



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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New Show Ready For Opening Date

We're going to have a good circus, with no reserved seats and no side show, says Charles Seldman as he talked about his new circus, which will debut late this month. The show -- Continental 3-Ring Circus -- will play Florida dates, then heads north along the Atlantic coast and into the mid-western area, with all dates being sponsored by a variety of organizations.

Seldman is operating the circus in partnership with Ben Yearty, both of whom have extensive backgrounds in the circus business and promotional activities. Seldman has been handling booking arrangements, while Yearty is national promotional manager.

Opening date for the circus is April 23-24 at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where they will play at the Outdoor Stadium. For outdoor dates the circus will use a 120 ft. canvas backdrop. The big show program will feature some 22 numbers.

Included among the name people signed to tour with the show are:

Bucky Steele - elephants, horses, cats, dogs

The Oscarins - risley

The Aztacas - flying act

(Continued on Page 2)

Animal Regulation

Wild animal acts may face new restrictions under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, which went into effect on Dec. 28, 1973. That law makes it a violation to transport spotted cats across state lines or national boundaries "for commercial purposes" without a permit. The list of animals includes tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars and even Orangutans. Penalties could run as high as \$5,000 and

(Continued on Page 2)

Opening Is Set

A new Girl Revue, called "Sandy O'Hara Presents - "The Best of Burlesque" will open on the ACA-Link Shows on May 27th. The show is being produced by Dave Hanson, and will feature his wife, Sandy.



Last year Miss O'Hara was featured at the Follies Theatre in New York, then played the South Carolina State Fair and toured with Ann Corio's show "This was Burlesque." She is currently appearing at The Cabaret in Las Vegas.

Other acts signed to appear with the show include: Covina Tansell, co-feature; Bob and Nikki, magic and comedy. Tony Grant will provide the chorus line and Bill Thompson will be the outside talker.

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ANIMAL REGULATION (Continued)

\$10,000, with provisions for the seizure of animals.

One official with the Law Enforcement Division, Bureau of Conservation & Wild Life, says the taking of any such animals across state or national lines is a violation of the law.

In the meantime another official has indicated the department would be of the opinion that the law does not apply to traveling circus acts. However, he has suggested that people who have such animals apply for a permit. For applications write: Director, Bureau of Sports Fisheries & Wildlife, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, DC.

The Bureau is just now getting geared for enforcement of the new act. They are accepting letters of application for permits and seek information on the routing of the animals, and will issue permits "to cover a period of time."

NEW SHOW READY (Continued)

The Coninas - high wire
Alice Moon - rocket ship
The Fernandos - flying act
Sumano Troupe - riding act
Rosario - The Golden Girl
Bob Hocum - cloud swing
Magdaline & Polly - aerial
Manuel Ramos - mgr/director
Ronnie Bessette - manager
Count Nicholas - ringmaster

The Mattel Suit

That suit filed against Mattel, Inc. (see Circus Report for March 18) charges the company violated the securities laws fraud in its takeover of the Ringling-Barnum Circus. The suit, filed by three former circus stockholders from Texas, contends that Mattel and six of its officers made untrue statements in connection with the merger. Also named in the suit is Arthur Anderson & Co., the New York-based accounting firm which held the Mattel account.

The stockholders contend that Mattel and its officers misrepresented the value of Mattel stock by.....

Overstating Mattel's net assets, past earnings, current earnings and prospects, and concealing actual losses.

Recording as accounts receivable amounts that were not due and owing or were known to be uncollectible.

Failing to reflect the reduced value of investments in subsidiaries when the value of such investments had been substantially reduced.

In another suit it was said that Mattel failed to disclose, in its proxy statement to circus stockholders, that it had commitments with toy retailers to take back damaged and unsold goods after the Christmas season.

The Ringling-Barnum Circus went public a year before it was sold to Mattel. Recently Mattel, who has been reported to be in a cash bind, had an agreement to sell the circus to Gulf Oil Corp

Hannefords:

STRONG SHOW

We certainly received the "red carpet" treatment when we visited the Hanneford Circus at Madisonville, Ky. on March 14. In the performance Tommy Hanneford introduced us and had us stand up for a bow.

This is a beautiful show, with lavish costumes and an outstanding performance. The Keys Park Trio (drums, trumpet and organ) did a marvelous job and, of course, the Hanneford Riding Act is still an outstanding feature. Incidentally, clowns on the show include: Hugo Marquardt, Doug Ashton, John Murry and Tom Bishop.

The circus had tried to book Sikeston, Mo. about Mar. 11 but was unable to get in since the building was fully booked that week with an indoor track meet. The circus definitely will be playing here next year.

. . . Earl Allen

but Gulf has since delayed a decision on the purchase.

ROUTES

Ale's Petting Zoo
Apr. 3-7 Tucson, Ariz.

Carson & Barnes Circus
Apr. 1 Rosenberg, Texas

Hubert Castle Circus
Apr. 5-7 Aberdeen, S. D.

Circus America
Apr. 3-21 Washington, DC

Circus Vargas
Apr. 1 Yuma, Ariz.
2-3 National City, Ca
4 Oceanside
5-14 Northridge

Cole All Star TV Circus
Apr. 1 Massena, N. Y.
2 Enroute
3 Tupper Lake
4 Alexandria Bay
5 Clayton
- End of Tour -

Hamid-Morton Circus
Apr. 4-7 Cherry Hill, N.J.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
Apr. 1 Ocala, Fla.
2 Jacksonville
3 Glynco NAS, Ga.
4 Off
5 Claxton
6 Sandersville
7 Enroute
8 Swainsboro

Hubler's Int'l Circus
Apr. 5-7 Amarillo, Texas
6-7 Eastlake, Ohio

King Bros. Circus
Apr. 1 Franklin, La.
2 Abbeville
3 New Iberia
4 St. Martinesville
5 Lake Arthur

Lewis Bros. Circus
Apr. 1 St. Marys, Ga.
2 Jesup
3 Glensville
4 Metter
5 Louisville
6 Lyons
7 Enroute
8 Baxley

Polack Bros. Circus
Mar. 29-31 Huntsville, Ala.

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit
to May 27 New York, N. Y.

Ringling-Barnum Red Unit
Apr. 2-22 Washington, DC

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show
Apr. 2-3 Erie, Penna.
5-7 Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Sells & Gray Circus
Apr. 1 Orlando, Fla.
2 Gainesville
3 East Polatka
4 St. Augustine
5 Brunswick

Snowden Shrine Circus
Apr. 4-7 Manchester, N.H.

Wallace & Rogers Circus
Apr. 6-7 Mercer Isld, Wash

World Pet Expo
Apr. 6-7 Camden, N.J.

..... OTHER ROUTES

Bugs Bunny Show
Apr. 4-6 Gretna, La.

Country in New York Show
Apr. 5 New York, N.Y.

Disney on Parade Show
Apr. 2-7 Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Hobby Show
Apr. 5-7 Oakland, Calif.

Holiday on Ice
Apr. 2-7 West Palm Bch, Fl

Ice Capades
Apr. 2-7 Troy, N. Y.

Ice Follies
to Apr. 7 Minneapolis, Mn

Kramien's Mad World of Mag.
Apr. 1-2 Flagstaff, Arz
3 Holbrook
4-5 Gallup, N.M.

Peter Pan Show
Apr. 2-7 Hershey, Pa.

Rose City Rides
Apr. 1-6 Cape Girard, Mo.



Sawdust Trail

"Frosty" Little, producing clown on RBBB's Red Unit, has 27 clowns in his contingent this year. He also serves as assistant to Bob Dover, performance director. Frosty's business card has the notation "Boss Clown" instead of producing clown.

Circus Vargas played to a big crowd of children for its first show at Shreveport, La. on Mar. 16th. Several CFA members were also on hand to see the show at this town.

Dr. William Hooper, a CFA regional director, visited the Carson & Barnes Circus at its opening date (Mar. 22-24) at Austin, Texas.

A Florida newspaper states that Gulf Oil Corp. is still interested in buying the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

Farrows Amusements have played Monroe, La. twice in less than 3 weeks. M. L. Dupont

finale

JIMMY O'CONNOR, passed away in early March. He had trouped on the old Corporation shows out of Peru, Ind., then toured with RBBB, Cole Bros. etc. In 1937 he had the commissary wagon on Cole Bros. for the past several year he had worked for the Penn Railroad.

REPLACEMENT Named

A slight change in the program line-up for Dale's Buckeye Circus was announced late last month. The show's full program appeared in the March 18th issue of Circus Report.

When Dianne Wilson arrived at Medora, Ind., enroute from Texas, she found one of her seals had died and the other was seriously ill. Despite a two hour attempt to keep the ailing seal alive it finally passed away.

Dianne is still presenting her bird act in the show, but her seal act has been replaced with Henry Sprister's chimp, "Sam."

COMING

Don't miss next week's big issue.



Dave Davis will report on the National Circus of Egypt - an interesting and unusual show you'll enjoy reading about.

LATE NEWS

Directors of Gulf Oil Corp., have voted against buying the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

Circus Vargas plans to have a side show with its circus at the upcoming Los Angeles date.

George Matthews Circus ordered a new big top for the coming year.

Talent

Acts appearing in the show program at the Orlando Central Florida Exposition (March 4-9) included:-

Bauer-Hall seven swaypole act
Henri LaMothe - belly-flop diver
Miss Elizabeth - breakaway trap.
Miss Lisa - trapeze
Kixos Duo - balancing ladder
Royal Ascotts - unrideable mule
Goldfinger - one finger stand
Eugene & Aurelia - tight wire
Alfredo - Amazing Canines
Medro Troupe - acrobats

Show acts appearing at the Sarasota County (Fla.) Fair during March 18-23 were:

Billy Thundercloud and the Chieftones
Scott's unrideable mule
Miss Lisa - trapeze.

A CLOWN Guest

A 1973 graduate of the Ringling Clown College, Miss Donna La Vecchio, was a guest at the March 17th meeting of the Felix Adler CFA Tent, which was held at the home of Tiny and Hazel Phillips.

Miss La Vecchio talked to the group about her experiences while attending the college. Afterwards she conducted a question and answer period.

Following an intermission for refreshments, the group enjoyed the Schlitz movie "The 40

strong Advance

Last month both Circus America and RBBB set-up public-features to advertise their respective circus performances in Washington, DC. Show stars were talking and performing before civic groups, promoters were offering merchants special ticket deals and acts performed for the public and press.

The biggest contingent of circus stars were brought in by RBBB. Despite this, the Washington Post said, Circus America came out ahead with their special aerial presentation.

While RBBB clowns were visiting government officials or Capitol Hill, Picaso was juggling at an Advertising Club luncheon, where Irvin Feld was the special guest.

Meanwhile, Circus America had one of its feature acts -- The Albarracine Duo -- performing their number while suspended in the air by a construction crane.

FOR SALE 90 circus books at just \$95.00. Send 25¢ for list. Jay Beardsley, 122 No. Bassett St., Madison, Wisc. - 53703

Horse Hitch on Parade".

Some 21 members of the tent indicated they would be attending the opening performance of Ringling-Barnum at Madison Square Garden.

SHOW PROGRAM

The program as announced for Circus America, at Washington, DC on April 3-21 will be featuring:

Blinko and Meran - a pre-program Balloon-a-Rama number

Circus Overture with Jack Cervone and Psychedelic lights
Elizabeth (breakaway), Aileen (loop), Dolly (trapeze), Beth (loop), Lora (trapeze), Liza (trapeze), Carrell (loop), Donna (trapeze), Trudy (loop) and Sandee (trapeze)

Tarzen Zerbin and his wild lions and tigers

The Pharoahs (aerial cradle),
The Riskos (aerial ladder) and
The Albarracines (trapeze)

Jane, presents a horseback riding tiger

The Sensational Leighs and Johnny Luxem - giant wheels

Emmett Kelly - clown prince
King's llamas, Anderson's albino stallions, Joanne's white horses, Craig's llamas and William's mixed animals

The Clowns walkaround, featuring Al's Lemon-zine (com. car)

The Aguilers (perch), Keppo Sisters (globes), The Carles (cycles), Mr. Bell (balancing), Feller Boys & Dodo (tight wire)

Disney's Tinkerbell in a slide for life

Victor Julian and his dogs
Aerial ballet with 32 girls and featuring The Great Arturo Antonucci's chimps, Salvadori

Many Hurt

Nine persons (eight of them police) were injured when a rock throwing melee broke out at a carnival at Pompano Beach, Fla. on March 24th.

The disturbance erupted as police attempted to escort two men from the carnival. Some five hours later the fighting, which involved about 1,000 persons, was brought under control.

seals, Welde's bears, Uncle Heevy's Pork Chop Revue, Niccolini Family's chimps

The Great Wellendes, featuring Karl Wellende

Clowns - The Fire House

The Quassers and Mlle. Jacqueline (rocket ship), and The Saturnaires (flying saucer)

-- Intermission --

The Flying Americans - double trapeze with troupe of eight

Clowns - Painters in the Park
Nicklos Bros., Friel Trio,
Bounding Jays, Abbott Trio - on trampoline, plus Walters Family and 9 yr. old Wendy.

Norbu, almost human gorilla

Gene Mendez - high wire

(Special Added Attraction)

Circus America elephants - a group of 16 in five rings

The Nerveless Nocks and Fearless Bauers - swoyepoles

Edmondo Zecchini's double Human Rocket Cannon

Salute to the Stars and Stripes - entire company, etc.

The Exit March - Au Revoir!

Show Quarters: - - - Now A Ghost Area by E. Wilson

The sad ghost of a circus winterquarters haunts an area just north of Sarasota, Fla.

Sub-tropical plant growth is fast reclaiming the former winter-quarters of Circus Bertok. Vines curl around huge vans, from which wheels and other salvagable parts have been removed.

"Doc" bertok's European-style show, with its flashy round top, had its last local performance at its quarters in late March 1972. It returned for the final time in mid-summer of that year. Once the circus was the subject of a national television documentary called "Mud Show."



Remnants of its former days now include the huge elephant van (No. 51) on its side, some broken cages, several semis all minus wheels, and a burned-out office wagon. The paint is peeling, but the "Circus Bertok" lettering is still prominent.

A torn striped marquee lies in a canvas mound, poles used by aerialists still stand, a large cement floor of a planned bull barn is overgrown by scrub palmettos and weeds.

Once "Doc" and family had planned a large area as a tourist attraction: animals, a small lake with alligators and water fowl, performances in an outdoor ring, and a parking area with hookups for trailers.

The big top was set up in mid-winter for rehearsals. Now a faded "Parking" sign marks a weed filled field adjacent to the former big top location. Palm trees once sheltered the five large bulls and two babies during the days. The trees are still there, so too are the rotting cages that once housed bears, monkeys and exotic birds. Trained ponies, goats and a llama once roamed a nearby weed filled field.

Having known the Bertok family and its hopes of long-time success, an observer is saddened by a walk through the silent area which once was so alive.

Nostalgia, yes, a lot of it. Memories, of course, but overall the quietness in the hot Florida sun, where once were the cheerful sounds of a circus making ready to move out for "maybe our best tour yet."

THE

S&G

CIRCUS

by
"Westy" Westervelt
and Paul Van Pool

The Sells & Gray Circus is certainly one of the nicest circuses on the road. The people on the show make the visitor feel at home and even go out of their way to welcome you on the lot.

They have a three piece band that backs the show very well. Dick Stewart is the show's announcer and plays the organ, while Ramon Escorcía plays the trumpet and Guile Austing is the drummer.

The show will be playing a tour of Florida cities before heading up north for what is hoped will be a long and successful season. Last year they encountered some weather problems and were even hampered by some floods.

Featured in the 1974 program are:-

Miss Williams - dogs and juggl'g
Evy Karoly and Mark Hernandez -
dressage number
Evy Karoly and Edward Toole-dogs
Tina Storey - ladder, web, roly
boly, juggling



Escorcía

notes

Sells & Gray Circus is using the same big top they had last year.

The Royal Lipizzen Stallion Show is booked into the Oakland (Calif.) Coliseum for three days in August.

A Zacchini cannon act will open the baseball season on Apr. 6th at Philadelphia, then that team plays the New York Mets.

Ringling-Barnum will be at the Oakland (Calif.) Coliseum Aug. 21-27, an extra day this year.

Elephant acts appearing on Circus America this month will include: Walt King, Jacob's elephants, Oscar Cristiani and Rex Williams.



Dana Novotny - high trapeze
Randy and Sylvia Hernandez -
the high perch
The Campe Family - unicycles
The Regalittos - musical comedy
Hernandez Troupe - teeterboard

The show's executive staff included:-

Wilson Storey - general manager
Harry Hammond - Office manager
Mr. & Mrs. Williams - side show
Max Schaefer - concessions
Merle Barteo - Maintenance/trans
Red Maynard - canvas supt.
Vince Novotny - canvas boss

Elephant In The Barn

On a quiet little farm, near Delton, Minn., an elephant quietly munches hay in a heated barn and pays no attention to the heavy snowdrifts outside. She is "Alita" star of the Schmidt Circus, which is headquartered in this tiny hamlet.

Each summer the show takes to the road, playing dates as part of local fairs or civic celebrations, at small towns in Minnesota and the Dakotas. The circus was organized in the '30s by "Dad" Schmidt and today it is operated by his son-in-law Byron Osander.

They tour from May-to-Sept., traveling on 13 trucks. Each of the show's performances features acrobats, dancers, baton twirler, dogs, ponies, musicians, a ferris wheel and eight other rides, plus, of course, Alita. The performers are young people of the area, who join the Osanders for the summer tours.

The kids jump up and down with happiness as we pull into town, reports Mrs. Osander. After the show folks tell us how much they appreciate what we are doing for their little town.

The Schmidt Circus is just one of several small shows that can be found around the country, playing small towns, and almost unknown to the average circus fan. They like everyone, are now concerned about the gas problem and wonder if they'll be able to make their planned tour. Last

people

BILL SWAIN, advance agent for Dailey Bros. Circus is booking dates in Kansas and that area.

WALTER MATTHAU's (movie star) brother MARVIN has auditioned for RBBB'S Clown College. He wants to quit the insurance business and become a clown.

notes

The book "Great Fires of America", published by Country Beautiful, has a chapter called "Fire Under the Big Top", about the July 1944 RBBB fire at Hartford, Conn. (several pictures are included in the chapter).

year there were times when they were unable to get gas.

"What good is our business if we can't move out of town," says Mrs. Osander. "Naturally we're concerned. We've got a tremendous investment here. It is our whole life."

"We'll get out of the yard" says Mr. Osander, "but I don't know what'll happen from there on."

people



SENIOR ANTONIO was featured at the Orange Show in San Bernardino, Ca. last month.

LUCIO CRISTIANI and family are with the Hoxie Bros. Circus this year. They are doing the riding act, trampoline and uncaged leopards.

ROBERT EARL, who is with the Hanneford Circus, recently purchased a new trailer.

ROGER MYCROFT (Rags, the Clown) worked a balloon race party at Pleasanton, Cal. on March 23rd.

FRANKIE SALUTO, clown, has reportedly retired after touring for many years on RBBB.

TAD TOSKY sends his thanks to those who sent cards and letters during his recent hospitalization. He and his wife are both back at home.

EARL ALLEN's Circus Room was the subject of a TV special just recently. Earl lives in Sikeston Mo.

ERNIE BURCH, clown, says he will be a candidate for the Presidency. He plans to open his campaign this month at Washington, DC

LACY and LUCIA TOTH, who are

PLAY IT SAFE

Officials of Fisher Bros. Circus have pretty well solved their fuel problems thus far. The show is playing towns away from densely populated areas and makes small overnight jumps

The circus consolidated the loading of equipment and as a result is traveling on eight show-owned trucks this season. They are using new canvas this year, reportedly the last tents made by the now defunct U. S. Tent & Awning Co. of Sarasota.

Last year the circus was on the road for 43 weeks, playing in 258 cities in seven states. Show owners B. K. and Mel Silverlake are hoping that 1974 will be another good year with as long a season.

For full details about the show's equipment, program and personnel see Circus Report for Feb. 11, 1974.

with the Hanneford Circus, have three daughters, all in show business. Diane is married to John Hartzell, Doris is married to Wally Nachtin and Susik is married to Simon Aviles.

CATHERINE BLACKART works 6 tigers with the Boulione Circus and recently appeared in Cirque d'Hiver in France.

PAUL HUDSON is currently the manager of the Hanneford Circus.

Bull Hurts Girl

Early last month a young American girl was injured by an elephant while visiting a circus at Cuernavaca, Mexico. Barbara Gardiner (19) has been confined to a local hospital with multiple fractures, the March 11th news report read.

Miss Gardiner went up to pet the elephant, that was chained outside the tent. As she did the animal grabbed her and tossed her into the air and she came down on the hood of a nearby car.

HOPES FOR NEW SHOW

A new circus, featuring young talent, is expected to debut in Pennsylvania late this year. First date for the proposed circus will be at Allentown.

The circus, which will be sponsored by the Lions Clubs of Penna., will be serving a dual purpose, according to executive director Richard Polanki. He reports there is some fine new talent available and that with some experience they may be able to go into the circus world, while proceeds from the circus will be used to buy an Eyemobile for the Lions Club activities.

The performance is expected to feature jugglers, magic and illusions, contortionists, aerial numbers and hand balance routines.