



AMERICA'S FAVORITE CIRCUS WEEKLY

3rd Year

June 24, 1974

Number 25

Show Wins Praise Everywhere

There's been an increase in attendance at everyone of our dates here in the West, says the Gatti-Charles Circus. We're busy signing repeat dates everywhere for the 1975 tour, a show official reported.

The sponsors all report they have been pleased with the circus -- its performance and the business that is being recorded. More than one sponsor told The Circus Report that this is the best circus they've seen in a long time and they have big expectations for the coming year.

At San Francisco, where the show wound up its west coast run, a new display featuring Aurora, iron jaw and Lisa, hair hang, was added to the program.

The program will be expanded for the Cleveland date (June 27-29) with the addition of Lot-tie Brunn and her son, the Clyde Bros. elephants, Kirby's chimps, plus an aerial cradle number and a tiger act.

Will Hutchins (star of films TV and the stage) is developing into one of the better circus announcers in the business. He is kept busy during intermission
(Continued on Page 8)

SHOW OVERCOMES RAIN

A record tear-down and loading operation was achieved by the John Strong 1869 Circus at Fort Worth, as a tornado raced towards the show grounds, then veered off at the last minute. It took only a short while for the lot to be flooded, as the storm left torrential rains in its wake. As a result the show was unable to move until the following morning.

The storm swept across Texas and Oklahoma early this month, hitting virtually every city on the circus route (Hous-
(Continued on Page 3)

TALENT BILL

Specialty acts currently appearing at Lion Country Safari Parks include: Gene Detroy and the Marquis Chimps; Goldilocks and the Three Bears; Katrina's Cossack Chimps; Howard Johnson's elephants.

The Marquis Chimps will be seen nation-wide on the Merv Griffin TV Show in July. The acts were all booked through Simone Finner Enterprises, the theatrical agency based in Southern California.

At The Fair

Professional acts appearing at the Colusa (Calif.) County Fair last week (June 13-16) included:

Mitchell's Marionettes
 Lou Jacklich - accordion
 Bill Jackson - magician
 Hank Sieman - ventriloquist
 The wheelers - marimbas
 The Snyder Bros. - comedy
 Bobby Clark & Jean - mental

The fair's midway attractions were provided by the Butler Amusement Co.

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Pot-Pourri

The Utica (N.Y.) Memorial Auditorium was expected to be shut down on July 23rd, unless the county takes over its operation.

Astroworld's Celestial Hotel (Houston, Tex.) has a P. T. Barnum bedroom suite, complete with circus motif.

Circo Bell, of Mexico, recently traded an elephant for a tent and have been playing to good business, despite some local opposition.

The Moolah Shrine Circus at St. Louis, Mo., presented a parade in the downtown area the night of June 7th.

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SHOW GETS OFF TO GOOD START

Operating with an enlarged show, Royal Bros. Circus reports its early 1974 dates have all been successful. The show's tour has been expanded and they will be playing larger cities this year.

The show is traveling on ten trucks and uses a 100 ft. round end big top with two 30 ft. and one 40 ft. middle sections, plus a 25 ft square marquee. Seating, which is six and seven rows high, will accommodate some 1,600 persons.

The side show and menagerie tent is 110 ft. x 30 ft. The inside features include: bear, lion, monkeys, chimp, elephant, llamas and an appaloosa horse. Bob Rawls is manager, with

Burf Ransome, fire eater, Dennis Michael, magic and lecturer; Lynn Michaels, Punch & Judy and Sheila Sheffield, the outside bally girl.

The big show program features includes:

Opening Spec
 Duke's and Royal Bros. ponies
 The Jumping Jacks - trampoline
 Miss Jo Anne - contortion
 The Clowns
 Ethel's racing greyhounds
 Dick Forest - mixed animals
 Miss Carol and Margaret - ladder
 Dennis Michaels - plate spinn'g
 Miss Virginia and Carol - webs
 Duke's goats
 Jo Anne Jennier - seals
 The Clowns
 The Juggling Michaels
 Frazier Troupe - rola bola
 The Michaels - dog act
 Jo Anne Jennier - single trap.
 Dick Forest - with Ellie, the elephant

The show's staff includes:

Al Stencell and John Frazier - owners

The 1869 Show

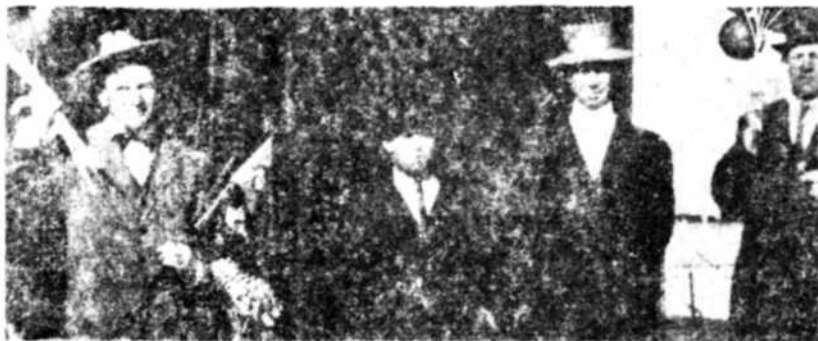
ton June 1-3; Dallas June 4-6;
 Fort Worth June 7-8; Wichita
 Falls June 9; Midwest City June
 10-11 and Tulsa June 12-13).

Serious damage was reported throughout the area, and several sections were declared disaster areas. Fortunately, the circus escaped any real damage and was able to keep moving as per its schedule.

Shirley Stencell - office mgr.
 Hazel Frazier - front door
 Bob Raborn - supt.
 Dick Forest - animal supt.
 Bob Vandermolten - advance press
 Larry Sheffield - concessions
 Jim Kernan - novelties
 Bob Rawls - side show mgr.
 Corky Frazier - mechanic
 Garry Sheffield - pie car
 Cathy Sheffield - cookhouse
 Burt Ransome - prop boss
 Don Tegrana - electrician
 Virginia Raborn - wardrobe
 Marueen Rawls - snake show



THE 101 Ranch Wild West was appearing in the Coliseum, Chicago, in April, 1907, when this picture of some of its members was snapped on the eve of departure for the Jamestown Exposition, Norfolk, Va. In the front row, left to right, are "Shorty" Purviance, Bert Colby, "Nip" Vann and Vess Pegg. Second row: Mrs. Eddie Botsford, Mrs. George Atterberry, Mrs. Charles Noble, Mrs. Willis Atterberry, Mrs. Zack T. Miller and Maymie Francis, who later became Mrs. F. C. (California Frank) Hafley. In the rear are Vince Dillon, George Atterberry, Eddie Botsford, Ramonna (a Mexican), Col. J. C. Miller, Fred Burns, Charles Noble, Willis Atterberry and George Elser.



Balloon and pennant concessionaires on the 101 Ranch Wild West Show of 1912 included: l.t.r. Raymond (Fat) Cronin; Nick Lombardo; James Kelley and D. H. (White) Rodenburg.

Shriners Plan For July Seminar



A variety of topics have been scheduled for discussion at the July 24th Shrine Circus Seminar, including the new animal control law. In announcing the Seminar, which will be held at the Hotel Viking, at Atlantic City, Chairman Dick Zoller, of Springfield, Mass., said the Shriners can be expected to throw their weight and efforts towards relaxation of the Endangered Species Act, so circuses can avoid any hardship.

Some 34 Temples were represented at the Seminar held on March 29-30, where everything from concessions to programs and the animal laws were discussed. We're interested in helping to get the law relaxed, some Shrinker said. Even though we aren't directly affected, he added, it "affects the circus industry and that's us."

A Near Miss

A misunderstanding about a show date almost disappointed circus fans at North Platte, Neb early this month. The Shriners thought the Clyde Bros. Circus was coming to town on June 9th, while the circus people thought that date was set for June 19.

When the circus failed to show up, the sponsors figured something had happened and asked the State Highway Patrol to help in locating the show. "We had everyone out looking for the circus," said one Shrinker, and law officers found them all over the state, enjoying "a day off."

After circus officials were contacted they agreed that the circus would come in for a night performance, if the acts could be located. The show finally went on, to a full house, and

One representative reports the animal law was not really understood by anyone, including the Congressmen who voted for it. He said the Shriners are waiting for word from several Congressmen which will help them to fight the new law.

According to Congressman William Bray, the new law was not intended to hurt circus operations. However, he said, as the law now stands "it will hurt circuses, unless it is amended in such a way as to favor circuses."

NOTE . . . Last week's centerfold, of the circus parade, is believed to have been that of the Barnum & Bailey Show. No other details are available.

the Shriners were expressing their regret over the mix-up with the hope that not too many people had been disappointed.

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo
Jun 26-30 Los Banos, Cal.

Barnes & Daily Circus
Jun 24 Enroute
25 Slayton, Minn.
26 Lambertson
27 Tyler
28 Camby
29 Clarkfield

Beatty-Cole Circus
Jun 24 Elizabeth, N.J.
25 Long Branch
26 Woodbridge
27 Lakewood
28 Absecon

Carden & Johnson Circus
Jun 24 Gillette, Wyo.
25 Sheridan
26-27 Casper

Carson & Barnes Circus
Jun 24 Spencer, Iowa
25 Algona
26 Forest City
27 Mason City
28 Owatonna, Minn.
29 Wells

Hubert Castle Circus
June 24 Kamloops, B.C.
25 Vernon
26 Penticton
27 Trail
28 Nelson
29 Enroute
30 Shelby, Mont.

Circus Kirk
Jun 24 Oakland, N. J.
25 Wayne
26 Lyndhurst
27 Paramus
28 Hamburg
29 Wycoff

Franzen Bros. Circus
Jun 24 Pashtigo, Wisc.
25 Crivitz
26 Niagara

Gatti-Charles Circus
Jun 27-29 Cleveland, Ohio

George-Matthews Circus
June 24 Lawrence, Kans.
25-27 Independence
28 Joplin, Mo.
29 Springfield
30 Rolle

Happytime Circus
to Jun 29 Vallejo, Calif.

Hill's Great American Circus
June 29 Ada, Minn.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
June 23 Beaver Falls, Pa.
24 Mt. Nebo
25 Polk
26 North Warren
27 Punxsutawney
28 Dubois
29 Clearfield
30 Mill Hall

Int'l All Star Circus
Jun 29-Sep 2 Twin Mt. N.H.

King Bros. Circus
Jun 23 Tooele, Utah
24 Bountiful
25 Tremonton
26 Brigham City
27 Ogden
28 Heber City

Lewis Bros. Circus
Jr 24 Springfield, Ohio
(CFA Convention)
25 Crooksville
26 Cannonsburg, Pa.
27 Everett
28 Carlisle
29 Hummelstown
30 Collegeville

John Strong 1869 Circus
Jun 25-26 Indianapolis
27-28 Louisville, Ky
29-30 Cincinnati, Oh

..... OTHER ROUTES

Barnum Festival
Jun 28-Jul 7 Bridgep't,
Conn
CFA Convention
Jun 24-26 Springf'd, Ohio

Century 21 Show - Blue
Jun 24-29 Ft. Wayne, Ind

Century 21 Show - Red
Jun 28-Jul 7 Cedar Rpsd,
Iowa

Disney on Parade
Jun 25-30 San Diego, Cal

James H. Drew Shows
Jun 24-29 Middlesboro, Ky

Foley & Burk Shows
to Jun 29 Vallejo, Cal.

Frazier World Fair Shows
Jun 26-30 Albuquerque,

Kramien's Magic Capades^{N.M.}
Jun 24-25 Billings, Mont
27 Big Timber
28 Bozeman

Peter Pan Show
to Jun 30 Los Ang, Cal.

Rose City Bides
Jun 25-29 Elsberry, Mo.

FOR SALE

One tent - 30 x 60 ft.

A 10 KW generator - in
excellent condition.

CAN USE middle-aged, sin-
gle man. Must have driv-
er's license. Can stay in
quarters during the win-
ter.

27 Trail
 28 Nelson
 29 Enroute
 30 Shelby, Mont.

Circus Kirk
 Jun 24 Oakland, N. J.
 25 Wayne
 26 Lyndhurst
 27 Paramus
 28 Hamburg
 29 Wycoff

Circus Vargas
 Jun 24 Oshkosh, Wisc.
 25 Appleton
 26 Fond du Lac
 27-28 Wilmont
 29 Waukegan, Ill.
 30 Wheaton

Clyde Bros. Circus
 Jun 29-30 South Bend, Ind.

Dailey Bros. Circus
 Jun 24 Webster, S. D.
 25 Milbank
 26 Denison, Minn.
 27 Appleton
 28 Starbuck
 29 Clara City

Europorama
 June 24 Enroute
 25 Ontario, Oregon
 26 Enroute
 27 Boise, Idaho
 28 Twin Falls.
 29 Enroute
 30 Pocatello

Fisher Bros. Circus
 Jun 24 Webb City, Mo.

27 Ogden
 28 Heber City

Lewis Bros. Circus
 Jr. 24 Springfield, Ohio
 (CFA Convention)
 25 Crooksville
 26 Cannonsburg, Pa.
 27 Everett
 28 Carlisle
 29 Hummelstown
 30 Collegeville

Polack Bros. Circus
 Jun 24-25 Klamath Falls, Oreg
 27 Kelso, Wash

Ringling-Barnum (Blue Unit)
 Jun 27-30 Tucson, Ariz

Ringling-Barnum (Red Unit)
 Jun 25-30 Dallas, Texas

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Shw
 Jun 26 Butte, Mont.
 28 Pocatello
 29-30 Salt Lake City,
 Utah

Royson Bros. Circus
 June 25 Gleason, Tenn.

Sells & Gray Circus
 Jun 24 Hazlet, N. Y.
 25 Bound Brook
 26 Madison
 27 Westwood
 28 Fishkill



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One tent - 30 x 60 ft.

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A BUSY CIRCUS VISITOR

Spent two glorious days with the Carson & Barnes Circus (May 17-18) and was able to record some of that show's fine music, directed by Jim Gibson.



The weather was bad here at North Platte, with a drizzle most of the day and winds of 55 m.p.h. or so. It was really a dreary day but inside the tent, even though they had only a small crowd, the performance sparkled, just as if the house had been jammed full.

At McCook, the weather was better (partly cloudy) but again they had only a small crowd. That night when I went to drive off the lot my car sank into a mud hole and they had to bring an elephant over and pull the car off the lot.

GATTI-CHARLES . . .

and after the show signing autographs. This has contributed to an increase in the sale of program books at each show.

For the San Francisco engagement some 28 extra musicians were engaged. This band, under the direction of Don Rey, was without a doubt, the best circus band employed to back a show on the coast this year. Their music was crisp and sharp, the way one expects a circus band to be.

On the last day of the show in Stockton (June 13-14) kids swiped Harry Ross' shotgun, an important item for his many clown numbers. Thanks to the help of local police he was able to obtain a new similiar gun in time for the evening performance, which permitted his gags to work as usual.

The circus is currently en-route East and early in July

Early this month the George-Matthews Circus played at Denver and they were greeted by lots of sunshine, plus big crowds. Their new top arrived during the day and was scheduled to be set up the following day.

A couple of days later I was back to visit the show once more and it was really a thrill to see that new orange and white tent in the air. Boy what a beautiful sight that was -- made some good color pictures. Again the show had a full house, with people sitting on the ground and in the aisles.

..... Art Stensvad

will enter Canada for their usual two to three months in that country. They will eventually wind up back on the west coast, then go into the Southwest area for the final weeks of the current tour.



Shown here are some members of the Buffalo Bill-Pawnee Bill Show of 1909. Seated in front is Tom Smith, supt. of stock and a part owner in the show; The others are l.t.r. Ed Dowling, ticket seller; Harry Wilson, side show mgr; Senator Maguire of Oklahoma; Col. W. F. Cody; Mjr. G. W. Lillie. Seated behind Mr. Wilson is Charles Metrius, show treasurer. The other man is not known.



Shown here, in a White steamer, Al G. Barnes's first car are: l.t.r. Elmer G. Cohan, ticket office; Harley Tyler, show manager; Al G. Barnes; W. K. Peck, railroad contracting agent, and Harold Bushee, special agent. The picture was taken in San Francisco in 1909.

PHASE OUT FACILITY Baudy

In a lengthy letter to the AB last week (June 15), Robert Baudy pleaded for circus and zoo officials to organize legal opposition to current laws that restrict the keeping and movement of wild animals. He said that if the matter remains unchecked zoos and their personnel will meet the same fate of animal trainers. Then later, he added, so too will circuses, because a circus without animal acts is no longer a circus.



Baudy said that last year he successfully raised 51 cubs belonging to nine cat species. Some were hand-raised because of a lack of interest on the part of the mother.

Baudy also stated that he would start phasing out his Florida breeding compound within 60 days if a solution was not forthcoming. Many people have advised me against this action, he said, but none of them have come up with a practical solution to the current problems.

A PROTEST

Late last month the Antelope Valley Press, of Palmdale and Lancaster, Calif., printed articles protesting the treatment of animals during a circus performance in that area.

One report, written by Lisa Orloff, stated that leopards were whipped, dragged around by chains and beaten by the trainer and an assistant during the actual performance. Even though the people were shouting "put the animals away," she said, the inhumane treatment continued for some time.

At the end of the act, Miss Orloff continued, the leopards were literally thrown into the cage. The trainer was upset, she added, "but this was no excuse

B B Show Dates

The Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show will open its annual run at North Platte, Nebr., on July 13th, presenting one performance each day through Aug. 18th. Several new features are planned for the 1974 season, says Montie Montana, Jr., producer of the show.

A real live "train robbery" will be part of the spectacular program, using live steam engines and old-time coaches. The Nebraska Midland Railroad (narrow gauge) will lay the tracks into the arena, on a portable base for easy removal.

for the poor treatment of these beautiful animals. All the other people around us were affected by the scene."

PEOPLE

RALPH HORTON reports he visited the John Strong at several mid-western dates this month.

LIPKO's Comedy Chimps will be featured at the Red River Valley Fair (Fargo, N.D.) from July 6 to 11th.

PAUL NEFF recently visited with ELOISE BERCHTOLD, MORGAN BERRY and the VAN DONWENS

VIOLA and FRANK Reeh, retired clowns, visited with TAD TOSKY in Chicago enroute to Hawaii.

NORBERT KREISCH (Norbu) was the subject of a feature article in the St. Louis (Mo.) Dispatch on June 7th.

MR. and MRS. FUENTES, owners of three circuses in Mexico, visited the Gatti-Charles Circus at San Francisco, Calif. (June 15-16)

LILLIAN, foot juggler, is visiting her sister in Europe. It's the first visit they've had in ten years.

MARCELLO TRUZZI and his father MASSIMILIANO, plan to attend the Jugglers Convention at Sarasota, Fla. next month.

GENE MORELAND recently visited with PAUL PUGH while vacationing in Washington.

Graduation Time

BILL POWELL, Jr., stepson of elephant trainer Bucky Steele, and son of the former Gee Gee Engesser, also son of wire walker and concessionaire Bill Powell, Sr., graduated with honors from the University of South Florida, at Tampa, on June 6th. Powell majored in Public Relations, and minored in Business and Broadcasting.

CIRCUS ACTS

The Moolah Shrine Circus at St. Louis, Mo. had wind and rain during most of its June 8 to 11 stand.

Among the feature acts on the show program were:...

Gossling's tigers
The Hall animals
Diano's elephants
Antonnucci's chimps
Salvadori's seals
The Smahas - horses
The Flying Larays
Dave Merrifield's helicopter
The Carrillo Bros - high wire
Norbu, almost human gorilla
The Nerveless Nocks
Feller Boys & Dodo - wire

..... Tim Cooney

BIG BIRDS . . . Of the 8,600 known living species of birds, by far the largest is the North African ostrich. Males of this flightless bird reach 845 lbs. and stand 9 feet tall.

Performer Confined

Although he has been released from the hospital, Tony Nock will have to remain casts for something like two months.

The 24 year old swaypole performer was injured during an RBBB performance at Boston on May 26th. Nock fractured both feet when his swaypole snapped about 15 feet above the ground as he was swaying in an arc of 40 to 50 feet. Several guy wires helped to break his fall, and prevented more serious injuries.

She Likes Visitors

Early this month Aden and Velma Lowry spent some time visiting with Eliza Morell, widow of Forest Morell, a former CFA president. Mrs. Morell lives in Eureka Springs, Ark., and says she would love to have fans drop by for a visit.

She lives not far from Dave Workman, who has the "Cyclorama Circus Museum" in that city. He is currently on tour with a circus band, but expects to be back home sometime soon.

Incidentally, Velma's cousin, Emmett Wilson, used to rent a lot at Independence, Kans. to the RBBB Show and some years ago he acquired several mint condition lithos from the circus. He has given them to the Lowry's for their circus room.