



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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## DEFICIT GROWS

The most profitable subsidiary that Mattell, Inc. has, says Tom Gable, business editor for the San Diego (Cal) Tribune, is the Ringling-Barnum Circus. Last year, he adds, Mattell lost \$25 million, while the circus was filling its coffers with money.

Mattell is off to another bad year, according to Gable, for they lost \$17.33 million for the six month period ending Aug. 4, 1973. The loss is attributed to several causes, yet sales amounted to some \$128.31 million, an increase of 8.9% over the same period in 1972.

The circus had annual sales of \$8 million when it was taken over by the Felds. In 1969 their sales reached the \$16 million mark while reports indicate the show had a profit of \$5 million on sales of \$26 million last year. They've operated in the black ever since Felds took over.

Mattell purchased the circus in 1971. Now plans are underway to

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## new arena package

A new touring unit was put together this month by Ian Garden, the Toronto producer, for several Canadian dates. The show, called "Wonderful World of Animals" opened at Hamilton, Ont. on Sept. 20th and will remain out until Oct. 6th

Featured in the show are the Smehe Family and their horses; Baptiste Schreiber's chimps; Salvadori's seals and Billy Orwell's Bird Fantasy.

## FAIR SHOW

Visitors to the Georgia State Fair (Macon) will again be able to enjoy a free grandstand show, says Fair manager J. Pelham Fuss. The show will be produced by Eddie Zechin, he adds, and will be presented at 6:30 and 8:15 p.m. nightly.

The line-up of acts includes:

Gina's Uncaged leopards  
Francero - balance/juggling  
Jano's chimps  
Frank & Estrelita - trapeze  
Royal Hungaria Troupe - acrobats  
Neil Hutton comedy MC

# People

RALPH RODGERS, CMB, will have his model show at the Los Angeles County Fair again this year.

BOB MATTHEWS would enjoy cards and letters. Write him at: Hollywood Community Hospital, 6245 DeLongpre, Hollywood, Calif. - 90028 (Rm. 508)

THE SAUREZ FAMILY is planning to operate their own circus in Mexico next year. They are currently on the Beatty-Cole show.

SWACKO, a unit manager for Foley & Burk Shows, is in a Reno, Nev., hospital after being attacked by local youths.

CHARLIE CUTHBERT, former band leader on Kelly-Miller, was killed when struck by a car in South Carolina last month.

JOHN HERRIOTT reportedly will have his animals on the Hoxie Bros. Circus next year.

THE FLYING DEL STEELES will appear with the Texas Shrine dates this month.

THE ROMAS TROUPE is planning to tour their own show in the U. S. during the coming year.

MENDEZ & SEITZ plan to go their separate ways at the end of the year. Mendez is said to be booked.

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## Australia SHOW

The program for the Sole Bros. Circus in Australia, as seen at Rockhampton on June 11, 1973 was featuring:

Joseph Eroni - wild animals  
 Jenny and Julie - swinging ladd.  
 Joseph Eroni - trick pony  
 Clowns - the Barber shop  
 Lindsay Sole - monkeys and ponies  
 Tommy Hanlon - Boomerangs  
 Miss Julie - single trapeze  
 Merfil's wonder dogs  
 The Lennons - spinning ropes  
 "Mustard" the football pony  
 Joseph Eroni - camels and ponies  
 Greet Muldoon - balance act  
 Eroni's golden palominoes  
 The Lennons - whips  
 Merveen & Phyllis - juggling  
 Pentello Troupe - clowns  
 Setoni & Mai - comedy knockabout  
 Lindsay Sole - elephants (4)  
 The Flying Marconis - trapeze  
 The Finale

## Pot-Pourri

The Beatty-Cole Circus will be in Roswell, N.M. on Oct. 6th to give two shows.

The Barney Jones TV Show (Sept. 23rd) indicated that the circus has gone out of style. The comment was also made that refugees from the circus were hanging out at a local gym.

Some new shows are expected to bow on the scene for the 1974 season, both on the East and west coast.

## BIG N.Y. DATE

by PAT BISSONETTE

A 23 day stand - Sept. 8-30 - was played at the site of the '64-65 New York Worlds Fair by the Miller-Johnson Circus. The show was sponsored by the N. Y. Housing Patrolmen's Benevolent Assoc. with tickets priced at \$4.50 for adults and \$2.25 for children. Reserves went for \$1.00 extra, while a program was being sold for \$1.00.

The two hour show, which included an intermission, featured some 20 displays, such as:

The Great Parker - sway pole  
 Pat Anthony - wild animals  
 The Ralfys - serial ladder  
 Oari-Vari Troupe - acrobats  
 Simon's chimps  
 Miss Kim and Michele - trapeze  
 Great Washak - wire walk  
 Naughtins bears  
 Miss Loni - foot juggler  
 Benjamin Duo - juggling  
 Feller Boys & Dodo - wire  
 The Flying Faries - fling act  
 Hasseni Troupe - tumblers  
 Ferroni Duo - role bols  
 Washak Duo - serial motorcycle  
 Lothar and Dente - balancing  
 Wally Ross, Oscar Cristiani - elephants

There were three merry men in Clown Alley, headed by Don Kirby. Chris Minot and Herb Chambers assist him. New at this spot was Barry Sloane, stilt walker. The program is backed by a three piece band under the direction of Russell Darr.

The show staff includes:

## NEW FINE SET

For the third time last month a fine was imposed for the exhibition of a "sored" Tennessee Walking Horse. Dick Peebles, of Moulton, Ala., was fined \$500 for violating the Horse Protective Act of 1970, by a District Court at Birmingham.

Charges were filed by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture when it was discovered that Mr. Peebles had exhibited a horse whose front legs were extremely sensitive to touch and showed signs of having been touched up with a foreign substance. A show veterinarian had disqualified the horse, but Peebles showed the horse anyway.



You don't have to take a wild guess about the show routes when you read The Circus Report each week.

Get your subscription in now and be sure of the show dates.

Send \$10.00 in cash, check or money order to: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. 94530.

Cliff Vargas - owner  
 Parley Beer - manager  
 Sandy Dobritch - ringmaster  
 Jim McGarrity - operations mgr.  
 Paul Hudson - Concession supt.  
 Wally Ross - animal supt.  
 D. Bayliss - transp. supt.  
 Ted Zebell - props  
 Joe Parker - electrician  
 Dan Hanies - chief rigger  
 H. Chambers - wardrobe

**ROUTES**

Arabia Shrine Circus  
Oct. 2-14 Houston, Tex

Beatty-Cole Circus  
Oct. 1 San Angelo, Tex  
2 Abilene  
3 Odessa  
4 Hobbs, N.M.  
5 Carlsbad  
6 Clovis

Hubert Castle circus  
Oct. 1 Globe, Ariz.  
3-7 El Paso, Texas

Diamond "S" Wild West  
Oct. 6-7 Branford, Fla

Dr. Pepper Circus  
Oct. 6-21 Dallas, Tex.

George Matthews Circus  
Oct. 1 Portland, Ore.  
2 Salem  
3 Eugene  
4 Roseburg  
5 Medford  
7 Redding, Cal.

Hall's Circus Side Show  
to Oct. 6 Atlanta, Ga.

Happytime Circus  
Oct. 3-7 Ventura, Cal.

Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Oct. 1 Thomasville, NC  
2 Harrisburg  
3 Gastonia  
4 Anderson, SC  
5 Athens, Ga.  
6 Warner Robbins

Int'l Boys Circus  
Oct. 2-4 Rochester, Minn  
5-6 Buffalo, NY  
7-8 Toronto, Can.

William Keye Circus  
Oct. 5-8 Orlando, Fla

Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus  
to Oct 8 New York, NY

King Bros. Circus  
Oct. 1 Madison, Ind.  
2 Frankfort, Ky  
3 Georgetown  
4 Lexington  
5 Shelbyville  
6 Jeffersonville

Miller-Johnson Circus  
Oct. 1 Off  
2 Kingsport, Tenn  
3 Off  
4 Decatur, Ill.  
5 Clinton  
6 Dubuque, Iowa  
7 Off

Polack Bros. Circus  
Oct. 4-7 Fresno, Cal.

Ringling-Blue Unit  
Oct. 3-7 Indianapolis

Ringling-Red Unit  
Oct. 2-22 Chicago, Ill

Royal Lipizzen Show  
Oct. 3 Syracuse, NY  
5-7 Binghamton

John Strong Circus  
Oct. 1 Monterey, Cal  
2 Off

3 Modesto  
4 Merced  
5 Visalia  
6 Tulare  
7 Hanford

Voorheis Bros. Circus  
Oct. 5 Menistee, Mich  
6 Houghton Lake

Wallece & Rogers  
Oct. 1 Twin Falls, Id.  
3 Burley

6 Issogus, Wash



... CARNIVALS .....

J. H. Drew Shows  
Oct. 1-6 Monroe, Ga.

Foley & Burk Shows  
Oct. 4-14 Fresno, Cal.

Rose City Rides  
Oct. 1-6 Bernie, Mo.

Amusements of America  
Oct. 8-13 Clinton, NC

Cumberland Valley Shows  
Oct. 1-6 Scottsboro, Ala

Farrow Amusement Co.  
Oct. 1-6 Cleveland, Miss

Diamond State Shows  
Oct. 2-6 Cherokee, NC

Razorback Amusements  
Oct. 1-6 Eudora, Ark.

Wm. D. Stanley Shows  
Oct. 2-7 Menden, La.

Royal Amusements  
Oct. 1-6 Newberry, SC

Little Richard's Expo  
Oct. 1-6 Abbeville, SC

Gene Ledel Shows  
Oct. 2-7 Waco, Texas

Jay-Belle Amusements  
Oct. 1-6 Rose Hill, NC

Big H Rides  
Oct. 1-6 Kingstree, SC

Gold Medal Shows  
Oct. 1-6 Americus, Ga

Capell Bros. Shows  
Oct. 3-7 Deming, NM

Link Shows  
Oct. 4-13 Birmingham, Ala

Ralph Wagner Shows  
Oct. 4-6 Resugio, Tex.

Bob Hammond Shows  
Oct. 3-6 Rosenberg, Tex

Mississippi Valley Shows  
Oct. 1-6 Selma, Ala

Kissell Bros. Amusements  
Oct. 3-6 Radcliffe, Ky

## SHOW is a pleaser

When Fisher Bros. Circus came to Peoria, Ariz. (Sept. 6) they had a nice grassy lot, writes Ed Rogers. It was a good show, and one that really makes the visiting fan feel at home, which is very much appreciated.

The show drew half houses at Apache Jct. (Sept. 5) for both of its performances, while three-quarter houses were recorded for both shows at Peoria.

## SCHOOL STARTS

A class of 45 novice funmakers start their six week course in the art of clowning today (Oct. 1) at RBBB's quarters in Venice, Fla.



The 38 men and 7 women, ranging in age from 17 to 35, were selected from some 3500 applicants from the United States and some foreign countries. The number of applicants was 850 more than had applied to the school in '72.

The six weeks course covers a variety of subjects relating to clowning, with classes taught by experts in the field of pantomime, professional clowns and circus performers. The school is headed by Bill Ballentine, former clown and writer.

Successful graduates will be offered a contract with RBBB's two units. In the past five years some 200 men and women have graduated from the Clown College and 125 were given jobs with the circus.

## NEW CENTER OKAY

A former military base (Camp Parks) at Dublin, Calif., has been approved as the site of a new sport and recreation complex.

Just recently the government gave the 22 acres to Dublin, which city officials called a "bonanza." A spokesman for the city said that a sports complex is badly needed and those sites available were just too costly. The best possible use for the land gift, he added, is to build a recreational facility for our citizens.

The General Services Administration valued the land at \$650,000 and now the local district will be investing \$771,000 to build fields for baseball, soccer, softball and touch football. A 4,200 seat grandstand and other buildings is also planned.

## DEFICIT GROWS (Continued from Page 1)

build a circus park - a total family entertainment center - in Florida. The 600 acre park is expected to be completed in 1975.

In his closing paragraph of a Sept. 12th column, Gable said:

"Whether or not Mattell can generate as much enthusiasm among investors and bankers as the circus subsidiary does among its legions of fans is open to debate. Its shares are changing hands at about \$4.25. They have been as high as \$52.25 and as low as \$1 during the past 13 years. A recovery in earnings, according to most analysts, is still 2 years away."



Late this month (Oct. 20-22) the Nat'l Carousel Roundtable will hold a conference at Sandwich, Mass., the home of a Looff merry-go-round. In addition to visiting local carousels, the group will hold discussions and talks about the preservation and restoration of old carousels, with hopes of setting up a national organization.

The conference schedule includes:

Oct. 20 - Saturday

9 a.m. - Registration

10 a.m. - Open Meeting

11:30 a.m. - Luncheon

1:30 p.m. - "Kaleidoscope View of Carousels - B. Charles"



ROBERT A. MILLS' BAND with the Walter L. Main Circus. Standing: E. H. Gruzard; Robert A. Mills, leader; E. J. Ewing, Tom Trevette, Austin Burke, Al Fuller. Seated: George W. Craven, Dave Rowland, Everette Stradley, Carl Johnson, Vance Kinter, Herman Roehnsch. - (93) -

2:00 p.m. - Seminar "Carousel Conservation"

3:30 pm - Free time

5:30 pm - Carving demonstration

6:00 pm - Cocktails

7:00 pm - Banquet - speaker will be Frederick Ffied

Oct. 21 - Sunday

10:00 am - Meeting of Committees

11:00 am - Seminar "Identification"

12:30 am - Luncheon

1:30 pm - Seminar - Restoration

3:00 pm - Workshops - Band Organ, New Construction, Care and Feeding Collections Show and Tell.

4:30 pm - Closing Session

6:00 pm - Cocktails and dinner

Oct. 22 - Monday -

Boat trip to Martha's Vineyard, Motor trip to Crescent Park, etc.

## ROUTES

Holiday on Ice

Oct. 2-7 Gravesboro, N.C.

Ice Capades

Oct. 4-7 Fort Worth, Texas

Ice Classic

Oct. 3-6 Durham, NC

Renaissance Fair

Oct. 5-8 Novato, Ca.

Rex Humbard (Evangelist)

Oct. 1 Winnipeg, Can

2 Calgary

3 Edmonton

4 Saskatchewan

5 Regina

Ventura County Fair

Oct. 3-7 Ventura, Ca

Mau'i County Fair

Oct. 4-7 Maui, Haw.

The District Fair

Oct. 4-14 Fresno, Ca.

# YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - May 25, 1918 - Barnum & Bailey Circus.

The show arrived here late after playing at Kingston, N.Y., and as a result cancelled their parade. The matinee started at 4 p.m. while the evening show got underway at 8 p.m. Good crowds were on hand for both performances.

They were only just getting the big top up at 1 p.m. and all of the wagons hadn't yet come from the train.

The circus was set up on Elm St. playground, and the horse tops were all on another lot nearby.

The giraffes require special wagons to carry them. They were all made for this purpose.

It started to rain just before the night show so this slowed all the work down. In fact as it grew later the rain came down harder.

Loading got started about 6 p.m. and the big top was down about mid night. Two big electric light plants kept the lot as lighted as if it were daytime.

The first second was loaded and on its way about 11 p.m. The other section wasn't loaded until after day break and all the wagons were lined up along the street, all the way from the lot to the train.

They finally left sometime early in the morning for Boston.



The Strik Family, bicycle riders with Cole Bros. Circus of 1908. At the top is E. Strik, owner/manager and Baby Ruth. Standing are May, Viola and Irene. Seated is Cliff and Ted.

# plain-talk time—

A hard-hitting, plain talking five part story recently appeared in the Bloomington, Ill., newspaper. Written by James Keeran, the series described the life of a working man with the Beatty-Cole circus - where the work never stops and there is no glamour.

Keeran joined the circus about a week before the show came into Bloomington to get his story. He ended up as a \$25 a week prop hand, and found he was exhausted before the first day was over, yet had to work on until everything was ready to roll for the next town. You had to conserve energy, he wrote, for you found yourself doing things at a run that you wouldn't normally have done at a walk.

The workmen are dirty, only a few make any effort to be clean, he said. Often they drink themselves to sleep at night, or lay awake in their bunks as the show trucks are bounced down the road to another town. These are the men who keep the show going, he says, yet aren't even spoken to by the performers.

Some of the men are lazy, and others do extra jobs for the added money. Some are cruel and profane, ordering and beating their crews into submission. But they all have just one objective -- get the show up, keep it moving, and get it down and loaded.

It's a nice five part story and makes a fine addition to any collection of circus material.