



POLACK CIRCUS

Wonder who is going to produce the annual San Francisco P K circus this year is a question that was being asked frequently on the west coast over the past several weeks. The answer surprised everyone for the show turned out to be under the direction of Sam Polack, with the help of Parley Beer. Miss Simone Finner was talent coordinator for the program.

This year's show drew less people than it had in the past. Other productions have pulled full houses for every performance, but the 1972 show filled the huge Cow Palace only twice for the five shows scheduled on Nov. 25 and 26. The rest of the performances were presented to fair-sized audiences.

The well organized band was under the direction of Allison Bell, while Parley Beer handling the announcing chores.

Acts featured on the show were:

- Miss Shiela - slide tar life
- William Golden - tigers
- The Paulos)
- The Noblites) - aerial cradle
- William Golden - tiger riding eleph't
- The Braytons - trampoline
- The Willetts)
- The Merlitts) - a@-
- Karl Winn " tong wire walk
- Miss Jan and baby elephant "Tina"
- Miss Beth and Allison - single trap.
- Brian Fawcett - chimps

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CFA meet set

Tentative dates were announced last week for the 1973 CFA Convention which is to be held in Seattle, Wash., hosted by the Jack Bell Tent.

The convention is being planned for Aug. 23-25 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday). This will be followed by a boat trip on Monday, Aug. 27th to Victoria, B. C.



The Convention circus will be Delways Bros. Circus, which will be playing at Mercer Island, Wash., on Aug. 23rd.

Additional details will be announced at a later date.

THAT NEW LAW

According to officials in Washington, D.C., the recently enacted animal law (Public Law 91-579) will not affect most circus people too much.

"The law and the regulations," says E. E. Saulmon, Deputy Administrator of Veterinary Services, for the Dept. of Agriculture, "have no provision for regulating the importation of animals into the United States, but do provide for humane care and handling after they are received in this country."

Three definitions from Section 3 of the new law are the ones that will prove to be of major interest to circus folks.

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Few Grizzly Bears

The total grizzly bear population in the western United States is less than 1,000.

COMING

There's news every day about the upcoming shows, watch for the latest news in The Circus Report

Animal Shows

The animal world is well represented in the Los Angeles area. In Palos Verdes Peninsula, the Marineland of the Pacific features four aquatic shows daily, featuring Corky and Orky, two whales. In the San Fernando Valley is Busch Gardens, a serene outdoor wonderland and rare bird sanctuary.

show visitors

Last weekend the Miller Johnson Circus and the San Francisco PAL Circus were playing close to each other, thus offering an excellent chance for show folks to visit back and forth.

Seen at the Miller Johnson Circus in Concord were: Bob Emrico, Wally Lee, Simone Finner, Parley Baer, Don Marcks, Bill Williams and Ernestine Clarke.

Enjoying the show at the PAL Circus in the Cow Palace were: Tom Upton, Wally Lee, Harold Barnes and family, Roland & Marcia, Sid Kellner, Don Marcks, Joe Colby, Adele Smeija and Tommy Bentley.

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new features

by ED MOTTA

Ringling's Red Unit sure did the business at the new building in New Haven, Conn. their closing stand.

I talked with most of the people on the show and must say there are going to be a lot of changes for the 1973 season. It should make for an interesting and exciting program.

There have been stories all year regarding Gunther Gebel-Williams' new act and I was able to see it early in the year. Also took several pictures of the presentation, too.

That new act will be a big feature, with an elephant, two horses and three tigers. The horses run around the ring, with the elephant in the middle and the tigers jumping off and on all of them. For the finish the tiger gets up on the elephant and Gunther sits on the tiger. Then they come out of the arena and ride around the hippodrome track.

This has got to be the greatest wild animal presentation ever offered to the public.

New Show

The newly organized Circus Royal (an Ashton Circus in Australia) opened its initial tour at Ulmarra, NSW on July 10th. Prior to that date the show was operating as the Ashton Circus, and a brief stopover was made at Grafton, where the show's title was changed.

All of the show equipment is blue with white trim, and each unit features a global map with a royal crown as a motif. The advance department is headed by Vic and Dorothy Hoare. The show's program director is Frank Gasser, who has promised a complete line-up of the acts as soon as the show has settled down to a smooth operation.

The August show dates included: Aug. 4 Brisbane; 7 and 8 Tarragindi; 9 and 10 Inala; 11 and 12 Fairfield and 14 to 19 Brookside.

FSU SHOW

An active winter and spring season has been scheduled for the "Flying High" Circus, reports Robert Donnelly, assistant show director. May 1973, he adds, will mark the 26th annual Home Coming shows at the University.

The circus, says Donnelly, is a major factor in extra curricular activities at FSU, and has proved to be an excellent means of advertising the university. Most of the students participating in the show do so on their own time. They do all of the work -- setting up, rigging, etc. -- in addition to the performing.



The circus has been featured on many TV shows over the past several years, and as a result has gained a national

reputation. This coming weekend (Dec. 9) the circus will be featured on the TV program "Wide World of Sports." The 30 minute special was filmed this past summer at the Callaway Gardens in Georgia.

The show's 1972-73 road tour is:

- Oct. 14 - Atlanta, Ga.
- 26 - Pensacola, Fla.
- Mar. 3 - Mayport, Fla.
- Apr. 16 - Minneapolis, Minn.
- Dothan, Ala.
- West Palm Beach, Fla.
- May 4-5 and 11-12 Tallahassee, Fla.

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NOTES

The John Strong Circus played the May Co. parking lot for its Dec. 1-3 date at San Diego, Calif.

Stanford University claims to have taught a chimp to communicate with its keeps via sign language.

The George Matthews Circus reportedly has a two week season for the winter which starts in mid-February.

Ringling-Barnum's new train for the Red Unit will be ready to roll in about three to four weeks. Then the old Red Unit train will go to Barnum City or into Tampa, Fla. according to eastern news sources.

The Oakland, Calif. Zoo currently has six baby lions on display.

A San Francisco Grand Jury has recommended that a special group be set up to operate the city's zoo.

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POLACK CIRCUS (Continued from Page 1)

- Ronritas - Aerial wheel
- Klausers Bears
- The Flying Artons
- Miss Astra - Sponge dive
- The Wilers and Sen. Morales - balance
- The Edwards - Table Rock
- John Cuneo - elephants
- Karl Winn Troupe - aerial motorcycle
- Senor Antonio - trapeze balance

The circus featured six clowns, headed by Laurence Cross and Billy Leland. Their routines were: The long shirt, water gag, toothache and bird magic.

clowns

by
Arthur B. Maurice

it is in times of storm and stress that the laugh maker is most needed. It was when the clouds threatening the very existence of England were darkest that London turned nightly to Joseph Grimaldi in "Mother Goose" and, witnessing his antics, forgot for the time being the grim shadow of Napoleon. Grimaldi was at his greatest when the nation needed him most. Then it was that he drew crowded houses at Covent Garden. Posterity may think of that sad-faced man who played so many parts, and who toward the end of his life



forced laughter when his own heart was breaking, as a mere clown; but the great Charles Dickens was proud to edit his life.

Appearing first on stage when he was less than two years old, Joseph Grimaldi had been born to the stage. His paternal grandfather was an eminent dancer who played on many stages in France and Italy and who was known as "Iron Legs." Joseph's father, who was born in Genoa, went to England in 1760 as a dentist to Queen Charlotte. But only for a time did he confine his attention to the royal teeth. Soon he was teaching dancing and fencing, and occasionally appeared on the stage in a clown's part. Later he was appointed ballet master at Drury Lane Theatre, a post he held for many years.

In addition to being ballet master he shared in many performances. He played the part of the Shipwrecked Mariner in the pantomime of Robinson Crusoe when his son Joseph, who was born in London on Dec. 18, 1779, made his first bow to an audience as the Little Clown. The child was then just one yr. and 11 months old, and was already a regular member of the company at Sadler's Wells Theatre, being usually cast in the arduous part of a little monkey.

For practically all his life Grimaldi was on the boards, and his name was
(Continued on Page 6 - Column 2)

PEOPLE

CHARLEY ALLEN had his petting zoo at the Park & Shop Center in Concord, Cal. last week.

JOHN W. BELL, of the Jack Bell CFA Tent at Seattle, Wash., suffered a stroke on Nov. 17th and was confined to a hospital.

JOHN HERRIOTT will have his animal acts on the Ringling Blue Unit in 1973. He was featured on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade TV program.

THE LESSELLI PUPPETS will be at the Bay Terrace Theatre in Vallejo, Calif. on Dec. 10th.

TIM COONEY, clown, and THE CASSIDY SISTERS are among those going to Puerto Rico for a seven week winter circus.

BILLY SHEETS is routing the Clark & Walters Circus during its final days of the 1972 season. They plan to close in Texas on Dec. 10th.

ELOISE BERCHTOLD and H. MORGAN BERRY visited the Miller Johnson Circus during the show's Seattle, Wash. stand.

THE KOBALT TWINS (acrobats) will perform at the Walnut Creek (Calif.) Manor for a holiday program on Dec. 18th.

BOB EMRICO was working props last weekend for the San Francisco PAL Circus at the Cow Palace.

LAURENCE CROSS, semi-retired clown, now lives in Pittsburg, Calif. with his daughter and her family.

MANFRED DUVAL reports he is taking his act to Europe next year. It will be a completely new routine, he says.

VELMA LOWRY writes that some 25 people attended her recent CFA dinner program and open house.

KEN MAYNARD was admitted to the Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital last week. Officials declined to say what was wrong with the former circus star, but said his condition seemed satisfactory.

THE SLOANS, stilt walkers, who have been on the Ringling Red Unit, will be working some advertising promotions in 1973 instead of traveling with the show.

YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - Aug. 12, 1915

The Miller Bros. & Arlington 101 Ranch Show arrived here today from Holyoke at about 6 a.m. They have one train of ten flat cars, seven horse cars, seven sleepers and 34 wagons and an auto.

The flat cars and horse cars are yellow, while the coaches and advance cars are red, green and yellow. Some of the wagons are red and some are yellow, the general admission ticket wagon is white and the reserved seat ticket wagon is red.

The parade was started at noon time and drew a big crowd. They have:

Indian and cowboy
 Four Indians
 Joseph C. Miller
 Coach - two horses
 Outrider
 Cowboy Bill Caress
 Tab wagon - eight horses
 Outrider
 Four indians
 Outrider
 Tab wagon - six horses
 Five Indians
 Tab wagon with steer - six horses
 Five cowboys
 Tab wagon - six horses
 Four Indians
 Tab wagon - eight horses
 Eleven cowgirls
 Stagecoach - six mules
 Four cowboys
 Tab wagon - eight horses
 Caledion Band
 Four Indians
 Wagon - four horses
 Indian group
 Outrider
 Tab wagon with buffalo - eight horse
 Four cowboys
 Tab wagon - colored band - 8 horses
 Three horse tandem
 Two cowgirls
 Outrider
 Prairie schooner - four horses
 Four Cossacks
 Calliope - six horses
 Both the afternoon and night shows

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had good crowds and a good show was given. In the concert they had Jess Willard.

The lot was small so the big arena was cut down somewhat.

The side show has: Al Mastiff, with Punch & Judy; Hans and Gretchen Schneider, tango midgets; Mme. A. Schulti, the giant; Steve Brown and Hilda, handcuffs; Geo. Devere, tattooed man; Homer Herrick juggler; Feltona, bag puncher and the Minstrels.

The Six-in-one show had: May-Joe, a three legged child; Capt. Claude, midget Samson; Jolly Amelia, fat lady; and the Kokomo Twins.

There is also a separate show for the snakes.

The cookhouse and horse tents were down about 6:30 p.m. and the side shows were loaded before the big show was over. Everything was down and loaded by midnight and the train left here at 1 a.m. for Albany.

ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus
 Dec. 4 Tarpon Springs, Fla.
 5 Clearwater
 6 Lakeland
 7 Winterhaven
 8-10 Orlando
 -- Season Ends --

Key Bros. Circus
 Dec. 10 San Francisco, Calif.

Miller-Johnson Circus
 Dec. 4-5 Salt Lake City, Utah
 -- Season Ends --

Pittsburgh Police Circus
 Dec. 6-10 Pittsburgh, Penna.

RUDY Bros. Circus
 Dec. 7-8 Bakersfield, Calif.
 9-10 Richmond

John Strong Circus
 Dec. 4-5 Santa Ana, Calif.
 6 Off
 7-9 Bakersfield
 10 Off

HISTORICAL FACT

Women members of Yankee Robinson Circus in 1916 were:

Daisy Backman, contortionist; Mona MacDhu, iron jaw; Gene MacDhu, iron jaw; Maud Hickey, trapeze; Kate Smith, dogs; Jewel Lloyd, horses; Ruth Weigle, iron jaw; Rena Wingert, iron jaw/trapeze

HISTORICAL FACT

The Hollis Riding act of 1935 consisted of: Melvin Hollis, Bessie Hollis, Flo McIntosh, Helene Rogers, Pat Knight.

The act appeared on the Barnett Bros. Circus.

CLOWNS (Continued from Page 4)

familiar to all theatre-going people of his time. In an age when social barriers were more rigid, and the pursuit of the theatre in any form was held to be somewhat ignoble, he knew many of England's great men. Lord Byron was his friend, and just before the poet started for Greece on that journey from which he was not to return he presented the clown with a snuff box which Grimaldi always treasured as one of his most precious relics.

Grimaldi's fame reached its height in the production of "Mother Goose". It was first played at Covent Garden Theatre on the evening of Dec. 26, 1806, and ran for 92 nights, the remainder of the season. That fame stayed with him until his death on May 31, 1837.

But happiness passed: His last years were clouded. His health gave way. With his beloved wife and wild son dead he continued to make grimaces while his own heart was breaking. He did not live to see his last ambition, which was to have his memoirs published. Perhaps his spirit found content in the knowledge that Dickens edited them.