

The original documents are located in Box 43, folder “Ford, Susan - Events - 4/6/76 - Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus” of the Sheila Weidenfeld Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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105th Year

3 Wks ^{THE WHITE HOUSE} ~~Flur~~ ^{WASHINGTON} 26th at
DC Army

~~Flur~~ Show starts at 7:30

7:25 → Susan's participation
Mini parade precedes

Wash Post → RFK Stadium

Bill Galbraith

Guest of Honor representing
1st - final on family

'Night - Duke,

She will be honorary
rep { mistress } to
{ master }

officially open the
Brent. Edition of the
circus

Final Night -

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

traditional duty
of Commencing the circus

Bicentennial Edition
of The Circus -
couple of Elephants -

Irving Feld

Place ring in front
of Microphone -

She will officially
open the bicentennial



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bicentennial Flea

^{congratulations}
w/ Official Bicen.
over
Flea present flea
Flea intros Susan

~~the to~~

Tues.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

W: 634-1742
H: 299-5234

~~Susan~~ Susan Ford ↑

* Capt ^{Hamm} Alexander

Will blow whistle
to open circus
going with 6
friends:

Circus begins with
parade - End of
parade

Adminstrator for Ark
~~Depy~~ ~~Director~~ of Arba
~~Dean~~ McKee (Goum)

W



THE WHITE HOUSE

Irvin Field -
 Pres. of Rupture
 Bros. Barnum
 & Bail, Circus.
 go to middle of
 Stage.
 Nat'l Anthem -



(Faint, mostly illegible handwriting in the bottom half of the page, including words like 'Circus', 'parade', and 'New wig')

3hu/a

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 2, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: STAIRCASE

FROM: SUSAN PORTER

SUBJECT: Susan Ford's Attendance at the Opening Night of the Special Bicentennial Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday, April 6, 1976

Susan's attendance at the opening night of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday, April 6th will be semi-private. She will attend with five friends but will blow the whistle to open the Circus. The contact for her attendance is Captain Harry Allendorfer, Director of Special Projects, American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (O: 634-1742, H: 229-5234).

As I understand it, the initial program would go something like this:

SEQUENCE: The big parade would happen and at its conclusion, Susan; Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator of ARBA; and Mr. Irvin Feld, President of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, would walk out to the Center Ring, the National Anthem would be played, and Jean McKee would be introduced. She then would present a Bicentennial flag to Mr. Feld designating the Circus an official Bicentennial event. Mr. Feld then would introduce Susan, the Ring Master, to blow the whistle to open the Circus.

Thank you.

- c: Mrs. Ford
- BF Staff
- Peter Sorum
- William Nicholson
- Milt Mitler
- Rex Scouten



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford, Jack, and Susan,

Would any or all of you be interested
in attending the opening night of the special
Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Brothers
and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday,
April 6th?

Attend

Regret

Thank you,


susan

*I'm sure you could take as
many guests as you wished:
NUMBER 8 / incl. 2 for
2 guests*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear ~~Mrs.~~ Mrs. Ford, Jack, and Susan,

Would any or all of you be interested
in attending the opening night of the special
Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Brothers
and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday,
April 6th?

 Attend

 ✓ Regret

Thank you,

~~susan~~



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford, ✓ Jack, and Susan,

Would any or all of you be interested
in attending the opening night of the special
Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Brothers
and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday,
April 6th?

 Attend

 X Regret

Thank you,


susan



APRIL 6

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: MILT MITLER *True*

Susan, John Warner has written a letter to the President suggesting First Family participation in the opening of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus on April 6, 1976. This will be a Bicentennial performance this year. John also suggested that they might be accompanied by some of the children of White House staffers.

We think this might be something the First Lady could consider. Have you any thoughts?

Attachment





February 4, 1976

Honorable John O. Marsh, Jr.
Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jack:

The original of the enclosed letter which invites the President and his family to attend the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Bicentennial Show here in Washington on April 6, 1976, was mailed yesterday.

Unless there are overriding considerations of which I am not aware, I recommend that the President accept this invitation. After all, there is nothing more Americana than the circus.

As Mr. Feld says in his letter, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey organization has been working with us for over a year to help spread the Bicentennial message across the country. Their Bicentennial Show is outstanding and has been extremely well received everywhere it has played. This will be its first appearance in Washington.

If the President and his family can be present on Opening Night -- April 6, 1976, I believe we can make it an impressive Bicentennial event.

In the Spirit of '76,

John W. Warner
Administrator

Enclosure:

Copy of RB&BB ltr dtd Feb 3, 1976

Copy to:

→ Dr. Theodore C. Marrs



APRIL 6

2-17
13

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: WILLIAM NICHOLSON *WUN*
SUBJECT: Invitation to the President and his family to attend opening night of special Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday, April 6

I would appreciate your checking to see if there is any interest among members of the First Family in attending this event. Thank you.



flu

*Invited
4-6-76*



February 3, 1976

ACTION
T/D _____
CONFIDENCE ED. IRVIN FELD
DATE RECEIVED President

FEB 4 1976

MESSAGE _____
SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
OTHER _____

APPOINTMENT OFFICE

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has been a tradition in America for 106 years. For over 100 years, we have performed every spring in the city of Washington. We are proud that, during this time, many Presidents and their families have visited and enjoyed our show.

The Circus has been a part of this country's history dating back to George Washington's time. We are honored that we have been named an official Bicentennial event by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, and we are working with the ARBA in our efforts to support the Bicentennial program in the nation's capital.

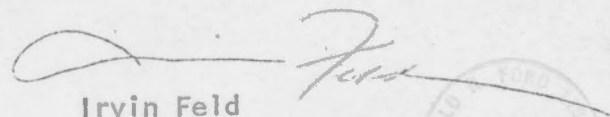
Tuesday, April 6th, will be the opening night of the Special Bicentennial Edition of The Greatest Show on Earth, to be held at the D. C. Armory. We would be deeply honored if you and your family would accept our invitation to join us on that evening to help celebrate this very special occasion.

I am aware, of course, that you have an extremely busy schedule, but I feel certain that you and your family will truly enjoy participating in what promises to be an outstanding Bicentennial event.

Looking forward with great anticipation to your acceptance, I remain

Respectfully,

RINGLING BROS. - BARNUM & BAILEY
COMBINED SHOWS, INC.


Irvin Feld



IF/mt

FREE MONEY PRIZES AND...

RINGLING BROTHERS, BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS ARRIVES WITH "ANIMAL WALK" FROM THE RAILROAD YARDS AT 4TH AND MORSE STS., NE TO THE D. C. ARMORY AT 2:00 P. M.

SUSAN FORD SERVES AS HONORARY RING MISTRESS AT THE OPENING PERFORMANCE AT 7:30 P. M. CONTACT: JERRY DIGNEY, 833-2700, EXT. 248.



Christina
Jan 2 1962

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Circus time

AP photos

Susan Ford grapples happily with spun cotton candy prior to the start of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Washington. The President's daughter served as honorary ringmistress for

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1976

Sheila
DL
KC

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN FORD
VIA: RED CAVANEY
FROM: *JW* JACK WILLIAMS
SUBJECT: YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE BICENTENNIAL
VERSION OF THE RINGLING BROTHERS
BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS
D. C. Armory, Tuesday, April 6, 1976

Attached you will find the Proposed Schedule for the subject event.

BACKGROUND

This is the opening night in Washington of the Bicentennial Version of the Greatest Show on Earth, the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. You attended last year and this year you and your party are the guests of Mr. Irvin Feld, the President and Owner of the Circus.

PROGRAM

Upon arrival, you will be greeted by Mr. Irvin Feld, his son Kenneth, Jean McKee and Tim Holst. Your guests will be escorted to their seats immediately after your arrival.

at 7:30 pm the Ringmaster will escort you, the Felds and Jean McKee to microphone near the circus ring for brief opening remarks by McKee and Feld. Mr. Feld will introduce you at which point you may offer a brief greeting followed by the playing of the National Anthem. The Ringmaster will then give you his hat and whistle for you to officially begin the Circus.



4/6/76
4:00 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

SUSAN FORD'S ATTENDANCE AT THE
BICENTENNIAL VERSION OF THE
RINGLING BROTHERS BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS

D. C. Armory
Tuesday, April 6, 1976

4:50 pm Susan Ford and party board motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route Georgetown Club.

(Driving time: 15 minutes)

5:15 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES Georgetown Club.

Susan Ford and party attend private dinner party.

6:53 pm Susan Ford and party depart Georgetown club en route motorcade for boarding.

6:55 pm MOTORCADE DEPARTS Georgetown Club en route D. C. Armory.

[Driving time: 25 minutes]

7:20 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES D. C. Armory.

Susan Ford will be met by:

Mr. Irvin Feld, President & Owner of the Circus

Mr. Kenneth Feld

Miss Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator,

American Revolution Bicentennial Administration

Mr. Tim Holst, Ringmaster

7:27 pm Susan Ford, escorted by Mr. Feld, proceeds to microphone.



PRESS POOL COVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 10,000

- 7:30 pm Welcome by Ringmaster.
- 7:32 pm Remarks and ARBA Flag Presentation by Miss Jean McKee.
- 7:34 pm Remarks by Mr. Feld, concluding in the introduction of Susan Ford.
- 7:35 pm Susan Ford gives brief greetings.
- 7:36 pm The National Anthem.
- 7:38 pm Susan Ford blows whistle to start circus.
- 7:39 pm Susan Ford, escorted by Mr. Feld, proceeds to box and takes her seat. (your friends will be seated there).
- 7:39 pm Circus begins.
- 10:30 pm Circus concludes.
- 10:30 pm Susan Ford and party depart box en route motorcade for boarding.
- 10:33 pm MOTORCADE DEPARTS D.C. Armory en route South Grounds.
- [Driving time: 15 minutes]
- 10:48 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

1944 & E. Capitol

Jim King

Kim Verdi

George Carnicero

Rusty Tillman

Lisa A. Legari

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS
FAMILY NIGHT AND OPENING NIGHT
D.C. Armory, Washington, D.C.
April 6, 1976

Program

All Times
P.M.

- | | | | | |
|------|---|--|---|--|
| 7:15 | - | Washington Post Elephant Ride.
(Post riders ride around track.) | - | Post Riders |
| 7:20 | - | Announcement of Washington Post sponsorship of
Family Night.
(Read Washington Post script.) | - | Mr. Tim Holst,
Ringmaster |
| 7:27 | - | Bicentennial Elephant and Clown take position
on track near center ring.
Standing microphone in position. | | |
| 7:28 | - | Principals enter and proceed to standing mic. | - | Miss Susan Ford
Miss Jean McKee
Mr. Irvin Feld
Mr. Kenneth Feld |
| | | Bring house lights to half and spot principals. | - | Mr. Bob Dover |
| 7:29 | - | Welcome and introduce principals...
"On behalf of Mr. Irvin Feld and Mr. Kenneth Feld
- who are right here with me - we welcome you to
Family Night at the Circus. We are honored to-
night to have with us two very special guests.
Representing the First Family on Family Night -
Miss Susan Ford, and the Deputy Administrator of
our National Bicentennial - Miss Jean McKee.
And now, Miss McKee has a special presentation.
Miss McKee." | - | Mr. Tim Holst |
| | - | Remarks and present Bicentennial Flag to Mr. Irvin
Feld. | - | Miss Jean McKee |
| | - | Principals pose for photographs with Flag. | | |
| | - | Thanks for Flag.
Remarks welcoming Miss Susan Ford as representative
of First Family on Family Night.
(Miss Ford might spontaneously answer with brief
remarks.)
Announce National Anthem. | - | Mr. Irvin Feld |
| | - | The National Anthem. | - | Band |

- Ask Miss Ford to be Honorary Ringmistress and to perform traditional duty of starting the Circus.
 - Give Ringmaster's top hat and whistle to Miss Ford.
 - Don top hat and blow whistle to start Circus.
 - Overture (with house lights out).
 - Principals proceed to Box N-107 during Overture.
 - Circus ends.
- Mr. Irvin Feld
 - Mr. Tim Holst
 - Miss Susan Ford
 - Band

10:30


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 6, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN FORD

VIA: RED CAVANEY

FROM:  JACK WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THE BICENTENNIAL
VERSION OF THE RINGLING BROTHERS
BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS
D. C. Armory, Tuesday, April 6, 1976

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4/6/76
4:00 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

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D. C. Armory
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- 10:48 pm MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.

Sally

Jerry Disney
833-2700
X. 248

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
April 2, 1976

7:30 Hon. Rick
Mistress

MEMORANDUM TO: STAIRCASE
FROM: SUSAN PORTER
SUBJECT: Susan Ford's Attendance at the Opening
Night of the Special Bicentennial
Ringling Brothers and Barnum and
Bailey Circus on Tuesday, April 6, 1976

Susan's attendance at the opening night of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday, April 6th will be semi-private. She will attend with five friends but will blow the whistle to open the Circus. The contact for her attendance is Captain Harry Allendorfer, Director of Special Projects, American Revolution Bicentennial Administration (O: 634-1742, H: 229-5234).

As I understand it, the initial program would go something like this:

SEQUENCE: The big parade would happen and at its conclusion, Susan; Jean McKee, Deputy Administrator of ARBA; and Mr. Irvin Feld, President of Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, would walk out to the Center Ring, the National Anthem would be played, and Jean McKee would be introduced. She then would present a Bicentennial flag to Mr. Feld designating the Circus an official Bicentennial event. Mr. Feld then would introduce Susan, the Ring Master, to blow the whistle to open the Circus.

Thank you.

- c: Mrs. Ford
- BF Staff
- Peter Sorum
- William Nicholson
- Milt Mitler
- Rex Scouten



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford, Jack, and Susan,

Would any or all of you be interested
in attending the opening night of the special
Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Brothers
and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday,
April 6th?

Attend
 Regret

Thank you,


susan

I'm sure you could take as
many guests as you wished.

~~Number~~ 8 / incl. 2 for Agents



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mrs. Ford, Jack, and Susan,

Would any or all of you be interested
in attending the opening night of the special
Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Brothers
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 ✓ Regret

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susan



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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Bicentennial Edition of the Ringling Brothers
and Barnum and Bailey Circus on Tuesday,
April 6th?

 Attend

 X Regret

Thank you,


susan



APRIL 6

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 5, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER

FROM: MILT MITLER *me*

Susan, John Warner has written a letter to the President suggesting First Family participation in the opening of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus on April 6, 1976. This will be a Bicentennial performance this year. John also suggested that they might be accompanied by some of the children of White House staffers.

We think this might be something the First Lady could consider. Have you any thoughts?

Attachment





February 4, 1976

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Counsellor to the President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Jack:

The original of the enclosed letter which invites the President and his family to attend the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Bicentennial Show here in Washington on April 6, 1976, was mailed yesterday.

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If the President and his family can be present on Opening Night -- April 6, 1976, I believe we can make it an impressive Bicentennial event.

In the Spirit of '76,

John W. Warner
Administrator

Enclosure:

Copy of RB&BB ltr dtd Feb 3, 1976

Copy to:

→ Dr. Theodore C. Marrs



APRIL 6

2-17
12

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: SUSAN PORTER
FROM: WILLIAM NICHOLSON *WUN*
SUBJECT: Invitation to the President and his family to
attend opening night of special Bicentennial
Edition of the Ringling Bros and Barnum and
Bailey Circus on Tuesday, April 6

I would appreciate your checking to see if there is any interest among members of the First Family in attending this event. Thank you.



flu

*Invited
4-6-76*



February 3, 1976

ACTION _____
 T/D _____
 CONFERENCE RD. _____
 DATE RECEIVED _____ IRVIN FELD
 President
 FEB 4 1976
 MESSAGE _____
 SPEAKERS BUREAU _____
 OTHER _____
 APPOINTMENT OFFICE _____

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has been a tradition in America for 106 years. For over 100 years, we have performed every spring in the city of Washington. We are proud that, during this time, many Presidents and their families have visited and enjoyed our show.

The Circus has been a part of this country's history dating back to George Washington's time. We are honored that we have been named an official Bicentennial event by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration, and we are working with the ARBA in our efforts to support the Bicentennial program in the nation's capital.

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I am aware, of course, that you have an extremely busy schedule, but I feel certain that you and your family will truly enjoy participating in what promises to be an outstanding Bicentennial event.

Looking forward with great anticipation to your acceptance, I remain

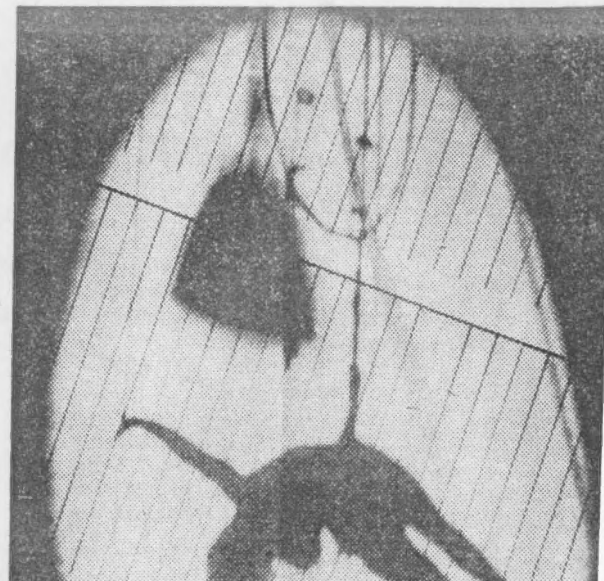
Respectfully,

RINGLING BROS. - BARNUM & BAILEY
COMBINED SHOWS, INC.

Irvin Feld
Irvin Feld

IF/mt

Everyone
Gets
Into
The Act



Personalities

Now it's Liz and Liza at Tuesday night's American Ballet Theater benefit gala here. Liza Minnelli was at Halston's in New York for a fitting Saturday afternoon when he just happened to mention that he and Liz Taylor were coming to the multi-star ballet spectacular which Teddy Westreich is masterminding at the Kennedy Center.

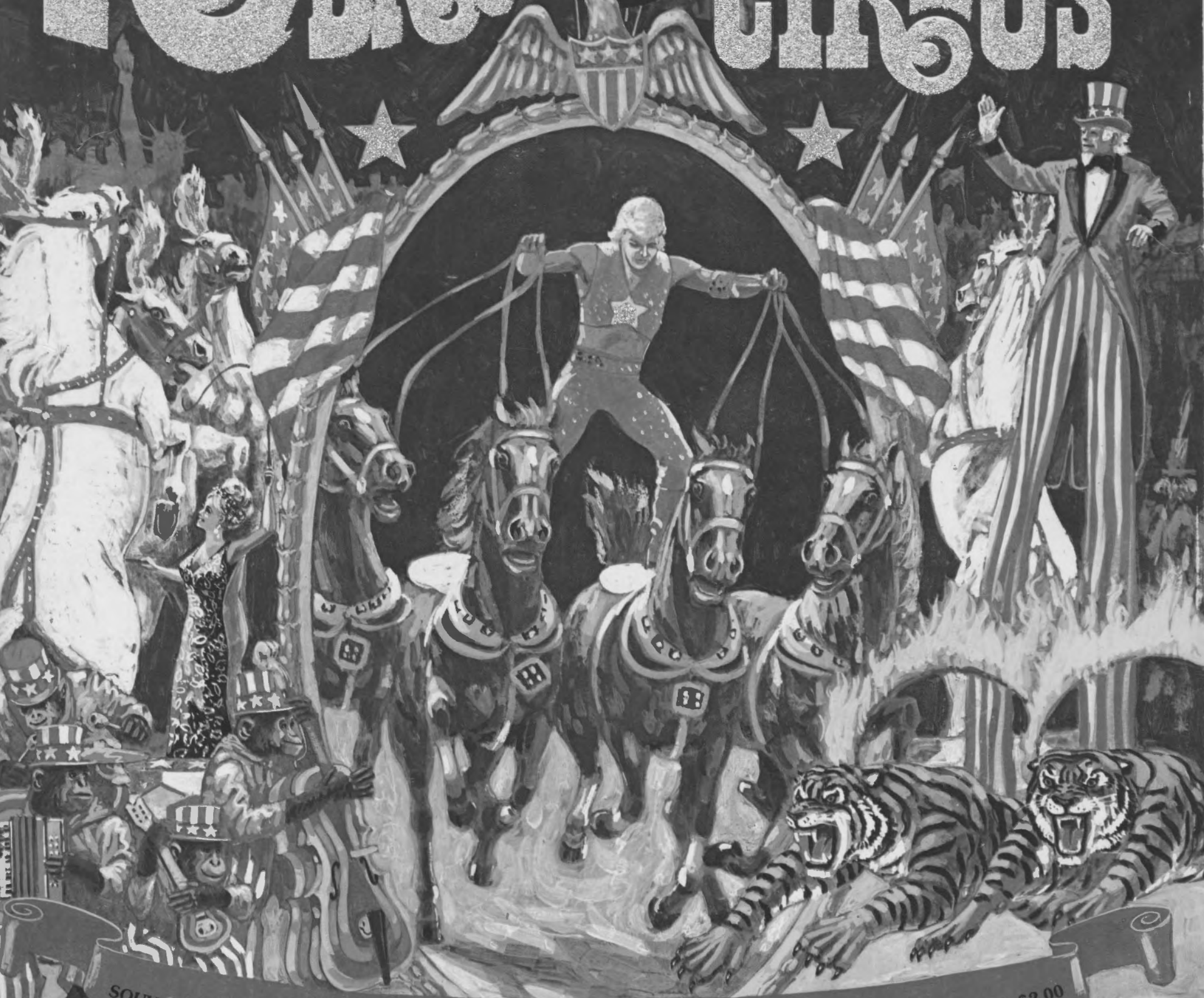
Well, Minnelli, who just loves ballet, went right to the phone and called



*Playwright Frank
D. Gilroy, left;
below, left to right,
singer Diana Ross*

RINGLING BROS. & BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH



SOUVENIR PROGRAM & MAGAZINE • SPECTACULAR BICENTENNIAL EDITION • RINGLING BROS.-BARNUM & BAILEY COMBINED SHOWS, INC. 1976-\$2.00

Tex Wilson

DATSUN. A LOT OF MILES PER GALLON. A LOT OF MILES PER CAR.

Datsun's gas economy is nothing new. We've been building economy cars for 43 years, and we seem to get better with age. Take our 1976 Datsun B-210. The latest EPA fuel economy tests record the B-210 at 41 MPG on the highway, 29 in the city. (*EPA dynamometer estimate with manual transmission. Actual MPG may be more or less, depending on the condition of your car and how you drive.) Better than last year!

Datsun's durability is nothing new. Today you probably saw three or four old Datsun 510s like the mellow '69 shown. Of all Datsuns sold in this country for the past 16 years, 9 out of 10 are still on the road!

We make sure Datsuns last by building in

durability features not found on many comparable cars. Aluminum heads dissipate heat faster than cast iron: Datsuns have aluminum heads. Unibody construction is more rattle-free and durable than bolt-on: Datsun cars have unibody. 60 Amp/Hr. batteries give more dependable starts than 45 or 50 Amp/Hr. batteries: Datsuns come with 60 Amp/Hr. batteries. We could go on and on, but you've got the point.

Add to Datsun durability a nationwide, computer-connected parts system. Plus a dealer network with nearly 4,000 highly trained technicians. To be sure, no one can promise you 100,000 trouble-free miles. But we're working on it.

41 MPG ON THE HIGHWAY. 29 MPG IN THE CITY.*



1976 Datsun B-210 Hatchback

1969 Datsun 510

**DATSUN
DAVES**

Ringling Bros. AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

Proudly
presents the
Spectacular
Bicentennial
Edition



THE
GREATEST
SHOW
ON EARTH®



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