



"America's Favorite Circus Weekly"

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## Hoxie Buys The Barnes & Dally Show



"Yes, we bought the Barnes & Dally Circus," reports John Hall, manager of the Hoxie Bros. Circus, "but it is too early to say just exactly what we are going to do with it." Continuing, John said that the complete circus, animals and equipment, are now at the show's new quarters near Orlando, Fla., along with both the Lewis Bros. and Hoxie Bros. circuses.

Hoxie Bros. Circus had a good season, Hall told Circus Report last week, and we're satisfied with the results. However, it was becoming apparent, in the latter portion of the tour, that money was getting tight.

Several new plans are being prepared for the 1975 tour, but an announcement about those plans will come later, said Hall. One thing I can tell you, he added, is that we're going to have a new type round tent. It will be completely round, with a single large ring and a wide track. The tent is being built by the Leaf Tent Co.

The new tent, designed by Hall, will be red, white and blue and will offer the same amount of seating as the other  
(Continued on Back Page)

### A Problem

Circus fans and show folks were lining up against each other last week as a controversy arose over the question of whether a circus should be used to promote a porno film. The problem developed when it was announced that a circus was going to be used as a promotional feature for the opening and showing of an X-rated film in Los Angeles.

Many acts said they would  
(Continued on Page 2)

**A PROBLEM (Continued)**

refuse to work the date, on the basis that a circus represents clean, wholesome entertainment. Fans across the country were sending protests against this type of promotion, keep the circus clean, they demanded.

There were, however, acts who said they would work the date. They couldn't see any harm in the idea, and besides the money was good.

The film in question is an import from Europe called "The Hottest Show In Town." It is a porno film with a circus background.

The whole idea is an outrage and something that should not be allowed to happen, said one performer. Another said the move could result in the complete down-grading of the circus as we know and love it.

A CFA member in the east told Circus Report he was going to register his complaint with the show's producers. After all, he added, the circus has always represented clean entertainment. It was something we could safely take our children to, and now they want to ruin this last entertainment field that represents something good and fine.

One circus man said that he couldn't see anything wrong with the idea. Why shouldn't we have a chance to cash in on this new field, he asked.



Send a Christmas Greeting to your show friends by Circus Report for just \$2.50.

Reserve your space at once - the deadline is Dec. 14th.

**FOR SALE**

The book "Fifty Years Under Canvas" the life story of the late Herb Walters.

Makes an excellent gift for the holiday or at any time.

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ERNIE BURCH, clown, is pushing his campaign for President. His slogan is "Put a real clown in the White House."

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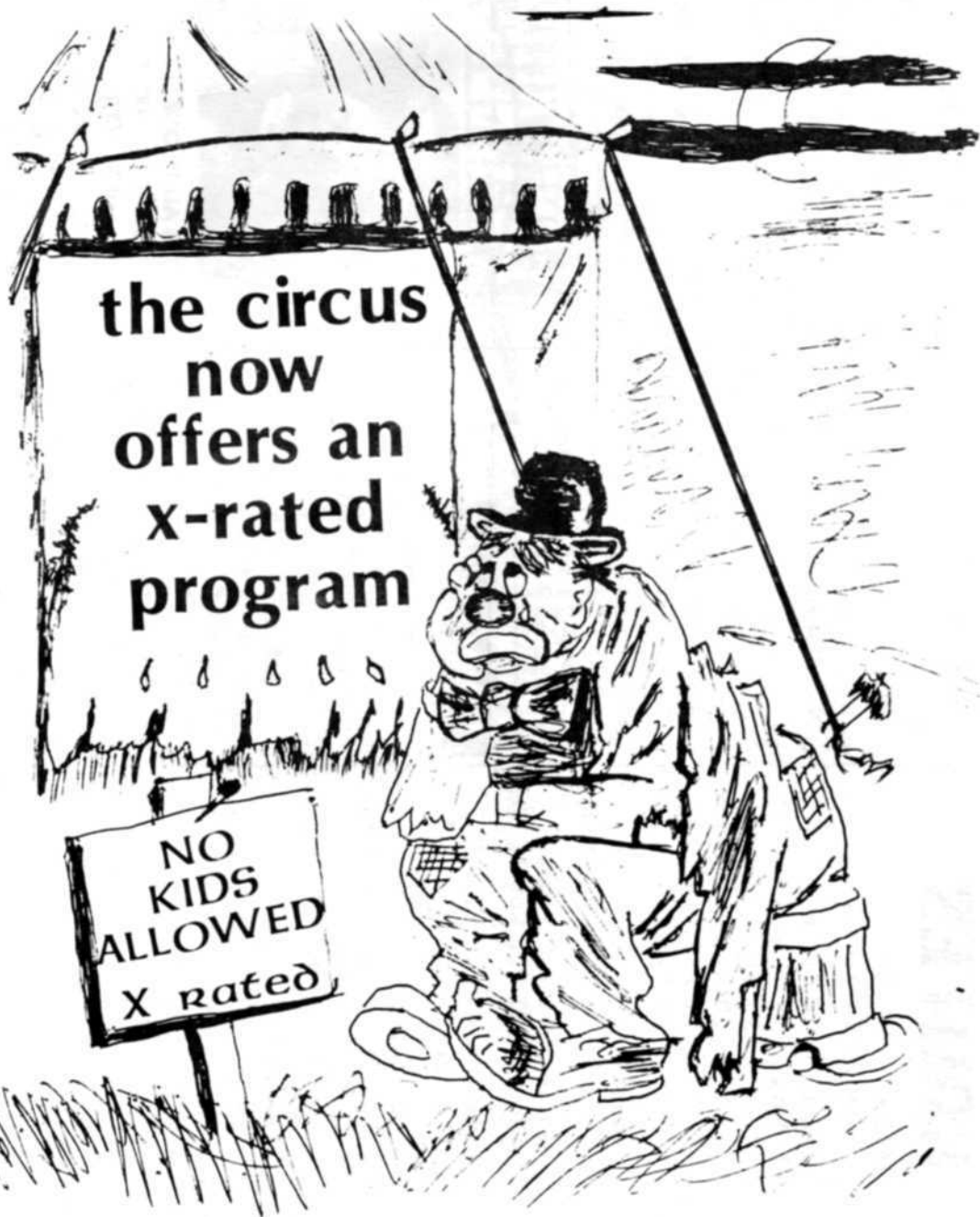
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"EVEN THOUGH YOUR HEART IS BREAKING...LAUGH, CLOWN, LAUGH....."



# ROUTES

- Allen's Pet Zoo  
Nov 20-24 Azusa, Calif.
- Beatty-Cole Circus  
Nov. 18 Vero Bch, Fla.  
19 Ft. Pierce  
20 W. Palm Beach  
21 Riviera Beach  
23-24 Miami
- Jerusalem Shrine Circus  
Nov 23-Dec 1 N.Orl'ns, La
- Moslah Shrine Circus  
Nov 20-30 Ft. Worth, Tex
- Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit  
Nov 20-24 Springf'd, Mass
- Royal Lipizzan Show  
Nov 19-20 La Crosse, Wsc  
21 Madison  
23-24 Champaign, Ill.
- John Strong Circus  
Nov. 19 Dinuba, Cal.  
20 Hanford  
21 Open  
22 Santa Ana  
23 Costa Mesa  
24-26 San Diego

- ....OTHER ROUTES .....
- Expo Winter '74  
Nov 21-24 New York, NY
- Golden State Rodeo  
Nov 23-24 Fresno, Cal
- Ice Capades  
Nov 19-24 Oakland, Cal.
- Johnny Mathis Show  
to Nov 24 New York, NY
- USSR Gymnasts  
Nov 20 Cleveland, Ohio  
22-23 Washington, DC  
-- End of Tour --

## Miscellaneous

BOBBY GIBBS plans to keep his show "Circus World on Parade" out until Dec. 20th.

BOB EMRICO, clown, has returned to the San Francisco (Calif.) area for his usual run of winter dates.

PROF. BROOKS McNAMARA, of the New York University, has written a book called "Step Right Up" a history of Medicine Shows.

## Exhibit Date

The American Circus Poster Exhibition, featuring posters from the collection of Ralph E. Trower, will be displayed at the Art Center in Miami, Fla., from Dec. 22 to Jan. 19th.

Circus fans and friends will enjoy these rare, old circus masterpieces.



"IT'S ALL IN ONE RING"  
LEONARD GREEN-  
PRODUCER

CIRCUSTIME, INC.  
157 West 57th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10019  
(212) 265-5864

## THEY GOT LOST

A circus animal truck, from Circus Vargas, which got lost in an effort to find the show lot at San Jose (Cal.) ended up stalled in the entrance to San Francisco's Candlestick Park (Nov. 4) causing a giant traffic jam. The truck was attempting to make a U-turn when its motor died, leaving it idle across four traffic lanes going into the park. Soon traffic was blocked for miles in both directions.

Adding to the problem was the usual heavy flow of commute traffic enroute home from San Francisco, while thousands of people were heading for an early evening ball game at the park. There were angry glares, threats and complaints from motorists who found they were being delayed by the mishap.

A policeman arrived, threw up his hands, then said he would call a tow truck. About that time the two circus men -- Don Madeiros and Clark Craig -- decided they'd better check the animals and then discovered they had two working elephants, which were unloaded and harnessed up.

As thousands of people watched the elephants pulled the truck out of the traffic lanes. Then as the elephants were reloaded, Clark Craig started the truck motor. It coughed, then caught hold and the truck rolled away.

Both men denied they had stalled the truck and caused the traffic jam as a publicity stunt. We would never do anything like that on purpose, they told reporters at the circus lot, some 50 miles south of the Candlestick Park.

In the meantime in England, the Hoffman Circus failed to arrive at Oxford and officials went to the police for help. A massive search was started and after two days an official said "the circus has just vanished into thin air."

The missing report stated there were five trailer trucks, 10 horses, 6 llamas, 2 camels, 6 ponies, 2 elephants and a bison, plus several human performers in the show.

A day or so later the circus was found all intact at Cambridge. Someone had gotten the towns mixed up and the circus ended up 70 miles away from its actual destination.

### In Memoriam

JAMES HARGROVE, prominent show promoter and head of the Hargrove Productions, died at Tucson, Ariz. on Oct. 5th. He was one of the largest promoters in the country, handling circus, rodeo and variety show features.

## Miscellaneous

Ads for the George Matthews Circus (Oct. 18-20), the Carson & Barnes Circus (Oct. 19-20) and Beatty-Cole (Oct. 25-27) appeared side-by-side in the Oct. 19th and 20th issue of the New Orleans (La.) Picayune paper.

Ringling-Barnum is planning to play the new arena at Asheville, N.C. in 1975.

An advertisement in the Nov. 1974 issue of "Western Horseman" offers work for male dressage riders with the Royal Lipizzan Show.

Amusements of America and Royal Amusements shows will play along with the Beatty-Cole Circus at Miami (Fla.) the week of Nov. 19-24

The John Strong Circus was recently denied a permit as a charity promotion for the Altan Kal Grotto at Tucson, Ariz.

RBBB's Red Unit animals had a three mile walk from the train to the arena at Akron, Ohio, for the show's Nov. 7th opening.

A pair of ligers were born on RBBB's Blue Unit last month. The animals belong to the Samel Mixed Animal Act.

Attendance at RBBB in Milwaukee, Wisc., ran only 42.4% of capacity, for a total of 22,634 people for six performances.

## CFA's Visit R-B

Some 72 Michigan CFA members and their guests attended a State Meeting at Cobo Hall, Detroit (Mich.) on Oct. 20th, followed by a Brunch at noon, with RBBB's performance in the afternoon. Circus personnel attending the Brunch included: Michael Gorman, performance director; Frosty Little, Peggy Williams and Jimmie Briscoe, clowns; and showgirl Sandria Briscoe. Both Frosty and Miss Williams demonstrated the art of applying make-up, as they told interesting experiences on the big show.

During the Business Meeting the following new officers were elected to head the Joel E. Warner Top No. 20 for the coming year:

Arthur Crampton - state chairman  
 Leo Lindgren - vice chairman  
 William Ludwig - Sect/Treas.  
 Don Smith - Public relat'ns

The group signed a get well card for Bob Dover who was confined to the Mayo Clinic. Don also visited the show each day at Detroit, seeing old friends Tuffy Genders, Eldon Day, Charlie Smith, Roland Kaiser, George Beecher, Archie Chan and Dave Mullaney.

..... Don F. Smith

BOB YERKES reports the film he was working on when he broke his leg was "Breakout" which is starring Charles Bronson.

## Circus Cited For Hazards

A complaint by a trapeze performer, with the Ringling-Bar-num Circus, recently prompted officials of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration to investigate the circus. Malcolm Barr, a spokesman for the OSHA said they had checked the circus at Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Minneapolis.

The circus was cited for 28 violations that ranged from a damp floor to the absence of a first aid facility and first aid experts. It was impossible to check the aerial rigging, Barr reported, because it was not in place during the times the checks were carried out.

## A Real Crowd Pleaser

The true test of any show is the audience's reaction and when the Hanneford Circus played Worcester, Mass. (Nov. 1-3) it completely entranced those attending the show. There were plenty of compliments and several times the show came to a virtual standstill, waiting for the applause to die down.



This year Struppi Hanneford has a new cage act consisting of four huge tigers and a male lion, doing some excellent tricks with good showmanship. This act was broken in Florida winterquarters last winter.

The other Hanneford acts are also all crowd pleasers and the clowning by the Sherman Bros. proves that good clowns are funny. The Hanneford Riding Act is, of course, a classic with some superb riding and comedy.

The show program featured:

Russ Cole Band - Overature  
 Rex Trailer - TV Personality  
 Tajana - mixed cage act  
 Kay Pettinger and Kathy English  
 -- ladder/traps  
 The Grotto Clowns  
 Tajana - black panther riding  
 on an elephant

Rex Trailer - whip act  
 Hanneford's Boxer Dogs  
 The Sherman Bros- The strong man  
 The Sanger Riding School  
 -- Intermission --  
 Russ Cole Band - Overature  
 Rex Trailer - western stunts  
 The Hanneford Elephants (Chandra, Baby Ina, Roma)  
 The Grotto Clowns  
 Miss Marina - aerial lyre  
 The Sherman Bros. - Dog Pie  
 Hanneford Riding Act

PAULETTE BRAUN and RON PERRY are with a Big John Strong Unit in the mid-west. They're doing juggling, wire and fire baton,

**MILLER - AYERS SHOW**

.....by NORMAN WILBERT

The hopes and dreams of Alvin Miller became a reality in 1924 when he took out his own circus -- The Miller-Ayers Shows. Unfortunately this small circus has almost been overlooked in the passing of time, yet it was a strong Wisconsin contribution to the circus World.

From early childhood Alvin dreamed of having his own circus and by the age of 12 he was seriously practicing several acts. These included loop walking, ladder balancing, juggling and even the single trapeze.

During the years 1917-1920 he would set-up a brotworst stand in Sheboygan whenever a circus or carnival was in town. He also sponsored dances and all his profits went into his circus fund.

In 1921 he toured with the Lindemann Bros. Circus and his hopes of a show of his own grew more intense. His uncle, Elisha Ayers, was interested in the idea and helped Alvin purchase a 50x80 ft. tent, five Ford trucks, a Kohler light plant and even a calliope.

On Sept. 22, 1923, Alvin married Helen Meier, who became an accomplished performer in her own right. She also appeared with her husband as the "Aerial Millers."

Then in May 1924, the Miller-Ayers Shows went on the road. There were 12 people with the circus, plus two ponies and five dogs. Everyone helped to move and set-up the circus.

According to Miller the sea-

son was a successful one. Their tent seated 500 people and admission prices were 55¢ for adults and 25¢ for children. The jumps were just 15 to 25 miles per day and the show was out until October.

Harry McKinstry, advance man for the circus was instrumental in Miller's decision to unite with the DeKreko Bros. Shows for the 1925 season. Most of the equipment was the same that had been used the previous year.

At the end of the tour Alvin went to work for a Sheboygan shoe company. In the Spring of 1926 he joined La Mont Bros. Circus, staying with that show through the 1927 season.

At the end of the 1927 season the Millers decided to settle down in Sheboygan and Alvin went to work on a full-time basis for the Leverenz Shoe Co., where he worked for 35 years, retiring in 1963 at the age of 65.

(Continued on Page 10)

"Where do the  
Circuses go

in WINTER?"



By EARL CHAPIN MAY

THERE is, in the North at least, a fixed notion that most circuses remain en tour throughout the winter, which is a grievous error. The winter quarters is the most important piece of property owned by a circus man. With possibly two exceptions, the twenty-four bona fide white top aggregations at whose wonders 12,000,000 Americans marvel each year, exhibit less than eight months—from April to November. The other four are devoted to repairing the damage due to wind, weather, and much travel, and to "breaking in new acts," animal and human. The annual cost of repairs, replacements and wintering equals half the cost of the complete traveling plant.

The Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey's Combined Shows—known to the elect as "The Big Bertha," rolled on its hundred cars into Bridgeport, Conn., about November 9th last fall, after traveling about 13,000 miles from Maine to Minnesota, Oklahoma, Texas, and the Carolinas. The replacement value of that show is not less than \$2,000,000. Its winter quarters property is worth at least \$1,000,000. On April 1st last year its winter quarters experts began building the twelve acres of tents which will be spread in April, 1925.

The Sells-Floto Circus, John Rob-

inson Circus, and Wallace-Hagenbeck Circus, all under one corporate ownership, rolled into winter quarters, Peru and West Baden, Ind., during the last few days of November, after each had journeyed nearly 14,000 miles. The Sparks Circus reached its winter quarters at Central City Park, Macon, Ga., after traveling 16,975 miles between April 6th and December 1st.

The Al G. Barnes Trained Wild Animal Show closed its season in southern California after journeying from the Pacific coast to Ohio and back. Robbins Brothers Circus, owned by Fred Buchanan, an old-time Des Moines newspaper man, covered 15,000 miles before closing its season in the South.

Among the lesser circuses, Atterbury's will winter at Sioux City, Ia.; Christy's and Golden Brothers' at Beaumont, Tex.; Gollmar Brothers' at Wabash, Ind., and Lind Brothers' at Fairbury, Neb.

What about the funny clowns and the beautiful equestriennes and daring gymnasts? Ninety per cent of them will "work" all winter in theatres or indoor circuses. They are among the thriftiest people in the world. Most of the trainers and workmen will labor hard in winter quarters building a new show for next season. There's no rest for the circus man or woman.



## Letters

Keep this wonderful paper coming because we depend on it so much for the news of the circus, our favorite institution. I just don't see how you consistently do such a fine job, week in and week out.

..... Herbert B. Ueckert

### HISTORICAL FACT .....

The first Percheron horses imported into the U.S. were brought over from France in 1839

### MILLER-AYERS SHOW (Continued)

Today the Millers are still active and attend every circus that comes close to Sheboygan. They both like to talk about their circus careers and those days of having full-filled their early ambitions.

(This article has been rewritten and condensed from a story written a few years ago by Norman Wilbert).

by Edward Harris of Moorestown, New Jersey.

## Unusual Poster Offer A Mattel Report

Robert Ripley, of Believe It or Not fame, exhibited a human oddities side show at the New York World's Fair. Later it toured under the management of Ray Marsh Brydon.

Their one sheet upright posters were designed to look like side show banners and were often lined banner line fashion in downtown empty stores.

There were not too many of these ever printed, and when the show closed, the show's lithographers lacking full salary took the balance on hand home and stored them away. Recently I purchased these and other items from his widow.

It's a first come, first served plan and purchasers can point with pride to owning these rare and unusual pictorials.

- # 1 - Giant and two midgets
- # 2 - Believe it or Not, Miss Bertha Curtiss - 540 lbs
- # 3 - Different pose - M. Curtiss
- # 4 - Leopard men of Africa (Big lipped)
- # 5 - Medusa, Child of the Sea (attractive mermaid)

Above lithos all in fine condition, clean, etc.

\$6.00 each - All for \$29.00

- # 6 - Two sheet of Bertha Curtiss \$7.00 - (only four of these)

HALF SHEETS - Believe It Or Not

The following information has been reprinted from Mattel's Report to Stockholders for the six month period ending Aug. 3.

"1974 discontinued operations include all of the operations of Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc., consisting of the traveling circus and Circus World entertainment complex in Florida, some part or all of which Mattel currently intends to sell. There is no assurance at this time that such a sale will be consummated or that the Company will realize its total investment in the Circus World project."

Armless Knife Thrower

Crystal Gazing Mind Reader

Bob Wallace, as Popeye

Bob Wallace, as Homliest Man

These four upright half seats at \$4.00 each or \$15 for the set.

Illustrated press sheets for Uncle Tom's Cabin and Ten Nights In a Bar Room. Includes many old fashioned reproductions of crude Ackermann Quigley lithos for use as mats ... \$2.00 each

Half sheet pictorials of Horne Bros. Circus .... \$4.00 each

Great items for Xmas - hurry only a few of each item available.

ART "Doc" MILLER

Box 1073

Gibsonton, Fla. - 33534

# PEOPLE

THE FLYING PALACIOS are currently touring with Circus Benneweis in Europe.

RAYMOND LA ROCHE (Zip, the clown) was the subject of an article in a Bryant College newspaper (Smithfield, R.I.) for Oct. 18, 1974 - Page 3.

DAVID "Tiny" STARR visited the Wallace & Rogers Circus during its PNE run at Vancouver, BC

AL MOODY, long-time showman and well-known for his freak animal side shows, now lives in Gibsonton, Fla.

DON ARTHUR, magician, is playing a tour of dates in Alaska to big crowds.

HELEN HAAG recently returned to her Florida home after an operation. She is recovering rapidly.

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## THE HOXIE STORY (Continued)

tent. The top will be 140 ft. in diameter and is to be supported by two center poles, two rows of quarter poles, plus the end pole

This new tent, says Hall, was designed to provide the audience with a better view of the performance and put them closer to the acts. The wide track is going to offer space for acts to work in multi-displays and it would even allow for various types of races, if we want to have this sort of thing.