

# THE CIRCUS REPORT

AMERICA'S  
FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY  
Our 10th Year

Number 48

November 30, 1981



TIMOTHY NOEL TEGGE



BY  
DON  
MARCKS

## DEATH CAME TO VISIT LAST NIGHT

It is late Tuesday night, Nov. 17th, as this is being written. If this copy of Circus Report is stained with tears it is because we have just gone through one of the most difficult days of our life. The darkness of the night seems to last forever and we hope that the first faint rays of daylight will bring some relief.

Yes, Death came to visit last night and when he left he took my mother with him. As a result I'm just a limp rag, alone and blowing in the wind, aimlessly moving to and fro.

From this moment on there will be a big void in my life and work. There is no question but that mother was a guiding force in helping me to create my interests, work and always she had the faith and trust that was needed in whatever I wanted to do. It was at her urging that I tried and achieved some of my accomplishments.

Ten years ago, when I started Circus Report, it was her faith and assurances that kept me going, just as it was when I needed help so badly early this year. I doubt that CR would have come this far without her at my side.

As the years passed we became closer and closer. Because of her poor health and other problems, she gradually became dependent upon me for everything. At the same time I needed her encouragement and suggestions and ideas, and so together we made a pretty good team.

It is going to be hard to continue on, but for her we must, for she wouldn't have it any other way. She would always remind us that "no matter what happens you must always go ahead and work to achieve your goals."

There must have been a star missing in the heavens and God needed her to fill that void. For he called her to him quickly and without any advance notice.

*Alas, mother, I must bid you farewell. I ask and pray that God will grant you peace and happiness in a land where there is no pain or problems.*

We shall meet again one of these days and until then you will never be forgotten.



This issue of Circus Report has been prepared in haste. It does not contain all of the reading matter or ads that are on hand, and as a result most things will be delayed for a bit.

We trust you will understand the present situation and we ask that you grant us some time to collect our thoughts and then to get back into full time operation again.

Thank you, very much.

## In Memoriam

GLEN T. STEWARD (50) a showman who had worked in virtually all phases of the business, died Oct. 26th at North Vancouver, BC, Canada. Survivors include his widow, Ruth, a son, two daughters and his mother, Mrs. Margaret Steward.

# SHOW DATES

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Nov 26-27 Naples, Fla.  
— End of Season —

Brickle's Wonderland Cir.  
Nov 30 Sumter, SC  
Dec 1 Lamar  
2 Andrews  
3 Cave  
4 Kingstree

Circus Festival  
Nov 23-29 Las Vegas,  
Nevada

Ringling-Barnum - Red  
Dec 1-13 Nassau, NY  
— End of Season —

Royal Lichtenstein Cir.  
Dec 1 Tucson, Ariz.  
2 Tempe  
3 Phoenix  
4-7 Los Ang, Calif.

Showfolks Circus  
Dec 5 Sarasota, Fla.

Shrine Circus  
Nov 26-29 Evansville,  
Ind.

--- MAGIC ---

Bill Birchfield  
Nov 30 Portola, Calif.  
Dec 1 Fernley, Nev.  
2 Lovelock  
3 Winnemucca  
4 Battle Mt.  
5 Elko

Pf. Miller  
Dec 1 Elmhurst, Ill.  
2 Addison  
3 Streamwood  
4 Belvidere  
5 Waukegan  
6 Calumet City

Tom Ogden  
Dec 5 Pottstown, Pa.

Dick Oslund  
Dec 3 Traverse City, Mich  
5 Alpena

Felix Snipes  
Dec 4-5 Denver, Colo

--- OTHER DATES ---

Disneys World on Ice  
Nov 24-Dec 6  
Chicago, Ill.

Holiday on Ice/Ice Follies  
Dec 1-6 Omaha, Nebr.

Royal Scots Dragoons  
Nov 30 Montreal, Quebec  
Dec 1 Glens Falls, NY  
2 New Haven, Conn  
3 So. Yarm'th, Mass  
4 Portland, Maine  
5-6 Boston, Mass.  
6 Providence, R.I.

## Rex Bros. Circus

by 'Circus Joe' Valenciano

The newly formed Rex Bros. Circus gave two performances at Tampa, Fla., on Nov. 14th. It was a perfect circus day, with a clear blue, sunny sky.

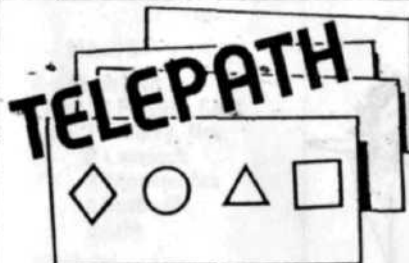
The program featured magic, illusions, Escapes, bears, high wire and a clown.

Performers were: Magic and Illusions presented by Saraco & Co.; El Gran Mar, high wire; Mark Horton, escapes; The Rex Horton Wonder Bears, plus clowning by Tony Lyle, Jr. The magician's assistant was Miss Tonya Lyle.

When you came on the lot you saw a neat and clean little set-up which was circus all the way. The ring curb was bright red with a blue ring mat inside, which had a big star in the center, also red. This color scheme really showed off the ring.

Directly above the ring area was the high wire. The high wire rigging poles flanked the ring, which gave the effect of twin center poles.

The rolling stock was parked right behind the performing area with red skirting across



A Masterpiece of mental magic. You show four plastic plaques 4"x10" with 16 different symbols. Four spectators are asked to just think of one of the symbols. You name the symbol they are thinking of, 100% accurate.

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KEVIN MENARD  
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the bottom to form a backdrop for the show.

The magic display started with the Doll House Illusion, then some sleight of hand, a good card trick and cutting the ribbon, followed by the Zig Zag Girl Illusion. Tony Saraco also did the announcing.

Rex Horton presented a group of five grown bears and a dog in the closing number. A very cute feature of the show was the real little baby bear cub he walked around with, during the come-in.

## Special Dinner

The day before the Hetzer Circus ended its tour, James Hetzer and daughter Cathy Rogers invited all performers and personnel of the show to an early Thanksgiving Day dinner on Nov. 12th.

As an old circus tradition, "1st of Mays" were inducted into the circus world and in to the order of the "bull hook."

Newcomers to the circus were:

Sherry Taylor, showgirl; John Lyons, concessions; Harry Cohen, clown and Randy Ash, percussionist.

Other show people attending the dinner were: Buzzy Cuttin, Galla Shawn, Maurice Davis, Allan Patten, Buck Nolan, Doris and Russell Smith, Rejean Robertson, The Rolling Diamonds, Jim and Rickie and Brenda Bovay, Mike Coco and Joe Frisco, Jr.

## Disney Film

A recently completed 3-dimensional circus film, made by the Walt Disney Studios, was scheduled to be shown regularly at Disney World, starting Oct. 28th.

Featured in the special film are:

Flying Act - Bob Yerkes, catcher and Mike Beard, flyer doing the 3/4.

High wire - Gene and Eleanor Mendez with the woman as understander, including walking and jump-offs.

Clowns - Dougie Ashton, Mark Yerkes and Chris Bricker.

Act coordinator for the studio - Bob Yerkes



# BILLY BARTON

HELLO AGAIN! I've been a lot of places since my last column and since I am being pressed by people in the business to live up to my promise of two more columns before I quit, coming now is the first of those two.

First off, on the last leg of my Fall Tour, on my way to Detroit for a Labor Day date for Gracie, I encountered on the Pennsylvania Turnpike the Bentley Bros. Circus. It was a mutual surprise. Immediately I finished the Detroit date I jumped down to Cincinnati to visit and catch the show.

Tommy and Chuck always have a good show so I won't go into that. The really great addition to this season was an excellent five piece band. It's one of the biggest improvements they've made. Beyond that, biz was good and they have added more towns to their route. Look for this show to have a route of at least 20-odd weeks by 1984.

From there I went to Little Rock for Alberto Zoppe's date. He had a first class show David Chabira was on tap, filling me in on the Mexican junket. The Barredas threw a lavish party down there and on the way back Lee Stevens demolished his equipment. Met Gaynor Johnson for the first time. A fun gal, a good flyer, and on closing night Loni, Donnie, Gaynor and I partied to the wee hours.

From there I joined (are you ready) the Castle Int'l Circus. I had already signed a contract for the Blue Unit for 1982 but my sudden appearance on the show was by accident. The Blocks left for a date in Lake Tahoe and I was their replacement.

With some trepidation I started out, not knowing what to expect. Was I surprised. It is one hell of a show! Beautifully produced, wonderfully lit, and with the most outstanding music and sound systems I've encountered in a long, long time.

All that bilge you are hearing about Tarzan Zerbini is exactly that - Bilge. The man produces a fine show, with top quality acts and

is to be commended not condemned.

Between Castle dates I played Charleston for Sam Polack. Louie Stern was on tap. His vision is bad but once you tell him who you are he remembers. We sat and talked several times throughout the date.

**SNAPSHOTS:** Jackie Zerbini, suffering painful physical problems since her fall was working in Chattanooga and, though still in pain, the gal proved once and for all what a fantastic performer she is. She is also a sweet girl and all of us were on pins and needles throughout the date, hoping she could get through it, having been idle since spring. Her twisters were as neat as ever, she was as marvelous as ever. Jackie will play Detroit in March which is to be her final engagement. She will perform night shows only throughout the run.

Patti Zerbini and Gary Thomas, set to tie the knot in December, have been talked into altering their plans with a marriage during the Detroit Shrine Circus. They will "walk" down the aisle standing atop two elephants!

Tarzan has inked the Bauers and the Nocks for Detroit and will have nine sway poles. It will be the first time the two troupes have been reunited since the Dobritch days. . . Herbie Weber will be with the Castle Blue Unit in '82, also Dion and Beverly. . . Reggie Armor will head up the unit. . . Clem and Elizabeth Tocca are teaching school during the off-period this winter.

Boom Boom Browning made the Evansville date unexpectedly. . . Davide and Susan Zoppe are building a house. . . Papa Zoppe is doing well after his recent operation and is home in Indiana, along with young Johnny, recuperating from his fall on RBBB. A helluva way to get Johnny home! Meanwhile Betty and their son are on the show.

Diones to Castle Gold Unit in '82. . . Wade

(Continued on Page 18)

## Magic Fantasy Revue

by MIKE NAUGHTON

Ron Bacon's second unit 'Magic Fantasy Revue' is currently touring with the following line-up:

Don Phillips, unicycle-juggling on round table; Chandler & Co., three people grand stage magic; Miguelito, chair balance; Paulette's Peerless Puppies (Linda Chandler); Billy Martin's balloon pitch; Intermission.

The Mar-Lyn Duo (Chandlers on rolling globes); The Van Noys (Don Phillips family); Don Phillips and Billy Martin, comedy ala burlesque; The Wizard of Oz production by Chandler & Co.; Exit March with the Dave Miller Combo.

Business has been reported good on most dates with a few falling short of expectations. Many dates have been resigned for next year and Ron is planning some new innovations for the '82 season.

Mike Naughton and Rick Legg visited the show and wishes to thank the entire cast and company for their hospitality.



**LOSING A TOOTH** — Bulba, a 1½ year old Siberian tiger is shown here opening wide for dentist Daniel Laughlin.

The work and the photo were done during the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit's engagement in Seattle, Wash., not long ago.

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## Holiday Show

Kelmar's Happy Holiday Magic Show will be playing sponsored dates in Ohio and is being produced by Kelmar Productions of Bradner, Ohio.

The show has been known in the past as 'Show-Time USA' but will be changing its title to 'Kelmar's Old-Time Touring Magic Show' with the March opening of its 1982 tour.

The show has seen many improvements since its debut in 1977. The proposed route will include approximately five weeks in the spring and five weeks in the fall, with an additional two weeks that is themed for Christmas.

A special 'Candy Cane House' (flash appearance) will be added for the appearance of Santa at the finale of the show, starting with the present edition. An innovative Christmas tree production will debut also, it will have *blinking lights, ornaments* and was engineered by Rick Legg (Kelmar).



5150 Candlewood St., Suite 5 + Lakewood, Calif. 90712

**CIRCUS VARGAS** is streamlining for the New 1982 Season and is offering the following animals, equipment and vehicles for sale:

- 2 Full Used Circus Tents, 150' x 300' (3-Ring) - w/2 extra 50' middle sections, all center, quarter and side aluminum poles, with all equipment included, such as bale rings, mud locks, guide lines, etc.
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- 1 1979 22' Wells Cargo Enclosed Van Pull Trailer
- 1 1979 40' Wells Cargo Flat Bed Trailer w/a 1978 Chevrolet Dooley pick up truck
- 1 40' Trailer - Portableleacher, seats 220
- 1 1969 Trailaire 40' semi-trailer drop frame, tandem axle, furniture van
- 1 1976 40' Hwy tandem axel straight bed with donut wheels horse trailer w/loading ramps and side rails, including 12 individual stalls, hay loft and equipment storage area
- 1 1978 40' Ardon trailer w/10 ticket windows, office and storage area w/GMC Dooley pick up truck

All of the above items, including historic artifacts and numerous miscellaneous equipment will be on display in the Southern California area at the end of November. Please call (213) 920-7648 for appointment.

# It's All Circus

by RICHARD C. JOHNSON

On a warm November afternoon you could hear old time circus music drifting across the Millsaps campus in Jackson, Miss.

Hurry, hurry, hurry, presenting the Royal Lichtenstein Sidewalk Circus, the greatest little show in the world. It features five very energetic performers, Steven, Nancy, Jens, Bob and under the leadership of Nick Weber

The Royal Lichtenstein troupe incorporates mime, foot balancing, juggling, pass juggling, magic, escapes, trapeze, roman rings, with animal acts, two dogs, a pony named Dan Rice, a monkey and a Black Himalayan bear named Jill. Add two skits to make the audience think and humor to make it fun. Top it off with a new hand organ that plays the circus standards, and my friends you have the Royal Lichtenstein Sidewalk Circus.

If you want to leave your problems behind in the everyday world come see the Royal Lichtenstein Circus for an hour and enter the magical world of the circus. The

circus is living and breathing and doing great on college campuses across the United States. Thanks to Nick Weber.

## PEOPLE

(M. T.) JOHNNIE MARSHALL presented, through Eastern States Promotions, Joe Frisco's (Sr) "Wonderful World of Animals" in a zoological display which included Mike Rice with "Rajah", the Royal Palace Elephant, for the Gerald Volkswagen Co., at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. on Nov. 15th.

BONNIE and CLYDE, plus BILLY EARL and "Henreitta" the singing chicken vent act, will be playing the Konover Resort Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., during the upcoming holiday season.

VOLCON, God of Fire, has been performing with the International All Star Circus.

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1976 - 180 pages - Loaded with photos  
(B&W) Oversize copy ... \$ 15.95 p.p.

Pictorial History of the American Circus  
- John and Alice Durant - 1957 - 300  
pages - Photos Galore (B&W) - Index -  
Oversize copy ..... \$ 35.00 p.p.

The Life & Legend of Tom Mix by Paul  
E. Mix - 1972 - 206 pages - Over 100  
photos (B&W) - Oversize copy.

... \$ 15.95 p.p.

Those Amazing Ringlings and Their Cir-  
cus - Gene Plowden - 1967 - 301 pages  
with 31 full page photos - Bibliography  
and Index - Request autograph.

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The Circus, Lure - Legend - Mildred and  
Cotton Fenner - 207 pages - 24 color  
photos - 48 B&W - Great text for refer-  
ence. Oversize copy ... \$ 8.95 p.p.

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copy - Term glossary ... \$ 15.95 p. p.

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neford and her Performing Poodles; Kenny  
Sherburne, juggling unicyclist and rolling  
globe; Joe Phillips, dancing horse (Golden  
Mist) and his Computer Dog; The Cyclon-  
ians, unicyclists; The Grotto Clowns and  
the Vidbel elephants.

Charlie Van Buskirk was the ringmaster  
and music was provided by Russ Cole and  
the Red Coats Band.

Specialty acts currently appearing with the  
Harlem Globetrotters 1981 tour include:

The Flying Rollers, French roller skating  
act; Walter Wasil, hand balancing act; Ches-  
ter Cable, foot juggler; Barrett Felker, jugg-  
ler; The Trampoline Guys, trampoline act,  
and Jean Claude, antipodists.

All bookings were handled through Simone  
Finner Enterprises, the West Coast based  
theatrical agency, specializing in novelty acts.

## ACTS

The Aletheia Grotto Circus presented at  
Worcester, Mass., on Nov. 7-8, was produ-  
ced by Oscar Swartz.

Acts appearing in the show were: Albert  
Rix, bears; Jimmie & Millie, iron jaw with  
juggling and hand balancing; Gracie Han-

# WINTERQUARTERS OPEN

DECEMBER 4th

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Winterquarters

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# PEOPLE

TRUDY STRONG presented her Dalmation dogs in the Eddie Zacchini Show at Columbia, S. C., where BILL STRONG handled the announcing chores. They are set to present both their Quassar aerial act and the Dalmations at Evansville, Ind. on Nov. 26-29.

DICK OSLUND recently finished a fall booking tour through Ohio. He reports business was OK, but not great. He is now set for a spring school tour.

ANGELA WILNOW and her Collies are on tour in Western U. S. A., with "The Wonderful World of Magic" show produced by JOHN STRONG.

BRIAN LaPALME, magician, recently donated his talents in putting on the Dracula Magic Show to raise money for the Title 1 tutorial program. Assisting LaPalme were GARY GRANT, and BARBARA MATTHEWS.

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**BILLY BARTON (Continued)**

Burke left Vargas. . . Alan Gold is there now. . . Bucky Steele, incaseyadidn't know, was back on the Texas dates - and after all that uproar last year. Just like Al Dobritch used to tell Paul "Don't hire that act again until we need them!" What a business!

Tarzan bought that little male elephant from Tony Diano. . . Frank and Ruthie Clark came into Charleston from the last of their fair dates. . . Nordmark show in nearby Huntington visited. . . Gaylord Maynard said he'll be with the Lipizzan Show, next year. . . Clowing day in Chattanooga Vivian Scott broke her shoulder in the dog act. That girl will do anything to get out of a last show.

Tarzan threw a show party at the Brass Register Restaurant. It was a wingding. Most of us crawled into bed at 4 ayem or later.

Hamid-Morton will have Cuneo's cats, elephants, Davide Zoppe, Rex Young and the Sensational Leighs (back from Europe) in their line-up for next season. That show picked up Roanoke.

Ian Garden (visiting in Utica) signed the Rodriguez Troupe, Martinez Troupe and Wayne Regan for his show in '82. . . Clowning in Charleston were Bill Vaughan, John MacKay, Carl Grey and Phil Granger. . . Flying Valentines, Fornasaries among the acts set for Sam Polack's Louisville date in Feb.

Jorge Barrada escorted brother Chino to the Monte Carlo Circus Festival. Chino is thinking of "retiring" unless he gets booked in Europe. . . Lou Ann Jacobs is building her house in Sarasota at last. . . Lorelei married Chris (Phil and Fran's son) in Alabama recently. . . Wendy, Ruth and Walt Patterson stopped to see us on their way to the nuptials. . . Flying Larrays to the Maine dates for Wayne McCarey, plus dates for Zacchini.

The Carson & Barnes Circus and the Castle Circus exchanged visits when both shows were in Tennessee. . . Olmedas have a new three-axle Avion. . . Sampion's son to do a

juggling act next season. . . Horwath's bought a new truck, will be with Castle Blue in '82. . . June Dewsbury's sister Joan paid a surprise visit to the lilliputian in New York. The two hadn't seen each other in 26 years. . . Harry and Rowena Thomas to Mexico and later in to a park on Long Island for the new season.

**VISITORS ENCOUNTERED:** Gaylord and Belinda, Hines Rucker, Emil and Debbie Goetschi, D. R. Miller, Laura and Johnny Walker, Ted Bowman, The Pattersons, Ian Garden, Harry and Rowena Thomas, Dave Eperly, among the many.

**ITEMS:** Flying Ibarras to Castle . . . Bobby Huber will be boss props on Castle Blue . . . Venicio and Golda Vasquez back from Mexico. . . Donna and Darrel Wallen showed off their new baby in Charleston. . . Sam Polack spent a vacation in Hawaii . . . Sue and Al Dawley were in Charleston with her charming mother, wheel-chair bound but zestful. . . Cristiani Elephants on tap in Charleston, coming in straight from Houston. . . Jon Friday ringmasters the Evansville date. . . Pio Nock was brunted about by an elephant on the Hanneford Circus and was hospitalized.

The Fornasaries have been practicing their new flying act at Gaynor and Donnie's in Texas. . . Velma Harrison, recently widowed, is working in Dallas as a dresser for Operas and musicals.

Had a pile of notes which of course I lost one by one. I haven't put a dent in all the gossip and dirt I've been collecting. But . . . I have been completely remodeling my house between dates and in changing rooms around I can't find anything!

Finally, we all would like to know just who showed up at Art Barrett's birthday shindig in St. Joseph (Mo). He invited hordes of people but neglected to tell anyone where he was staying! Now, Art, that's devious.

See you down the road, luvs.