



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

Volume 3

March 11, 1974

Number 10

3 Show Units for J. Strong

In a complicated series of route schedules, John Strong is putting three shows on the road this season. As a result he will be in direct competition with himself at several cities, including such important stands as Albuquerque, Oklahoma City, Kansas City and Tucson.

The Big John A. Strong Indoor Circus, with Betty Wendany and Ruth Strong directing its activities, opened on March 7th at Oxnard, Calif. This show will play the west coast until June 8th, when it moves into the fair circuit. Some of the acts on the unit will be: The Wendany Family acrobats; Bill Birchfield, illusions; Sperry, the clown; Howard Johnson's elephants and Tom Hanford, organist.

The 1869 Circus opened at Simi, Calif. on March 9-10 and is playing under canvas. It has Phil Sheer working ahead of the show, with Bob and Marie Rawls, and Steve Baker, featured on the show. The circus is using a big
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Talent Search

Irvin Feld, and his son Kenneth, producers of the Ringling-Barnum shows, left the U.S. on March 4th, for an extensive talent tour of Europe. They are planning to visit circuses in Hungary, Bulgaria, France, Rumania, Austria and Poland, as well as most of the other nations in Europe.

Each year the Felds make a world search for new circus talent. Previous trips have resulted in the discovery of Gunther Gebel-Williams, animal trainer; Richu, the world's smallest man; Gran Picasso, juggler and the Samels, wild animal trainers.

SHOW

The 1974 season will get underway for Bale's Buckeye Society Circus with two performances at Alliance, Ohio, on Mar. 23rd. The circus, which will be presented in the Marlinton High School Gym, will be presenting shows at 3 and 7:30 p.m.

Featured in this year's program, reports Bill Bale, will be The Balancing Bentons, Hal Haviland, and his dogs and ponies, Dianne Wilson's trained seals, The Cyclonians, Terini, and his famous European paper tearing act, and The Battle of the Magicians. Charles Van Buskirk will serve as ringmaster of the circus, while Emil Hahn has been engaged as the show's musical director.

NOTE

The clown balloon on the address side of today's issue is the design used by Qualatex balloons in all their advertising.

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finale

Mrs. J. Beardsley, passed away at Madison, Wisc. on Feb. 4 after a series of heart attacks. Her husband is a well known circus fan and dealer in circus materials.

Lyle Chappell, former circus trapeze performer and clown, passed away on Feb. 25th at Fairbury, Nebr. He also worked the high wire and trained dogs, and had traveled with Campbell Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus

Max Schaffer, died in February of a heart attack, in New York City. For years he operated Hubert's Museum, which included a Flea Circus.



A NICE ONE

We enjoyed the Caltech Circus last month, writes Del Wentworth. It was a good show.

John Strong was there with his chimp, which does a nice act. His daughter Sandy, presented her trained pigeons, while Linda worked the elephant. Little John did a nice job of juggling hats, etc., and Heidi Wendany worked the dogs.

They had about seven model displays, along with the circus, and Bob MacDougall had his circus material set up there too.

'74 SHOW ACTS

Show acts currently working with the Hubert Castle Circus include:

Joseph Hartman - wild animals
 The Delaneys - aerial cradle
 Frank & Estrellita - cradle
 Aerial Stellars - swinging pr
 Anden's French Poodles
 Hiller & Geraldine - riding
 Great Segura - bounding rope
 The Olmedas - cyclists
 Wallace Diehl - elephants
 The Kenners - Diano's eleph.
 Ray Grant - illusions
 The Patricks - role bols
 The Zavattas - unsup. ladder
 The Pablos - perch pole
 The Rigettis - unsup. ladder
 The Bisbinis - unsup. ladder
 The Smaha Family - horses
 La Norma - single trapeze
 Flying Valentines - flying
 Lee Marx - juggling
 The Nandos - comedy hats
 Pat Davison & Gwen - juggling
 Sebrine & Francerro - trapeze
 Yolanda & Miss Rebecca - trap
 Anita and Belinda - web
 Willy Lenz - chimps
 The Carlos Twins - equilib.
 The Kolmedys - balancing
 The Almandis Troupe - teeter.
 Bounding Marlins - trampoline
 Zoppe Troupe - riding act
 Great Boros - breakaway pole

Staff for the show includes:

Hubert Castle - owner/manager
 Cleo Plunkett - ringmaster

SHRINE SHOWS

Information on several big sponsored shows, produced last week, reached Circus Report too late for the March 4th issue. If readers visited any of the shows we'd like a report on them, or at least a list of the acts who worked the dates.

The show dates were:

Feb. 28 - Odessa, Texas -
 a Shrine sponsored circus

Mar. 1-3 - Allentown, Penna
 - a Shrine sponsored circus

Mar. 5-10 Kansas City, Mo.
 - a police sponsored circus

NOW AVAILABLE

Facilities for boarding hoof stock

Charlie Allen, P. O. Box 91,
 Pixley, Calif. - 93256.

Phone: (209) 757-3501

Clement Toca - band leader
 M. E. Plunkett - bass props
 Pablo Martinez - head rigger
 Merle Gilbert - electrician
 Frank Krumenacher - adv. sale
 Bob Dunham - general repre.

Clown Alley is headed by
 Rex Young and features: Sandy
 Young, Lee Marx, Jimmy Armstrong
 James Plunkett, Jeffrey Plunkett

Band regulars include the
 Toca family, with Clement directing,
 his wife, Elizabeth on the organ,
 son Greg on drums and daughter,
 Debbie, on bass.

ROUTES

Allen's Petting Zoo
Mar. 13-17 Oxnard, Calif.

Hubert Castle Circus
Mar. 11-12 Salem, Oregon
14-23 Dayton, Ohio

Circus Verges
Mar 11 Opelika, Ala.
12-13 Montgomery
14-15 Jackson, Miss.
16-17 Shreveport, La

Cole All Star TV Circus
Mar 11 Sherburne, N. Y.
12 Morris
13 Otego
14 Gloversville
15 Waterville
16 Enroute
17 Oriskany
18 Canastota

Dailly Bros. Circus
Mar. 16-17 Gonzales, Tex.

Great Moscow Circus
Mar. 15-24 Adelaide, Aust.

Hamid-Morton Circus
Mar. 12-17 St. Paul, Minn

Hubler's Int'l Circus
Mar. 14-17 Youngstown, Ohio

King Bros. Circus
Mar. 11 Leesburg, Fla.
12 Cross City
13 Live Oak
14 Tallahassee
15 Dothan, Ala.

Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit
Mar. 12-25 Baltimore, Md.
(Civic Center)

Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit
Mar. 13-17 Charleston, W. Va
(Civic Center)

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show
Mar. 12-13 Dothan, Ala.
15 Chattanooga, Tenn
16-17 Atlanta, Ga.

Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show
Mar. 11 Myrtle Beach, S.C.
12 Cerro Gordo, N. C.
13 Lumberton
14 Clinton, S. C.
15 Roenoke Rapids, N.C.
16 Hopewell, Va.
17 Culpepper
18 Warrenton
19 Woodbridge

Sells & Gray Circus
Mar. 9 De Land, Fla.
10 Clermont
11 Bartow
12 Wilwood

Sells & Gray (Continued)
Mar. 13 Tarpon Springs, Fla
14 Palmetto
15 St. Petersburg
16 Lutz
17 Seminola
18 Port Charlotte
19 Sebring

Big John Strong's Indoor Cr.
Mar. 7 Oxnard, Calif.

The 1869 Circus
Mar. 9-10 Simi, Calif.

The Great Wallenda Circus
Mar. 13-17 Miami, Fla.

World Pet Expo
Mar. 16-17 Binghamton, NY

..... OTHER ROUTES

Country In New York Show
Mar. 16 New York, N.Y.

Disney on Parade
Mar. 13-17 Nashville, Tenn

Peggy Fleming Ice Show
Mar 14-Apr 3 Reno, Nev.

Harlem Globetrotters
Mar. 17 San Francisco, Cal

Holiday On Ice (Nat'l)
Mar. 12-17 Tampa, Fla.

Ice Capades
Mar 13-17 Moncton, N.B.

THE CLOWN

Writing for the Press-Telegram, of Long Beach, Calif., (Feb. 13) Sydney Harris' column "Strictly Personal" was titled "What's Funny About A Clown?"

The writer says he has always had an aversion to clowns and as a result has avoided the circus as much as possible. The clown, he says, "with rare exceptions" are not funny men. "There is something ugly and hateful, and even baseful, about most of their antics. The clown seems to dislike people, and to express this dislike aggressively under the mask of jesting."

At the circus, says Mr. Harris, children are more amused by the animals, than by the clowns. It is the adults, he reports, that are really interested in the clowns.

Harris says that Shakespeare understood clowns and jesters better than anyone. His clowns are all bitter men, with little warmth or love. Their humor is brittle and mocking.

People will tell you the clown is a sad man at heart, Harris states, but rather a clown is a resentful man at heart. Men become clowns, he adds, when they become frustrated at trying to be a hero.

Concluding his column, Harris wrote: "clowns represent the dark under current of human

Sawdust Trail

An old issue of the Monroe News-Star of Louisiana (1918) shows the Al G. Barnes Circus was there on Sept. 24th. Both Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circuses were due in Oct., but because of an epidemic they cancelled their dates.

The following item appeared in a recent issue of "Defenders of Wildlife News". "An animal handler who had been fired from RBBB was jailed after he allegedly stole an 11 week old Siberian tiger cub from the side of its mother.

The Sunday, Feb. 24th TV show "Thrill Seekers" featured an aerial act with the triple -- two men and a girl, all from California.

TV has eliminated a good deal of newspaper advertising by circuses, but in the old days one would often find as many as four tented circuses advertising at the same time.

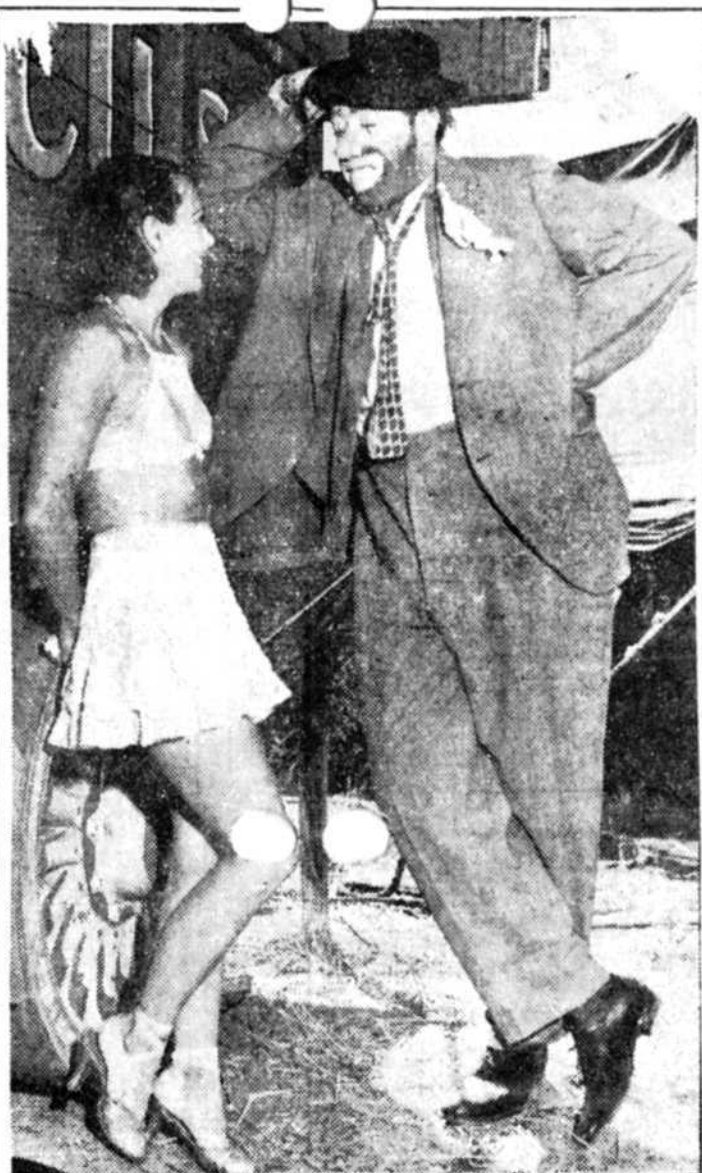
.....M. L. Dupont

aggression - in a socially disguised and therefore acceptable way - which may explain why his portrait is so popular among the timid, the rancorous, and the repressed."

(If you wish to complain about the column and its comments on clowns write directly to The Press-Telegram, Long Beach, Cal)

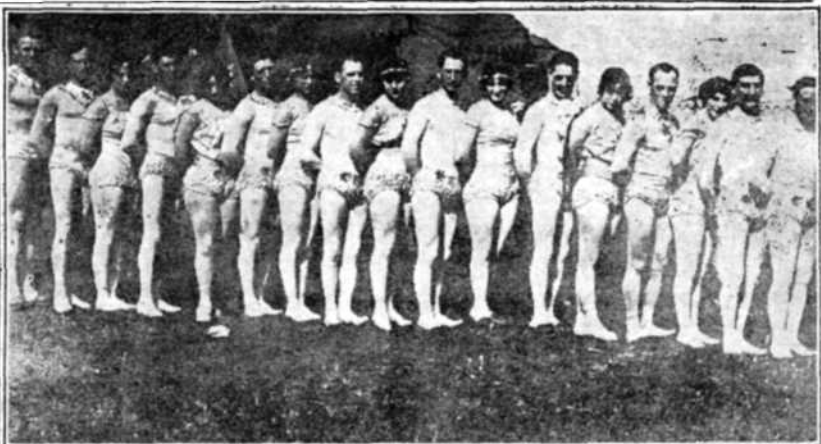


The Royal Repenski Troupe of bareback riders is shown above, while with the Ringling-Barnum Circus in 1937.



The above photograph was taken on Cole Br. Circus when they played Oakland, Calif. in the early 1940's. It reportedly shows Juanita Hobson and a local newspaper reporter who had joined clown alley.





Personnel of two flying acts, with Barnum & Bailey in 1915 are shown above. The acts were: the Siegrist-Silbon and Charles Siegrist Troupe.

From l. to r. are: Tom Beckman, catcher, and Toby Thomas, leaper, Chas. Siegrist Troupe; Mrs. Ed Silbon, catcher and Oscar Jordan, leaper, Siegrist Silbon troupe; Edythe Siegrist, catcher, Charles Siegrist Troupe; Chad Wertz, catcher; Marion Bordner, leaper; Eddie Silbon, leaper; Helen Bordner, leaper; George LeClaire, leaper; Emily Silbon, a catcher and later became Mrs. Hedder; Enrico Diaz, leaper, Siegrist-Silbon Troupe; Florence Warren, leaper and later Mrs. Harry Hill; Charles Siegrist leaper, Chas. Siegrist Troupe; Clara Crow, leaper; Toto Siegrist, catcher; Jimmie Silbon, leaper, of Siegrist-Silbon Troupe;

Eddie Silbon and Toto Siegrist managed the Siegrist-Silbon Troupe. Marion Bordner later became the wife of George Smith, a manager of RBBB.



D.C. CENTER FILES ANSWERS TO CHARGES

A Federal judge made the first ruling in the current Washington, DC "circus war" late last month when he ordered Capital Centre to include disclaimers in all "Circus America" advertising, stating it is not connected with the RBBB Circus. The order, says Judge John L. Smith, Jr., is "in the public interest" so that people will not be confused about what show they are attending.

Prior to the court order, Capital Centre president Abe Pollin had filed an affidavit, notarized on Feb. 2nd, in answer to a \$7.5 million suit filed by Irvin Feld, president of RBBB. Pollin stated he did not know his advertising agency had taken TV time around the Ringling TV Special, and he learned about it he ordered disclaimers placed in the advertisements so it would be clear there was no connection between the two shows. He also said disclaimers have been ordered for all advertising in publications that at one time had mentioned RBBB would be at the Centre.

Pollin said that at one time RBBB had scheduled an appearance at the Centre, and it was only after it had been announced that a circus was coming and negotiations with RBBB broke down that he felt it was necessary to consider another circus.

In an Eastern publication Pollin is quoted as saying:

"In early December, 1973, the Centre advised persons that 'to date we have been unable to

coordinate arrangements with that particular circus (RBBB), but negotiations are continuing. If these negotiations are unsuccessful, we anticipate making arrangements with another major circus for that same time period

"As of late Sept. 1973," Pollin said, "it had become clear that further negotiations with Ringling Bros. would not be productive and Capital Centre would have to make other arrangements."

Pollin agreed that he had made favorable offers to RBBB, but differences came up in such areas, as --

- * The amount of compensation to Ringling in respect to Capital Centre's special seating (sky suites, loges, portal boxes)

- * The amount of compensation to Ringling for performances pre-empted by National Basketball Assoc. play-off games.

- * The percentage allocations for gate receipts.

- * The question as to the handling of costs-between Capital Centre and Ringling - for

(Continued on Back Page)

people

LYLE SCOTT attended the wedding of DICK CROSS at the Nap pytime Circus in Cloverdale, Cal on Feb. 16th.

GLYNDON SMITH and wife (he is a magician and escape artist) visited with BOB EMRICO when the latter was presenting his magic show at Hydesville, Calif. on Feb. 14th. Then on Feb. 21, THE WAL-TIMS visited his show at Selma, Oregon.

FAYE ALEXANDER, trapeze artist, was recently honored as a "Circus Celebrity" by the Ringling Museum of the Circus at Sarasota, Fla.

BERTHA and TINA, elephants are currently sharing the bill with singer/comedy star KAY BAL-LARD at the Nugget Casino in Nevada.

JAMES HARGROVE is reportedly promoting an eastern show called "Sircus Circus". This show features the Stebbings family of performers.

A NEW ANIMAL PARK

The National Zoo in Washington, DC, plans to establish a breeding and research farm for rare and endangered species of wildlife. The first of the animals that will be moved into the facility, at Front Royal, Va., will take up residence there in April.

MARY GILL

Past issues of Circus Re- port carried stories and items about Mary Gill, the aerialist who was injured in a fall while performing with Ringling-Barnum at Ottawa, Canada.

In our story Mary's needs and condition were mentioned with this paper being the first one to report the incident and plea for her assistance. The following has been received by this reporter, from Newell Gra- ham, chaplain of RBBB.

"You should be pleased in- deed with the response as a re- sult of your publicity inserts regarding Mary Gill. Several per- sons have sent money and there have been cards, etc."

"Mary's condition remains static. She will perhaps be mov- ed to California within a month"

"There is little we can do but wait and pray. Again thanks to you and Circus Report, for what you have done."

.....M. L. Dupont



BOX 2512
SARASOTA, FLA. 33578
TEL. 813-924-6763

The SIDE SHOW

In preparation of its upcoming April 2-22 date in Washington, DC, the Ringling-Barnum Circus has reportedly awarded a contract to World Fair Freaks, who will produce the side show for this special engagement. The side show, directed by Ward Hall and C. M. Christ, will be featured at the National Guard Armory, along with the circus.

The present line-up of personnel for the upcoming show will include:

Milt Robbins, office mgr.; Dick Johnson, lecturer; C. M. Christ, manager; Harold Conners, fat man; Jo Ann Rivers, fat girl; Frances Duggan, contortion; Emmett, armless wonder; Stella, bearded lady; Fred Lulling, fire eater; Lady Sandra, sword swallower; the Christophers, knife throwing; Pate Terhune, Mamie and Cliff King, dwarfs, and an unnamed giant.

The Stadel Bros. New United Show played Wellsville, N. Y. on May 1, 1895. The show, a wagon outfit, was owned by the Stadel Bros with A. J. Ferguson acting as general agent.

Performers with the circus were: George Rich, dogs and ponies (he was also show manager); Leonard & Hart, bar act; May Stewart, high school horses; Eddie Martini, slide on wire, and C. F. Brown, the band leader.

notes

Watch for the upcoming Leggs commercials, which reportedly will be featuring circus scenes for their products.

UPI Telephoto carried a picture of some young elephants being trimmed for a performance at a Wisconsin circus last month.

Johnson Diversified, Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson Wax, recently purchased Eureka Tent, Inc.

Rumor has it that King Bros. Circus will be traveling on 11 trucks this season.

Carson & Barnes Circus is going to have a new spool truck and some new seat wagons when they start their 1974 tour. The show will also feature a wild animal act, consisting of four tigers and eight lions.



Circus Report makes good reading wherever you are - order today it is just \$10.00 for the full year. Write: Don Marcks, 525 Oak Street El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

3 SHOWS FOR STRONG (Continued)

advance publicity campaign, using lithos, etc. from the Enquirer Printing Co.

After making dates on the west coast, this unit will play Bishop, Calif., May 19th, then starts its cross-country tour with a jump into Flagstaff, Ariz for a May 22nd opening.

The third unit, a tent show, will open at Springfield, Va., (across the river from Washington, DC) for a Mar. 18-23 stand. Personnel on this show will include Earl Tegge, from Chicago; Don Phillips & Co., jugglers; the Hollywood elephants and Boxcar, the clown. Several other top acts have also been signed for the tour.

The three shows will be playing dates booked by several advance men and promoters. Gene Holloway has lined-up an extensive tour in the mid-west area and Eastern states, plus a long series of dates in Canada. Bob Trippe has booked dates in Iowa, Nebraska and Illinois, while James Margrove has booked stands in the Southwest area. Other dates for the year were booked by John Strong and his personal crew of advance people.

During the winter months Bob Rawls has prepared the show's equipment for the current tours. The tent shows now have a spool unit in a semi truck, the stake drivers have been improved, and

ROUTES

Ice Follies

Mar. 12-17 Pittsburg, Penna.

Peter Pan Show

Mar. 12-17 Springfield, Mass.

Frank Sinatra Show

Mar. 14-20 Las Vegas, Nevada

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Staats Bros. Circus of 1931 traveled on 12 trucks, using an auto for advance work. They had 40 horses, plus several dogs and ponies, and presented their show in one ring and a stage. The band was a 12 piece ladies group.

the new side show banners were designed and painted by Bob.

Steve Baker has been on the road working as advance press agent, but is now back on the show, handling a variety of jobs including acting as manager of the side show. (top is a 30 ft x 30 ft).

Dog and bird acts were all trained by Dorothy Herbert, and Charlie Frank has worked out new routines for the elephant.

"As I see it now," says John Strong, "gasoline isn't going to be a problem. In fact once you get away from the congested cities of the west there seems to be plenty of gas. So it looks as if we are going to have a really great season."

Show DEATH

A report from Warsaw indicates that a woman circus performer was clawed to death by a polar bear last week. The incident occurred during a rehearsal session in the Polish city of Gdansk.

The report stated a bear had attacked an assistant trainer and then the other bears joined in.

CENTER ANSWERS CHARGES (Cont'd)
the stage hands and roustabouts employed by Ringling.

Pollin said he told Feld that "he understood that Ringling was interested in playing in a larger and better facility in the D.C. area, and that if he was successful in building an arena, he would welcome having Ringling appear there" -- and that he had "looked forward to negotiating an agreement with Ringling that both parties would consider a 'fair deal'".

The affidavit disagreed with charges that Pollin had tried to "confuse the public" through day-and-dating RBBB or through his advertising.

Pollin said that from Circus America's first press release the Centre had "endeavored to make it plain that Circus America was a production solely of the Capital Centre -- 'its own spectacular.'"