miscellaneous

The American Continental Circus will open its 1977 tour early this coming month.

The "Snow White" show recently opened a 40 week tour in the U.S. and Canada. Written by Gene Johnson and produced by Philip Morris, the show's tour is being handled by Greater American Entertainment Corp., whose president is William English.

SLIM COATS, former rodeo champion, now lives in Orinda, Calif., and regularly attends the San Francisco Grand Nationals.

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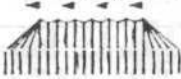
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A BIG ONE

The annual Moslem Shrine Circus, produced by L. N. Fleckles, was presented at Detroit (Mich) Feb. 4-20, with a total of 37 performances being presented. The band was directed by Al Youngman, with announcements being handled by Al Dawley.

The program featured: Fantasy on Parade spec; The Lodi Duo and Rejennie Duo, aerialists; Guy Gossing, Bengal tigers; The Albanis; Martin, juggler; Randy & Sylvia, high perch; DeMille, tightwire; Edwardos, unicycle; Private Lee, slack wire; Clowns; Jorge's Unpredictable Car; Story Book Animals; Lona's Dogs; Klauser's Bears; Sebastian's Dogs; Al's Ponies; Aerial Ballet; Darrell Wallen, and the dancing horse "Mr. Rythm; The Swaying Stars; Clowns; The Flying Armors; The Flying Lar-Rays; Reynoso Bros., Pirates of the Sky; Mickey's Chimps; Sabo's Chimps; Clowns; The World Wheelers; The Wheel of Destiny (Johnny Luxem); Lamberti,

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In Memoriam

FLORENCE M. MONTGOMERY (63) passed away at her Tampa (Fla) home following a heart attack on Nov. 3rd. Survivors include her husband, C. R. Montgomery; two nephews, Harlan and Brice Ludy. Burial was in McPherson, Kansas.

PEOPLE

ETHEL LUCKEY, chief musician at the Circus World Museum (Barbaroo, Wisc.) and wife of ringmaster Paul Luckey, is recuperating from major surgery at her daughter's home. Cards and letters can be sent to her at: 3808 Downing Way, Louisville, Ky. 40218. She expects to be back at the Museum on its opening day.

Jr.; The Hortobagyis; Hernandez Troupe; the Clowns; Vidbel's, Hawthorn's and King's elephants; Rosell Troupe, high wire.

..... Clarence Hastings

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BILLY BARTON

JIM NORDMARK (Int'l All Star) is fielding a second unit to play only the best towns with a different format. Jim's reasoning makes sense. Why wait a year to repeat a good town. He will thus spot date the new unit this season and follow up with a long tour in '78. Towns are already being booked and promoted.

Although **LEAF** has sold his tent company he will stay on to supervise....**JUNE DEWSBURY**, playing the Rochester date for **M&M**, may be with **Carden-Johnson** this season....**DAVE MERRIFIELD** called between TV dates, the **EVEL KNEIVEL Special** and the **MIKE DOUGLAS Show** (at the same time in the midst of building a lily pond) to say how sorry he was that we'd miss each other on my Sarasota junket...**PETEY KINOSH**, who bought diggers, and who will be with **GOODING's MILLION DOLLAR MIDWAY** this year, reports that **Circus Vargas** did turnaway biz in Houston in rainy, 30 degree weather....Ditto **JIMMY JAMES**, who caught the **Vargas** opening in Atlanta, who said the circus had them lined up for blocks - again in bitter cold weather!

The **DAVIDE ZOPPE Family** are set for dates with **EDDIE ZACCHINI** in April....**Davide** is building flashy new props for wife **Susan's Afgan dog act**....**KARL WALLEMDA** hit the nation's newspapers when he skidded into a snow bank during the **Mentor (Ohio)** run...Weather was so brutal, **Karl** remarked: "Driving is more hazardous than the high wire."....**SANDY DOBRITCH** co-ordinated a second **GALA**, this one for **CAESER's PALACE**....The **HASSANI's**, who have been booked into **GREAT ADVENTURE** by **JOE BAUER**, were headlined, along with **PELUZA**....It is **RICK KALBROOK** (**Vivian Scott's** new husband) and **NOT JIM GROGAN** who is being schooled in **Data Processing**....**STEVIE SCOTT CORONA** told me it is definitely **NOT TRUE** that the sisters are feuding over **Viv's** marriage - So, let's spike that rumor **NOW!**

KENT & DONNA CLAYTON are busy making sports shows; ditto the **FEARLESS BAUERS**....**JOHN BEN- AKA** and **DAVID CHABIRA** are in the new hardbound **Guinness Book of World Records** (Page 703) with a full page pix detailing their breaking the record for - are you ready? - "Ferris Wheel Riding." The team was aloft for 21 days, 16 hours and 2 minutes!....I was told in Sarasota that the **GREAT BOROS** was injured last September during a performance of his break-away pole act at **Old Chicago** and that he is still in serious condition.

TOMMY and **POM POM DONOHO** are now with **Cir-**

cus Vargas. She is working bulls and he is working in the **Electrical Dept**....I have been told the **Cossack Riders** are no longer with the **Lipizian Stallion Show** (**Wonderful World of Horses**)....**TIPPY** and **EVA YOUNG** will make the **Japan** date for **PAUL KAYE**...**SAMPION** is breaking a pig act. He and **MARIE FRANCE** return to **Sells & Gray**....**LUCIO CRISTIANI** and **TINO WALLEMDA ZOPPE** will be with **Quebec's GATINE CIRCUS**...**GEE GEE ENGESSER** was a last minute replacement in **Detroit** with her elephants....**KATHY SCOTT** called in that they left **Mentor**, got as far as **Detroit** and got snowbound....A rumor from that city is that **HUGO ZACCHINI** had an accident enroute - No further details.

RON and **ARLENE MORRIS** bought a home in **Sarasota**. They named their new son **ISAAC DANIEL**....**JACKIE BURKE** is lighting director for **Ice America**...Due to a **Boxing Match** that show couldn't set up until the last minute at **Orlando**, the compressor broke down and the ice was thin, soft in spots and rippling... Nevertheless, the skaters worked hard and did so admirable, under horrendous conditions!....When **TAJANA** sold one of her tiger cubs to the **HOLLIDAYS** she discovered they were not brother and sister, but brother and brother!**GUNNAR AMANDIS** is busy setting acts for the **Texas** dates....**RUDY DOCKEY** and **AL-FREDO LANDON** are clowning at the **Circus Hall of Fame**....**LUDWIG MASCHINO** returned from a visit to **Ice America** to find his home had been broken into. Missing were checks, cash and his valuable coin collection....The **MEDRO BOYS** are now out on their own...**CARLA WALLEMDA** will do a "double" slide for life at **KING'S DOMINION** later this season. Hanging by one ankle she will support daughter **RIETTA**....**TOMMY HANNEFORD**, due to new regulations, had to rebuild all his tiger cages - at considerable expense.

The **DYMEKS**, in **Vegas** for over a year, will play at **Cincinnati** for **Royal Hanneford**. Other talent inked for various dates include **The FEARLESS BAUERS**, **FLYING PALACIOS** (with a double wide act), **FLYING ESPAGNOLES** (new Mexican act with a triple), **OSCARIANS**, **FULBRIGHT's Horses**, **SATANI**, **Sir VICTOR JULIAN**, **BISBINI's Mule**, **HERBIE WEBER** and **HOXIE's elephants**.

RICKEY WALLEMDA is now enrolled in a **Christian College** in **Texas**....**JIM DOUGLASS**, of **Circus Creations**, added a **Chinese** section to his new spec, also a **Giraffe Wagon**. The long necks bob and weave as the wagon moves. The unique fold-a-floats **Circus Creations** builds are indeed ingenious!

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Mar. 1 Medina

2 Le Roy

3 East Bloomfield

4 Shortsville

5 Geneva

6 Hilton

7 Clifton Springs

HAMID-MORTON CIRCUS

Mar. 1-6 Kansas City, Kans;

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Mar. 7-22 Chicago, Ill.

RINGLING-BARNUM - Blue Unit

Mar. 2-6 Raleigh, N. C.

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Feb. 23-Mar. 1 Norfolk, Va.

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Mar. 3-5 Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

6-7 Plattsburgh

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Mar. 1-6 Denver, Colo.

U. S. NAVY BAND CONCERT

Feb. 28 San Francisco, Calif.

WIZARD OF OZ SHOW

Mar. 1-6 San Diego, Calif.

CIRCUS DEATH (Continued)

their Yugoslavian trainer, Janco Simba (30), he screamed for help.

Other performers attacked the snakes with axes, but Simba was pronounced dead upon arrival at a local hospital.

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PEOPLE

MATT GREGORY has flown to Japan with his "U. S. A. Made" revue which opened in Ito for a six month tour. Included on the program are: The Mum Bros., jugglers; Charles Myrick, magic and Fay Stratton, vocalist, plus a dozen top dancers from Las Vegas.

TERRI and SANDRA MORRIS are presenting their own individual acts in a special magic display created for the Royal Hanneford Circus by Sr. Rai.

VELMA LOWRY, of Sedan, Kans., has been appointed director of the CFA's District No. 12. She replaces JULIAN JIMENEZ who has resigned.

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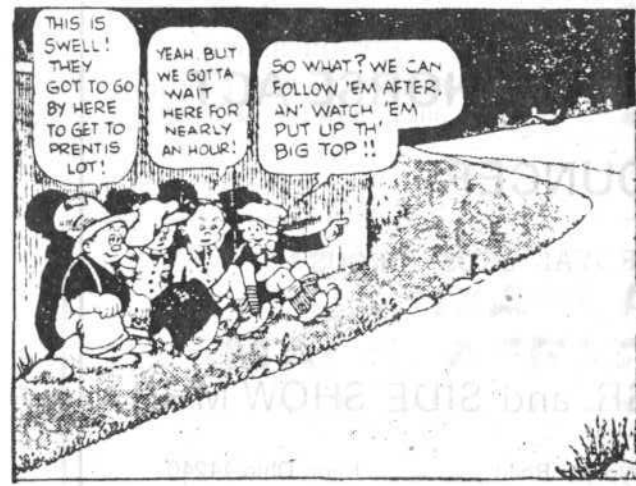
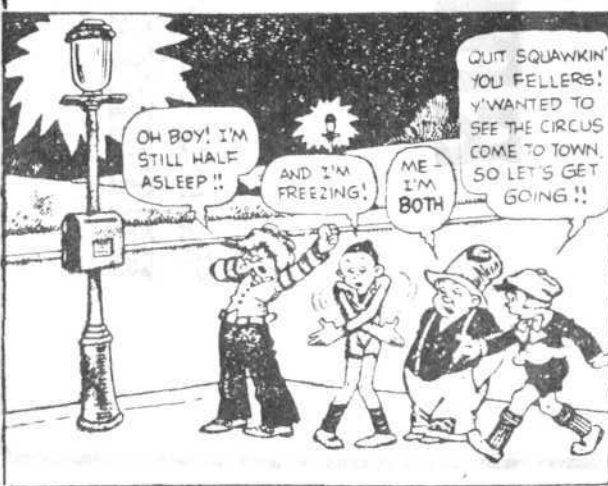
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Birthday Party

An exclusive restaurant, South of the Border, the "Drive Inn" in Matamoros, Mexico, was the scene of a dinner party given by Clifford E. Vargas and honoring Wally Naghtin, Lonnie McGee, and Mike Gorman (all celebrating their 29th birthdays) on the evening of Feb. 9th.

It was a gala affair, with plenty of fun, food, drink and fellowship and the guest list read like a Who's Who in Circusdom. Among those attending were Circus Vargas' Vice Presidents Jack Bailey and Joe Muscarello, Mr. & Mrs. Cimeon Martinez, Mr. & Mrs. Lacy Toth, Wes Westly, Mr. & Mrs. John Berkecz, Lloyd Woodward, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Baker, Tommy Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Van Voorden, Barbara Van Voorden, Anna Fritz, Wally Ross, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Joyner, Bill Biggerstaff, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Clark, Joe Davidson, Marylou DeTemple, Frank Pealer, V. C. Arivett, Pam Easely, Rodney Myrup, Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Donoho, Mr. & Mrs. Rich Crutchfield, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Biggerstaff, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. Townsend and Jim Parker.

Highlighting the evening was a grand parade of Miss Loni and Clifford Vargas, with the former on a cart escorted (pushed) by the latter. A Dean Martin "Roast" is tame compared to a Clifford Vargas "Fry."

....Jim Parker

RAY CHANDLER, working with the LOUIS GOEBELS camels on a film in Arizona, recently suffered a broken leg. The film is called "March or Die."

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No One Can Explain

BARBARIC BEHAVIOR — One of the most inhumane and uncivilized hunts in the world gets under way next month when 170,000 harp seal babies will be slaughtered in Newfoundland. Hunters in packs will descend upon the seals for their pelts, prized as pieces of fashion and for meat, which is considered a delicacy.

The seal pups, who can barely move, will look up at the advancing hunters with their soft, black eyes. The hunters will use various sized clubs, with hammerheads as they batter the helpless creatures. Then the animals will be skinned, some while still alive, and their carcasses will be left to stain the ice.

Despite an uproar last year about this unmerciful slaughter, the kill quota has been increased from 142 thousand to 170 thousand.

We have yet to hear (and we do not expect to) a logical explanation for the butchering of these handsome animals other than that it provides an income for hunters, who earn from \$200 to \$1000 each for their kill.

Surely civilized people do not have to resort to such inhumanity as killing small, helpless animals with clubs for the sport and the small amount of money

PEOPLE

BILL PATTERSON (The Great Mayo, escape artist) was featured in the Feb. 1977 issue of Abbott's "New Tops" magazine.

HAROLD HALL, clown, was recently hospitalized at Los Angeles for a chronic asthma problem.

RAY HARTZELL, organist, will tour with the Kelly Bros. Circus, which opens its season late next month.

FRANKIE SALUTO, retired midget clown, is confined to a nursing home and would enjoy cards and letters. Write him at: Gulf Drive Residence, 777 - 9th St., North, Naples, Fla.

D. R. MILLER currently owns 49 elephants. He has 46 at his show's winterquarters and has 3 on lease to Bobby Gibbs.

they can earn. Those in the fashion world who encourage these hunters by using the furs are no better than the hunters.

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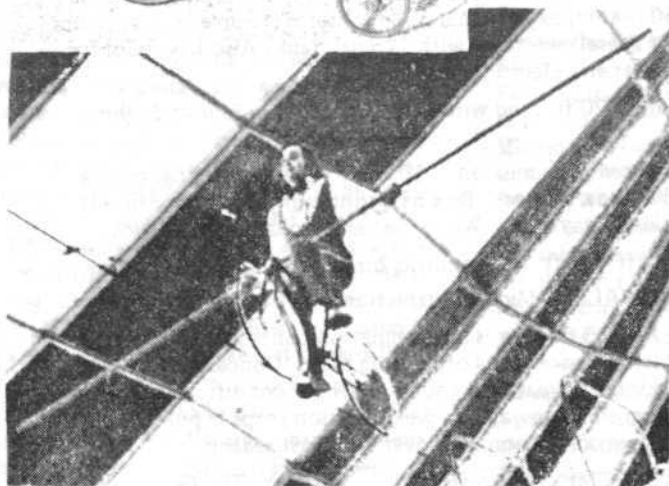
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CLOWN MEET

The Kansas Alley No. 45, of Clowns of America will host a State Meeting at Salina, Kansas on March 13th, with an all day program sponsored by the local Arthritis Chapter. The program, under the direction of Bill Lorenson, will feature the Huba Hum clowns.

The State Meeting will help to kick off publicity for the upcoming National Clown Week, which this year will be held Aug. 1-7.

Miscellaneous

Con Colleano was the first circus performer to achieve a feet-to-feet forward somersault on the tightwire. The first was first accomplished in 1923 at the Empire Theatre in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The first circus in Australia to use electric light plants was the Perry Bros. Circus in 1924, they had two 4 cyl. Red Seal car engines and two 230 volt generators.

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STAGE TRAILER - Portable 33 ft. - Front side folds down to make a 30 ft. x 16 ft. stage. A section of the floor lifts up to reveal an 8 ft. x 16 ft. trampoline built into the stage. Carries all props, ring curb and rigging. When fully loaded can take up to 10,000 lbs. (All trailers can be hauled by pick-ups).

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BIG TOP - 80 ft. wide and 120 ft. long with a 40 ft. middle - Blue and white vinyl coated dacron.

2½ ton INT'L - 1969 - 4 speed transmission - 103,000 miles on original engine has no problems. Has 18 ft. box on back. Box has front compartment with side door, can stack many bales of hay there. We carried an elephant in the truck.

CALLIOPE and Wagon - 8 ft. x 4 ft. not counting hitch - Can be pulled by any vehicle.

MOON WALK - Midway attraction

CONCESSION TRAILER - 33 ft. This is a combination concession and office with ticket window and living space. Lots of holding tanks. Concessions in rear of trailer. Trailer has 3 axles, is 2 years old and in excellent condition. Looks like a noraml trailer going down the highway. No weigh station stops if pulled by a pick up or camper. Also have concessions left over from last season.

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DEFINITE DATE

Despite stories to the contrary in Central Ohio newspapers, the Hubert Castle Circus will play the Columbus Shrine date on March 24-April 2 as originally scheduled. The Ohio Expositions Commission closed down the fair grounds, where the circus will play, due to a critical shortage of natural gas in Ohio. The Shrine officials have since been able to secure a source of other fuel and will be able to heat the facilities if needed.

The CFA Tent-Raising Ceremony of the new Tony Diano Tent No. 130, of Columbus, Ohio, will be held at the Saturday evening performance of the circus as previously announced. The Diano elephants will take part in the ceremony, at which Tony Diano, Lee and Jeanette Keener will be made honorary members of the new tent.

Day long festivities sponsored by the Tony Diano Tent will include a Sells Bros. Top State Convention, Bull Room and circusiana auction at the Carrousel Inn, at Columbus.

Many rare and scarce circus items have been collected for the auction. Included are several newspaper style couriers of the Diano Bros. Circus of 1953, old lithos, route cards, programs and other circus memorabilia. A clown suit, worn by the famous Lou Hershey, clown with the Al G. Barnes Circus will be included in the auction. This suit, worn by Lou, is pictured in advertising material for the circus in the 1930's and also in pictures at the museum in Baraboo. All fans and friends are invited to attend the Tent-Raising and mail bids for the auction will be accepted from those unable to

New Book

CIRCUS, A WORLD HISTORY by Rupert Croft-Cooke and Peter Cotes, has just been published by the MacMillan Publishing Co. The 192 page volume sells for \$14.95.

The highlight of the book is the color of the circus itself. While not as extravagant or as exciting as the real event, of course, contained in the volume are several great reproductions of clowns, costumes, advertising posters and performers caught in the act. Black-and-white photos further augment the book.

The exposition details the many firsts of this magnificent entertainment spectacle in a section chock full of detail and amusing facts (such as when the crocodile was displayed).

In Memoriam

ALFRED FRANCIS PERRY (71) a member of the famous Australian circus family, died at Canberra, Australia, on Aug. 23, 1976. He spent his entire life in the circus and was the third man in the world to achieve a forward somersault on the tightwire. Because of his exceptional wire work he has been called, by many, "the best in the world."

Survivors include his wife, and two sons - Albert, Jr. and Robert - who operate Alberto's Circus.

attend. For further information contact: Tony Diano Tent No. 130, Box 30749, Columbus, Ohio 43230 or phone (614) 475-3773.

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February 4, 1977

Dear Tommy:

I am finally getting around to writing a letter to you, that I started four or five times before.

As you know of course, our attendance for the circus this year was better than ever. We haven't yet gotten all the ticket sales in, but we are ahead of last year.

Tommy, you certainly out did yourself by putting together one of the greatest shows we've had in a long time. There have been so many people that did not get to see the show, that heard so much about how wonderful it was, which should all add up to a record breaking crowd this year.

If there is ever anything that I can do to be of assistance to you in negotiating with other Shrine Temples, please feel free to call on me.

Looking forward to seeing another great show this year.

Yours in the Faith,

Geralto J. Vita,
Potentate
Jerusalem Temple

cc: Mr. Glen Parkins
GJV/ch

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