



Volume 3

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Number 15

## NEW SHOW TO DEBUT TODAY

There's been a steady flow of reports about new shows set to open for the 1974 season and the latest of these concerns a Florida based operation. The new Roberts Bros. Circus, owned and operated by Doris and Robert Earl, is expected to debut today (April 15) in Georgia.

In 1964-65 the Earls had their own show (Robert G. Earl Circus) on the road. For the past few years they have handled concessions with the Hanneford Circus.

According to reports this new show will be using a 60 ft. round end top, with three 30 ft. center pieces, made by the Leaf Canvas Co. Some 22 seat sections were built for the show, giving them a seating capacity of 1,100 people.

Rolling equipment for this circus will include: seat and pole truck, light plant/animals and sleeper unit, stake driver and water tank, canvas truck, a sleeper-cookhouse unit, concession wagon and an office trailer.

## Payment Guarantee

Imported animals will be subject to public sale if the importer fails to pay their accumulated costs during quarantine periods, under a proposed ruling now being studied. The USDA reports it would be permitted to sell animals in an effort to recover feeding, care and other costs if an owner or agent fails to pay such costs.

Officials said last week that most animal importers pay the costs involved, but there are occasions when someone does not do so.

The proposal would permit the USDA to dispose of animals at public sale and to hold any balance in excess of the amount due for six months pending a  
(Continued on Back Page)

## A CFA Meet

Several guests attended the March 29th meeting of the Joseph A. Rowe CFA tent in the Los Angeles, Cal. area. The meeting was hosted by John Butman and presided over by the new president, Jack Bergman, and featured movies, refreshments, door prizes, etc.

Among those guests who attended the meeting were: Smokey Jones and family, with the elephant "Tika", CFA president Mel Olsen, George and Ginelle Perkins, Harry Chipman and Don Francis.

..... Del Wentworth

## note

The Wyoming Historical Wild West Show of 1894 played dates in Canada and the east coast.

Among those on the show were Martin Downs, James Bayliss and John Cathers, owners; Tom, C. Fitzsimmons, annex; Buck Taylor, king of the cowboys; Reckless Nell Braddon, wild steers; Tom Ford, fixer; Judge Crowley; Dan, the Dude; Johnnie Hare and Charlie Thompson.

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## Show Acts

Acts currently appearing on the Clyde Bros. Circus' Blue Unit include:

Lou Regan - tigers  
 Great Rianos (Ron Perry) - an inclined wire walk  
 Doubleday & Co. - revolv. ladd.  
 Muchacho, the Horse - B. Moore  
 Lotte Brunn, Mike Chattick and Ron Perry - juggling  
 Cucchilo - trampoline  
 The Argentinos and The Navarros - perch numbers  
 Moore's Mess of Mutts  
 Miss Tina - upside down walk  
 The Rianos Duo and The O'Briens -- slack wire numbers  
 Kirby's chimps  
 Miss Olga - trapeze  
 Beeswax, the Mule - Moore Fam.  
 The Terrys - unicycles  
 Paulette Braun - fire batons  
 Rizzi - plate spinning  
 Lou Regan - elephants  
 Prince Navez - cloud swing

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## YEARS AGO

Washburn's Last Sensation Show played Pittsfield, Mass. on Jan. 8, 1879, and then was disbanded shortly afterwards.

## Sale Story Denied

The circus world received a jolt early this month when the Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel Star reported the Beatty-Cole Circus was for sale. That story has been denied by Frank McClosky, who reports "we're not looking for any buyers."

According to reports the paper's business editor Dick Marlowe talked with co-owner J. Collins about the sale of some of his racetrack holdings, when he reportedly said the circus was also for sale. The story was printed that way and rumors started flying around the U. S.

The circus staff and performers were shaken-up when they read the report as they prepared for the show's April 6th opening at Commack, N.Y. The rumor was not denied until McClosky, who was out of town, returned to supervise the show's opening.

## "big top" acts

The program currently being presented by Lewis Bros. Circus, which this week moves in to North Carolina, features:

- Bob Gibbs - dog revue (6)
- The Clowns - a dog pie
- Ms. Sourens - Trapeze
- Rosa Gibbs - liberty ponies (6)
- Miss Zo Ann - swinging ladder
- Bob Gibbs - trained camel
- Ms. Mays - balancing
- Miss Lydia - trained elephant

## A NEW ONE

With its season already well underway, the new Dailey Bros. Circus is reportedly doing good business. The show is playing in the South and mid-western states.

The circus is using a 60 ft. round end top with two 30 ft. center sections, with three rings. The show is owned by Gopher Davenport, son of the late Ben Davenport.

Their program features several very good Mexican performers and an elephant. Also presented in the show are many animal numbers.

(For a full report of the show see Circus Report of Feb. 18, 1974 - Page 5).

### HISTORICAL FACT . . . .

John Pluto, of West Baden, Ind., purchased Golden Bros. Circus in mid-1924, then a few weeks later sold it to George W. Christy.

- Miss Henry - bareback riding
- The Zerbinis - comedy knockab't
- Bob Gibbs - liberty mules (6)
- Gary Henry - clown juggler
- The Zerbinis - wire
- Pokey and the clown car
- Ms. Zo Ann - aerial web
- The Zerbinis - teeterboard
- Bob Gibbs - elephants (3)

Music for the show is provided by a two piece group, consisting of drums and organ.



Pictured above, to the left, is Rose and Virginia Schaller, two popular performers with the Russell Bros. Circus during its early years on the west coast.



Pictured to the right is Jack Joyce and his elephant "Lucy" who were with the Clyde Beatty-Russell Bros. Circus. The man and woman in the picture are Mr. and Mrs. William Campbell, who were reportedly the original owners of "Lucy". They were the owners of the Campbell Bros. Circus which wintered at Evansville, Wisc.

## MAGIC SHOW TOUR ANNOUNCED

Plans to tour the "Showtime Follies" as a second unit to complement their "Holiday Hippodrome" show have been announced by Bill and Dick Garden. The basis of the new show will be Stu Miller and his magic show, with the addition of several circus-type acts.

### people



DENNY MATHEWS views the model circus exhibit, of RICHARD MILLS, which was exhibited at the Oakland (Calif) Hobby Show on April 5-7.

RON PERRY recently bought a 31 ft. Holiday Rambler house trailer.

REV. DAVID HARRIS recently wrote a comparison story on R.B. B.B. and Circus America for the Washington Post.

GEORGE HUNTLEY, of Rockford, Ill., has been visiting friends and relatives in California.

PAUL, The Magician, will offer a magic lecture in Oakland, Calif. on May 10th at the Bjornson Hall, 2258 MacArthur Blvd.

BOBBY GOLDEN will be the announcer/ringmaster for Garden & Johnson Circus this season.

THE WAL-TIMS and MISS JAN wind up their tour with the Globetrotters today (April 15) then head west to join the George-Matthews Circus.

RAY CHANDLER is presenting



Miller will star in and manage the unit which is scheduled to start touring in early May. The show is expected to be out 10 to 12 weeks and will also feature Bill Brickles and his poodles,

the Morgan Ashton Family (risky), plus Ray & Dionne (perch act) and their son Michael doing role balls and balancing.

For several years Miller has operated and managed side shows and last year toured with Hoxie Bros. Circus. This year he took out his own magic show, to good business. Several circus people, including organist Jorge Cozillo were with him.

the animal acts at Circus World Museum (Baraboo, Wisc.) while Johnny Cline recovers from a major operation.

DEL GRAHAM, aerialist, now teaches trapeze work to upcoming performers. He has produced the all girl act called "The Flying Viennas."



# ROUTES

- Allen's Petting Zoo  
April 17-21 San Diego, Calif.
- Beatty-Cole Circus  
to April 21 Commack, L.I., N.Y.
- Carden-Johnson Circus  
April 15-21 Springfield, Mo.
- Carson & Barnes Circus  
April 15 Ballinger, Texas  
16 McCamey  
17 Pecos  
18 Kermit  
19 Seminole  
20 Lovington, N. M.
- Hubert Castle Circus  
April 15 Moose Jaw, Sask.  
16 Swift Current  
17-18 Medicine Hat
- Circus America  
to April 21 Washington, DC
- Circus Vargas  
April 15-18 West Covina, Calif.  
19-23 Costa Mesa
- Gatti-Charles Circus  
April 20-21 Redding, Calif.
- Grand Circus Safari  
April 18 Ashland, Oregon
- Hamid-Morton Circus  
April 15-20 Wilkes-Barre, Penna.
- Hoxie Bros. Circus  
April 15 Clinton, S. C.  
16-17 Columbia  
18-19 Charleston  
20-21 Florence  
22-23 Fayetteville
- Hubler's Int'l Circus  
April 15-16 Dodge City, Kans.  
19-20 Abilene, Texas
- King Bros. Circus  
April 15 Brenham, Texas  
16 Huntsville  
17 Lufkin  
18 Nacogdoches  
19 Kilgore
- Lewis Bros. Circus  
April 15 Clayton, Ga.  
16 Hayev'le, NC  
17 Murphy  
18 Andrews  
19 Franklin  
20 Waynesville



Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show  
Apr. 15 Mobile, Ala.  
16 Gulfport, Miss.  
17 Slidell, La.  
18 Hammond

Wallenda Circus  
April 18-21 Syracuse, NY  
..... OTHER ROUTES .....  
Comic Book Convention

16 Hayesville, NC  
17 Murphy  
18 Andrews  
19 Franklin  
20 Waynesville

Polack Bros. Circus  
April 19-21 Sacramento, Ca

Ringling's Blue Unit  
to May 27 New York, N. Y.

Ringling's Red Unit  
to April 22 Washington, DC

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Sh.  
April 19 Johnstown, Pa  
20-21 Pittsburgh

Sarasota Sailor Circus  
April 19-21 Sarasota, Fla

Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show  
Apr. 15 Mobile, Ala.  
16 Gulfport, Miss.  
17 Slidell, La.  
18 Hammond  
19 Plaquemine  
20 Crowley  
21 New Iberia  
22 Abbeville

Shrine Circus  
April 19-28 Hartford, Conn

Voorheis Bros. Circus  
April 18 Sandusky, Mich  
19 Caro  
20 Richmond

Wallace & Rogers Circus  
April 9 Emmett, Idaho

Wallenda Circus  
April 18-21 Syracuse, NY

..... OTHER ROUTES .....

Comic Book Convention  
April 17 Berkeley, Cal

Disney on Parade  
April 17-21 Greensboro, NC

Harlem Globetrotters  
April 15 Decatur, Ill.

Holiday on Ice  
Apr. 16-21 Atlanta, Ga.

Ice Capades  
Apr. 17-21 Columbia, Mo.

Ice Follies  
Apr. 16-21 Uniondale, NY

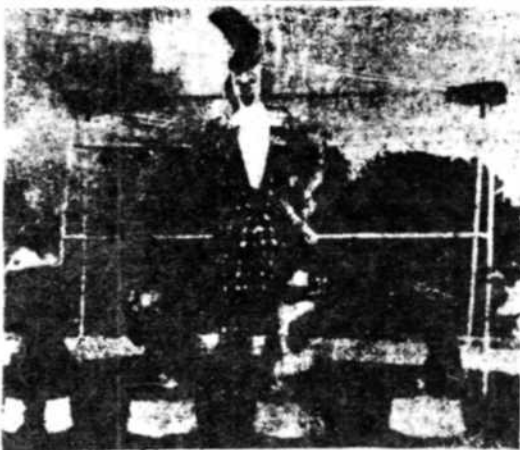
## A Bad Night

Circus Vargas had a rough night here in the Los Angeles, Calif., area on Saturday, March 6th. The 8 p.m. show lost its lighting system due to some poor diesel fuel. The fuel clogged the lines and left patrons sitting in darkness for periods of 15 or 20 minutes at a time.

Pat Anthony managed to complete his act in between the periods when the lights were out.

The management was very sorry about the problem and was right there to issue "rain checks" to anyone who wanted them. Parking lot attendants were also right there with the "rain checks" for every one.

..... Claude Tonolli



DAVE TWOMEY, shown here with his train dogs, currently has his "Happytime Circus" working dates in Northern California.

## ROUTES

Peter Pan Show

Apr. 17-28 Chicago, Ill.

Rose City Rides

Apr. 15-20 Salem, Mo.

Frank Sinatra Show

Apr. 15 St. Louis, Mo.

16 Providence, R.I.

18 Detroit, Mich.

21-22 Philadelphia, Pa.

## Coming up

The circus season is only now getting underway in Northern California and already it looks like another banner year (last year some 21 shows played in the San Francisco Bay Area).

Future issues of Circus Report will carry stories on all of these shows, as well as the shows playing elsewhere in the country. In addition to the big show reports there will be a regular feature of some old-time and recent show photos, all of which you'll enjoy.

## FINALE

HELEN C. VARNELL, a veteran circus and vaudeville performer and member of the Chick and Helen Varnell team. In recent years she helped operate a dance studio in Greenville, Ohio. Her death on March 7th was attributed to leukemia. Survivors include her husband and daughter.



The two pictures above were taken on the Russel Bros. Circus during its years of operation on the west coast. To the right is Milonga Cline in the backyard with two of Jorgen M. Christien's trained great dane dogs.

The picture on the left is that of the famous De Wayne Troupe of Risley artists. Faye Alexander, who is now well known for his triple somersault feats and currently presents a comedy car number on shows, is shown on the right.

## CAPSULES

The Dwayne Bros. Circus played Long Beach, Cal. on March 30th.

That new big top ordered by the George Matthews Circus is 120 ft. round and with three 50 ft middles.

The Russell-Johnson Circus, organized by E. J. McDaniel (he booked Carson & Barnes in 73) opened in Texas on March 13th, then folded soon after due to bad weather and poor business.

Circus Vargas boosted its seating capacity to 7,000 for the Los Angeles area dates. They also added a side show for those dates.

The March 1974 issue of "Smithsonian" magazine has an article titled "Bad Old Shanghai Has Turned into a Showplace of New China" that includes a color photo of an unusual unicyclist.

The Washington Post for April 3, 1974, has two pages of photos and stories about Ringling-Barnum and Circus America shows.

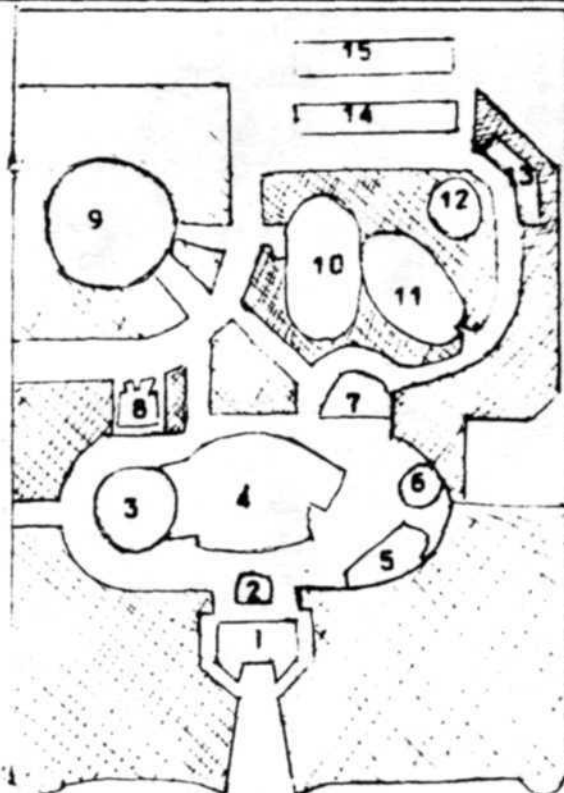
The picture on this page was used by Arthur Bros. Circus about 1944-45. The names of the girl and clown are not known.

Circus Kirk is offering a Circus Fans Packet, consisting



of past programs, a route book, letterhead and tickets for only \$5.00. Write: Circus Kirk, Box 181, East Berlin, Penna - 17316

King Bros. has been doing good business despite some wet weather and soggy lots.



The above drawing is a copy of the grounds at Circus World in Florida. The various facilities are:

- 1 - The ticket wagon
- 2 - Circus Souvenirs
- 3 - The Circus World Story
- 4 - James A. Bailey Cinema
- 5 - Circus Bazaar
- 6 - Cookhouse Tent
- 7 - Dining patio
- 8 - Donniker (rest rooms)
- 9 - Carrousel
- 10 - Camel rides
- 11 - Elephant rides
- 12 - Elephant Show
- 13 - Guest seating
- 14 - Elephant barn
- 15 - Hay barn

## PEOPLE

JOHN VERNON, of Paradise, Cal., recently gave a talk on the history of the circus. He also visited with Honny Shyretto and her husband.

DUSTY, the RBBB clown, recently received national publicity via AP Wirephoto for the opening of the show in New York City.

BILL BIGGERSTAFF, circus program man, has been named front door manager for Circus Vargas.

THE CYKEDLIC CYCLISTS (from the Great Y Circus) worked on the Cal-Tech Circus last month.

LILLI KRISTENSEN, who has been with Poleck Bros., now joins the Carden & Johnson Circus for the summer season.



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SENATOR HUBERT H. HUMPHREY, of Minnesota, served as honorary ringmaster for the opening of Ringling-Barnum's Red Unit at Washington, DC on April 2nd.

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#### PAYMENT GUARANTEE (Continued)

claim by the owner. Officials would also be authorized to arrange for feeding and care of animals, at the owner's expense, if the owner neglects to do so.

Other measures in the proposed regulations would require: Arrangement for acceptable transportation to the quarantine facility, and that requests for APHIS inspection and other veterinary services be made in writing, with a waiver of claims against the agency and its employees.