



# The CIRCUS REPORT



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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## Speaking of Money

The Paramount Theatre of the Arts (Oakland, Calif.) is \$18,450 richer thanks to an Aug. 23rd circus benefit program. The event was co-sponsored by the local paper and the Ringling-Barnum circus, and resulted in a sellout show.

The circus turned their check over to the theatre group on Aug. 27th, the largest amount ever donated for a sponsored circus performance.

## good stand

We had excellent business during our date at Auckland, N.Z., reports the Ridgeway Bros. Circus. The show gave only two performances each day -- 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with prices set at \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. Reserved seats were priced at an extra \$1.00 for adults and 75¢ for children.

The circus won some extra publicity when they sent a troupe of performers to entertain at the local hospital. At the circus itself, the

## Dangerous Height

A San Francisco (Calif.) newscaster suffered multiple fractures when he fell off an elephant in Oakland on Aug. 23rd. James Hamblin was riding an RBBB elephant in the show's parade of animals from the train to the coliseum when he tumbled from the elephant's back.

Hamblin was treated at a nearby hospital, where officials said he suffered fractures of the left wrist and left leg.

## clown school

The formation of a "Canadian Clown Institute" was announced last week by Ross Marshall, of the Canadian Circus Inc. Frank Varga, producing clown on the show, will serve as dean of the clown school.

The show's headquarters are in Kitchener, Ont., and the top graduates of the new school will be offered jobs in the circus.

program runs 2½ hours and features elephants, lions, clowns, dogs, ponies and monkeys.

## IN HAWAII...

"With all the new and impressive novelties....the traditional and timeless acts of the circus are still the best," says writer Vickie Ong of the Honolulu Advertiser. Her report on the Int'l Three Ring Circus was carried in the paper's edition of Aug. 11, 1973.

What hasn't changed, she says, are the scray-funny clowns, the tigers, chimps, horses and the circus pros who perform their daring feats

A tiger leaps through flaming hoops, a baby elephant rolls a barrel, then sits on its trainer and rings a bell for peanuts, and the horses gallop around, while the chimps offer a monkey-see, monkey-do number.

The human performers are the best of all, she says. Chester "Bo-bo" Barnett is an excellent pantomimist and his "battle of the bugles" is simple but fun.

The circus promised thrills, and it delivers with acts that make you hold your breath and say a silent prayer for the performer. All the while you're chewing on your nails and the palms of your hands are clammy.

The heart stopping moments are when a trapeze performer misses and falls to the net, when The Great Bruno stands atop his sway pole and when the Wallendas do their high wire stunts.

The circus presents the age-old problem -- which ring do you watch

## ★ HOXIE ★ BROS. CIRCUS

When Hoxie Bros. Circus played Keyport, N.J. (Aug. 18) they drew a 2/3 house for the matinee, reports Pat Bissonette. They have a good program, he adds, and it ran about 1½ hours.

The show is using a 160 ft. big top, completely round, which is of blue and white stripes. Seating is about 2,000 people. Three rings are set-up in a triangular pattern, with three stages on the outside of the perimeter.

They use an old-fashioned bally truck around town, have a good six piece brass band and feature a large clown alley. The color scheme for equipment is purple and white.

Clown Alley includes: Mike Bourbon, producing, with Jeremiah Wein-  
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### NOTE...

Send \$1.00 for 20 different circus tickets. Circus Memories Museum, Fryeburg, Maine - 04037.

when there's action in all three? Trampoline, juggling, tightrope dancers and comedians make the three rings a colorful kaleidoscope of entertainment.

The circus, says Vickie, is one that pleases everyone -- children and adults.

## Last Days

The season is over for Royal Bros. who closed their scheduled tour at Millwood, Canada on Sep. 1. Business, officials report, was good at every stand and everyone is looking forward to an even longer season next year.

Already plans have been announced for the expansion of the show. A new big top, a 70 ft. round end with three 40 ft. centers is planned. A new 42 ft. drop frame semi was recently bought in anticipation of the purchase of an elephant. In 1974 this unit and another semi, and another unit, still to be purchased, will be used for the side show front.

While playing at Perth, Ont. a rain storm threatened the big top, but boss canvasman Bob Rayburn, was able to keep everything under control. Incidentally, the top is the 60 ft. tent with two 30 ft. middles that was used as Hoxie's side show last season.

Near the end of the tour Corky Frazier joined the show. He served as clown and also balances chairs, tables and ladders on his chin. His daughter, Carole, worked swinging ladder and loop-the-loop, while his son, Bob, served as assistant elephant trainer.

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## Allentown report

by ROBERT D. GOOD

The Hanneford Circus played here at the fairgrounds in early August and have an excellent show. Big crowds were on hand for each performance and the weather was good too.

Peter Haubner is an excellent addition to the Hanneford Riding act. He makes every somersault look as if there was nothing to it.

Tommy and Struppi are also very good and have some fine animal acts. Incidentally, Mrs. George Hanneford, Sr., who is in her 80's, acted as ringmaster for the riding act.

• • • •

The Miller Johnson Circus was here too. They "sneaked" in and out of town with no advertising. Despite this they did good business, but it is a shame that more people don't know the show is in town. Less than 5% of our population knew they were here.

They played here without a tent and in a continual downpour of rain. This turned the lot into a sea of mud, yet despite this, they offered a pleasing performance.

HOXIE BROS. (Continued)

er, Art Rescigno, Bob Cardelli, Pede Cristiani, Pepe Young and Gerald Peltzwan. All are good and they have flashy costumes and a new number -- a spoof on the hair hang act.

Stuart Miller operates the side show, he is the opening talker, inside lecturer and then does Punch & Judy and magic.

# ROUTES

- Beatty-Cole Circus
  - Sep. 3 Peorie, Ill.
  - 4 Quincy
  - 5 Jacksonville
- Carson & Barnes Circus
  - Sep. 8 Louisville, Ky.
  - 9 New Albany, Ind
- Diamond "S" Wild West
  - Sep. 3 Allegen, Mich.
  - 8 Monroe
- Fisher Bros. Circus
  - Sep. 1 Benson, Ariz.
  - 3 San Manuel
- Hall's Circus Side Show
  - Sep. 7-15 Knoxville, Tenn
- Hoxie Bros. Circus
  - Sep. 3 Jackson, N.J.
  - 4 Princeton Jct.
  - 5 Matawan
  - 6 Bayonne
  - 7 Livingston
  - 8 Kearny
- Keye Continental Circus
  - Sep. 7-9 San Jose, Cal.
- King Bros. Circus
  - Sept. 3 Orion, Ill.
- Los Muchachos Circus
  - Sep. 6-9 Philadelphia, Pa
- Lewis Bros. Circus
  - Sept. 3 Lebanon, Va.
  - 4 Glade Springs
  - 5 Mt. City, Tenn.
- M & M Circus
  - Sept. 8 Baltimore, Md
- Miller Johnson Circus
  - Sept. 6 Mt. Clemens, Mich
  - Ambridge, Pa.
  - 8-30 New York, N.Y.
- Poleck Bros. Circus
  - Sept. 4-5 Sacramento, Cal
- Ringling - Blue Unit
  - Sep. 4-10 Seattle, Wash.
- Ringling - Red Unit
  - Sep. 5-9 Fresno, Calif.
- Royson Bros. Circus
  - Sept. 6 Social Circle, Ga
- Sells & Gray Circus
  - Sept. 3 Cazenovia, N.Y.
- John Strong Circus
  - Sep. 3-4 Wenatchee, Wash
  - 5 Off
  - 6-8 Vancouver, BC
  - 9-11 Renton, Wash.

# Who's Who

BILL SCHREIBER visited the Ringling Red Unit at Anaheim, Calif. on Aug. 18th and says they had a full house.

ROBERT GOOD visited with ROBERT MITCHELL when Hoxie Br. Circus played Coopersburg, Pa on July 14th.

FRANK HANNON (Ho Po, the Maine Clown) recently worked at the Altamont Fair in N.Y.

REX WILLIAMS will have his animals at some New York date this month for Don Francisco.

BOB and JANICE LANG are in Sheboygan, Wisc. awaiting the arrival of an addition to the family.

MAURICE ALTON, general sgt. for Garden Bros. Circus and PHILLIP MORRIS, magician, visited Royal Bros. Circus last week.

ED SMITH, a clown with the Great Y Circus (Redlands, Ca) has been accepted into RBBB's College for Clowns

THE FARFANS were working concessions for Ringling during the Los Angeles area date

PAULA BOELSON, teeterboard artist, recently worked in Hongkong and expects to be in Hawaii for some dates before coming back to the mainland.

LONI IRONBERG had her Key B. Circus at the El Cerrito, Calif. Plaza on Sept. 1st and gave four shows that day.

SID KELLNER visited the Ringling Barnum (Red Unit) show at its Oakland, Calif. date last week.

## Carnival Routes(Continued)

### Key City Shows

Sep. 3-8 Parsons, Tenn

# notes

A San Francisco, Cal. paper has been running a Want Ad for college students to sell circus tickets on the phone.

Hall's Circus Side Show has what has been called one of the most beautiful banner Line units of any show.

Fisher Price Toy Co. is advertising and marketing a new circus train, complete with animals and people.

A snafu on the Penn Central Railroad last month delayed the James E. Strates Show arrival at Clearfield, Pa.

Carden Johnson Circus draw good houses for their date at Roswell, N.M. on Aug. 11-12

The annual Renaissance Fair is currently underway in Novato, Calif. The show and fair is held weekends thru Oct. 8.

# SEARCH ON

A world-wide search has been launched by RBBB's Circus World for circus mementos, artifacts and personal souvenir items that can be placed in a time capsule at the Circus World site. Show officials say the capsule will be buried and is to be raised and opened 100 years after the facility is opened in 1975.

Irving Feld, president and producer of the circus, says they are seeking rare and unique items of all sorts, that are true circus.

"We would treasure mementos from circus lovers, and that includes just about everybody who has collected privately over the years. We offer contributors a touch of immortality, their possessions will be unearthed over a century from now. We are asking

5 Off

6-8 Vancouver, BC

9-11 Renton, Wash.

..... CARNIVAL ROUTES .....

Amusements of America

Sep. 6-16 Trenton, N.J.

6-15 Va. Beach, Va.

8-15 Roanoke Rps, NC

Ray Cammack Show

Sep. 3-8 Blackfoot, Idaho

4-8 Filer

Central States Shows

Sep. 6-9 Tawhuska, Okla

Childress Shows

Sep. 3-8 East Bend, N.C.

Continental Shows

Sep. 8-9 New Boston, N.H.

Cumberland Valley Shows

Sep. 3-8 Sparta, Tenn.

Diamond State Shows

Sep. 3-8 Heflin, Ala.

James H. Drew Shows

Sep. 3-8 Newport, Tenn.

Frankie's Amusements

Sep. 3-8 Edensburg, Pa.

Fun Fair Amusements

Sep. 3-8 Grt. Martins'le, Va

Carnival Routes(Continued)

Key City Shows

Sep. 3-8 Parsons, Tenn

Gene Ledel Shows

Sep. 5-8 Lawton, Okla.

Louden Amusements

Sep. 3-8 Ringgold, Va.

Mid-South Amusements

Sep. 3-8 Savannah, Tenn.

Mississippi Valley Shows

Sep. 3-8 Russellville, Ala

Moore's Greater Shows

Sep. 5-8 Cordell, Okla.

7-10 Pryor

Reid's Spectacular Shows

Sep. 5-9 Sandwich, Ill.

Rose City Rides

Sep. 5-8 Salem, Mo.

Royal Amusements

Sep. 3-8 Morganton, NC

United Fun Fair Shows

Sep. 3-8 Dublin, Texas

Ralph Wagner Shows

Sep. 5-9 Sequine, Texas

Wall Shows

Sep. 3-8 Malvern, Ark.

ability, their possessions will be unearthed over a century from now. We are asking people to share their valued circus items with future generations."

"We hope to fill our Circus World time capsule with circus memorabilia from every nation on earth."

Letters describing the items should be sent to: Circus World, 62 West 45th St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.



Send your news and the show routes now - we need them every week.

Don't forget to tell your friends about the paper too. It's only \$10.00 for the full year - a copy each week.

## "More Excitement Than We Need"

Circo  
Blue  
Star

Our trip from Tecate, Baja Cal. to Estacion Victoria (Mexico) was delayed when every piece of equipment became stranded on the highway. The problem, it turned out, was caused by fibers in the gasoline. This meant immediate repairs as the temperature went to 120 degrees. Then thanks to Attracciones Garcis (a carnival) we were able to get into town before dark.

At Victoria (Aug. 11-16) (the heart of a great agricultural area) the show was set up in the street, right in front of the police station. Business for the week was good and a new truck we recently bought finally caught up with us.

There are only two bridges that cross the Colorado River and we moved to Coahuila (Aug. 18) across the railroad bridge. You received a railroad ticket for a receipt, and the fare was 2 pesos (16¢ U.S.) for a car and 5 pesos (40¢ U.S.) for a truck and trailer. The temperature was 110 to 120 degrees and once at night it was 107 at midnight. Here too, the tent was set up in the downtown streets and business was good.

On Sunday morning (Aug. 19) the wind came up about one o'clock. We dropped the sidewall, the high wire and guyed out to the trucks. We babied that tent all night and by morning there were only minor tears in the canvas. In the afternoon it was hot and muggy, abnormal

for this area. Before show-time a storm passed to the east and west of us. Roofs, radio stations, trees and houses were knocked down in Victoria and San Luis (Mexico) and before the night was over damage was reported in Yuma, Ariz. and even in California's Imperial Valley.

The show started that night at 9 p.m. and by 10:25 it was starting to rain. We stopped the show at 10:30 and at 10:36 the wind stopped completely. At 10:37 there was a loud crack -- the tent was sucked up into the air, poles dropped, but the highwire rigging was still in place and now the tent was hanging over it. The high wire platform stuck up through the canvas and the balance poles were bent into "u's".

Then the wind began to blow and in minutes the center sections and one end of the top were nothing but bare ropes.

There had been no visible sign of fear until a nearby high tension wire started sending sparks into the air, frightening the children. Their screaming frightened the entire company.

The only other damage caused was a cracked windshield on the bear's truck, a broken quarter pole and a broken pane of glass in Big John Strong's popcorn machine. The quartz lights and even the flourescents didn't break. We put the lights, concessions and bear into a nearby garage, and because the mud was too sticky to walk on every one went to bed. In the morning we

(Continued on next page)



Business was good for Sells & Gray Circus at Ossipee, N. H. on Aug. 13th.

The show starts off with three wire acts, and features Dagmar Pedrola in the center ring. They have two good dog acts and an exceptional chimp act. This latter number even had a mother monkey in the routines, working with her baby hanging to her neck.

The Campa Sisters and their young brother do a fine unicycle act. Other big numbers include Regalito, the musical clown; the Saurez Troupe of riders; hair hang; aerial feats; tumblers; unsupported ladders, etc



We even met fan Ray Le Rouche, of Woonsocket, R.I., who is vacationing with the show as a clown. His two boys help in many of the clown numbers.

Between shows a birthday party was held for two girls in the Saurez Troupe and for a little baby on the show.

Just before the night show got started two bats got into the tent and caused a lot of excitement among the audience. They turned off the lights, solved the problem, and then got the show underway.

. . . .Paul Horsmann

#### HISTORICAL NOTE . . . .

Lottie Aymer was an equestrian with the Sig Sautelle Circus in 1897. She was a niece of Johnny Aymer, famous trapeze artist.

## Falling off the Road

Late last Tuesday (Aug. 28) four cars of a Southern Pacific train derailed and overturned on the main line track at Hayward, Calif.

All traffic moving north or south through the area was delayed for several hours. This included the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit train, which had to travel through that city on its way to San Francisco after winding up a date in Oakland.

## YEARS AGO

Back in 1894 the Great Wallace Circus changed its name to "Cook and Whitby's European Circus, Museum, Menagerie, Allied with the American Racing Association."

The show traveled on 24 cars, of which 7 were coaches, 5 stock cars, 11 flats and 1 elephant car. They were also using 2 advance cars.

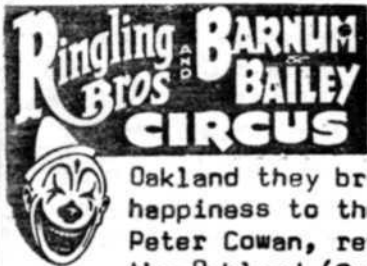
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### CIRCO BLUE STAR'S BLOWDOWN.....

found we still had the makings of a tent, that is a half of the tent.

On Monday (Aug. 20) a train crew stopped to see if our bear was OK. After 24 hours there is still no water and the only lights in the city are those working off John Strong's generator. It will be making electricity for our sewing machines and providing light for us to see so we can get this show back on the road. In the meantime we'll be playing in a sidewall arrangement as we make our new tent.

...Hms. Preciado Macias y Amigo



When the big Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey Circus came to

Oakland they brought a little happiness to the area, says Peter Cowan, reviewer for the Oakland (Calif.) Tribune

The opening night's stand was a benefit for the local Civic Theatre and with the paper's aid was a real sell-out.

It's still the greatest show on earth, says Cowan. It's big, its grand, its exciting and lavish. They have a thrill almost every minute, and are presenting some 26 acts, many going on at the same time. It's enough to make any one pair of eyes work overtime.

Gebel-Williams and Wolfgang Holz mair show why they must drive an insurance salesman out of his mind, he said, then added, "I found the aerial acts the most exciting. They include The Pilatus twins, Elvin Bale, Miss Isabella and the Vickels. Other great acts are also presented such as teeterboard numbers, who do some nice catching and really have balancing ability.

The elephants are comical, Cowan said, rolling their eyes and smiling, when they want to. There are clowns and parades and music and pageantry and a singing ringmaster, all of whom prove the spirit of the circus is still there, despite the concrete buildings they play in nowadays.