

# CIRCUS REPORT

"AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY"

9th Year

March 31, 1980

Number 13



# WILLIAMS BROS. CIRCUS

WE NEED FOR '80 SEASON - Two Clowns, Booking Agent, Working Men - Show Opens Mat 10th.

WILLIAMS BROS. CIRCUS  
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## In Memoriam

GEORGE LOCKHART (96) well-known circus ringmaster with British circuses, died in England on Oct. 8th. He was a circus ringmaster from 1914 to 1945, appearing with most of the major British circuses. He was popular with circus performers and patrons alike. A daughter, who lives in Blackpool, survives him.

ADOLPH "TRIPOLI" CRISTIANI (70), a well known world famous acrobat and ground tumbler, died at a Sarasota, Fla., hospital on March 15th. He performed at such places as the London Palladium, Radio City Music Hall, The Latin Quarter and top TV shows. He had lived in Sarasota since 1940 and was a member of the Show Folks of Sarasota and AGVA.

Survivors include his wife, Chita, two sons, Nadio and Livio, a brother, Remo and sister Er-mide Loyal, plus several grandchildren.

MADELYN MOORE (24) daughter of the late circus owner Jack Moore, died March 4th in Texas. She was born in Hugo, Okla., but for the past several years had lived in Grand Prairie, Texas. Her father founded the Carson & Barnes Circus and she performed with that show for many years.

Survivors include her mother, Mrs. Angela Akeman, step-father Ted Akeman, two brothers, Mike and Danny, two sisters, Wanda Hoover and Martha Moore.

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## On The Cover

This week's cover picture, in water colors, was painted by Robert B. Johnson and is titled "An Early Day Truck Show."

The scene shows a small early American truck show whose major animal attractions consisted of dogs and ponies. It is that rest period, after the circus has been set up and before the matinee is scheduled.

## In Memoriam

FRANK WHEELER (73), leader of the "Wheeler Marimba Merry Makers", died in a Walnut Creek, Calif., hospital on March 10th. A native of England, he lived in the Walnut Creek/Concord area for 50 years. He retired from the Shell Oil Co., in 1949 and then devoted his full time to the musical act.

Survivors include his wife, Bayless, a daughter Delcie, two grandchildren and Emmy Kasch, who was a member of the act.

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## REPORT

### FRANZEN BROS. CIRCUS

... by (M.T.) Johnnie Marshall

The mighty Franzen Bros. Circus opened its '80 season on a glorious note in Apollo Beach, Fla. with a very nice crowd, which included both circus folks and circus fans.

The show was very lively and ran smoothly despite any opening day jitters. There were several new features, one of which is a new back door with glitter letters over the bandstand, spelling out the show's name.

Wayne Franzen, owner and producer, has shown some more of his ingenuity by merging the spool and generator and thereby eliminating a truck.

The show this year is carrying its usual complement of almost 50 wild and domestic animals in four show trucks, plus two trailers.

The program featured: Wayne Franzen, lions and tigers; Curtis and Bryant, spinning ladder; Freddy the clown, a camera bit; Tonto the wonder pony; Curtis Kid Caiman, juggling; Freddy the clown with plate spinning; Kid Ossie and a camel and llama; Miss Tina, web; Dennis Michaels, goats; Intermission; Kid Caiman, wire act; Brian Franzen with Cecil the donkey; Freddy the clown, hot water bottle gag with Dennis and Lynn Michaels; Wayne Franzen, Okha the elephant; Miss Tina, single trapeze; Kid Cainan, dogs; Chief White Feather and 12 liberty horses.

Lynn Michaels was the organist and Charlie Jackson was the drummer.

... by "Circus Joe" Valenciano

This writer made his first visit to the Franzen Bros. Circus which gave two performances at Apollo Beach, Fla. on March 9th.

The show was presented under a blue top which was about a 60 ft round with one middle. Show trucks consist of four with each one lettered. The spool-light plant is a unique combination and I never saw anything like it. There is the

## SPECIAL

The Indian Cultural Exchange program is sending popular magician Sorcar, Jr. on a tour of the Philippines and other Far Eastern Countries for the months of April and May.

The show troupe consists of 23 people, which includes 8 girl assistants and four musicians.

Sorcar reports that some 48 cubic tons of show equipment was sent by ship to Manila

pole/bleacher semi, concession trailer, animal semi and a cage trailer.

The show has a number of acts highlighted by Wayne Franzen with cage act (3 lions, 2 tigers), elephant, and a nice liberty act of 12 horses.

Program is backed by organ and drums. Among the visitors seen on the lot were June Russle, Bonnie Bonta, Mr. Arturo and the Valencianos.

... by Llenray J. Yarnell

On March 9th, I saw Franzen Bros. Circus at Apollo Beach, Fla. It is a small one ring show, but very entertaining. The program runs about 100 minutes including the intermission.

The steel cage is at one end of the tent with two quarter poles inside the steel cage.

The program ran as: Elephant ride pitch in the ring until show starts; Color book with program insert pitch; 3 lioness and 2 tigers presented by Wayne Franzen; Revolving ladder with Curtis C. and Bryan G.; Freddie the clown; Arithmetic Horse presented by Wayne Franzen; Juggling by Curtis "Kid" Cainan; Freddie; Camel and Llama presented by Wayne Franzen and Curtis Cainan; Spanish web by Tina Brown; Dennis Mitchell presenting 8 goats, ending in a long mount; Intermission.

Curtis "Kid" Cainan, low wire; Wayne Franzen son Brian presenting a donkey; Freddie; Elephant presented by Wayne Franzen; Tina Brown on the single trapeze; Curtis Cainan and his 3 dogs, and the 12 horse liberty act presented by Wayne Franzen.

# Show Dates

## Beatty-Cole Circus

Mar 31-Apr 2 Hickory, NC

April 3-4 Rock Hill, SC

5-6 Florence

## Big John Strong Circus

Mar. 26 Tulare, Calif.

## Carson & Barnes Circus

Apr. 4 Hugo, Okla.

6-7 Hurst, Texas

## Hubert Castle Circus

Mar. 31 Pendleton, Oregon

Apr. 2-3 Missoula, Mont.

## Circus Vargas

Mar 31-Apr 3 W. Covina, Calif.

Apr. 4-6 Burbank

## Cole All Star TV Circus

Mar. 31 Bristol, Conn.

- End of Tour -

## Hoxie Bros. Circus

Mar. 31 Key Largo, Fla.

Apr. 1 Homestead

2 Hollywood

3 Vero Beach

4 Port St. Lucie

5 Okeechobee

## Kelly Bros. Circus

Mar. 31 Navasota, Texas

Apr. 1 Brenham

## Ringling-Barnum - Blue Unit

to June 1 New York, NY

## Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

to April 7 Washington, DC

## Royal Hanneford Circus

Apr. 4-12 Marietta, Ga.

## Royal Lichtenstein Circus

Mar. 31 De Kalb, Ill.

Apr. 1 Crawfordsville, Ind.

2 West Lafayette

3 Muncie

4 Kalamazoo

## Shrine Circuses

Apr. 4-5 W. Palm Beach, Fla.

4-6 Tacoma, Wash.

## ---- MAGIC ----

## Amazing Conklins

Mar. 31 Selfridge, ND

Apr. 1 Wakpalo, SD

2 Timberlake

3 Marmath

## Berwin & Brewster

Mar. 31-Apr. 6 Brownsville, Tenn.

## Blackstone Magic Show

Mar. 25-Apr. 6 Washington, DC

## Kelmar's Showtime USA

Mar. 31 Bluffton, Ohio

Apr. 1 Forest

## Felix Snipes - Magic/ESP

Apr. 4-5 Birmingham, Ala.

## ----- OTHER DATES -----

## Babes in Toyland

Mar. 31-Apr. 7 Toronto, Ont.

## James H. Drew Exposition

Mar. 31-Apr. 5 Belmont, NC

## Jett's Petting Zoo

Mar. 27-Apr. 5 San Bernardino, Calif.

## Sport Show

Mar. 28-Apr. 6 Minneapolis, Minn.

## White House in Miniature

April 2-6 Cheyenne, Wyo.

## Prof. Miller's Magic Time USA

Apr. 1 Harrisonburg, Pa.

2 Waynesboro

3 Charlestown, W. Va.

5 Brunswick, Md.



NOW THAT THE USA has fallen all over itself telling Canada what a great country it is what I'd like to know is why has it taken so long? Put action where the voice is, USA and relax the stringent border regulations for Canadian performers and extend a REAL hand of friendship!

SPEAKING of Canada the "cold date" produced by Garden Bros. Circus in Toronto was the sort of winner to warm the cockles of a producer's heart. Biz was super-terrific with the Saturday matinee packed to the rafters and a turn-away of 2000 persons! All houses were at least three-quarters full - this in a 16,000 seat capacity. Media Blitz was extensive and the show capitalized on its TV exposure through association with CTV and the hit program CIRCUS! as all acts on the show had appeared on the program and heading the cast were guest stars CAL DODD and SHERISSE LAWRENCE, Canada's answer to DONNIE & MARIE. The two young Canadian stars performed well in an alien environment and were popular backstage with the circus folks. Dodd dressed in the men's dressing room, Sherisse with the gals., eschewing private dressing rooms; neither put on "star" airs and are to be congratulated for their conduct.

ANSWERING THE MAILBAG: In that the issues of Feb. 11 and 18th seem to be "pick on Billy weeks" I am moved for the first time in 5 years of columnizing to defend myself. Normally I ignore the mailbag critics but two weeks in a row is just too much.

MY first reply is to the Rev. Austin Miles: The word "contrive", according to my International Desk Dictionary, means to "manage by resourcefulness/a means of meeting". Thus I neither retract, nor apologize for, the use of that word. That I was "visibly upset" by your entering the ministry is a slight distortion of the truth. I was DISMAYED because you had not been active as a ringmaster. By your own admission you had only recently begun to play circus dates again. How a man chooses to devote his personal interests is, will be, his affair.

YOUR "claiming" me for Jesus Christ is magnanimous but I rather resent the implication that I am "godless" and that you have the temerity to judge me thus, when the reverse is true. I happen to believe that a person's faith, (whatever his religious convictions), should be private and need not be displayed by a white collar or public af-

firmation. It is after all, what a man DOES that counts, not what he SAYS - the principles and ethics by which he lives.

CERTAIN people would have others live by THEIR rules, all in the name of religion. Now while your calling is indeed an honorable one and fits YOU that does not imply it must fit ME. I respect your way of life, Austin; be so kind as to respect mine.

To JON FRIDAY: The information re: Carden Johnson Circus playing Grand Rapids itemed in my May, 28, 1979 column was given to me by Mr. Larry Carden himself during the San Francisco engagement. Now when I am told something of this nature by a producer it seems unnecessary to check it. What I'd like to know is why, since that item appeared nine months prior to your letter, did you or the Castle organization wait so long to ask for a retraction?

To MABEL ROBERTSON: Mr. Trevor Bale informed me personally that his son was a double winner. I admit to mixing up the gold and silver clown awards but this was unintentional. Fortunately I made no mention of the Franconi Duo winning or not winning which the phrasing of your letter indicates.

TO ALL READERS: There are times when false items do indeed creep into my column, usually given to me by first-hand parties, because I am ALWAYS careful about second and third hand information and try to check such items. In addition, some items become obsolete owing to the length of time between my writing of a column and its publication. Deals have a way of falling through and I have no control over last minute, or eleventh hour changes. That, as they say, is show business.

WHEN they conclude their engagement in Altoona for Ian Garden the FLYING LANES are disbanding. I am sorry to hear this, but can understand their reasons. Pat Lane told me it is just impossible anymore to make a decent living in show business and as much as he loves the flying act profession, he and his partner Dave are forced to give it up. A sad state of affairs when a good-looking fine flying act must bit the dust, all of which confirms my prediction made months ago that 1980 would see more and more acts leave the circus, and BILL STRONG, who over-

# REPORT

## BRITISH and IRISH CIRCUSES...

... by Derek Simpson

**GANDEY'S CIRCUS** owned and directed by Philip Gandey opened the 1980 season on March 6 at Congleton. Returning to Gandey's for the second season is Martin Lacey with his 6 male African lions. Martin has a new tiger act in training

**AUSTENS BROS. CIRCUS** opened at Swindon on March 4, and features Austen Bros. lions, elephants, etc., Duo Tovanch, cradle trapeze; Davies' poodles; Duo Delmar, hand balancing and juggling; Tanya Tovanch, revolving aerial.

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN FLYING CHEROKEES**, clown Teddy Green and Ivan Karl, the world's smallest strongman will be featured on Courtney Bros. Circus in Ireland this year, opening after Easter.

**BLACKPOOL TOWER CIRCUS** which opens in May will feature Norman Barrett with the Robert Bros. spotted ponies; Wychwoods poodle illusion; Miss Jeiy's, sword and dagger balance; Margaret Chipperfield, with a new act including 2 zebras, 2 elephants, 2 ponies; the Dolly Sisters, American aerial act; Rastellis, musical clowns, etc.

**AT BLACKPOOL Tower Circus** in 1981 will be Mary Chipperfield with tigers, football dogs, liberty horses, high school horse. Also the Hermans, Spanish perch pole balance act.

## Books - Just In

- Bentley - History of Circus . . . . \$ 6.00
- Burns - Jumbo (P.B.) . . . . . 3.50
- Love Of Elephants (Photos) . . . . 12.00
- Born To Be (Mr. John's Valet) . . . 5.00
- Atlantic City (Photos) . . . . . 8.00
- Circustime! (Juv.) . . . . . 7.00
- Swortzell - Here Come the Clowns 10.00
- Jolly - Jumbo . . . . . 12.00
- Yost - Buffalo Bill . . . . . 17.50
- Alderman - Annie Oakley . . . . . 9.00
- Mighty Atom (Carny Strong Man) 10.00
- What Happens at Circus (Beatty) . 6.00
- Greenwood - Circus (before 1835) . 6.00
- Great Menagerie & International Circus  
1884 repres.-pop up book (ea) . 8.00
- Finding the Magic Circus (Juv.) . 8.00

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# PEOPLE

**PIRATES OF THE SKY, MARCELLI & JANIS** and **BILLY BARTON** were among the acts seen at Ballingers Night Club in Ontario during the month of February.

**AL DAWLEY**, announcer, was presented with a Shrine Fez titled "Ringmaster" during the Sam T. Polack Circus date at Pine Bluff, Ark. He was previously made an Honorary Member of that Shrine Temple.

**PAUL HORSMAN**, of Auburn, N.Y., reports he has set up his miniature circus at the Museum and folks in the area are invited to come and see both the museum and circus. Clown **BOB OWEN** was a recent visitor there,

**PAM PAULSON** is the new editor of the Show-folks of Sarasota's Newsletter.

**WHIZZER the Clown**, will be presenting his clown magic shows each day as well as serving as MC for other shows at the New Paltz, N.Y., Fair in Up-state New York, Aug. 5-10.

**DOROTHY WINN** has signed Chaplain **AUSTIN MILES** to serve as ringmaster for the annual Moolah Temple Shrine Circus at St. Louis for June 4-8.

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## In Memoriam

**ROBERT HUTCHINSON** (55) died of cancer at a hospital in Milwaukee, Wisc., on March 12th. He was born in Menominee and was an avid circus fan. A veteran of World War II and a former clothing manager for Montgomery Ward, he first joined Carson & Barnes in 1979 and tour with them from that time on. He served as a Brigade Manager with the show. Survivors include two sons and two brothers.

## FOR SALE

### WIZ FLASH

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Presented on the Cabaret Show at recent Hollywood Cavalcade of Magic. The act received a standing ovation.

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## REPORT

### ISHMAILA TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS

... by Bill Galloway

The 1980 Ishmaila Temple Shrine Circus was again produced by George Hubler. Performances were Feb. 29, March 1 and 2 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Buffalo, N. Y. Full houses were seen at the two Saturday shows this write caught. The program featured: Overture; National Anthem and Introductions; Spec with all performers; Jorge Barreda, lions; The Vashek Duo, aerial motorcycle; Comedy Car, Sir Chadwicke Chase (Happy Davis); Display with Acrobatics, the Charlies (Gutis), Bikes, The Antonios (Olmedas) Whips by Alonzo (Pancho); Clowns with Strongman Gag; Display with Afghans, Susan Sheryll (Zoppe) and Dalmations, Miss Trudy (Strong); Comedy Knock-about, the Super Locos; Aerial balancing and single trapeze by Miss Lou Ann Jacobs; Spanish Dressage Horses presented by The Olmedas; Clown Boxing Number; David Zoppe & Co., Rhesus Monkeys; Joselito on the high wire; Intermission.

A display with unsupported ladders by the Ladies (Zoppe), Juggling by the Torino Bros. (Olmedas), Comedy Trampoline by The Karinas (Karen and Happy Davis); Jungle Parody by the Gutis Family; The Flying Valencias; The Diano Elephants presented by Lee and Jeanette Keener, with Tanya; Aerial hanging perch and single trapeze by the Quassars (Bill and Trudy Strong) and the Finale.

The show's staff consisted of: George Hubler, producer; Austin Miles, announcer; Boom Boom Browning, musical director.

Clown Alley included: Wayne Liikala, producing clown with Happy Davis, Lori Miles, David Strong and Antonio Olmeda.



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# CIMSE'S

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1980

## WINTER and SPRING DATES



- Feb. 1 – New York City – Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
- Feb. 6 thru 10 – Louisville, Ky. – Sam T. Polack Circus
- Feb. 13 thru 18 – Hartford, Conn. – Hamid-Morton Circus
- Feb. 22-23-24 – Binghamton, N.Y. – Hamid-Morton Circus
- Feb. 29, Mar. 1-2 – Allentown, Pa. – Ian Garden Circus
- Mar. 7-8-9 – Reading, Pa. – Ian Garden Circus
- Mar. 22 – Burlington, Vt. – Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
- Mar. 23 – Oneonta, N. Y. – Circus Odyssey
- April 7 – TV – Chicago, Illinois
- April 8 thru 13 – St. Paul, Minn. – Ian Garden Circus
- April 21 thru 26 – Altoona, Pa. – Ian Garden Circus
- April 27 – Geneseo, N. Y. – Circus Odyssey
- April 30 thru May 4 – West Orange, N.J. – Coronas Circus Spectacular

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## PEOPLE

PAUL PARSONS (Abra the Magic Clown), of Toronto, is presently presenting a series of clown lectures in schools in Eastern Ontario, paid for and sponsored by the Canadian government. Parsons was for several years advance clown for Garden Bros. Circus and also managed his own stage unit.

BOB and ROSA GIBBS vacationed in the Bahamas after winning the free trip in a drawing at Seagoville, Texas. They retruned in time to open with the Carden-Johnson Circus at Ardmore, Okla., on March 13th.

TOM OGDEN, magician, will conduct daily classes in magic at the Berkshire Center for the Performing Arts at Sheffield, Mass., this summer. The classes are part of the Center's annual Theatre Program.

JOSHUA SILVER and BOB DACARO are hard at work on a project to produce a rodeo in New York City from Aug. 15th thru Labor Day.

FRED MARCO, Cranston, R.I., magician and a former assistant to Harry Blackstone, Sr., recently visited with Harry, Jr. at Providence, R.I. Now in semi-retirement, Marco was on the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus in 1973 as Merlin the Magician.

BUCK NOLAN, the World's Tallest Clown (7'

## in the NEWS

Officials at Taranto, Italy, found a new method to control crowds of youths trying to crash the gate at a performance of the New Trolls, rock group - they used elephants.

The New Trolls were appearing at a performance of the Orfei Circus in Italy, and gangs of youths rushed the entrance gate after seats were sold out. They solved the problem by bringing out two elephants from the circus and stationed them in front of the entrance gate.

## HOTLINE

EDNA ANTES suffered a broken leg as a result of a fall when she was loading her trailer to start out with the Beatty-Cole Show this season. She has been hospitalized at DeLand, Fla., and during her absence Wilson Storey is working in the show's new office wagon.

6") spent several days in Columbus, Ohio, visiting with DON (Whizzer the Clown) and FRAN BRIDWELL after he played a date in Rochester. Buck will be back on the Great American Circus this summer.

# CONGRATULATIONS!

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— TO MANY MORE SUCCESSFUL TOURS! —

## NEW BOOK

Octopus Books, Ltd., will publish the book 'The Love of the Circus' by David Jamieson and Sandy Davidson in June 1980. The full-color introductory book on the circus will be in the same format as the other titles in the well-known 'Love of . . .' series published by Octopus. The titles range from 'The Love of Britain' and 'The Love of Big Cats' to 'The Love of Gymnastics'. The large format book will have a hard cover, with 96 pages and over 90 color photographs and posters.

It's contents will include: The Circus on Parade, The Horses, The Clowns, The Big Care, The Acrobats, Jugglers and Balancers, The Elephants, In The Air, A Great variety of circus animals, The Circus Industry. An appendix will list the world's circus magazines and fan organizations.

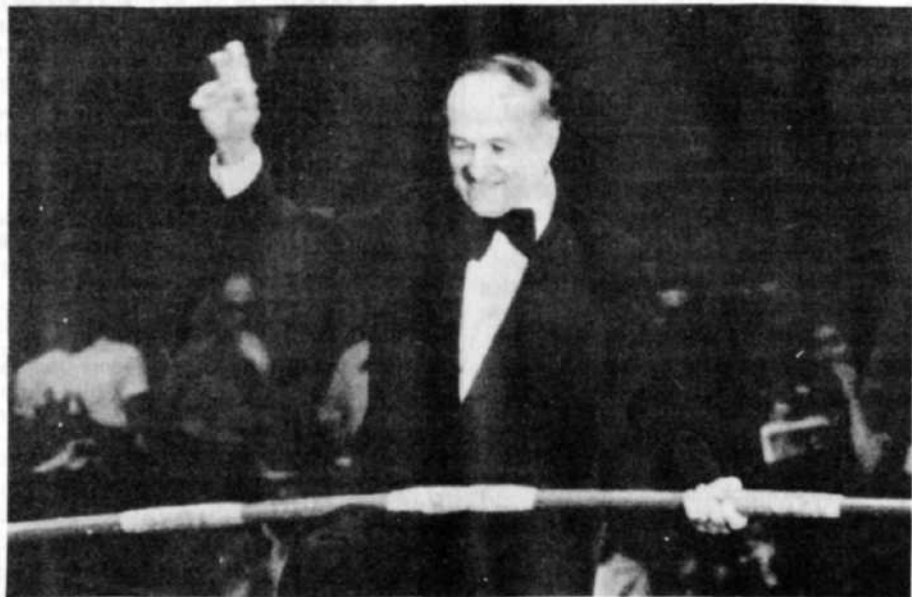
The book which has a foreword by Mary Chipperfield, will be sold through the Octopus network throughout the world. A special edition will be available in America, under the title "The Colorful World of the Circus" with a foreword by Helen Wallenda, former high wire star

and widow of the legendary Karl Wallenda. Authors David Jamieson and Sandy Davidson are both members of the Circus Fans Association of Great Britain. David Jamieson is joint editor of its magazine, 'King Pole' and has travelled thousands of miles to see circuses in Britain, Europe, America, Australia and South Africa. He has taken over 10,000 photographs and has written and designed over a dozen circus program book. Forty of his pictures appear in 'The Love of the Circus.'

Sandy Davidson is a regular contributor to the King Pole whose circus going began at the age of eight and has since taken him to Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, and France as well as throughout Britain. He has an extensive collection of circusiana and several rare posters from it are reproduced in "The Love of the Circus."

The book, which should do much to heighten enthusiasm and interest in the circus, can be ordered at book shops now, or by writing to: Octopus Books, 59 Grosvenor Street, London W 1, England.

# **IN MEMORY**



# **KARL WALLENDÄ**

**" A MASTER SHOWMAN "**

Died March 22, 1978



**BILL and PAT KAY**

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# FLASH

## WOMEN ON THE JOB

The concession department at the Cyprus Temple Shrine Circus at Albany, N. Y., was headed up by: Antonette (Bisbini) Schweinsaupt, who was assisted by Patsy Jordan, Mrs. Jack Cook, novelties, Betty Jensen, pop corn, Sally Todd, Sno Cones. The concession department broke a twenty-seven year record for the date.

The circus, produced by William Kay, played to capacity crowds for all five shows during Mar 8th and Mar. 9th. Ralph Schoenkew, circus chairman, said it was the best ever for Cyprus Temple. Kris Krenkel, of Bill Kay's staff handled all advance promotion.

# PEOPLE

ROY ROGERS and DALE EVANS were guests on the Mike Douglas TV Show which was aired the afternoon of March 28th.

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## In Memoriam

MRS. ANNA OPAL GILL (63) died of a heart attack on March 5th in Topeka, Kans. She was driving her car when she became ill. Friends who were following her said she pulled into a driveway, stepped out of the car and collapsed. She had been in the concession business, operating Gill Concessions, since 1948.

Survivors include three sons, Theodore Dechman III, Charles Ray Dechman and Michael J. Gill, a daughter, Mrs. Pat Hyman, a sister, Pansy Smith and several grandchildren.

LESTER A. WHITSON (81) died late last year at Kendallville, Ind. He was a retired acrobat, who traveled with most of the major circuses during his 50 years in show business. He performed with the Lucky Boys and the Six American Belfords, and entertained every president from Theodore Roosevelt to Franklin D. Roosevelt. Survivors include his wife, Helen.

## WASHINGTON TUBBS II



# PEOPLE

THE VILLAMS, jugglers, were featured on the Merv Griffin TV Show which was aired the afternoon of March 17th.

FRANK HERMAN, magician, is currently on a lecture tour in Florida. He plans to return to the west coast within a few weeks.

THE GREAT ARTURO was recently featured in an issue of the Tampa Times-Tribune. The article included three photos and described his feat of walking a wire hung between the masts of a pirate ship, the "Jose Gasper."

SIEGFRIED and ROY, illusionists, were guests on the Merv Griffin TV Show which was aired on March 19th.

LLOYD LOAN, clown, will be touring with the Kelly Bros. Circus this summer. He has a small 1910 Tin Lizzie Model T Ford which draws good laughs because of its comedy.

HAL HAVILAND has returned to his base in Newington, Conn., after playing a few opening dates with the Magic Time USA Show.

CAROL CHENEY and "Baby Tarra" the roller skating elephant, were featured on TV's "Real People" show which was aired on March 19th.

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## CIRCUS QUIPS . . .

. . . by KARL J. BISCHOFF

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A **SHOWMAN** considering marriage claims that it's as hard to find a needle in a girl's hand today as it is in a haystack.

**WHAT 1980** has in the hopper for you depends on how much energy you use.

Hiram Edwin Gosset, Sr., made a fortune in circus business.

Hiram Edwin Gosset, Jr. enjoyed the fortune.

Hiram Edwin Gosset, III, lost the fortune.

**THERE WAS NEVER** a fuel shortage for heat at most winterquarters this winter, most departments were producing enough energy to keep the sparks flying.

## By Crane



ACTS - Are you listed with us ?

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## MAILBAG

... from William Wotsch

In the winter of 1940, around February, we had to once again bring out of storage the wooden chutes we had used in 1938 at our first circus in the Cleveland Arena. This time the chutes were to be used for Terrell Jacobs and his lions, who were appearing with the Al Sirat Grotto Circus at the arena.

His lions were kept in the North east Tunnel, right off the main floor.

Because there was a hockey game scheduled in the middle of the circus date we had a considerable amount of work to change the arena back and forth for both events. The ice was covered with floorboards, then dirt was hauled in and the boards were covered over.

We nailed together short 2x8's for small flat platforms, these were used for loaded sand bags and were filled from a pile in our backyard. Old street car rails were brought in and used an anchors for tie-ins.

Some of the fellows on this gang were Tuffy Genders, Charles Jonesy, and Cy Perkins. Every circus fan knows who Tuffy is, a former manager with Ringling and still connected with that show. Charles Jonesy today is a stagehand in Cleveland and Cy Perkins today is stage manager at the Masonic Temple, just a few doors down from where the old Cleveland Arena was. I used a cement chisel to cut some holes in the

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It seems that a jungle hunter came upon an elephant that was limping badly. He followed it for some distance, when he saw the great pachyderm wobble and fall to the ground. The hunter rushed up and looked over the great beast. In one of his feet was a big thorn which the hunter carefully removed before returning to camp.

Five years elapsed. To kill time this hunter went to the circus and bought an inexpensive seat. When a group of performing elephants came into the arena, one of them looked about and spied the erstwhile hunter, reached over with his trunk, lifted him from his inexpensive seat, and placed him gently into a private box.

4 inch cement for anchors.

Our Pilsner Celler on the ground floor level, had to be cleared of its tables and chairs. It was used by the public and had tables with a bar at one end, decorated like an inn. We cleared it so the elephants could be housed there.

Upstairs a recreational room, complete with pool table was set up as a dressing room for some of the show girls.

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## Acts

### SPORT SHOW ACTS

Acts appearing at the Sport Show in Harrisburg, Pa., last month were:

The Plunketts, trampoline; Rod and Sven Johnson, wood chopping and canoe racing; Monte and Dick the Wonder Dog; Fred Scheer and Fred Sarykly, log rollers; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Dean Sherman, announcer and Jessie Griffiths, organist.

Appearing at the Sport Show at Boston, Mass., last month were:

The Plunketts, trampoline; Hank Peters and Jim Freeman, canoe tilting; The Rolling Diamonds, roller skaters; Fred Scheer and Fred Sarykly, log

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## Acts

The program for the Sahara Temple Shrine Circus at Pine Bluff, Ark. (March 14-15) produced by Sam T. Polack lists the following acts and personnel.

Sam T. Polack, producer; Al Dawley, ringmaster; Bill Pryne, musical director; Ron Kelroy, prop boss; John MacKay and Phil Granger, circus clown come-in.

Harry Thomas, tigers; Rolls, cradle; Light Pitch; Clowns; Ethel Jennier, Greyhounds; Kent's balancing; The Carlos Duo, perch; Lou Ann Jacobs on single trapeze; Clowns; Olmedas, bicycles; Elephants, Intermission; Poppinini & Co., wire; Erna's Chimps; Torino; Clowns; Sword Balance; Magana and Claytons, whips; Clowns; Horse act; Bertini aerial perch and the Lantony's flying act.

rolling; Hank Peters, comedy fishing; Scott's Unrideable Mule; Dean Sherman, announcer and Jessie Griffiths, organist.

Both shows were produced by Sherman Exhibitions and talent was provided by William Shilling.

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## PEOPLE

**RON HILL**, of the Royal Crown Circus, reports workmen are building equipment and making repairs caused by the winter rains and flooding for the show's scheduled opening date.

**MAUREEN WILES**, of San Bernardino, Calif., and owner of a 2 year old Jaguar, has run up against authorities who want her and the animal out of the area.

**THE SUPER LOCOS**, comedy acrobats, **THE FLYING VALENCIAS** and **SATANI DEMON**, fire and sword act, were praised by the Lansing (Mich) Journal on March 7th.

**DAVID LEE**, 10 year old juggler with the Ice Capades, is the younger brother of the well-known juggler **ALBERT LUCAS**.

**STEPHEN COYLE** and **FLIP WELLFORD**, of the Royal Lichtenstein Circus, were pictured in the Mail-Tribune of Medford, Oregon, during the show's date there.

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And strong as rice stalks, shooting from transom to trapeze, rope to net as gracefully as angels with sin on their minds. He believed it would be quite a sensation:

He could bill them as East European Princesses fallen on hard times, gypsy and royalty crossbreeds, wild Indian virgins with tastes for silks and pearls and all the tragedies of Shakespeare.

It would make him young again, and rich, and loved too. He would buy a new hat glossy as a Cadillac, a new coat. He could already see the vapor lights aimed upwards, smell the heat of the crowd, hear the tent ropes sigh with tension.

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## Acts

The program for the annual Moslem Temple Shrine Circus at Detroit, Mich (Mar. 14-30) produced by Hanneford Circus, Inc., was presented at the State Fairgrounds Coliseum. It was the temple's 100th annual circus.

Featured were: The Great Huberto, slide for life; Capt. Clint Olson, Rocket car; Patriotic spec "this is My Country"; Tajana, tigers; the Castro Brothers, high wire; Display with The Franciscos, trampoline, Eugene & Aurelia, wire, Hernandez Troupe, teeterboard, Los Latinos, wire and the Anthonys, trampoline; Gaylord Maynard and horse "Chief Bear Paws"; the Shrine Clowns; Display with Lucianna Loyal & Co., The Hanneford Family and Timmy Loyal/Repensky & Co., riding acts; Super Locos, tumbling; Aerial Ballet with 8 webs and Belinda Maynard on single trapeze; Display with Mr. Sladick, chair stacking, Timothy, rola bola juggling; Randy & Sylvia, perch and Little John, chair stacking; Satani Demon, fire and swords; Birthday Party spec "Alice in Circus Land" featuring Nellie Hanneford; Intermission.

The Flying Gaonas and the Flying Valencias; Mark Anthony, midget car; Display with Nell Frank, horseback roping, Bradd Frank, high school horse, Tex Maynard, Jr., dressage horse,

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Mark Karoly, dressage horse and Nellie Hanneford, dressage horse; The Cristiani, Hanneford and Walt King elephants; Mark Karoly, somersaults over elephants; The Four Nerveless Nocks, on sway poles; Hugo Zacchini, Human Cannonball; Finale.

The show's staff consists of: Tommy Hanneford, executive director; Glenn Parkins, executive director; John McConnell, assistant to the producer; Keith Killinger, musical director; Ernie McLean, first half announcer; Phil Morris, second half announcer; Phil Morris, spec designer and director; Ernie McLean, vocalist; Mark Anthony, producing clown; Gertrude Hanneford, aerial director; Sandra Smith, assistant to spec designer; Dwight Hansen, prop boss; Lynn Hatchett, assistant to Dwight Hansen; Dan Goodwin, assistant to D. Hanson; David Jones, lighting; Glenn Parkins, color scheme and layout; Cheryl Jones, wardrobe; Harold Katzsu, supt. of animals; Ed Kenyon, transportation supt.; Dr. Charles Mays, company physician; Senor Rai, aerial ballet costumes; Ray Orszak, wardrobe; Steven Grant, 24 hour man; Charles Anderson, mechanical dept.

## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

heard our conversation, remarked, "Yes, and it's all the GOOD acts that are quitting!" The charming BRUSKI bike act is also thinking of turning in their rhinestones by August. On top of this a troupe which shall remain nameless told me they had to take jobs during the winter or lay-off months so they could keep body and soul together if they wanted to remain active on the circus scene. Also, performers coming together on a date in February compared their layoff time and it turned out that every act had been out of work from two to five months. Incredible! Obviously our business is in serious trouble.

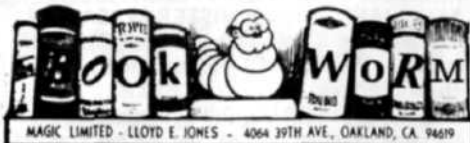
IN DEPTHS: Rumorhazzit BILL BRICKLE is to tour with Hoxie Bros. . . MARY WISE is getting married in June. . . When Int'l All Star previewed in Sarafia in Jan. out came GEE GEE and mother, DORIS SCHAUPPACHER, LUCIO CRISTIANI, FLORINE and WES OLER, BOB MITCHELL, PHIL MIRANDA, KENNY DODD, HARRY HAMMOND, DON PHILLIPS, FLOYD BRADBURY, BILL GARDEN and MARI JO COULS, to name a few.

The CAMPA FAMILY spot-dating until Hoxie Bows. The troupe took a recent delivery on a new Holiday Rambler. . . HINES RUCKER recovering from a case of "swine flu" but my informant hints that was not the true ailment. . . only a "sound-a-like" (I'll leave you to figure out that one). . . Int'l All Star Consists of Hines, Joe and Betty Eddie, Bobby Fairchild, Bonnie & Clyde, the O'Briens, Mike and Sally LaTorres, Patti Rucker and Phil Sadler. Unit carries a four piece band with Leigh Ketchum, Michel Dorval, Chris Bryant and Gary Currie. JOE and BETTY purchased a new home in Sarafia. . . LEE MALONEY, whose Airstream was broken into and burgled totally while he was off playing sport shows, took over the baton for KEITH KILLINGER at the Medinah Temple when Keith opened the date and then flew in to Detroit. . . Producer GEORGE HUBLER has been attending seminars on the Power of Positive Thinking. . . CONNIE CLAUSEN plans to visit CORKY CRISTIANI this summer when the agent treks to Chicago for a Writer's Conference. . . JUNE DEWSBURY, wheel chair included, rolled off with friends to visit the Broadway Smash "Sugar Babies" She was escorted by RICHARD GRAYSON and RUDY TRONTO. . . BILL and TRUDY plan that segment for "Real People" some time in May and expect most of the Hamid-Morton Circus to be in the back ground when that show comes through for a brief stopover. . . MARCEL

LI and JANIS followed MISTER SENSATION into Ballinger's Night Club and were in turn followed by the PIRATES (Roger Lamother and David Chabira).

CLOSEUPS: SONJA ZOPPE, recently married becomes a mother in June. She and her husband are out of show business. . . WALT and BARBARA KING sold their Wild Animal Farm for the last time (they hope). . . ROY WELLS and his wife are now presenting the Blonde Bombshell's Cossack elephants and white pony drill. GEE GEE flew into Toronto to be on tap for the opening. She will return to Gatini this spring and will have a pit show on the midway-an elephant skin dog. . . Currently Gee Gee is scouting property in Gibsonton and has locked on to a place about three miles from BILLY RODGERS. . . SEMON'S CHIMPS played the Tampa Fair for EDDIE ZACCHINI, ditto the FLYING LANES and FAY ALEXANDER . . . BONNIE ARMOR told me that gorgeous daughter SA SA did a command performance for the Pope (now I hope I got that one right! Bonnie had so much to tell me I couldn't assimilate it all). She and REGGIE are touring with Garden Bros. with Reggie in a managerial capacity which post Reggie took to relieve the monotony of staying in Florida and which gives him something to do and a chance to hobnob with old friends. Reggie is in great spirits and I know he's fully recovered from his almost fatal accident when he came on to me as argumentative as ever! It was a real joy seeing them both. Incidentally has anyone noticed how much RON ELY (former movie Tarzan and host of the now syndicated TV show "Face the Music") so closely resembles Reggie-especially around the eyes? . . . Understand GEE GEE's pal DORIS SCHAUPPACHER has a new beau. . . Someone came over the fence one night and stole all of BILLY RODGER's expensive birds! Fortunately the police recovered the feathered treasure the very next day. . . MIKE and JOHN WINN are sporting wild new wardrobe for their motorcycle aerial number. . . MICKEY GARDEN was hospitalized Feb. 25 but at this writing I have no further report on her condition. She vocalized the Garden Toronto date so sick she could hardly stand but gave no outward sign of the pain she suffered. . . RICKEY GARDEN is now bartending in a local Disco, of which my spies tell me he is half-owner. . . Another spy hints that the Garden combine just purchased a shopping center. . . Certainly that show has cut way back on its schedule of dates leading me to suspect other, more important interests are im-

(Continued on Page 24)



... by LLOYD E. JONES

Frequently one is asked, "What is this magic stuff all about?" The answer can be found in the current book from McKay, "Bill Severn's Guide to Magic As A Hobby". It informs one on what our magic of today really is, how it all got started, and then gives a who's who and what's what in the field.

Where do you find the dealers, the magazines, the clubs and even some of the outstanding showplaces and museums, it is all here. Briefly, this is a treasure of information. The collecting field and various other branches of the art are explained and even some magical terminology which may confuse some who may wonder what a pass or an injog can possibly be.

The book is a hefty 280 pages, about 7 x 10 and fully illustrated with photos, posters, programs and the like, of general interest. With a firm cover it sells for \$9.95, the hardbound cover sells for \$14.95. Postage is only 81c and insurance, if desired runs 50c.

You'll find this entertaining, surprising and instructive with many well known magicians receiving attention. Unfortunately one glaring omission is coverage of Siegfried and Roy, whose recent TV spectacular caused quite a stir among magicians and the general public.

## in the NEWS

The appointment of new executives to the management team of Circus Vargas were recently announced by Clifford E. Vargas, president and producer of Circus Vargas.

Mr. Gary Geweniger, a field marketing director for Circus Vargas during the last ten years, and a native of Detroit, has been elevated to Vice-

## BILLY BARTON (Continued)

minent - one more "sign of the times"?

World galivanting FRANK CURRY touched down during the Toronto date after months in Europe and then flew into home based New York City for a week. He was his charming, exuberant self - as usual.

JUNE DEWSBURY was escorted to the FELIX ADLER Circus Fans get-together by FRANK ROBIE. She reports a great time and especially enjoyed speaking to an elderly but gorgeous lady who was Houdini's original assistant. June remarks, that the lady, whose name she didn't get, was fascinating to talk to. When June asked the woman about today's magicians, she replied, "You must remember that Houdini was primarily an 'escape artist' NOT a magician." Also at the gathering was LOTTIE BRUNN and two former members of the Moscow Circus who defected and now run a gym in New Jersey.

THOSE EMBARRASING MOMENTS: During the 'passing leap' opening day in Toronto PATTY BONNELL of the Flying Lanes lost the top of her costume on the return swing and by the time she mounted the board it was down around her hips. She, like the good sport she is, admitted to being embarrassed but only because (she wailed) "I have nothing to show!" . . . The same day DAVIDE ZOPPE was also "disrobed" but he was lucky - the Rhesus monkey only got his pant leg!

SEE YOU down the road, luvs.

President and Director of Advertising.

Mr. Jerry Digney, former publicity and public relations man for Ringling-Barnum, Beatty-Cole, various ice shows and a former publicist with Solters & Roskin, of New York, has joined the Circus Vargas staff as Vice-President and Director of Public Relations.

Mr. Douglas Lyons has returned to Circus Vargas after an absence of three years. He is currently in charge of Doug Henning Productions, and will serve the circus as Vice-President of Special Projects on a consulting basis.

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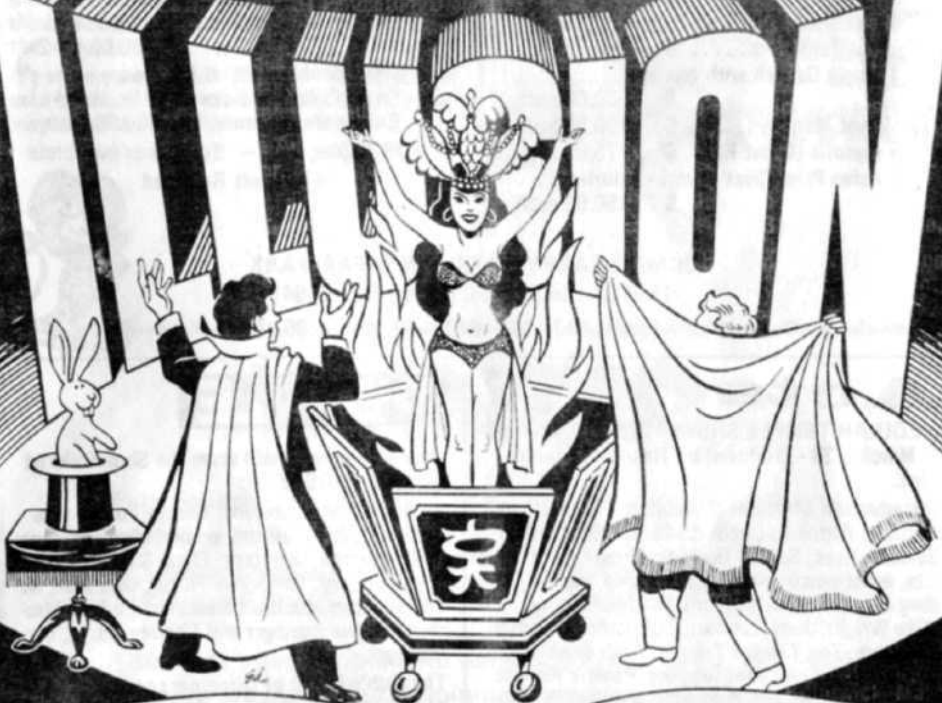
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**Acts**

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The staff included: Tommy Hanneford, executive producer; Glenn Parkins, executive producer; Al Leonard, vocalist; Senor Rai, ringmaster; Keith Killingler, musical director; Ray Orzak, costume designer; Luis Munoz, prop boss; David Jones, lighting; Philip Morris, spec designer and director; Joe Sherman, producing clown.

**PEOPLE**

New officers who will serve the Showfolks of Sarasota for 1980 are:

Alva Johnson, president; George Porter, vice president; Pete Paulson, second vice president; Jackie Carson, secretary; Elena Bulgaru, assistant secretary; Genevieve Porter, treasurer; Nedra Gonzales, assistant treasurer; Ludwig Maschino, house manager and Charley Borza, bar manager.

The club's Board of Directors consists of: Terry Abbot, Elena Bulgaru, Eva Johansson, Dolly Copeland, Willie Edelston, Nedra Gonzales, Ray Kluge, Pete Ivanov and Helen Wallenda.

**Miscellaneous**

A possible transit strike in New York City has been set for next month. It could reportedly cut attendance of the Ringling-Barnum Circus at Madison Square Garden.

# FLASH

## MAKING A WOMAN DISAPPEAR

On Pages 12 and 13 of the TV Guide (March 15) popular illusionist David Copperfield explains and shows readers how he makes a girl disappear. The box is opened and his assistant, Kathleen King, is shown reclining inside. The box is closed up, there are some magic passes and words and when the box is reopened, presto the girl is no longer there.

The sequence is shown in four color photos, but the final photo, looking at the rear of the box shows exactly what has happened, thus giving the secret away.

It's an impressive illusion and one that has been used by many magicians and fellow performers may be quite upset about the revaluation.

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