



6th Year

November 28, 1977

Number 48

Plans For '78

In an exclusive (and rare) interview, producer Ian M. Garden outlined plans for his '78 Canadian and Stateside tours, spoke frankly of profit and loss, and with candor about his involvement with the "phone scandal" in Canada.

"The phone thing erupted with a vengeance," Garden says, "and naturally they went after me first because I'm the biggest fish in the Canadian sea and they wanted to make me an example." It was not, however, over his Garden Bros. Circus promotions, but rather a Variety Show that attracted attention. "I have a battery of high-priced lawyers working on it," the showman said, "and it will be at least 3 years before anything is resolved. I intend to fight, and I intend to win."

Meanwhile the '78 season will see less phones being used, going to straight sales, and healthy tie-ins, one with a major food store chain across Canada, and a link-up with Toyota automobiles in both countries. "We are also featuring a Toyland number, using a 36 ft. castle in center ring, and a major toy manufacturer is underwriting the costs, supplying the costumes, and helping to promote the show."

MORE U. S. DATES

A major new date for Garden is the Kismet Shrine Circus at the Nashua County Coliseum in the spring, on Long Island. New, as well, is

the Cincinnati Shrine date, following another new date in Kentucky: "Which is a Shrine date I've re-activated, just as I re-activated the Shrine

(Continued on Page 14)

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In Memoriam

CARL WILLIAM SAHLEN (85) died at Carmi, Ill., on Sept. 18th. Born in Sweden, he came to the U. S. at the age of 15 and joined the Peerless Potters in New York City, with Barnum-Bailey Circus, an aerial casting act. He spent all his life as an aerialist, acrobat and gymnast. He continued to work after retiring from the circus field, working for himself putting up banners and flags for conventions, fairs, etc. He died while taking down convention flags.

Carl made nets and equipment for acts all over the country and at the time of his death had developed a five member tumbling act with 5 small children which toured the tri-state area.

GEORGE SNYDER (71) died at Cleveland, Ohio, on July 16th. He operated Snyder's House of Magic in Cleveland until his retirement in 1976. The magic shop was the first such facility to be established in Cleveland. Survivors include: his widow, Agnes, a daughter Betty Elias and a son George R.

IAN M. GARDEN, circus producer, spent several weeks in the USA booking dates for his Garden Bros. Circus. He also spent three days with the Hubler Int'l Circus

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to Dec. 4 Nassau, N. Y.
- Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Nov. 28 Austin, Texas
29 Canyon
30 Albuquerque, N.M.
- Dec. 1 Las Cruces
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- OTHER ROUTES ----
- Holiday On Ice - Nat'l
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BILLY BARTON....

CIRCUS VARGAS will unveil a spectacular new ticket office next season which is being built by the same company that made the concession and comfort station units. There will be 12 ticket windows, bullet and "stick-up" proof, which are self-contained cubicles allowing the seller to leave, lock-up, and not have to stash either tickets or money. In the unit will also be private offices and a general office, a safe welded to the frame, and a "ramp affair" which permits a man to walk along, drop money and tickets to sellers below. It will be the most original and functional ticket wagon ever seen on the road.

DOWN RUMOR WOAD: That **WADE BURCK** is no longer with **JOHN CUNEO's Animal Attractions** and that a young man from Germany, who came on to work the lion act, has taken over the tigers. Reports are that **MICHON** will re-break the act to include 9 tigers, 6 from the Wade Burck group, plus 2 white tigers making a large ensemble of 17 cats!....An unconfirmed rumor indicates **CHABLIE BAUMANN** had some health problems and is in Florida....And that **GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS** signed a new 10 yr. contract with **RBBB**, while that show bought his leopard act, giving them ownership of two cage acts;

SPOT DATING: **REX HORTON**, **GRAN MAR**, **The McKay Duo**, **ELENA OMAR**, and **JUDY KAYE** appeared at a Pumpkin Festival in L.A. where acts were changed from one weekend to the next....**HARRY THOMAS** appeared at the Pomona Fair with the **PAUL KAYE Thrill Show**, then in Wichita for **KAYE** and is now in Florida....**LOTTIE BRUNN** plans to play a series of Cruise Ship dates....The **GUTIS** are playing dates for **BOB SNOWDEN** for the first time....and **ART BARRETT** has been hop-scotching around Texas with **PETE** and **ISABEL LUVAS**.

SNAPSHOTS: **TONY SMAHA, Jr.** and his new bride **JEANETTE RIX** were forced to curtail their honeymoon because of commitments with the **SAM T. POLACK Circus**....**KIM KRISTENSEN** replaced the **FULBRIGHTS** on one date when Jack and Sandra had some problems with their horses....**PHIL** and **FRANCINE** are that excited about their new semi-trailer unit, a "two house" affair, one for them and one for **DONDI** (natch!)....**JON FRIDAY** is off the road temporarily and back in Michigan....The **GUTIS** had a **VERY** busy season and depart for Germany Dec. 29th. Going with them are **HEIDI** and **JIM GROGAN**. To celebrate Charlie's 50th Anniversary in showbiz the family plans to revisit the **Walhalla Theatre** (now the **Steintor**) in Halle, East Germany, whence he started his career with his parents in 1927.

ON THE SCENE with CIRCUS VARGAS: Rumors circulating that the **DYMEKS** will be here in '78 are untrue; ditto the **YOUNG BROS**....**NEW ACTS** will be the **Flying Lanes** (giving the show **TWO** flying acts), **Christ James**, the **Plunkett's**, **Bridget Ballantine**, **Ron & Mitzie**, the **Schmidt-Albulet Duo** and **Rex and Eva Williams**. Departing are the **Klementis**, the **Carlos Twins**, **Roger Regor**, **Braun's Rocket Ship**, **Magaly and Rueben**, **Frank and Ruthie Clark** and **Jan Joyner's** trapeze number. Held-over acts: **Cemon's Chimps**, **Naghtin's Bears**, **Misses Lori and Barbara**, **The Lantons**, et al, will be restaged and recostumed. Featured also will be the **Midnight in Las Vegas** grand entry parade with opulent costuming being finished by **MILLIE WARD** in Hollywood....Circus Seer **RICHARD PLUME** predicted a new baby for **Susan** and **Cemon** and somehow the rumor galloped around the show

that **Suzie** is already pregnant - **NOT** so, **NOT** yet!.... The Seer also predicted **DORIS** and **WALLY** will adopt a boy (we'll see)....**LUCY TOTH** underwent extensive medical check-ups for over a week in the **D. C.** area and we hope everything is **A-Okay**....**JAN JOYNER's** sons **TIM** and **TOBY**, plus **WALLY NAGHTIN, Jr.**, are all working in the concession dept. and are whiz kids at it!....**KAY ROSAIRE's** new lion act, now on **CV** for the balance of the season, is a **BIG** hit. The act is super....**ZAPATTA**, clown with **CV** is the son of cloud-swing great **MANUEL BARRAGAN**....Artist **BILL BIGGERSTAFF** has been voted that show's "most popular" person and it is easy to understand why....It's hard to imagine a "Doniker Trailer" being one of the outstanding attractions on **ANY** show but the new one on **CV** sure is!....Also has showers in it!....**GEORGE DA DEPPO** came on the show to look over the seat wagon for which he is designing brochures. Once modifications are made **CV** will carry 13 more like it in 1978....Also a second blue top and set of poles. Look for **CV** to make smoother, faster moves and into areas as yet untouched by this mammoth tent, which will be heaven for Circus Fans and a great circus experience for many Americans who have, so far, been deprived of seeing this fabulous show....When **SUSAN** and **CEMON** stayed over in the **D.C.** area for **TV**, **CLIFF VARGAS** subbed in the bear act for **WALLY NAGHTIN**.

ITEMS: **JO ANN JENNIER** and **ROCKY** stayed over in New York to do the **Wonderama TV** show and caught several Broadway shows....**INGE WILLIAMS**

(Continued on Page 16)

Hubler Date

The Hubler Int'l Circus made an impressive showing at the Shrine Circus in Raleigh (NC) on Nov. 5-6, a date turned over to producer George Hubler by producer Ian M. Garden who had conflicting interests. Mr. Garden, who was on hand for the engagement, told CR: "This is the first time I have worked with Mr. Hubler and I am favorably impressed. I am sure we will do business again in the future."

The strong show was enthusiastically received and featured: Overture with Bill "Boom Boom" Browning directing the band, and with John Asbury at the organ; Spec with Shrine units, animals and floats; George Barreda's lion act; the Kneisley Duo, cradle; Clowns with Joe Sherman and Wayne Liikala; Joyce's ponies; the Bumpy Family; Clowns; Barreda Bros., chimps; Prince Najvez, aerial. The second half started with an aerial number featuring Kathy English and Donna Wilson, trapeze and rings; the Stevens, trampoline; Clowns; Joselito, bounding high wire; Al and Joyce Vidbel's elephants (3) and the Flying Armors.

The show staff included: George Hubler, producer and announcer; Bobby Davis, prop boss; Bill Bannister, head rigger; Billy Barton, spec director; Wayne Liikala, transportation supt., Bonnie Armor, aerial director; Al Vidbel, animal supt., and John Doles, secretary.

At Troy (NY) Nov. 12-13, the Hubler Int'l Circus program featured: The Quassars, rocket ship; Sir Victor Julian, dogs; Walt King's elephants and mixed animals; The Larjens, The Pharoahs and The Kneisleys, cradle display; Kathy English, Miss Suzanne and Miss Donna in a trapeze display, featuring Princess Sonia; Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Johnnie's Rhesus Monkeys; The Laddies, ladders; Joselito, high wire; Barreda's chimps; the Flying Lar-Rays; George Barreda, lions and clowns Joe Sherman and Wayne Liikala.

Musical director for the show was Boom Boom Browning, with John Asbury at the organ.

Coming Next Week - A report on the show offered by the 1977 PAL Circus in San Francisco plus a variety of other features.

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MAGIC

With the outdoor season coming to an end and the indoor season taking over, magic seems to have lost none of it's recent popularity. The Ken Griffin show just completed 10 days for magician-balloonologist-impresario Dr. Dwight Damon up in New England. Having just completed 20 weeks for promoter Mearl Johnson we were laying off at the New Yorker Trailer City in North Bergen, NJ., with Magic Time USA and Ken stopped by for a chat on the way south. What great folks and real pros he and Roberta are. We spent about 7 hours just talking magic one evening. Of course I made Ken open up his big truck so I could look over the props - and what a lot of equipment they have. Ken has one of America's fine established full-evening magic shows. Catch it if you can.

I recently had a chance to catch a performance of Kramer & Co. at the Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ. It is a very well presented full evening magic show consisting of several illusions. Bob and his lovely wife, Judie, are assisted by a young chap named Pat and one thing that is truly amazing is how 3 people can do so much show. This show is really framed to tour, loading into a Wells Cargo trailer, pulled by a really nice Barth Mobil Home. Kramer has a masterful presentation of sawing a lady in two. If you want to see a real showman at work, see him do this.

Al Delage worked the recent Tannen's Jubilee in October. He reports wife Margaret has a kink in her back that will not go away and that the dogs had an injury producing fight. But Al? He just keeps rolling along ...

Mike Conklin who was our stage manager this past season has gone back with his Dad. The Amazing Conklins show is one up on us in that department, Mike is the best magic show stage manager in this country. Mike had a lot to do with making this year's Magic Time USA a show we will always be proud of. A public thanks for that Mike.

My friend Jack Flosso (Flosso-Hornman Magic Co., 304 West 34th St., NY 10001) has a great new book called 'Clown Capers' out. It is filled with professional material on how to be a magic clown. If you are into that you could not

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JACK KING has signed for the second season as musical conductor on Magic Time USA with STU and SARA MILLER. They will be doing Christmas dates then to Florida before the '78 opening in June.

You'd better hurry if still want to be included in the annual Christmas issue.

The deadline for copy is just a week away - Dec. 1st. !!



spend a better two bucks. Jack is my source of anything magical in the big apple, and of most other pros as well.

Larry Week's next "Big Apple All Day Magic Convention" will be held on Dec. 4th. For full information write him at: 426 Brooklyn Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225.

Magic Time USA will open the winter season with a couple of new faces. Out sister-in-law, Chela Diaz, State Manager Bob Owen, musicians Rick Percy and Howard Brady, The arrival of drummer Howard Brady was reported in this publication by Billy Barton almost before we got him. I think that Billy Barton is a magician himself the way he gets his information so quick. We open the winter tour at Carpentersville, Ill., on Nov. 26th and work out way back to New Jersey. Our route will be in CR, so stop by if you can.

PROF. STU MILLER, 2364 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, Fla. - 33577.

BAROMETER

Business for Circus Vargas, now in the South and trailing a number of shows, as well as local Shrine dates and fairs, has remained on a steady level - not buffo, but not bad - during late October and early November.

Weather was mild, but the show encountered plenty of rain.

Memphis (Oct. 28-31) was satisfactory with $\frac{3}{4}$ houses. Chattanooga (Nov. 1-3) played two weeks behind the Shrine Circus, came up with turnaway crowds. Knoxville (Nov. 4-6) was only so-so; however, the Shrine Circus played by Royal Hanneford earlier in October was also poorly attended so nothing very big was expected. Goodlettsville (Nashville Nov. 7-10) played at a Mall built to very good crowds after a slow opening night.

Beatty-Cole experienced see-saw attendance throughout the South and also experienced rain. New Orleans (Oct. 27-30) was good but was bogged in mud. New Iberia (Oct. 31-Nov 1) was light. Pensacola came up with winning crowds (Nov. 4-6) and the opening day at Altamonte Springs had the show playing to two good houses. Beatty-Cole closes its season with a Nov. 27th closing, following a four day run at Tampa.

Attendance at the Hubler Int'l Circus at Raleigh Nov. 5-6) for four performances was only fair. The annual Shrine date has not been a big winner for a number of years, but business built to better than expectations on the second day, bolstered by a very strong show and word of mouth. It is felt by the circus and the committee that the Raleigh date can be a major winner in 1978 with a stronger promotion and better publicity campaign.

Crowds for the Sam T. Polack Circus engagement at Huntsville (Ala) Oct. 29-30 were extremely light. Lack of promotion by the Shrine and a very poor publicity campaign were cited as the reasons, plus the circus followed right behind the fair.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530. Phone: (415) 525-3332.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$12.00 a year. Overseas via Surface Mail is \$15.00 per year.

ADVERTISING RATES: Minimum ad \$5.00; Quarter Page \$10.00; Half Page \$15.00; Full Page \$25.00

Show Crew

Voorheis Bros. Circus played Houghton Lake on Nov. 5th for the band boosters, with good crowds for both shows.

The show line-up was: Miss Dianna (Yoxall), Spanish web; The Rolando's, juggling; Yoxall's Merry Menagerie; Marco Polo, Marcellis, wire; Princess Tonya (D. Yoxall), swinging ladder; Papi and Co (Irv and Florence lang); Andre and His Bunny,

The music was by Terry Drakin with Col. Bill Voorheis on drums and doing the announcing. Mighty Mite (Don Yoxall) was the clown.

PEOPLE

FRANK and BERNICE DEAN, western stars, visited the DeWayne Bros. Circus on its closing day in Southern California early this month.

MARGARET McCLURKIN, who weighs 468 lbs., was featured as the Fat Lady at a CBC circus special in Canada last month.

ENEL KNIEVEL, stunt star, has been sentenced to six months in prison for beating a TV executive with a baseball bat.

LUCILLE BALL will be the ringmaster, while her daughter LUCIE will work in an elephant act during the upcoming "Circus of Stars" TV special scheduled for viewing in December.

SIMONE FINNER, agent, will be in Europe for the month of December, visiting Christmas shows in Holland, Germany, France and plans to attend the Monte Carlo Cirque Festival.

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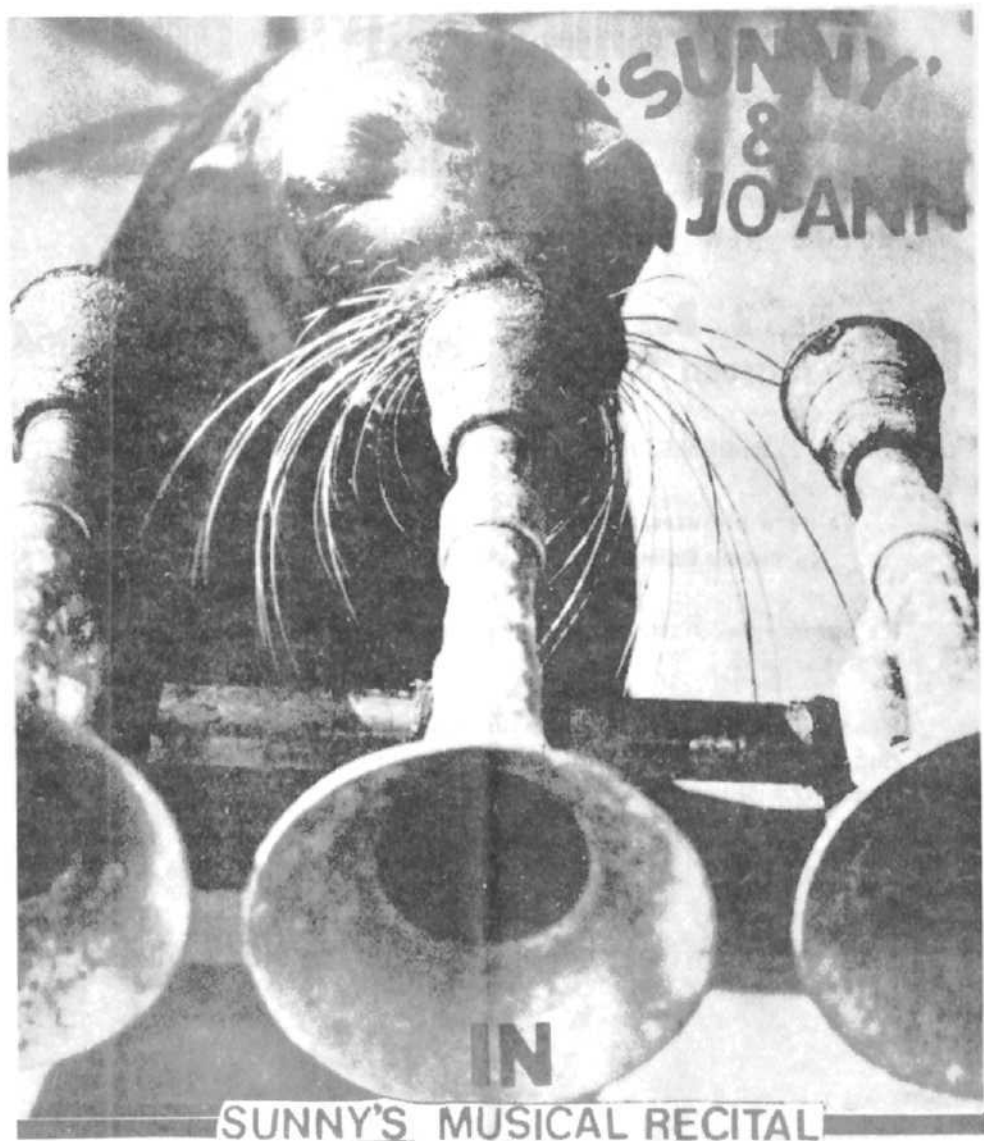
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PEOPLE

BOB FRASER, film star, will play the part of **Will Rogers** in the upcoming film "Ziegfeld: The Man and His Women."

JOHN BALDWIN's Charming Chimps and the **DAVISON**s, juggling team, have been booked by **Simone Finner Enterprises** for the New Variety Arts Theatre in Los Angeles (Calif). The show opened Nov. 23rd and marked the return of Vaudeville to the city.

AL DAWLEY and **LUCKY LARABEE** shared the ringmaster/announcing duties for the film about **KARL WALLE**nda. Al worked a Hammond (Ind) Thanksgiving date for **SAM T. POLACK**.

Important Note!

Circus Report has a very simple schedule. When it is time to print and mail the paper it is done, there are no delays.

We do not hold an issue for advertising, route information or news, there are no exceptions.

Shows wishing to get their route and news into the paper should allow ample time for inclusion with other material. We do not hold advertising space unless there has been ample advance notice and then if the ad does not arrive the paper goes out on schedule and the ads will be placed in the following issue.

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Show Program

The program for two performances presented by **Patterson Bros. Circus**, at **Benton Harbor, Mich.**, on **Oct. 29th**, featured:

Mrs. J. C. Patterson, producer; Music by the **Henneberry family**; and clowning by **Rickey the clown (Irvin Romig)**.

The show acts were: **Rickey** in a warm-up routine; **Billy Martin**, rola bola juggling; **Rickey**, dog act; **The Barry's**, comedy trapeze; **Johnny Armstrong**, Bike, 'Hard Luck Harpo'; **Rickey** with 'Water on the Brain' and bottle balance; **Lee & Rita**, the **Zig Zag** and **Trunk** illusion.

Following intermission were: **Pepi & Co**, the **Lang Chimps(2)**; **Norman Miller**, trapeze; **Johnny Armstrong**, magic; **Rickey** and the 'Numbers Bit'; **Gorgo**, the comedy gorilla and the **Henneberry Family** with juggling and unicycles.

..... **Kaye Scheiman**

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FROM TEXAS

Jim (Chison) Judy, Jay Green and assistant stopped off to visit with some of their show folk friends in Houston on Nov. 6th, enroute to a date in Austin. After Austin they will play several dates in Louisiana, Mississippi and North Carolina, where their '77 tour will end. After the first of the year they will be doing magic and managing Showtime Follies for Bill Garden's 1978 season.

Doug and wife, Donnie Kovnegay (magic) are finding they have little time off with October topping all months with 38 school shows, plus the several shopping center dates.

Bill Siros has just returned to his home in Houston after a successful season with his Thrill Show.....Senator Clauder is off to New Orleans where he worked his magic and clown act...No No, the Clown, (Ralph Ehntholt) has been busy with his many shopping center dates. He works a special promotion and gives lectures on eye sight to churches, civic groups, etc.

Paul Driscoll showed at Good Time Charlie's

PEOPLE

GUNTHER GEBEL WILLIAMS was the subject of a feature story, with photos, in the Florida Times-Union of Jacksonville on Nov. 14th.

JOE DON LOONEY, former pro-football player gave it all up to take care of elephants near Bombay, India, for Swami Baba Muktananda.

ART 'Doc' MILLER was recently operated on for a tumor on his lung. Cards and letters can be sent to him at: Alachua General Hospital, Room 557, Gainesville, Fla. 32607.

"Friends on Voorheis Bros. Circus were happy to know that the dizzy spells MARCELLI had was due to an ear infection and not his heart. All's well now. Specialists in Boston gave the good news."

in the Sharpstown Mall on Oct. 28-30....Walter Blaney (magic) and Sandy Ring (vent) played the American Air Craft Show in Houston.

..... Betty DeHolt

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1978 PLANS (Continued)

in Toronto this year." A date that will be repeated in '78 at the Maple Leaf Gardens. The 3 day date grossed \$247,000 without phones.

Garden's season gets underway March 4th in Pennsylvania, then runs into late June, at which time tentative plans are to do a fair season in July with a Lipizzan horse show. In August, if that develops, the circus will resume its tour with the Trois Riviere Fair date in Quebec, run into late fall with the possibility of a new, added U. S. fall route.

Actually more stateside dates have been signed through his American Corporation, covering nearly 60% of his tour. Due for omission are a goodly number of one day stands formerly played in Canada.

DUE DATES

The show will continue to have a few "due dates" although not so many as in the past. Garden is trying to eliminate twin dates entirely. "There are times when it can't be avoided," he shrugs. "Last year I had to put my big show into Baltimore while bringing acts from the West Coast to fill dates in Western Canada for the same time period,"

Big winners to be re-played include the Shrine Montreal date, Shrine dates in Altoona, Reading and Allentown (Pa), plus Morristown and West Orange (NJ) for the Salaam Temple. There are a series of new dates on tap as well.

A FIRST

This year found Garden Bros. trekking for the first time to Labrador City, going up on 18 flat cars and 2 coaches. The show paraded equipment, and walked elephants, from the train to the building. An estimated 5,000 people lined the parade route.

"We played the town for 3 days and expected

more from the box office than we got. But the concessions mopped, were far, far above expectations. So it was still a money date."

Labador City is a "young" town, filled with "young people", most of whom came from nearby Newfoundland, where Garden Bros. tours each year. Thus, the circus in Labrador was not a total novelty.

BIZ OFF

While much of the Canadian tour was profitable, and all the Stateside dates (since most are sold to the Shrine), the Maritime run was off 40% from 1976. "Now," Garden pointed out, "when I say it was off don't take it to mean we lost money, because 1976 was a bonanza year so the 1977 grosses were still at least average. Overall we played a good money tour."

NEW TALENT

New acts for 1978 include the Fornarsaries, the Drouettes, the Verdues, the new Cuneo cat act with a German trainer using 5 male lions and 5 tigers, a liberty act purchased from Milonga Cline, which has been re-broken by Italian horseman Phillippe Giordana, Alberto Zoppe Family, the Schmitt-Albulet, high wire, and the aforementioned Toyland production opening featuring vocalist Micki Garden. A new three piece band has been booked, replacing Leo Mascitto who left to pursue other interests.

Spot-dating will be the Armors, with flying and cradle acts, plus a newly built aerial motorcycle act on a circular platform, the Sensational Leighs The Flying Ramos and a new flying act by the Rodriguez Troupe, (this season with Castle) who also have 3 head balance trapeze acts. Returning are Gary Johnson's elephants (3) and the Great

(Continued on Page 15)



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1978 PLANS (Continued)

Oscar.

Garden Bros. Circus travels on 5 semis, a lot of equipment for an indoor show, carrying only horses of its own; but the show has constructed a maze of new lighting and staging effects. For example, the circus begins with an "Overture of Lights" utilizing Ice Show bank lights lining the floor of the hippodrome track, which 'dance' in the dark, co-ordinated to music.

..... Billy Barton

Santa Units

The Santa Claus Rocket Corp., opened its 18th season on Nov. 17th, the second season under the ownership of former circus owner Bill Griffith.

Four units are on the road this year, operating from winter quarters at Black Earth, Wisc. The Santa Claus Rockets will play for shopping centers and chambers of commerce in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio, before closing the season on Dec. 18th.

The Santa Claus Rockets which each carry a four person crew, Santa Claus, Hostess, Driver and Manager, are again all managed by veteran circus people.

Santa's Rocket Sleigh is managed by Jack Gobble, Santa's Space Sleigh by Jim Silverlake, Santa's Super Rocket by Billy Sheets and Santa's Rocket Ship by Bill Metzger.

In addition to the Rocket Units, the corporation has several Santa's Moon Rocket stationary vehicles, built to resemble the space capsule that landed on the moon, spotted for Christmas season at indoor malls and operated by local personnel.

FOR SALE

1972 Avion Deluxe 28 ft. Trailer
 Perfect Like New Condition
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BILLY BARTON (Continued)

curtailed her school tour and is back in Florida.....
 CLIFF VARGAS took delivery on his new house trailer unit at Springfield (Mo).....HINES and PATTI RUCKER, in caseyadidn't know (and I didn't) are divorced.
Film and TV star LLOYD BRIDGES has gone from underwater to in-the-air as he portrays Karl Wallenda in the Wallenda Bio-movie.....SENROR RAI has been designing and making new gowns for actress HOPE LANGE, now on Broadway.....GATTI-CHARLES Productions is no longer that, simply GATTI Productions. The show has picked up almost ALL of the Polack Western dates (except Reno, Ogden and Salt Lake City) giving them a longer route and more indoor dates.
 ...Scintillating JUDY BAKER is trying out LOIS HOOPER's "Tomorrow Diet" and we ALL know how THAT works! CLIFF VARGAS, who is a nut about people being reed slender in his show is happy that CORKY PLUNKETT has lost so much weight, but is APPALLED to think that June MIGHT!...So....Bon Appetite, June-bug!
 See you down the road, luvs.

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 RUCKERS PERFORMING ANIMALS
 11154 Phillippi Avenue
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WALLEDA STORY

More than 21 people are required to create the famous Wallenda high wire act for the upcoming movie which is being made in Florida. Part of the cast-consists of the Wallenda family, as well as stunt people and well-known movie actors, who it is hoped will attract an audience for this made-for-TV movie.

The man responsible for the film is Daniel Wilson, an independent producer from New York. He says he took the idea to NBC and sold them on the idea of a movie based on the tragedy and the struggle of the Wallendas to rebuild their act.

The film stars Lloyd Bridges, as Karl Wallenda and Britt Ekland as his daughter, Jenny. It is scheduled for airing in February 1978.

The movie, shot in Sarasota, takes its audience to Detroit, where on Jan. 30, 1962, the hushed crowd watches the Wallendas begin to build the seven person pyramid.

Suddenly it is all wrong. People are falling. Then Richard Faughnan and Dieter Schepp lie on the concrete floor. Mario Wallenda is also on the floor. Karl Wallenda and his older son Hermann catch 17 year old Jana Schepp as she falls. Gunter Wallenda manages to cling to the wire. Jenny Wallenda, standing on the platform watches her husband Richard plunge to his death.

The crowd panics and rushes forward. The circus clowns run through the crowd trying to keep order.

An improvised net is rushed to the ring to catch Jana, who hangs tenuously from Karl and Hermann's hands. She falls into the net, bounces out and hits her head on the floor.

The world is shocked and the Wallendas are broken — temporarily.

But the movie is not merely a chronical of the tragedy. It portrays the climb back for the Wallenda troupe for which the high wire is life.

Jenny, a member of the troupe who was not on the top of the pyramid on the tragic night, is a central character in the movie. Following her husband's death, she left the act to set up a school for young aerialists in Sarasota. Within a year she was back on the wire, performing in Sarasota on March 18, 1963, and taking part

in the Wallenda's triumphant return to the pyramid at Fort Worth, Texas, on Nov. 20, 1963.

The movie will close with the performance in Fort Worth. A performance that signified the battle to rebuild the act had been won.

The story the movie tells, says Wilson, is the story the Wallendas tell.

The first two weeks of filming were done in the Wallenda's backyard in Sarasota. It is the wire that is the center of action, for the actors, the crew and the show folks.

Once the training sequences were finished the cast and crew moved to the beach, the airport, the cemetery, the hospital and all the places that make the story real.

The marriage of Jenny and Richard was recreated on the beach, a funeral sequence was filmed at the cemetery in Oneco and Sarasota Memorial Hospital serves as the Detroit hospital where Mario Wallenda fought to regain the use of his arms and legs and Robarts Sports Arena will become the Detroit arena for one sequence and the Fort Worth Coliseum for another. This will be accomplished they said through the use of lighting and camera techniques.

(Re-written from a story in the Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune, The original story was written by reporter Joan Reus).

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Am interested in buying a large male Black Leopard.

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SAWDUST TRAIL

Another "tent season" has almost come to an end and in a few weeks we will all know just how successful the '77 season was for the 'high grass' shows. Shows are already planning to re-vamp their programs for next year, so there are some interesting changes underway.

This reporter failed to make the annual Dr. Pepper Circus in Dallas last month, but reports confirm that the affair was a success. Art and Bea Stone, of Ruston, La., were among those attending, as was Hardy O'Neal. Jack Bennett was there too, and visited with Mel and B. K. Silverlake who had a snake show at the fair. Word has it that Mel was so impressed with the business he is going to field his pit show for future fairs.

Johnny Frazier took Fisher Bros. into Texas last month after a swing through Louisiana and it looks as if he will winter in the Valley

Ken Benson, who was with Fisher Bros. for almost the entire season, is now working at the La. Purchase Gardens & Zoo in Monroe. Ken was asked by this reporter if he'd consider a winter position at the zoo, giving us a hand with our new elephant 'Shirley' that was donated by Dorey Miller. Ken invites his friends to write him in care of the zoo and when in the area stop by for a visit.

This reporter spent several hours on the Beatty-Cole lot in New Orleans, taking pictures and visiting old friends - Billy Griffin, Edna Antes, Arnold Maley, Fred Logan, Ron and the Dionnes. The lot was wet from early rains and many of the show trucks got bogged down, some to the point where even three elephants couldn't move them.

FOR SALE - MAGIC

1 Dagger Head Chest (New) . . . \$65.00

1 Mutilated Parasol (New) . . . \$75.00

The Above Items are Abbott's Make - new, never been used.

IRWIN ROYES

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Look for a new show to hit the road in '78 under canvas and in arenas. Among the new shows due, and this reporter has seen ads of some, is the new Robbins Bros. Circus, owned by Jack Smith.....Circus Girard is another new one set to open about June 1st, and others are anticipated.

Due to a telephone hassle in Monroe, La., caused by an ex-employee, several stage circuses have routed around the city. Monroe had no less than 14 telephone rooms operating in the first ten months of 1977. This was followed by a lawsuit filed by Blue Grass Shows against the Monroe officials, local sheriff and Monroe Civic Center - two fairs were playing at the same time. In all fairness the Blue Grass Shows were harrassed, but they were not a fair. The case is still in the courts.

Word reaching this reporter is that Franzen Bros. Circus is planning a bigger and better big show for the '78 season. This is truly one of the finest little family circuses on the road today. They are known for their clean operation and concern for the patrons.

The Stones who travel with Bill Swain on a unit of the American Big Top Circus are back home in Ruston, La. During the season Bea took a trip to Rome as the RN for the Louisiana Tech. University, where her husband was once the drama professor.

The CFA lost another well-known and devoted member when Mr. Golsin, formerly of Ruston, La., died recently. This reporter was a guest in his home back in the '50s and has several prize winning photos in his collection, given him by Mr. Golsin. He had an entire collection of old lithos which I hope will go to a museum where they can be protected.

Earl Allen, CFA fan No. 1 of Sikeston, Mo., has improved in health to the point where he and Louise, his lovely wife, will reopen their circus room to groups once again on a limited basis. Earl has a vast store of circus information and is well liked by circus people everywhere. Many thanks to Earl for the Merle Evans records he recently sent.

.... M. L. DUPONT



PEOPLE

JO ANN & SUNNY will make a return appearance on "Paradise On Ice" in mid-December. Miss Jennier was featured on the show this past summer when the show played a series of Music Theatres.

THE FLYING LANTONYS and THE FLYING LANES will both be featured on Circus Vargas when that show reopens for the '78 tour on Dec. 26th in Florida.

ETHEL JENNIER, who closed with the Beatty-Cole Circus on Nov. 27th, has turned down dates with Bauer-Hall, and others, to get her props rebuilt, a truck ready and new costumes, in preparation for the new season, starting Dec. 25th with the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

WALLY NAGHTIN bought new motorcycles for his bear acts. He will have three rings of bear acts on Circus Vargas this next year.

THE YOXALLS have signed with Voorheis Bros. Circus for the summer tent tour with their Merry Menagerie, Miss Diana on web, and Mighty

NEW ADDRESS

TONY and LILY STEELE

Camp V. I. P. Sahara
2401 Kings Way
Las Vegas, Nevada - 89102

Phone: (702) 876-9524

Mite, the clown. They will also debut their new dog and pony act at that time.

JOHNNY CANOLE and GEORGE DaDEPPO were recent visitors on the Circus Vargas, catching the show last month at Alexandria, Va.

The BARTON-JENNIER Center Ring Attractions will feature 3 rings of sea lions in 1979 and have had offers from several major shows for their services. Permits have been obtained and negotiations are underway to obtain new sea lions, which will be trained by Jo Ann and Ethel Jennier. The end rings will have identical costuming and then will bow out to allow Jo Ann to finish in the center ring with the musical horns, which will be increased to 7 horns.

Want

Want to hear from man and wife team who both can drive, to work a well-known top circus act on a yearly basis.

Top Money or a 50/50 deal to the right people.

Man must be a rigger or know aerial rigging. Girl must be a performer.

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Act opens in February and closes in November.

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YEARS AGO

Great Barrington, Mass. - Aug. 30-Sep. 2, 1932

The Wheeler & Sautelle's Circus arrived at Great Barrington from Wilmington, Vt., for their date at the fair. The circus is being presented as a free attraction, while the side show is operated as a paid attraction.

WANTED

Am Collecting Elephant Memorabilia - Books - Photos - Bull Hooks - In fact anything to do with elephants, except the real thing.

Contact: TOBY STYLES

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PEOPLE

CHUCK BURNES recently booked THE GREAT VALENTINO, high wire, through Paul Kaye Agency, and WILLY KEO, comedy trampoline, through Sandy Dobritch Agency, into Knott's Berry Farm, at Buena Park, Calif., where Chuck is a Talent Supervisor for Knott's Entertainment Division.

IRWIN ALLEN has announced he closed a deal with Ringling-Barnum for the filming of his epic film "Circus, Circus, Circus," for Warner Bros. Allen will use both the Red and Blue Units in the circus film, which has been written by EDWARD ANHALT.

Miscellaneous

Look for a major tented circus to change hands before the upcoming '78 season gets underway.

Canvas Specialty's Mike Fuerst will set up the largest tent ever assembled in a Los Angeles (Calif) backyard for the Rainbow Girls' Amy Karen Cancer Foundation bash at Hugh Hefner's home.

FOR SALE

PONY RIDE - Complete and ready to set-up for Shopping Centers, Fairs, Picnics or Carnival.

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Reason for selling - have other interests

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