

America's Favorite Circus Weekly


Volume 3

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Number 5

new owner

The answer to a question being asked by everyone was announced last week by the Associated Press. That report, made public in the midst of Congressional hearings into oil company profits, was that a Gulf Oil Co. subsidiary - Venture Out in America - had purchased the Ringling-Barnum Circus and Circus World Park in Florida.



The name of the new show owner was disclosed at about the same time that oil company executives were testifying before a special Congressional Committee. All of the men, including Z. D. Bonar, of Gulf Oil Co. reported their company's profits were down and that income was being plowed back into the firm to keep in business. This led one government official to question Gulf's purchase of the circus, at a time when they claimed low profits and were seeking an increase in the price of their fuel products.

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NOT SO.....

The reported sale of Clyde Bros.' Blue Unit is just a rumor, says show owner Howard W. Suesz. It is one of those show business gossip things, he adds, and we hope you'll ignore it.

Both the Red and Blue Units will feature new people this year, and the program will offer some of the finest acts available. We will have our regular staff of officials to direct the shows on another successful tour.

The Red Unit opens for a three week engagement in Chicago on March 6th, playing for the Medinah Shrine Temple. The Blue Unit will open at Tulsa on March 14, for Akdar Shrine Temple.

Mr. Suesz says some competitors claim they have taken many of our best dates -- we just say that we are glad that they have nothing more to do than talk. We, on the other hand are busy getting ready to be the best yet.

Sawdust Trail

Plans are well underway in Peru (Ind) for the "Circus City Festival" on July 17-20, with a circus parade on July 20th. Additional shows are set for July 12-13.

Jon Friday, of Sells & Gray Circus was mentioned favorably in a White Tops feature on Dr. Chas. Boas of Circus Kirk.

This reporter understands that Mary Gill, aerialist injured in a fall at Ottawa, has fantastic bills piling up. Those wishing to help should contact: Rev. Newell Graham, St. Wilfred's Church, 3773 Wilkinson St., Sarasota, Fla.

The Jan.-Feb. 1974 issue of "Holiday Inn" magazine has two pages on RBBB's Circus World Park. Copies probably can be obtained from your local Holiday Inn.

Recorded history shows the first exotic animal to arrive in America was a lion in Boston in 1716. The first real zoo was founded at Philadelphia in 1874.

Being a clown and circus fan has its advantages. Several weeks ago while trying to book myself as a clown, into a new mall, I was

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people

JIM DOUGLAS, JERRY LEIBY and DON BIRDWELL (Clowns) will be with the M&M Circus at Rochester, N.Y. this month.

SKIP DOYLE, owner of Circus Towne (Twin Mt. N.H.) recently underwent brain surgery. Send cards to him at: Columbia Neurological Institute, 710-168th St., West, New York, N.Y. - 10032.

DAR ROBINSON, strut man, was in San Francisco on Jan. 24th making a series of test dives for the local fire department.

STUART MILLER reports his magic show has been doing very well. He played Pawtucket, R.I., on Feb. 1-2, where his leopard "Satan" was a big hit.

HARRY THOMAS, tiger trainer, was the subject of a feature story in the Jan. 20th issue of the Dallas Morning News.

ANDRE SCARBECKI, animal trainer, has joined Clyde Bros. Circus, where he will present a tiger act and work elephants.

V. H. RICHARDSON, of Springfield, Ill., has been spending the winter in Texas, where he is visiting with show folks.

asked to provide a "blimp" for an advertising program. After a check with AB and some phone calls it was possible to obtain a 30 foot "blimp" for the businessman.

..... M. L. Dupont

GAS TROUBLE

The Happytime Circus opened its 1974 season with an indoor date at San Jose, Calif., for the Campfire Girls. The show drew well and several visitors attended from Butler's Amusements and W. D. (Sparky) Washburn.

We made the date alright, says owner Dave Twomey, but had some trouble getting gasoline for our trucks. We found only one station open between our home at Windsor and San Jose, a distance of 120 miles.

In the San Jose area many gas stations are closed, and those that are open limit each sale to 5 or 10 gallons. We waited from 25 to 35 minutes at two stations to get the gas tanks filled on each of our trucks. Most of the station men said they wouldn't sell gas in cans.

finale

Luciano Joseph Loyal, son of Alfonso and Lelia Loyal, bareback riding act on Fisher Bros. Circus. He was killed in an accident while driving a show truck loaded with rigging, on Jan. 2nd near Alice, Texas.

Survivors include his parents and a sister Mrs. Luciana Loyal Roseles.



VANISHING ACT

A clown's magical equipment and animals did an unexpected disappearing act at St. Louis, Mo., on Jan. 25th, according to an Associated Press release.

Police said someone stole a station wagon, owned by Father Nick Weber, a professional clown with a traveling circus. Sometime later the station wagon was recovered, but the animals and equipment had all disappeared.

notes

"Aquri", a 15 yr. old elephant with Bell Bros. Circus, of Mexico, died at Pueblo on Jan. 19th and was treated to a circus funeral in that city.

Carson & Barnes Circus has sold two of its elephants to a show in Mexico.

Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit is going to play for about 20 days at the Exposition in Spokane, Wash., late this year.

Circus Towne in N.H. reportedly drew 22,000 people last year.

NEW OWNER (Cont'd from Page 1)

For several years the circus has been owned by Mattel, Inc. who has been suffering financial losses in the toy field. Neither Mattel nor Gulf Oil would disclose the purchase price. One spokesman for Mattel said his firm as a whole was not involved in the circus sale.

routes

Hubert Castle Circus

Feb. 6-10 Memphis, Tenn

Circus Vargas

Feb. 3-4 Pensacola, Fla

6-8 Tampa

9-12 Seminole

Cole All Star TV Circus

Feb. 4 Tioga, Pa.

5 Wellsville, NY

6 Jamestown

7 Shinglehouse, Pa

8 Almond, NY

9 Canisteo

10 Enroute

11 Wayland

12 Fillmore

Hubler's Int'l Circus

Feb. 16-17 Franklin Hts, O

Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit

Feb. 5-10 Greensboro, NC

Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit

Feb. 8-10 Venice, Fla.

Royal Lipizzen Stallion Shw

Feb. 5-6 Augusta, Ga.

7 Savannah

9-10 Nashville, Ten

Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show

Feb. 4 Statesboro, Ga

5 Eastman

6 Hawkinsville

7 Marietta

8 Carrollton

9 Lanett, Ala.

10 Dothan

11 Bainbridge, Ga

12 Thomasville

Wonderful World of Magic

Feb. 10 Jackson, N.J.

16 Bordentown

..... OTHER ROUTES

Arkansas Fair Mgrs. Assoc.

Feb. 4-5 Hot Springs, Ark.

Country in New York Show

Feb. 9 New York, NY

Peggy Fleming Ice Show

Feb. 4-8 Seattle, Wash.

Holiday on Ice

Feb. 5-10 Cincinnati, Ohio

Ice Capades

Feb. 5-10 Champaign, Ill.

Peter Pan Show

Feb. 5-17 Detroit, Mich.

Southwest Int'l Rodeo

Feb. 5-10 El Paso, Texas

NOTE

The following advertisement was used by Polack Bros. Circus for its Oakland, Cal. date in 1941.

CIVIC AUDITORIUM
 THURS. 8 T THURS. 15
 MAY 9 MAY
 MATS. EVERY DAY
 EXCEPT OPENING DAY
 IRLAN TEMPLE PRESENTS
POLACK BROS
CIRCUS
& THRILL SHOW
 3500 GOOD SEATS PLUS
 ALL SHOWS 50c TAX
 Reserved and Admission Tickets
 Now on Sale at ORANGE BOX OFFICE,
 285 POWELL ST. PHONE SU. 4520

SHOW talent

Acts being featured on the new Circus Vargas include:

Sensational Parker - sway-pole act

Pat Anthony - wild animals

Armon Duo - aerial cradle

Glenn Randall - horses

Chari Vari - tumblers

Prof. Shappi - comedy piano

Great Vashek - high wire

Semon's chimps

Michelle Dobritch - trapeze

Rogina - balancing

Hassani Troupe - tumbling

Harry Thomas - tigers

Wally Ross - elephants

The Flying Farias - trapeze

Naughtin's bears

The Villims - juggling

Vashek Duo - aerial motor.



CFA MEETING

The annual Delavan Mid-Winter Circus Social was held at the Colonial Hotel in Delavan, Wisc., on Jan. 19th. Because of the gas situation attendance was only about half of what it has been in previous years.

Among the things discussed at the meeting were the Tripoli Shrine Circus at Milwaukee on Feb. 19-24 and the opening of the Circus World Museum on May 11th. The regular banquet is planned for that evening.

Those attending the Circus Social were: Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Yardon, Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Lange, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rihak, all of Delavan; Mr. & Mrs. George Huntley, Mr. & Mrs. Lyle Juneau, of Rockford, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Cowen, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Gebert, of Oshkosh; Charles Brinckley, Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Dyer, of Elgin, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Iving Rosensteen, of Flossmoor, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Jurewicz, of Tinley Park, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Stekly, of Chicago, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Herman Brandmiller, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr. & Mrs. Selwyn Savage, of Barrington, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Church, of West Allis, Wisc.; W. O. Winston, of Milwaukee, Wisc.; Mrs. Florence B. Walsh, of Hales Corner, Wisc.; Gary Buggs, of Edgerton, Wisc.; Eugene Lee, of Whitewater, Wisc.; Steve Seipp, of Baraboo, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Eugene La Pointe, of Prairie du Chien, Wisc.

(Continued on last page)

From Here and There

.... by
ERIC WILSON

King Bros. Circus, based in Deland, Fla., plans a March 9th opening. Harry Rawls, Gen. Mgr., has left his Hugo, Okla. home for Florida to help in preparing for the upcoming season.

Carson & Barnes, of Hugo, Okla. has a new big top on order and D. R. Miller is buying 10 new elephants. Last year the show traveled 15,297 miles during its March 18 to Oct. 28 tour.

"A Tribute to Merle Evans" was the title of two performances by the Sarasota, Fla., concert band. The veteran ex-RBBB bandmaster conducted the city band before two capacity crowds at the Van Wezel Hall of Performing Arts. Additional participants in the program were Karl Wallende and Emmett Kelly, both residents of Sarasota.

PLANS ARE SET

Fisher Bros. Circus is ready to open its 1974 season at Alamo, Tex on Feb. 23rd, just three miles from winterquarters. The show will offer a new performance this year, under a new top, with several new pieces of rolling equipment in use

Read full details of this show and its plans in next week's issue of Circus Report.

by HARRY L. KINGSTON

Texas was not kind to Circus Vargas, at least not at Beaumont (Jan. 25), where heavy rains preceded the show. It was a long jump from Arlington and several trucks broke down en-route.

The Circus was to have set up on the Motorama Speedway, but the ground was completely under water. Thus the show set-up in the area between the grandstand and race track, a space about 20 ft. by 200 ft.

This space didn't even permit them to use ring curbs. A plywood platform was constructed and the acts worked on it or either side. The old adage "the show must go on" was certainly proved at this spot.

In addition to the sea of mud, show people had to combat a strong cold wind and heavy fog. However, they gave two performances and the people certainly got their money's worth.

Show owner, Cliff Vargas, was out in the mud with the rest them, helping to get things up and going. He even drove a truck in from the previous stand. Mr. Vargas gives the Circus Fan the run of the show and cannot do enough for you.

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by JOE K. VARNADO

Extremely bad weather made it difficult for Circus Vargas to set up at Beaumont, Texas on Jan. 25th. They played at the Motorama Speedway, about 10 miles from town, and not too many people attended the performances.

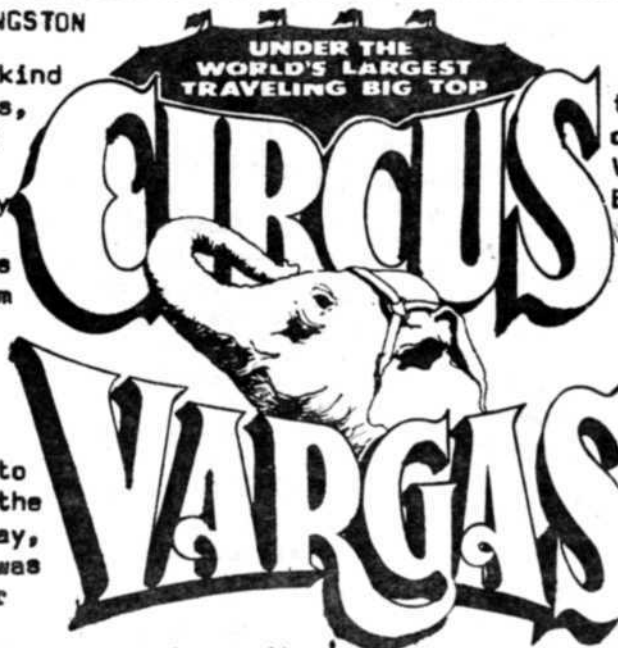
Some of the show and the big top were sent on to Baton Rouge since it was impossible to use them here.

The local performance included aerial acts, ground numbers and some of the animals, plus the clowns. In fact only five elephants were used, while the rest of the herd was kept in their trailers.

YEARS AGO

The Burgess Menagerie and Museum, which played at Brockville, Ont. in Canada on June 9, 1832 featured:

An African elephant, 2 lions, 2 tigers, 2 llamas, 2 camels, a South American cougar, a North American Panther, several occlots, 2 Shetland ponies, plus a cage of trained lions.



WEDDING DATE

Plans for a big top wedding were announced last week by circus musician Dick Cross and Jo Ann Arnold, both of Sacramento, Calif.



The wedding will be held in the center ring of the Happytime Circus on Feb. 16th. The happy event is scheduled for approximately 5:15 p.m. and follows the circus' final performance that day at the Cloverdale (Calif.) Citrus Fair.

Dick Cross is well known to west coast horse people and circus fans and show owners. He has been organist on many of the west coast shows and circuses, and is the regular musician for the Arabian Horse Association.

Letters

Congratulations on your mighty fine Christmas edition. I'm sorry I didn't get my Greeting in, but you can bet I'll do so in plenty of time next year.

..... Ray Bertram

Renew my subscription at once for I enjoy Circus Report immensely. Hope you keep up the good work

..... Clark McDermott

BUYS BULLS

The purchase of several elephants during the month of January was announced last week by Circo Italy, of Mexico. The show, reportedly owned by Franco Richards, now has a herd of eight elephants.

According to the report the purchases included:

Ted, Kelley and Trixie - all from Dorey Miller.

Ellie - the former James Bros. Circus elephant

Bea, Gyp and Frieda - from the Beatty-Cole Circus.

About two years ago Mr. Richards purchased a male elephant by the name of "Diamond" from Gene Holter.



The Circus Report is still only \$10.00 for a year - a copy every week. So order your copy without delay.

Write to:
Don Marcks
525 Oak Street
El Cerrito, Cal.

CIRCUS VARGAS (Continued)

This date was not sponsored, and the show used plenty of newspaper advertising and window cards well in advance. As a result one had to get his show tickets about an hour ahead of time in order to get into the grandstand.

people

FRANK MANNON (Ho-Po, the Maine Clown) will work for Don Francisco with the Pan American Circus when the show plays Whiteplaine, N.Y.

COL. LUCKY LARABEE, circus announcer, recently bought himself a sailboat and has been spending a considerable amount of time at sea

BERT PETTUS is not touring this season. He is staying at Malakoff, Texas (Box 315).

LARRY RUCKER is working out a new routine for the Don Johnson elephants. He has also added a goat act to his own show numbers.

THE MORELOS BROS., owners of Circus Beckman, in Mexico, will be touring with Carson & Barnes Circus this summer.

HISTORICAL FACT

The Quick & Mead Circus of 1826 reportedly operated on a daily expense of \$25 to \$40.

The show carried a 50 ft round big top traveled on a boat and was featuring Levi J. North, equestrian plus Mr. French, a bareback rider

CFA MEETING (Continued)

Mr. & Mrs. Walter H. Hohenadel, of Rochelle, Ill.; Mr. & Mrs. Joe Orth, of Kenosha, Wisc.; Mr. & Mrs. Bob Parkinson, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Ganger, Maida K. Bergner, all of Baraboo, Wisc.

.... George H. Huntley