

THE

1975



4th Year

September 15, 1975

Number 37

Biz Off-Cuts Made

"This has been probably the most difficult season I've ever encountered," said John Strong in a telephone interview last week. "In fact I've had to reduce the number of people on the show in order to bring it home."

Business was off as much as 50% or more, Strong said, and in several areas we played dates that had already been played by one to five circuses. There were only about five weeks of really good business, he added, with Decatur and South Bend among the better spots.

The show's big top was damaged by three blowdowns at Saford (Ariz.) on May 27th and then again at Twin Falls (Ida.) on Aug. 28th. However, the big top continues to look good and seems to be in pretty fair shape.

A special show unit was sent into Salem (Ore.) for that city's fair, while John continued to keep his own show on the road. Both shows suffered a lack

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At press time word was received that Circus Towne, of Twin Mountain, N.H. has folded. The famous Dickey model circus, a copy of the John Robinson Circus was being packed for shipment to a new location.

Fair Acts

Acts appearing at the Plymouth County Fair, in Wisconsin, over Labor Day weekend were:

The Lang's chimps
 Johnson's bears
 Marcey Begary - trapeze
 Hill's ponies and elephants
 The Joie Chitwood Thrill Driver

Carousel Meet

Some 400 people, dedicated to the preservation and conservation of the carousel, attended the National Carousel Roundtable at Sandusky, Ohio on Sept. 12-14. The group held much of its program at the Cedar Point Amusement Park in that city.

This year the organization paid tribute to Daniel Carl Muller, a man whom many experts consider the greatest carver in carousel history. From 1892 to 1932, Muller helped bring the art of the carousel to its American heights. He worked for such firms as Dentzel, Philadelphia Toboggan Co., T. M. Harton and other firms.

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SHOW CLICKING

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus played at the Wildlife Preserve in Largo, Md., from Aug. 2 to Sept. 1st and was well received.

The show was presented in an outdoor circus ring, with the clowns working four times each day, while the acts worked three times a day.

The clowns included:

Colonel J. P.
 Larry Salkin
 Scott Morris

The acts included:

The Ashtons - risley
 The Bratinies - single trap
 The Bruskiies - unicycles

ATTENTION

The Floyd King Tent No. 126 CFA has the following collector's item for sale!

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At The Circus: Union Nonsense

By ART PARRA

What is our land coming to —our land of the free and the home of the brave?

One would wonder after experiencing an episode at the Anaheim Convention Center while viewing the famous Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus last Wednesday night.

Ironically, the 1975-76 circus theme is dedicated to the Bicentennial celebration of the birth of this nation.

What took place shortly after the singing of our National Anthem should never be tolerated. It borders on depriving a citizen of enjoying his constitutional rights.

Accompanied by the members of our family, primarily attending The Greatest Show on Earth for the purpose of watching the excitement of our grandchildren as this colorful spectacle unfolded before their eager eyes, we were comfortably seated in our respective chairs.

The object was to film the childrens' facial expressions and vocal outbursts on one of the new sound home movie outfits available at any camera store. A nice piece of equipment but a far cry from any form of professional outfit.

The show had hardly gotten under way when a strong-armed individual was tapping my shoulder and asking, "Is that a sound movie camera?"

When the affirmative answer was given, his immediate statement was, "I'm tak-

ing your camera and you can pick it up on the way out."

Startled by the assertion, he was asked to repeat his words.

Again he snorted, "I'm taking your camera and you can pick it up on the way out."

There was no way this individual was going to waltz away with my equipment, particularly without some explanation "why" this drastic demand was being made . . . or "who" and by "what" authority he presumed to confiscate personal property.

His answer was, "I represent the Musicians Union of Orange County and we have a contract with the circus. All our music is syndicated and we reserve the rights to prohibit the taping of our work."

Attempts were made to assure the union representative his music wasn't being recorded, except as background noises along with other circus sounds prevalent. The immediate voices of the children would be the major sound recorded because of an automatic noise level built into the system. The music was just incidental.

This wasn't a satisfactory answer for the union rep.

On threats of having our entire party rejected from the circus, he obtained possession of the microphone.

A member of our family, a successful Orange County attorney at law, then became involved in the proceedings. He suggested I ask for my

microphone to be returned.

Basis of the suggestion was, "there wasn't any sign posted in the arena, notice printed on the ticket or announcement made to the effect that sound movies were prohibited. The contract with the Musicians Union was with the circus and not with individual spectators . . . that a warning had not been given prior to the incident. The fact a demand was made without presentation of adequate identification and equipment taken without a formal receipt. The receipt was scribbled on a business card after a demand was made. It wasn't accepted, so the union rep slapped it on my chest and said, "there, I lay it on you!"

The entire matter had now become a major issue. I was accused of soliciting services of an "ambulance chaser" from out of the crowd. This so-called ambulance chaser happened to be the husband of my youngest daughter and hardly could be termed as solicited.

In the ensuing conversation, rather heated at times, I was informed by the union spokesman I could obtain my microphone and be allowed to film my grandchildren IF I would fork over \$1,700 to the musicians union. This would be classified as having a "contract" with the organization.

Meanwhile, the "ambulance chaser" had gone to the telephone and called in the Ana-

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An Updated Report

...by BILLY BARTON

CIRCUS VARGAS -

Business was excellent for Circus Vargas at Levittown, L.I., under police sponsorship - continuing an unbroken run of winning dates (31 weeks, 511 shows, one day off). The Canadian tour was a red one calling for 3 and 4 shows every day. The new top, solid orange, is being used, with improved seating. The top, not as wide as the old one, puts the audience closer to the performers. The midway has also been expanded and improved with a beautiful new concession trailer.

The performance remains the best of any show under canvas, well lighted, well costumed and highly polished. Outstanding are the Clementes, bike act; Feller Boys and Do Do, wire; Cemon's Chimps; and the smooth and impressive flying act. Senor Antonio adds flash and showmanship with his hand balancing and trapeze numbers. Wally Naghtin has added new bears to his act, which has great audience appeal.

HOXIE BROS. CIRCUS

This show has to be the surprise sleeper of the year! It is impressive to look at on the lot. The completely round top, blue and white is in excellent condition and this "theatre-in-the-round" style makes for great audience enjoyment and added act impact. Everything is well painted and the normal signs of late season wear and tear is not in evidence.

The seats - almost full circle - puts everyone on top of the action. There are no reser-

ves and all seats load, along with stringers and jacks, on one semi, which houses the band and wardrobe and is backed into the top, making a high bandstand from which the backdoor curtains are extended. These jut into the big top leaving plenty of room backstage for performers and props - a real plus, and very well framed.

The performance is good and the music is better than average and the sound system is clear. Phil Chandler does a nice job at the mike. Spec wardrobe is clean and flashy and there are enough animals and people to fill the track.

The two aerial ballets are well costumed, and as everything else, performed in a circle to good effect. Clowning is first rate and Gary Henry has a funny bit with a comedy pony.

Hi glights include the sensational Roman riding number by Gary Henry's wife, performed at breakneck speed around the full circle hippodrome, climaxed by

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A Visit To...

by ALLEN BABCOCK

Spent two really great days with the Carson & Barnes Circus -- Springfield (Ill.) Aug. 28 and Auburn (Ill.) Aug. 29. There was plenty of rain both days and it cut down on the picture taking.

Rain came down most of the day at Springfield, but cleared before the night show got started. At Auburn the spec was cancelled for both shows because of the heavy rains and muddy lot - mud was everywhere, even in the big top.

PEOPLE

WALLY NAGHTIN has added 4 baby bears to his act, which is touring with Circus Vargas.

JOHNNY LUXEM had his Wheel of Destiny act at the Suffolk County Fair in Long Island.

MICHAEL CHIRRICK, son of LOTTIE BRUNN, is playing dates in Tokyo and will be with the Harlem Globetrotters when he returns to the US.

TOMMY BAKER suffered four fractured ribs when he was kicked by one of his father's circus stallions.

There were some CFA's on the lot in both towns, and even Albert and Anita Vanderheid came by to visit. They have been seeing shows all over the country and were on their way home. Another visitor was Gilda Ramos' father, who was having a good time seeing relatives once again.

On Aug. 8, 10 and 17 went to see the Fleckles Circus at the Illinois State Fair and they had a beautiful show.

Oscar, Maria and Vickie Cristiani were visiting the show and Karen Cristiani French. Then on the last day Oscar even presented his elephant act as a feature of the show - and what a number it was. Everyone really enjoyed it.

New Ban

A ban on all elephant hunting was put into effect last week by the government of Uganda, in Africa.

The order, said an official, was "necessary to preserve Uganad's national heritage."

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ROUTES

Allen's pet Zoo

Sep. 17-21 Roseville, Cal.

American Freedom Train

Sep. 17 Omaha, Nebr.

Beatty-Cole Circus

Sep. 15 Peoria, Ill.

16 Lincoln

17 Mt. Vernon

18 Murphysboro

19 Henderson, Kty.

20 Elizabethtown

21 Clarksville, Ind.

Carson & Barnes Circus

Sep. 15 Athens, Tenn.

16 Dayton

17 Chattsworth, Ga.

18 Calhoun

19 Cartersville

20 Atlanta

21 Powder Springs

Circus Vargas

Sep. 11-17 Burlington, Mass

18-23 Chicopee

Gatti-Charles Amer. Cont'l

Sep. 18 Wenatchee, Wash.

George-Matthews Circus

Sep. 15-20 Cleveland, Ohio

21-22 Canton

Hanneford Circus

Sep. 20 Elkhart, Ind.

Hanneford Family Circus

Sep. 16 Murry, Ky.

18 New Madrid, Mo.

20 Perryville

Hella Shrine Circus

Sep. 15-21 Dallas, Tex.

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep. 15 So. Plainfield, NJ

16 Piscataway

17 Summit

18 Little Falls

19 River Vale

20 Maplewood

King Bros. Circus

Sep. 15 Mullens, W. Va.

16 Marion, Va.

17 Grundy

18 Pikeville, Ky

19 Bigstone Gap, Va.

20 Kingsport, Tenn

21 Bristol

Polack Bros. Circus

Sep. 15-21 Pomona, Cal.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit

Sep. 16-17 Spokane, Wash.

19-21 Portland, Ore.

Royal Lipizzan Show

Sep. 16 Fargo, N.D.

18 Sioux Falls, S.D.

19 Sioux City, Iowa

Royal Lipizzan Show (Cont'd)

Sep. 20-21 Des Moines, Iw

Sells & Gray Circus

Sep. 15 Goshen, Ind.

16 Argas

17 South Haven

18 Logansport

19 Peru

20 Elwood

21 Zionsville

Stebbing's Royal European

Sep. 18-28 Richmond, Va.

Stebbing's Superstars Circus

Sep. 15-16 Hutchison, Kans

John Strong Circus

Sep. 15 Redding, Calif.

16 Red Bluff

17 Paradise

18 Susanville

19 Sparks, Nev.

20 Carson City

21 Bishop, Calif.



THY WORD IS LIGHT IN
A TIME OF DARKNESS

New Tax Woes

A 5% admission tax proposed by the City Council of Anaheim (Calif.) has brought a storm of protest from all concerned. The tax, scheduled to go into effect on Oct. 16th, would help to build a city hall and provide for capital improvements.

Among those opposed to the tax is the Ringling-Barnum Circus. They have indicated they may be forced to bypass Anaheim if the tax is imposed.

In protesting the tax, circus vice president Earl L. Duryea said the tax would "create an added cost burden that we cannot absorb in an already high cost operation.

"The circus would like to return to Anaheim, but if this proposed 5% admissions tax is approved, we may be forced to re-evaluate our long-term position in Anaheim by either cutting the length of time the circus plays or by moving the dates to other areas where economic conditions are more favorable."

According to Duryea the circus is responsible for "approximately half a million dollars being spent in the city, exclusive of facility rental, by the time such costs as advertising, transportation, maintenance, cleaning, animal feed, performer and out-of-town expenditures are added up."

The circus also paid a county license fee of \$1,650 this year to house its animals, he said.

Stadium-convention center director Tom Liegler said the city netted more than \$115,000 from rent, parking and concessions during the circus' twenty-five performances this year.

Other renters of the Anaheim facility protesting the new tax plan are representatives of the Angels, baseball team; boxing, home and garden show, boat show, recreational show, etc. In some cases they have threatened to move elsewhere.

Although there have been threats, Liegler said, no one has yet cancelled their dates.

He said both the circus and garden show had raised their prices this year and set new revenue records. "An increase in prices will not keep people away," he added.

As for the baseball team, he said, there are other facilities available, but they won't get the deal they have here. If they should leave, Liegler said, we'd start looking for another team immediately.

Thank you for reading Circus Report. Please tell your friends about the paper.

Mattel Report

The following information has been taken from the Mattel Special Interim Report to its Stockholders, dated Aug. 22, 1975

"Operations discontinued and to be discontinued include all of the operations of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. (Ringling), consisting of the traveling circus and the Circus World entertainment complex in Florida.

"During fiscal 1974, the Company (Mattel) announced its intention to sell all the Ringling operations. Although the effort is continuing, there is no assurance that such a sale will be consummated or that the Company will realize its total investment in the Ringling operation, which constitutes a significant part of the Company's consolidated net worth.

PEOPLE

HEINZE PICKLER (The Dantes) recently left Circus Vargas for a new engagement.

FLOYD KING joined the George-Matthews Circus as general routing consultant and overall consultant to owner SID KELLNER

DOROTHY MILLER (Mrs. Art "Doc") has been hospitalized at St. Joseph's Hospital, North Bay Ont., Canada, with a leg injury

C & S NOTES

The Commerford & Shea Petting Zoos (two units) featuring elephant, pony, camel rides, etc, are currently playing fair dates Both units have outstanding show equipment, with beautiful miniature circus wagons

Patsy Frank, of Tama Frank and Patsy, is currently with the Commerford & Shea organization, after 15 years of retirement following the death of her husband. They appeared with many shows with their dog and pony acts, as well as their knife-throwing and whip acts.

FOR SALE

Two elephants, 53" and 56" tall, fully trained and ready to go to work.

1600 Series International, Factory New. Just 6,000 miles. The unit has a custom made body by Hobbs Trailer Co. and is all air conditioned and heated with a 4 K.W. unit. (Onan).

This unit was built to my order to haul elephants or any other animals.

For Information Contact

MAC McDONALD

Phone: (512) 655-0457

UPDATED REPORT (Continued)

high jumps, plus the old fashioned girl menage display of the Herriotts, which serves to introduce John Herriott.

Most impressive is the terrific elephant display presented by the Harriotts - 3 large bulls and 5 babies, including an African. Three Herriott girls ride and work on the large bulls while the babies are worked by John and a daughter. Then all go on the track for a closing long mount.

Unusual is the sawing a lady in half, presented by Phil Chandler, and performed in the open on a frame prop that exposes the huge blade sawing right through the girl - makes the audience gasp.

BIZ OFF (Continued)

of business because of rain and generally bad weather.

At the present time, John said, I plan to continue operating right through the winter season, using a small show "so I can make some money." Next year the circus will be reduced in size, more like the original John Strong Circus of some years back.

"Make sure you tell your readers," John stated, "that I will definitely be working with Gene Holloway again in 1976. There has been a lot of talk that I wouldn't be back, but those rumors are just not true."

LETTERS

I couldn't find anything with which I agree more thoroughly than your editorial in the Aug. 25th Circus Report.

Closing your eyes to those stupid mistakes and negligent and criminal acts by some people operating with the name "circus" can only be a detour or short cut to downgrading the whole circus world.

Circus Fans are called upon daily to vouch for this show and that. For most we can readily vouch for fair dealing, for lawful conduct and for a meritorious presentation of entertaining circus animal and human acts

It's pretty hard to continually tell your friends and neighbors how great show is when they don't operate honestly and their whole idea is to "rip off" the people.

..... Frank L. Ball

FOR SALE

Genuine Circus Calliope Music

"For those who like to remember the old-time circus"

New, just released STEREO LP Recording of a Tanglely Air Calliope

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553-POUND Dolly Dimples (left) as she was and (above) as she is today. She went down to 152 pounds, and now weighs 123 pounds.

PEOPLE

TOM INABINETTE is currently working ahead of Carden-Johnson Circus, and also setting dates for the 1976 season.

HAL HAVILAND recently had his trained animals at the Maine State Fair, at Lewiston.

HANS and ADELE KLOSE (Adele and Gory) became parents of a boy on Aug. 18th. The couple has two daughters - **JANIE** and **GRETCHEN**.

LOTTIE BRUNN, juggler, is playing club dates in the New York area, after a long run in Montreal.

MIKE GORHAM, formerly of RBBB, recently joined Circus Vargas as program director.

BOB AMATO, band leader on Hoxie Bros. Circus has an extensive musical background, including work with several symphony orchestras.

Show Program

The program presented by Mid-America Circus, at Independence, Mo., on Aug. 30th, local fans report, included:

Sparky - clown warm-up
 Col. Harry Jenkins - organist
 The Frauensteins -
 Spanish web number - Ms. King
 Riding act - Mark Caroli
 Color Book Pitch
 Juan Garcia - foot juggler
 Sparky - the magic cane and hat
 Frauensteins - plate spinning
 -- Intermission --
 Caroli's Dog Revue
 Peanut Sales Pitch
 Harry Jenkins, Jr - comedy gor.
 Mark Anthony - trampoline
 Juan Garcia - hand balancing
 The Clowns - egg balance
 Mark and Eng Caroli - menage act

The show's announcer is Manuel King, who also has a snake and turtle show on the midway.

Other recent arrivals on the show are Bob Armstrong, canvas boss and Whitey Black, advance.

PEOPLE

TED and LISA STEWART (The Commancheros) are currently on eastern fair dates. They'll be at the Fresno (Calif.) Fair in October.

CHESTER and JOE SHERMAN are clowning with the Dallas (Texas) Fair Circus, after which Chester will undergo an eye operation at San Antonio.

UNION NONSENSE (Continued)

heim police. A citizens arrest was instituted to recover the equipment.

Anaheim's finest diplomatically listened to both sides, and told the union representative to return the equipment or face arrest.

The gala extarvaganza was grinding away in the arena. The portion we had hoped to capture on film, adding to the family library, was gone. The grandchildren were part of the circus. They performed with the clowns and other happy people in the huge cast. It was one of those unforgettable moments in a child's life, so simple to preserve and so innocent.

By the time the smoke had cleared and the equipment restored to the rightful owner, it was over.

When things had settled down, the party who started it all, a union man sitting across the aisle said, "I am sorry to have spoiled your evening with the grandchildren."

Not much solace for an evening of "gestapo" antics contradicting our rights as American citizens.

SHOW FOLKS

Acts appearing at the Summer Festival in Brooklyn through Sept. 1st, included:-

The Coronas Troupe - high wire
 Miss Stevana - trapeze
 Los Galambas - aerial cradle
 Serge-George Duo - Sky Cycle
 The Leighs - space wheel
 Prince Najvez - cloud swing
 Great Huberto - slide for life
 Ottini - balancing