

CIRCUS REPORT

Number 43

October 27, 1980

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9th Year



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REPORT

THE JAMES HETZER CIRCUS

The program currently being presented by the James Hetzer Intercontinental Circus, now in West Virginia, features the following acts.

The Golden Retrievers, canine liberty revue; Manzini & Dina, flash, and fire manipulators; Mr. Bell, Olympic champion; Coco, J. T. and Brusco, Crazy Clown Comics; Romeo, the educated pony; The Bruski Trio, equilibrists on bikes; The Patterson Sisters, Spanish webs; Cutups and Mischief, Crazy Klowns; Mario Manzini & Co., The Guinness World Champion Escape King and Master of Mystery with Swords thru the Girl, Basket illusion, handcuff, chains and sack escape (both done with complete costume changes within 3 seconds each); Intermission; Michael and Janice Aria, trained bears; The Krazy Klowns; Cathy Rogers, circus vocalist; Andromedia, ballerina of the balancing ladder; Jeff and Ginnie, dog and pony revue; Brusco, Tallest Man in town; Wendy and Walt, Teeterboard; Lorlei, high trapeze; Jeff Earl and Lisa the elephant.

Cathy Rogers serves as the ringmistress, with music provided by Don Fleming (organ) and Scott Thomas (percussionist).

Manzini has been helping to promote business by publicly challenging local police to bring their own handcuffs to the circus and lock him up during the show. If he fails to escape from the police officer's handcuffs, he forfeits \$1,000 in cash.

He had a little trouble with handcuffs provided by Deputy Sheriff Harry Tomblin at the Logan County Field House show. It took Manzini close to a minute to escape

from the cuffs in full view of 3,000 people. Usually it takes him only a few seconds at the most. The audience went wild, rooting for Manzini every step of the way.

Mike, Janice and Gil Aria are doing great in the show with their Golden Retrievers Dog act and the bears. The two 8 month old bear cubs are as cute as can be. They practice with them each day and it won't be long until they are in the act.

The Bruski Trio is better than ever. After a successful four month summer season, along with Manzini, at Gaslight Village Theme park in Lake George, NY, they are returning to their first love - the circus.

Manzini's Home Box Office TV special is due to be aired soon. He is also planning for another Guinness World Record, and currently holds 6 and has competed at the Circus World Championships in London last year.

In Memoriam

BILLY THOMAS (49) who played "Buckwheat" in the "Our Gang" comedy series from 1934 to 1944, died Oct. 10th at his home in Los Angeles, of an apparent heart attack.

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PEOPLE

PETE LUVAS has presented the banner line from the Old Dixiana Circus to the Ed Millette Tent No. 5, CFA, for use with their annual Amateur Circus.

THE KUNTZ BROTHERS (Frank and Darryl) had four vaudeville shows at Irving Mall in Irving, Texas, Oct. 3-4. Their wives, and children appeared as clowns.

MARTIN (Lancelot Goodperson) REEVES was the head contest judge for Clown Day Contests at the State Fair of Texas. Other judges were: JODY HARMON, ALVIN HOLDCRAFT and WILLIS GARLAND.

CHARLIE KEELER (former owner of The Old Dixiana Circus) with wife RUBY and daughter CATHY, visited with the Luvas family and other friends at the Dr. Pepper Circus at the State Fair of Texas on Oct. 11.

JOE GOETZ has a new Circus Hobby Shop, which houses his model circus and Railway Express. Also featured is a large collection of old-time posters and window cards.

INGE RULON, of the Valencianos, recently

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made a trip to California, from Tamap, to visit relatives. While there she made a quick tour of Las Vegas, San Francisco and Hollywood.

JOE ALEXANDER, rodeo cowboy, was featured in a five page, eight photo story about the American rodeo, in a recent "Living Trends" magazine.

BILL and EDDIE BACKSTEIN, CHARLES BELLATTI, EDITH JOHNSTON, DAN "Okie" PORTER, ALLEN BABCOCK, and HOLLIE G. FLIPPERS, father of clowns Flip and Flop, were seen visiting friends on the Carson & Barnes Circus in the Chicago area.

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REPORT

END OF THE SEASON PARTY

San Diego (Calif.) area friends of Percy and Joy Turner gathered at the couple's Pacific Beach home for an end of the season party recently. The Turners and Ralph and Mary Ann Rogers hosted a group of about fifty friends and relatives under the Tucker Bros. Circus dining top for cocktails and a dinner served on cookhouse china.

Turner Bros. last toured in the 1960's and the Rogers were employed by Circus Vargas that season.

True to his reputation, Mr. Turner ensured that everything was strictly circus from the red and white checkered tablecloths on the table to the "Hotel" flag that was raised to signal the meal. Tapes of circus music filled the air and after dinner films and slides of various circuses were shown.

Show Report

THE BARREDA'S CIRCUS

BY HARRY BROWN

While visiting the Mississippi State Fair I was surprised to find the Barreda's Circus was on the grounds, the whole family, offering a very good show.

I ran into Jimbo the clown (Jim Allen). He has concessions with Royal American. What a season he's had. Had his ankle broke twice, his truck stolen, a blowdown in a tornado and in Hutchinson, Kansas, a fire burned his concession stand and truck. He is now trying to buy another truck for the 1981 season.

Joe Golasso has the Glass House on Royal American Shows and Eugene Hoffman has the french fries stand.

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Show Dates

Beatty-Cole Circus
Oct 29-Nov 2 Pittsburgh, Pa

Hubert Castle Circus
Nov. 1-2 Chattanooga, Tenn

Franzen Bros. Circus
Oct. 27 Fulton, Miss.

Hetzer's Int. Circus
Oct. 27 Sutton, W. Va.
28 Weston
29-30 Clarksburg
31 Grantsville

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Oct. 28 Bellebiew, Fla.
29 Leesburg
30 Daytona Beach
31 Lakeland
Nov. 1-2 Melbourne

Ringling-Barnum - Blue
to Nov. 16 Rosemont, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum - Red
Oct 30-Nov 9 Cleveland,
Ohio

Royal Lichtenstein Circus
Oct 27-29 Birmingham, Ala
30 Atlanta, Ga.
31 Jacksonville, Fla

Royal Palace Circus
Oct 28-Nov 1 Tuskaaloosa,
Ala.

TNT & Royal Olympic
Oct 25-Nov 1 Ft. Worth,
Texas

---- MAGIC ----

Kelmar's Showtime USA
Oct. 27 Roundhead, Ohio
28 Huntsville
29 Lakeview
30 Jackson Center
31 Fort Jennings
Nov. 1 Kalida

Prof. Miller Magic Time USA
Oct. 27 Grand Island, Nebr
28 Aurora
29 Seward
Nov. 2 Plattsmouth

Tom Ogden
Nov. 1 Cleveland, Ohio

Wizard's Conclave
Oct 30-Nov 2 Middleburg
Heights, Ohio

---- OTHER DATES ----

Century 21 Shows
Oct 30-Nov 9 Miami, Fla

James H. Drew Exposition
Oct 27-Nov 1 Augusta, Ga

Hall & Christ Attractions
Oct 28-Nov 1 Tallahassee, Fla

Peking Opera
to Nov. 2 Boston, Mass.

The Sikorskys
Nov. 1 Buffalo, NY

SAMANTHA



SURPRISE! Guess what, I landed a job on this outfit and it sounds like fun. The only thing is this contract calls for me to appear in several numbers, so it sort of looks as if I'm going to be a busy gal.

Got to get ready for spec now, but stick around, I'll be right back and then we can visit. Sure nice to see y'all again.



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Miscellaneous

THE BLACKSTONE SHOW

(The following report is from a review of The Blackstone Show written by Bill Larsen which appears in the Sept. 1980 issue of "Genii.")

"Circus of Mysteries! A barely-believable bonanza of baffling big top bewilderment that splendidly showcases a scintillating series of sagacious and startling sawdust sorcery - The Daring Young Lady - The Confounding Cannon (An illusion of top calibre) - Here's that guy again (Or is it?)."

This is the big closing spectacular with the entire cast dressed in circus outfits and Harry Blackstone himself as the "ringmaster". The set is very clever as we see the outline of the "big top" going up as the curtain opens. Excellent choreography here as throughout the show.

Spot includes the vanish of a girl from the cargo net, "The Greatest Trick on Earth" as Becky Garrett is shot from a cannon into a nest of three boxes; changing Becky, who gets into a cage, into a tiger and to conclude a transposition wherein Harry Blackstone changes places with "The Wiz" and a gorilla. In doing so Harry Blackstone makes a complete costume change which brought him a well-deserved standing ovation as the show's final curtain came down just two hours and 10 minutes after it went up.

REPORT

PAUL WRIGHT'S CIRCUS

The Glendale, Calif., Elks Lodge presented the Paul Wright's Aerial Circus on Sunday, Oct. 5 on the Casey Stengel Field in Verdugo Park, for one performance.

Featured on the program were: The Castoldis, juggling; Miss Becky, single trapeze; Valentino walk of death; the Shurays, double trapeze; Jose Gonzales Gonzales, musical comedy; the Wrays, trampoline; the Wrights, inclined motorcycle; Intermission; the Pegasus Flyers, flying trapeze; Scott Land, clown; Mary Wray, aerial rings; Chuck Crow, high dive; the Duncans, teeterboard; Valentino, high wire.

All acts except the musical comedy and wire acts were booked by Warren C. Woods & Associates.

PEOPLE

JIMMY DOUGLASS built many of the production items for the indoor Beatty-Colé circus program features.

PAULETTE BRAUN has been working some club dates in Florida with her baton act. She is also working as a legal secretary and a clothing salesclerk.

DAVE HAMMARSTROM, author of "Behind The Big Top" was a guest on the KPIX TV (San Francisco) "Kids News Conference" show on Oct. 25th.

REPORT

THE STEBBINGS CIRCUS

BY PHILIP MORRIS

On Friday, Oct. 3rd, we saw the Stebbings European Circus at the Cleveland County Fair in Shelby, NC. This was the seventh season that the Stebbings show had played for the people of Shelby and plans have already been made for the show's return next year. The show was very warmly received by the audience that packed the tent on the fairgrounds midway.

The program included: juggling by the Sikorskys, the comedy table of the Bakers, Baby Lou the elephant trained and presented by Robert Stebbings, the Spanish Web featuring Miss Kim Valantino, the Baker Boys with their delightful comedy teeterboard and musicianship, the Wilson brothers with their giant unicycles and the bareback riding expertise of the Loyal Repensky Family, featuring the acrobatic precision of Timmy and

Kim Loyal performing under the watchful eye of the great Giustino Loyal. Also visiting the show that night was Meg Hansen of the Royal Hanneford Show.

The ringmaster duties were performed by Bill Stebbings himself, also known as the Big Boss. All acts were accompanied by the incomparable organ music of Leon Pinter. The front door was under the watchful eye of Lily Stebbing who told us to describe her as the General Stooze, House Manager and Cookhouse Queen.

Watch for the Stebbings Circus in the New Jerry Lewis movie "Hardly Working", to be released sometime in 1981. They will also be seen in a two-hour CBS movie scheduled for Feb. 1981. Starring Christopher Plummer and Elizabeth Montgomery, it will be entitled "The Day The Circus Came to Town."

The circus closed its season in Shelby, and headed for winter quarters in Sarasota, Fla. In the fire is a possible tour of Puerto Rico for the winter months.



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THE GEORGE CARDEN FAMILY



Billy Barton

Austin, Texas — Oct. 5 — The 33rd annual Ben Hur Shrine Circus under the supervision of General Circus Chairman Alfred O. Tramp kicked off the first of the 1980 Texas dates. Fifteen performances were scheduled in the seven day period, preceded by a fish fry hosted by Ben Hur Temple for the performers and personnel and visiting divans from the other four temples involved in the circuit.

The Austin circus was the third to join this combine coming in with Houston and Fort Worth 21 years ago. Following Austin came San Antonio and finally Dallas. Alfred O. Tramp has been General Circus Chairman for 12 years and in an interview with CR said that the shrine had received more support from the media this year than from any previous year, certainly more free publicity. Advance promotion was brisk, but attendance remained spotty which meant the box office was off from 1979.

Officials were at a loss to explain this drop in attendance but attributed it to several factors; the Ringling show had been in ahead of the shrine to excellent business, skimming off the cream, and there is no doubt that the unsettled economy and an uncertain presidential year contributed to this decline to a degree.

For the first few days of the run, Austin was in the grip of monsoon-like rains which boosted attendance but then the weather cleared and once again temperatures climbed into the 90's. The Austin Coliseum is not air-conditioned and it was unbearably hot for the matinee performances. Mr. Tramp said that for several years the city has been planning to update the coliseum, to enlarge the building to double its length and to install air-conditioning and he hopes the new building becomes a reality in 1981.

The Ben Hur Shrine Circus program ran as follows: Overture; Spec, featuring Michelle and Nicole Les Moines slide for life; Display with Dante, The Laddies, and Isabella; The Flying Ibarra; Irving Hall, comedy unicycle; The Smahas; Aerial display with the Paulo Sisters, Billy Barton, the Galambos; Juggling display with Yahia Awada and Ron Perry; Clown Firehouse; Display with Trudy's Dalmatians and Susan Sheryll's Afghans; Circus Clowns; Satani Demon; Trapeze bird cage

display featuring Bridget Ballantine; Intermission.

Second half opened with the Great Huberto, slide for life; Wade Burck and the Hawthorn tigers; Poco's Little Car; Les Moines, aerial motorcycle; Professor Shappi's crazy piano; Clowns with the "road construction"; Wire display with The Rianos and Los Latinos; Johnny and Davide Zoppe's Rhesus Monkeys; the Tanger Troupe; the Hawthorn Elephants (5) worked by Wade Burck and (3) worked by Dieter Wichert; Clown Washerwomen; Space Production number introducing The Quassars, finale.

Staff included: Alfred O. Tramp, producer; Bob Atterbury, director; Keith Killinger, musical director with Leo Mascitto and drummer Steve Lockwood, plus local sidemen; Ernie MacLean, ringmaster-vocalist; Rex Young, producing clown with Irving Hall, Sandy Young, Poco and Slo-Poke; Earl Michaels, assistant to Bob Atterbury, and performance director; Billy Barton, aerial director; Frank Galambos, prop boss with fourteen men and Mike Duke, head rigger; Carol Atterbury and Betty Huber, wardrobe.

The Houston date, following Austin and under the command of Jim McMahan, will have a different program schedule which will be adhered to for the remaining Shrine dates.

Extra acts are also scheduled for these dates and two more elephant acts, bringing the full herd to 19 bulls will be in Houston - the Tony Diano Elephants and the Bucky Steele and Barbara Tata elephants.

In Memoriam

MARGARETE GUTSCHE-GUTIS, died at a hospital in Hamburg, Germany on Sept. 25, after a six month illness. She did an acrobatic act with her husband, Erich and her son Charlie and later, after "The Original Gutis" comedy act was formed she was the stooge in the act.

She was known to everyone as "Mutti Gutti" and was with the Gutis act on Ringling-Barnum and Polack Bros. Circus, also appearing at major fairs and sports shows, both in the USA and Europe. Since 1968, she and her husband had been living in retirement in Hamburg.

REPORT

SPECIAL OFFER

Fairs, parks and festivals are being offered a variety of show units for the 1981 summer season, all produced by Royal Hanneford Circus.

In a special letter to managers of all such recreation facilities, show representative John McConnell, explains the units as:

Unit 1 - A major circus production. It includes elephants, tigers, horses, clowns, aerialists, chimpanzees, thrill acts, a parade and opening and closing production numbers. It is presented in varying lengths up to 2½ hours

Unit 2 - A smaller circus production, presented in a one ring format. It includes an elephant, small animals, an uncaged leopard, aerialists, trapeze artists, clowns, chimpanzees and acrobats.

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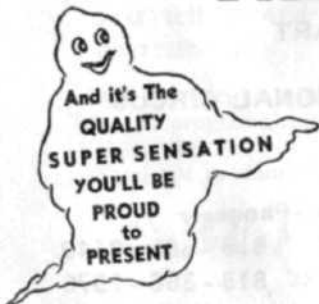


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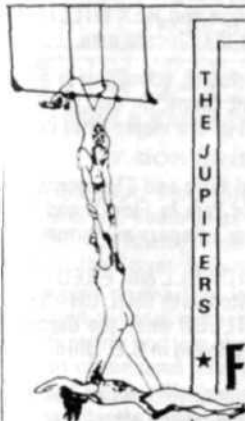
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PEOPLE

IRMA CRISTAL, hair hang act, was one of the performers mentioned in a newspaper story on the upcoming Beatty-Cole Circus indoor tour.

MIKE McCARTHY, advance clown for Circus Vargas, worked at a school for the Handicapped in Beaumont, Texas, which was covered by the local TV station. He reports that the cameraman is a circus fan and regular reader of Circus Report.

DONNA MARIE (Wallen) and "Cabaret" were featured on the Bozo TV Show in Chicago on Oct. 21st. Then on Oct. 23rd the Wallens appeared with "Suzie" their educated midget albino Missouri mule.

DON COVINGTON and family, DUNCAN and Irene SMITH, RALPH HORTON and other circus folks from the USA, were seen on the lot of Circo Hermanos Bells at Tijuana, Mexico late last month.

BOB MOORE and his "Mongrel Revue" taped a segment for the TV show "Those Amazing Animals" on Oct. 21st.

CLARK McDERMOTT and his "Cold Nose Five" act were featured at the recent Ventura (Calif.) County Fair. Later they visited with LOUIS GOEBBELS and WALLY ROSS in Southern California.

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JAY and KEN JONES, along with JOHN LEWIS visited Circus Vargas and REX WILLIAMS when the show was in the Chicago area.

MARK WILSON, illusionist, opened with a variety show in Peking, China, on Oct. 9th. The show will play all of the major cities in China.

BARBARA EDEN, of films and TV, recently visited Circus World Park in Florida and made an appearance as a trapeze performer.

DON and FRAN BRIDWELL and FRED MARCO recently visited with PHIL CHANDLER and DOREY MILLER when the Carson & Barnes Circus was playing in S.E. Ohio.

DIETER TASSO, juggler, will spend a few days at home in Florida resting after his recent summer work and then he'll start work aboard cruise ships for the winter months.

MARK ANTHONY, clown, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Bluch Landorf Tent, CFA, at Hartford, Conn. on Oct. 1st.

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REPORT

CARSON & BARNES CIRCUS

BY DON BRIDWELL

In mid-Sept., I was fortunate, along with my friend and house guest Fred (Merlin) Marco of Rhode Island, to visit my old "alma mater", the Carson & Barnes Circus.

I toured on the show in 1968 in Clown Alley as well as handling the side show magic and P.R. work; and was also on Kelly-Miller with a lot of the same folks in 1963.

This was the first time I'd seen the show in a good many years and was quite impressed with it. My old boss Dorey Miller, as well as Ted Bowman and all on the show were most gracious, and the new Italian-made big top was a sight to behold and quite a change from the "recycled rag" we had played under in years past.

It was great to see my old pal from Hubler

and the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus, Phil Chandler, doing such a great job of announcing the show. Phil's magic, illusions and charisma add an awful lot to a fine performance and his "Wizard of Oz" themed illusion presentation is unique and first rate for any show.

To me, this was a circus that looked like a circus should - and how D. R. Miller does it in this time of inflation, and keep a herd of 26 elephants, is a wonder and the old master showman has my respect.

Fred Marco and Phil Chandler had a lot to talk about, as Phil was the original "Merlin the Magician" on the Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus in 1972 and Fred succeeded him as 'Merlin' on that show upon Phil's departure.

With shows like Carson & Barnes, Vargas, Beatty-Cole and a few others out there still plugging away, we can be assured that our kids and grandchildren can still enjoy the "old time" flavor of the American tented circus.

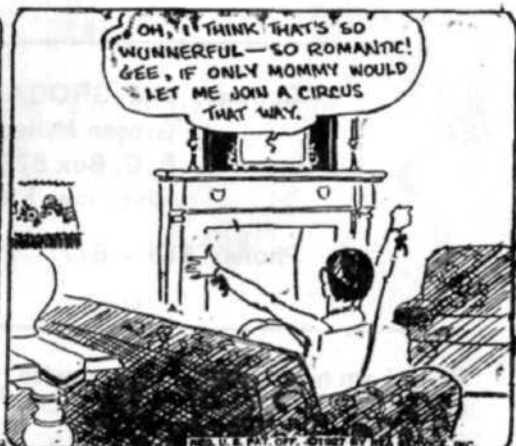
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REPORT

SHOW ACTS

Roy Huston, magician and illusionist, worked a special promotional date in San Gabriel (Calif.) for Bill Rice Productions on Sept. 24th.

The show, presented in the auditorium, featured: Huston & Co., magic and illusions; The Margo Temby Dancers (5); Horton's Gorilla Parody and balancing acts; Howard Hardin, juggler and MC, with music provided by the Virginia Lee Fenton Combo.

HOTLINE

The Hassani Circus of England, the show that carried no animals for its performance, which was backed by the SPCA of England, has folded and is no longer operating.

Shirley, the Circus Vargas elephant underwent new surgery on Oct. 14th, when an aluminum plate on her leg was removed. A new special brace was put on the leg which permits her to put weight on it, but yet the foot does not quite touch the ground. At press time she was reportedly doing very well.

PEOPLE

BOB BROWN and BRENDA, magic act, have returned to the States after playing show engagements in Chile.

A. C. BRILL has just issued a new supplement to his book of illusion plans (see his ad in CR)

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REPORT**TEXAS CLOWN NOTES**

ROSALIE (Superstar) PERRYMAN received the first annual "Al (Ding-a-Ling) Armstrong award as the Texas Mid-Cities Clown Alley No. 85 member who did the most for clowning during the previous year.

Al passed away after suffering a massive heart attack in his home in March. The presentation was made by Al's wife, Jeanette, at the award ceremony on Clown Day, Oct. 4th, at the State Fair of Texas.

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POPPY BENNER (Poppy the clown) from Richardson, Texas, won First Place in the White Face Clown Contest at the State Fair on that same day.

Capturing Second Place was ANNETA (Jingles) MOERBE, while CHERYL (Cookie) ROGERS took Third Place. JAMES (Jimbow) DECKER received an Honorable Mention. All three clowns are from Dallas.

ANTHONY (Freddie the Freeloader) ALBA of Irving, Texas, was awarded First Place in the Tramp Clown category, while DAN (Robo) SIMPSON, of Kerrville, Texas, took Second Place. ROBERT (Wiggle) RIGGLE, of Grand Prairie, Texas, came in Third, and CHRIS SIMPSON (Mrs. Robo), of Kerrville, Texas, received Honorable Mention.

SUSAN (Bo Bo Brown) CORONA received the top honors in the Auguste classification, while ROSALIE (Superstar) PERRYMAN took second place. LODDIE (Lo Lo) BRIDGES of Ft. Worth, Texas, earned third place, and DONALD (Ajax) PERRYMAN, of Irving was awarded an Honorable Mention.

BOB and LOU FLOWERS STODDARD received a surprise in the form of a Special Award for their contributions to the success of the Clown Day event.

Show Report

FROM DON COVINGTON

My family and I were recently on the East Coast and while in New York attended a performance of the Broadway show "Barnum."

The musical, co-produced by Judy Gordon, Cy Coleman, Maurice and Lois Rosenfield, and Irvin and Kenneth Feld, is a real delight.

Jim Dale, the British star who fills the title role is one of those rare talents who can electrify an audience whenever he's onstage; luckily, he's present 80% of the time during "Barnum". His selection as the year's best actor by both the Tony and Drama Desk Awards is well deserved. Also winning awards were *David Mitchell for the set* and *Theoni Aldredge* for costumes.

From start to finish the audience is caught up in the excitement of the show. Barnum's enthusiasm for life and show business is contagious. Circus fans will appreciate lots of nice touches in the framing of the show.

Before you enter the St. James Theatre you are greeted by the sound of calliope music drifting down Broadway from a speaker over the marquee. Outside the doors to the show, R. J. Lewis extols the virtues of what's "on the inside" from a bally platform from which he also performs some captivating magic.

Once inside you're greeted by the curtainless stage containing an array of props and rigging, including trapeze and high wire. The orchestra is located on stage for most of the show, though they occasionally move up to take part in the plot and lead off the second act with a rousing parade down the aisles.

The entire performance, as a matter of fact, frequently moves about the theatre to the delight of the crowd. As you are seated, actors, mimes, musicians and clowns are everywhere entertaining early arrivals and escorting late-comers to their seats. The boxes on either side of the stage contain upright pianos and the costumed piano players in each play cheerful rags before, during and after the show.

It appears as if everyone in the cast has a variety of talents, for in addition to singing, acting and dancing, which everyone does exceptionally well, there are jugglers, mimes, acrobats, aerialists, clowns, and even a one man band.

Jim Dale, whom the program notes had never been on the wire before, even manages to sing a very convincing love song while walking a tight wire from one side of the stage to the other.

Credit for the circus training is given to the Big Apple Circus and The New York School for Circus Arts; however, circus fans will notice quite a few alumni of the Ringling Clown College and the Greatest Show on Earth. William C. Witter, who plays the ringmaster, Julius Goldschmidt, and James A. Bailey; toured with RBBB for three years, as did Steven Michael. Sophie Schab, who was the world champion baton twirler while at Northwestern gets a chance to show her style while dancing in the chorus. Perhaps the best known Ringling alumnus is Barbara Nadel, who was Ringling's second lady clown.

Though prices are steep (\$12.50-\$27.50) and tickets are difficult to get, I whole-heartedly recommend the show. Go expecting a light, stimulating evening and you won't be disappointed.

REPORT

NEW FAMILY SHOW FOR 1981

Launching of a totally new touring family stage show in 1981 has been announced by its producers, Philip Morris and William J. English. Titled "Amazing Adventures in Cartoonland" the production will feature live and on-stage performances by Popeye, Olive Oyl, Bluto, Flash Gordon, Tom and Jerry, Mighty Mouse, Heckle and Jeckle and a number of supporting characters in a plot-line musical.

Licensing for use of the popular cartoon characters was arranged through Rodger Hess Productions of New York. Copyright owner of the Popeye and Flash Gordon characters is King Features Syndicate. Tom and Jerry are a property of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. Heckle and Jeckle and Mighty Mouse are owned by Viacom International. A specific no-comelete routing agreement has been entered into to avoid any conflicting dates with the Bugs Bunny shows, which are produced by Hess and toured by Madison Square Garden Corp.

Show will be a proscenium-type stage attraction framed especially for 2000 to 4000 seat venues in intermediate markets. Producers are assembling a strong in-house promotional staff, although a few dates may be co-promoted. Promotional techniques will be in line with those employed by the larger circuses and ice shows, with heavy emphasis on television in Saturday morning and fringe time segments. Opening is scheduled for late Feb. 1981 and a tour of 36 weeks is projected.

Morris is head of Morris Costume Co., Charlotte, NC and a well known costumer, illusionist and producer of children's attractions. English, a veteran theatrical and circus executive, is president of Greater American Entertainment Corp., Sarasota, Fla. The two men

SPECIAL

MAGIC STAR IS GONE

BY PHILIP MORRIS

Jack Baker, known to millions of fans as Dr. Silkini, passed away at his home in Toledo, Ohio., on Oct. 5th, after suffering a heart attack.

Jack's magic horror stage show, was a top box office attraction throughout the U. S. and Canada in the 40's and 50's. The show featured the Frankenstein Monster in person and movie stars such as Glen Strange and Bela Lugosi who toured with him.

His show was called "Ayslum of Horrors" and was so popular at its peak, there were as many as five units of the show playing major theatre circuits at one time. The show also played in South America and England, where it was very successful.

We will miss this great artist of the magic world.

have been associated for the past fourteen years in producing and touring children's theatre productions, playing over 200 cities in 32 states annually.

The producers state that the new show will be very strong in the area of illusions and special effects. The set, now under construction in the Morris shops in Charlotte, is bordered by 1200 reversing racer lights. Special lighting effects are being provided by Atlantic Stage Lighting. While most engagements will be in proscenium-type situations, set construction will permit use of arena facilities where suitable theatres or auditoriums are not available. Most dates will run two to six days, but show will be geared to do one-nighters and move overnight when advantageous.

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REPORT**MOROCCO TEMPLE SHRINE CIRCUS**

The Morocco Temple Shrine Circus, presented at Jacksonville, Fla. (Oct. 4-5) was produced by Wm. Kay. The show used a strong advance program with Shrine publicist John Jeliner working with Dottie Robsinon of the Kay office. There were several tie-ins with Coca Cola and chain stores, resulting in new record-breaking crowds.

Acts featured in the show were: The Rodriguez Troupe, The El Kardis, Pablos & Robertos, Irene & Tongo (gorilla), the Boxing Kangaroo (Fossetts), Christine's Chimps, Barbara Lee's dogs and ponies, Schmitt's tigers, Roman Schmitt's elephants, The Bertinis, cycles, Monica and George, low wire, Fay Alexander's comedy car, Tino Wallenda Zoppe, high wire, Miss Olinka, trapeze, with producing clown Alfredo Landon, "Bubba" Hastings, Jr., "Bozo" Miller and "Fuzzy" Hughes and the Shrine clowns.

The circus staff included: Bill Kay, producer; Patricia Kay, talent coordinator; Bob Johnson, lighting; Dave Pruy, musical dir-

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ector; Lee Pruy, organist; Rick Drumm, drummer (with 17 local musicians).

PEOPLE

JIM MORAN and ALLEN BABCOCK visited friends on the Ringling Red Unit during that show's engagement at Champaign, Ill.

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The above advertisement appeared in the San Francisco, Calif., papers on April 24, 1914.

SPECIAL**HUMBOLDTERS LOVED CIRCUSES**

Eureka, Calif. - 1882

by Wallace E. Martin, from his book "Redwood Frontier" published in 1961.

Northwestern California's old-timers loved the theatre and circuses. When entertainment came to town, the visiting company seldom failed to draw an enthusiastic crowd. Circuses had trouble getting to Humboldt County. For a long time, few elephants reached this part of the state, unless they came overland. Ships couldn't accommodate the big animals. It is more likely shipping companies wouldn't consider pachyderms as passengers. It was good news when the Robinson & Westman Circus came to Humboldt County in September 1882. The show had appeared in Ferndale a day or two previous before a \$600 house, which was considered good for the small town.

Robinson & Westman's Circus gave their first performance in this place (Eureka) last night, the Humboldt Times reported. "As is customary when a circus comes to town the crowd

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'catches on' and the tent is filled to its utmost capacity. The performance consisted of tricks by McCue's famous trained horses, ground and lofty tumbling, and acrobatic feats by the limber men, feats of strength by the man with the 'iron jaw' and the other little acts that are usually presented at such a combination show.

"The trick horse, Americus, is a good one and does some wonderful things. McCue has spent time and money in educating this animal up to the standard. The acrobats are good, and many of their movements and acts loudly encored. In this class the contortionist is one of the best, we believe in the program. He is pliable as India rubber, and can get himself into more inconceivable shapes in less space of time than it takes to tell it. His barrel act is a wonder.

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