



"America's Favorite Circus Weekly"

4th Year

March 3, 1975

Number 9

Atlanta Circus Rally Is Big Success

"What surely must have been one of the most successful circus events ever staged, as far as audience participation is concerned, was recently held here in Atlanta," says Dr. Paul Fitzpatrick. "On Sunday, Jan 26th, some 17,000 children attended the Christian Council of Metro Atlanta's presentation of the FSU High Flying Circus at the Omni."

It was a massive transportation project to bring this many people in from the outlying areas and plans were worked out over a period of several months. A total of 47 buses were rented for the day, while another 60 buses were obtained from local Bible Schools and churches. Each unit made at least two trips to bring in all the people attending the event.

The seating procedure was well planned, with one section at a time being filled with the children. As each section was filled, from top to bottom, a magician moved in to keep everyone entertained. As more sections of seats were filled more magicians started performing until there were a total of 12 magicians entertaining from the arena floor.

(Continued on Back Page)

Suit Settled

During an engagement in Detroit (Mich) animal trainers Baron Von Uhl and John Cuneo entered into an agreement for the sale of a white tiger to Cuneo. The agreement was sealed with a \$100 down payment, and a promise the rest would be paid before the Shrine Circus closed.

When Von Uhl refused to
(Continued on Page 11)

SHOW MADE EARLY BOW IN TEXAS

One of the first circuses to open its under canvas tour -- Al G. Clark & Dailey Bros. -- drew straw houses for its initial performances at Aransas Pass (Texas) on Jan. 27th. The show is produced and operated by "Gopher" Davenport, son of the late Ben Davenport.



To catch the show's opening engagement, circus fan and model builder H. T. "Tex" Dreyfus had to make a round trip of 420 miles from his home in Houston. Because of the long drive and a late arrival, Tex was unable to see the full program, but he has provided this writer with some details about the circus.

The big top is set up as a three ring circus, but they are carrying extra center sections so the tent can be expanded to a four or five ring circus whenever necessary.

The circus is traveling on five show-owned trucks, all newly painted, plus several private trailers and campers. Their animals include: a hippo, 2 elephants, llama, camel, buffalo calf and goats. A pony ride is featured on the midway.

The circus was scheduled to play Baytown (Texas) on Feb. 15 and it was Tex's plan to see it again there. He will be providing additional news notes after that visit.

.....M. L. Dupont

HISTORICAL FACT

In 1923 the Girard Shows offered a double trapeze number as a free act each day.

Readers Please Note!

Reader Don Smith writes:-

"The girl with the elephant in the center fold issue of Circus Report (Feb. 17) is Diane Lovett who appeared with RBBB in 1939.

In 1938 she was presenting a tiger riding elephant on the Al G. Barnes-Sells Floto Circus, and her act was followed by Dolly Jacobs with a lion riding a horse and Terrell Jacobs, with his big lion act.

Diane lived in Detroit and operated a dance studio before and after her years with the circus. She was discovered at the Detroit Shrine Circus by Art Concello, who recommended her to the big show."

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CIRCUS Program Announced

The actual line-up of talent being presented by Circo Panamericano at San Juan, P.R., is shown below. The list of acts reported last week is incorrect, although it was copied directly from the circus program.

Overature by Keith Killinger's
Circus band

Eloise Berchtold - mixed animals

Miss Maya - sword balance

Du Bicky Equillibers - an unsupported ladder act

Robert Zerbini - sword balance

Tino Zoppe - high wire

Bobby Gibbs - white shepherd dog act (5)

A clown gag

The Fergus Family - trampoline

Hank & Cindy - aerial cradle

Mario & Robert - acrobatics

Tino Zoppe - comedy lamp post

Maya - swinging trapeze



Maryse Begary - single trapeze

Olinba Zoppe - trapeze

Mario Zerbini - low wire

In Memoriam

TEODORO (Thedy) ARAGON (89) a famous Spanish clown, died on Dec. 30th at Madrid. He helped start the Loja Troupe in Germany in 1908, and for many years was with U.S. shows, retiring in '63 when he went back to Spain.

RAY SWANN (78) died at Memphis, Tenn. on Jan. 30th. He got his start in show business at 13 when he joined Hagenbeck-Wallace and later traveled with many of the major carnivals.

WILLIAM "Bill" WAITE (69) elephant man who worked for Paul and Dorothy Kelly, died on Feb. 8th at Peru, Ind. He had been with Cole Bros. and started working for the Kellys when they purchased the old quarters.

The Flying Aztecas

Fergus Family - comedy

Bob Gibbs - mules

Rosa Gibbs - ponies

Maryse Begary - juggling

Lotti Brunn - juggling

Oresti - foot juggler

The Rummels - rolling globes

Rodogel Troupe - teeterboard

Zerbini Bros. - teeterboard

Bobby Gibbs - elephants (3)

Johnny Luxem - Wheel of Destiny

Inflation Hurts Show Folks Too

Prices are up and everyone is feeling the effects, especially show folks, whose very existence is threatened by inflation and the unemployment situation. Last month a reporter visited backstage at the Detroit Shrine Circus to obtain some facts for a nationally released story.



Trapeze performer Sasa, of the Flying Armors lamented that costume stockings have gone up \$3.00 since last year. Koko, the clown, said a pound of white-face makeup that used to cost 80¢ now sells for \$7.00.

Elephant trainer Al Vidbel reported that it used to cost

Special Issue

The 69th Anniversary Edition of "Variety" (dated Jan. 8, 75) had a six color, slick front and back cover advertisement for the Ringling-Barnum Circus.

The issue contains several good circus articles and photos. The story material included the RBBB's Bi-centennial plans, some ideas for a proposed Radio Circus, story of the Circus in the US for 1974 and an item about Hubert's Museum and Flea Circus.

.....Sally Payne

Will Trade

LITHOS FOR TRADE

Have some good RBBB and Cole Brs lithos from the '30s and '40s for trade only. Am interested in any shows before 1950.

KENT GHIRARD

3027 Alapali Place

Honolulu, Hawaii - 96815

\$3500 for an elephant, but on today's market the asking price is \$7500. The price of hay, he said, costs \$75 per ton, as compared to \$45 a year ago, and an elephant is capable of consuming 800 lbs a day.

Bob Berosini told the reporter that he is spending \$200 a week to feed his animals, its about triple what it was a year ago, he says. Baron Von Uhl figures it cost him at least double what it did a year ago, to feed his lions and tigers.

The prices of costumes, fuel and supplies are up and it is difficult to pass the increase on. Ticket prices have been increased slightly, but even so the Shriners hoped to raise a tidy sum for their work.

It used to be, said one of the showmen, that mushroom growers would take away the manure free, today they want \$500 for the run of the show.



Shrine Circus Is Great

..... by NORMAN WILBERT

The 37th Annual Tripoli Temple Shrine Circus (Milwaukee Arena - Feb. 18-23, 1975) was another outstanding circus presentation, complete with new acts that provided laughs and thrills in a two hour program of pleasure and entertainment.

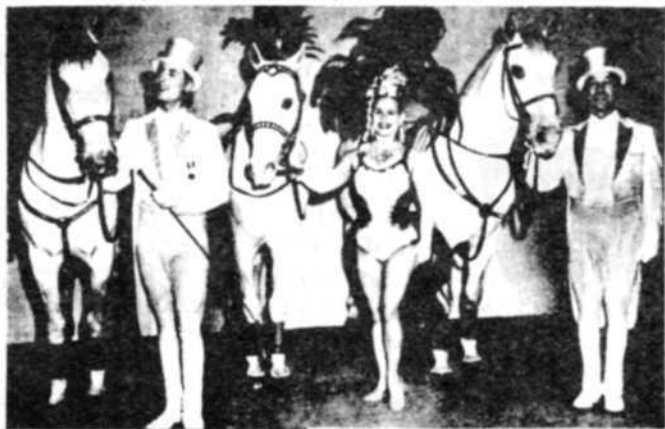
Over 40,000 school children, as well as handicapped and underprivileged youngsters were guests during the weekday matinees - with close to 90,000 attending by the close of the circus.

The Shrine Circus band was directed by James Ille (20 pieces) and they are to be commended for setting the proper moods, cues and tempo changes.

Jose Barrade, of Peru (S.A.) certainly is a tremendous cat man and his lions, which obey every command, despite their snarling, present some different routines -- including two lions jumping through a ring of fire, while another leaps a fire hazard on the floor.

All three rings offered outstanding aerialists in feats of balance and daring - Mimi and Susan were fantastic. Other numbers on the program included:

The Patricks - rola bola
 The Edwards - bicycles
 Danny Carey - rola bola
 The Flying Dells - included a tripe and passing leap
 Clyde Bros. Arabian camels



Josalito, the circus' youngest and perhaps greatest star of the high wire, performed a truly amazing routine - a first anywhere.

The Smaha Family (pictured) offered an excellent display with their Lipizzan stallions. The featured routine from the Vienna Academy was beautiful, including the breath-taking "Airs Above Ground" number.

The Shrine Circus elephants concluded the performance (all three rings) presented by Lou Regan, Oscar Cristiani and Geo. Barrada - son of Jose - making

(Continued on Page 13)

show has officials smiling!

...by
PAT BISSONETTE

It was a straw house for every performance when the Hanneford Circus played White Plains (N.Y.) on Feb. 15-17. Every number brought forth a tremendous response from the audiences and needless to say the show was asked to return next year.

The circus starts with a rousing overture, directed by Leo Mascito, who had an 11 piece band. It's a three ring circus, featuring 15 displays, with floor carpets, flashy wardrobe and some of the prettiest girls in the circus world.



Featured on the big program are:

Trio Frio - tramp.
Keppo Sisters - two ladder numbers
Hanneford Trio - ladder/perch
Princess Tajana - wild animals

Jimmy Stutz - juggling
The Corini Troupe - wire
Struppi and the uncaged panther
Baroness Von Forst - illusions
Bertini Sisters - wire
Sulo Sisters - juggling/globes
Kathy & Roger - basketball dog
The Bertini Family - unicycles
Marina - aerial ballet
Sanger's Riding Academy
-- Intermission --
Tommy, Struppi, Kathy and Iris
- the Hanneford elephants
The Rock Smith Flyers
Hanneford Family Riding act
Prince Najvez - aerial feature
Finale - entire company

The program was announced by Lucky Larabee, who incidentally, introduced members of the

Miscellaneous

Royal Bros. Circus plans to open its 1975 Canadian tour on May 12th. They'll be out for about 20 weeks.

Circus Vargas was featured on a children's TV show "Call It Macaroni" seen on the Group 5 stations on Feb. 19th.

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Felix Adler CFA Tent who were at the circus. The show clowns for this date were: Jim Stutz, Kosco and Paddy.

Haviland Keeps Court Date

Hal Haviland went into the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last week (Feb. 25) in an effort to obtain an answer to the question "Is the Animal Welfare Act of 1970 Unconstitutional?"

In the suit "Haviland v. Butz," the appellee, apparently sees no difference between Haviland's Dog and Pony act, and a circus or a zoo, omnipotent regulatory authority and a mandate, under the statute in question, to charge Haviland a license fee, etc. To further this claim, appellee even performed an unconstitutional legislative function by adding "animal acts" to rules implemented in enforcement of the law in question.

At the same time, under the same law, the appellee asserts whimsical determinations to regulate any

animals that may cross state lines, while acknowledging whimsical determinations that exclude certain categories of exhibitors that travel across state lines, with more animals than appellant Haviland. Excluded categories include thoroughbred dog shows and rodeos. State and county fairs are also in the excluded category and it's legal application to Haviland is odd since Haviland sometimes works in circuses, rodeos and county fairs. Under the questionable law circuses are supposed to be regulated while fairs and rodeos are not. Furthermore, some of Haviland's dogs are thoroughbreds, which are excluded from federal regulation if they are exhibited in a dog show.

Haviland claims that giving shows with his six dogs and a

PEOPLE

The AMAZING MONAHANS were featured on the "Tonight" Tv show the evening of Feb. 26th.

ROD BARBER has been named Circus Chairman for the 1975 Tigris Temple Shrine Circus at Syracuse, N.Y.

pony doesn't really, substantially, affect commerce, quite frequently being a non-profit artistic endeavor, anyway.

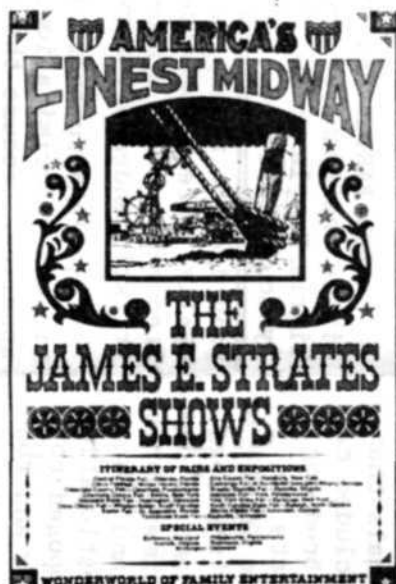
Haviland further claims invidious discrimination, by the appellee, because the statute in question is operative under whimsical determinations and in violation of Haviland's constitutional rights according to the Supreme Court interpretations of the due process clause of the 5th Amendment.

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Mar 3-5 Campbell, Calif.

Hubert Castle Circus

to Mar 8 Minneapolis, Minn

Circo Panamericano

to Mar 9 San Juan, P. R.

Circus Vargas

Mar 3-5 W. Palm Bch, Fla.

6-7 Enroute

8-12 Houston, Texas

Circus of Wonders

Mar. 1 Quincy, Calif.

2 Susanville

3 Fallon, Nev.

4 Fernley

5 Carson City

6 Gardenville

Cole All Star TV Circus

Mar. 3 Mexico, N. Y.

4 Phoenix

5 Union Springs

6 Remsen

7 Holland Patent

8 Madison

George Matthews Circus

Mar.5-11 Foster City, Ca

Hamid-Morton Circus

Mar 4-9 Topeka, Kans.

Harold Bros. Circus

Mar. 6-9 Lansing, Mich.

Medinah Shrine Circus

Mar. 3-23 Chicago, Ill.

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit

Mar. 4-5 Savannah, Ga.

7-9 Columbia, S. C.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Mar. 4-5 Fayetteville, NC

7-9 Asheville

Wallace & Rogers Circus

Mar 7 Chowchilla, Cal.

9 Dos Palos

Miscellaneous

Polack Bros. Circus will be playing for the Shrine Club in Los Angeles, Calif. early in April.

The European magazine "Echo" has discontinued its monthly journal. The constantly rising prices were blamed for the cancellation of future issues.

De Wayne Bros. has their 1975 summer tour completely booked



Wondering who the above two people are? They are both the same man -- Lou Jacobs, famous Ringling-Barnum Circus clown.

Expects Big Season

Enthusiastic crowds were on hand for the 1975 opening performances of the International All Star Circus at Warner Robins (Ga.) on Feb. 12th. The circus, whose home-base is in Sarasota is produced by Nordmark & Hood Presentations, Inc.

"We are looking forward to an excellent season based on our promotions to date and the fact that 1974 was by far the best season in the show's nine year history," says General Manager Hines Rucker.

Owner-producer, Jim Nordmark reports the show will play more than 200 dates, covering 31 states. He added that over 55% of the dates are repeats

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and with the expanded 1975 route, new acts, trucks and other equipment was added in addition to a live band and bill car.

New Horse Show Ready To Bow

Two Michigan horse enthusiasts -- Clarence Hastings and Chuck Grant -- are producing the "Chuck Grant's Horse Capades" which will make its debut late this month at East Lansing, Mich. (March 29).



Clarence Hastings is shown here with his favorite horse, which he will ride in "Chuck Grant's Horse Capades".

The show will offer a pleasing exhibition of classical dressage and high school riding, featuring several accomplished men and women riders.

Hayes Ganiard, of Clarklake (Mich.) has been setting up dates for the show. They are planning to use circus-type music for many of the presentation features.

3-RING CIRCUS

The Moslem Shrine Circus, at Detroit (Mich) was produced by L. N. Fleckles. The big show band was directed by Al Youngman

Among the acts featured in this year's circus were:-

- William Golden - Hawthorne cats
- Fearless Bauers - high poles
- Flying Armors - flying act
- Flying Marilees - flying act
- Baron Von Uhl - wild animals
- Cuneo, Vidbel, Cristiani - circus elephants
- Berosini - orangutans
- The Columbians - high wire
- Miss Rosalee, La Bella Raquel and Miss Lisa - single traps
- The Zacchini Cannon number
- Happy Kellums and John McKay - producing clowns

SUIT SETTLED (Continued)

give up the tiger, until the full payment was made, he was sued in court. The suit charged that a price of \$16,000 had been agreed upon, and that the Baron had boosted his price to \$20,000.

After listening to both parties and studying the matter, a Detroit judge ordered Cuneo to pay Von Uhl \$20,000 for the unusual white tiger.

Upcoming Star

A young trampoline performer -- Ron Merriott -- is fast becoming one of the top stars in his field. Although he is only 13 years old, and an amateur, he has all the flair and showmanship of a "pro."

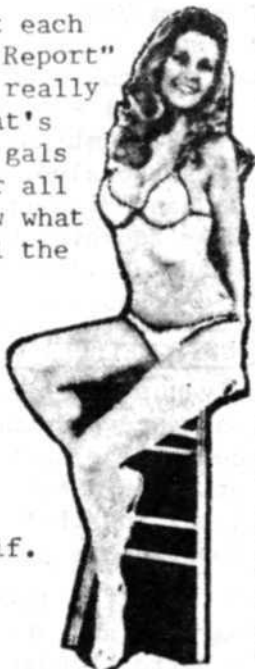
Last summer Ron won five gold medals and one silver medal in the world trampoline championships. He won in his own age group and then went on to win in the men's division. Just recently he won over the Russian men contestants during a U. S. tour.

.....Kevin Monahan

You'll find that each copy of "Circus Report" is exciting and really interesting. That's why all us show gals subscribe. After all you have to know what is happening all the time.

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Nice Dates

Some of the best dates ever booked were recently completed in Southern California by Allen's Pet Zoo, which is in the process of preparing for its annual summer tour. Despite the current economic conditions show owner Charlie Allen reports that 1975 bookings are well ahead of last year.

The zoo recently purchased a new Space Pillow direct from the factory in Iowa and a new Kiddie Ferris Wheel has been added to the show.

A Big Day

A huge turnout of people forced Fisher Bros. Circus to give three shows at Weslaco(Tex) on Feb. 17th. The first show was an early one, attended mostly by children who were enjoying a holiday from school.

The circus has all new canvas this season - big top, side show and cookhouse -- and looks real good. They have four attractive cages of animals, which are housed in the side show.

The program features: -- trained horses, elephant, llama, Ted Wilson's dogs; Joe Silverlake, aerialist and juggler; Diane on the aerial rope; Texas Tommy's ropes and guns and many other numbers.

.....C. C. Day

PEOPLE

CHARLES H. BENNETT, Jr., has moved to Wichita, Kans. He helped organize the Windjammers Unlimited group.

ELVIN BALE (aerialist) and JEANNETTE WILLIAMS (horse act) have been moved to RBBB's Blue Unit this year.

CLARK McDERMOTT and his dogs have been working clubs in the Los Angeles (Calif.) area.

DOROTHY HERBERT has sold her pony drill to ERNESTINE CLARK who will work it on the new Mid-American Circus.

GEORGE "Slim" LEWIS has authored an elephant story for the March 1975 issue of the National Humane Review.

PAUL FITZPATRICK and JOHN COOPER visited with several show friend on the RBBB Blue Unit at Atlanta, Ga.

PHIL SHEAR and JENNIFER LEMON are booking dates and doing promotional work for the Big John Strong shows.



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Wants Pets

Newlyweds Hale Smith (the King of the Hollywood Hobos) and Helen Liberty (wild animal trainer) are looking for an apartment where they can keep their strange pet animals. After their recent wedding in Las Vegas, the couple said they planned to live in Hollywood, but would need a place where they could keep their pet boa constrictor and leopard.

Smith won his title after he walked from Astoria, Oregon, to Britt, Iowa, the nation's hobo capital in 1971.

TO THE EDITOR

Certainly enjoy Circus Report each week with its gossip and information abouts shows and acts. It's indispensible!

..... Albert House

SHRINE CIRCUS (Continued)

an excellent finale.

Of course the Shrine Circus clowns were up to their usual pranks, with midget Ralph Williams, helping in every number. He's been clowning for 7 years and does a great job.

Jack Chapman, General Chairman, books all the acts for the Shrine Circus and also speaks on behalf of the Tripoli Shrine Circus. He kindly permitted me to take photos from the floor of the arena and my thanks to him for so many courtesies.

Looking Back to North Adams, Mass. - June 25-26, 1922

The Spark's World Famous Shows arrived here on a Sunday morning, coming in from Northampton (Mass). They have one train of 14 cars -- consisting of 4 horse cars, 6 flats, 4 sleepers, with 30 wagons, 6 of which are cages. Their animals include 6 elephants plus 4 camels and 8 ponies.

The tents are: 4 pole big top; 4 pole menagerie; 4 pole side show; 4 pole No. 2 side show; 3 pole dressing top; 4 pole dining tent; 1 pole cook-house; 1 pole blacksmith shop; three 5 pole horse tents; 3 small tents and one concession top.

The show colors are: wagon body, red, with yellow undergear and wheels; the flat cars are yellow while the other cars are red and yellow.

Show Visit

Members of the Roland C. Butler CFA Tent attended the big Paul Kaye Circus at Tucson (Arz) last month and really enjoyed the show.

While in Tucson we were the dinner guests of Dr. James A. Reilly and had a chance to visit with Jack and Ruby Landrus the retired clowns. Later they visited the circus and were warmly welcomed by all.

..... June Curry

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Many thanks to Stan and Kathy Kramien for their help and recommendations.

"It is nice to have friends like you."

.....Big John Strong



Starring
AMERICA'S
FAVORITE
MAGICIAN

BILL
BIRCHFIELD

CLYDE BEATTY (Continued)



(Continued Next Week)

CHURCH RALLY (Continued)

Once the building was filled to capacity, 85 Red Devil Shrine Clowns entered to provide clown skits and audience participation numbers. This was followed by musical numbers played on David Beck's air calliope by Mrs. Virginia Floyd (sister-in-law of Dr. Fitzpatrick). The big house organ was played by Mr. Bumpers of Columbus, Ga.

Members of the FSU Circus, from Florida, paid their own expenses to come and perform for the church sponsored event, and presented their complete circus. During intermission Rev. John Sharp (Honorary Ringmaster) led the audience in the singing of religious songs, and Rev. John Hazzar gave a brief message. This was followed by the distribution of a coloring book and Bible to every child in the audience, with some 180 Explorer Scouts assisting.

Professional photographer Mercer Sullivan donated his film and time to photograph the event. Serving as co-chairman of the day were Mr. and Mrs. Plunkett III, of IBM, while Mr. and Mrs. Swain contributed financial and other assistance for the church feature.

• • E. A. BARTLETT, old-time circus calliope player, who is now in his 80's, is still going strong at his home in Garber, Okla.