



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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Number 12

## 3 BIG DAYS

Something different in the way of an audience developed at Boyes Hot Springs, Calif. when the Happytime Circus played that city for three days - Mar. 15-17. Drivers lined up along the street waiting for gas, then became so absorbed in watching the circus they were reluctant to move a long in line.

This was the 7th year in a row that the circus has been sponsored here by Fiesta Markets Inc. They used plenty of newspaper space and window cards to advertise the circus, then gave free balloons to everyone who attended.

The performances presented on all three days included:

Ko-Ko, the clown and his balloon  
Trained goats (3)  
Dave and his balloon animals  
Trained dogs (4)  
Hula hoop contest for kids

## STAR HURT

Hospital officials at Miami, Fla. report aerialist Jacqueline Zerbini is in good condition after surviving a fall during a performance of the Shrine Circus in that city.

The circus performer was riding her rocket ship to the top of the arena when the rigging apparently failed and threw her down 40 ft. to the concrete floor. Her husband, Jean (Tarzan) Zerbini, attempted to break her fall but was unsuccessful.

A hospital official said that Mrs. Zerbini injured her heel and suffered a broken tailbone.



Michael - rola bola/juggling  
Trained llama  
Pony Drill  
Fluffy, the high diving dog

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## Our Error!

The route date listed for the Paul Kaye Continental Circus in last week's issue was in error. The date shown is for May and not the month of March.

### NOTE .....

The illustration on the address side of today's Circus Report was clipped from Hal Haviland's letterhead.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published each week by Don Mercks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530.

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## show draws well

Enthusiastic crowds attended each performance of the Caltech Circus (Feb. 23-24) at Pasadena, Cal. Five shows were presented, with four full houses and one 2/3 house.

The show program, which ran 1 1/2 hours, featured:

- Pra-show calliope concert by Tracy Heaston
- "Circus on Parade" featuring a 32 piece Caltech Concert Band
- Miss Astra - sponge plunge
- Heidi Wendany and Dorothy Herbert - dog acts
- Rudy Rawls and Checkers Baker - Clowns with Boxing Match
- Miss Aurora (Bambi Burnes) - iron jaw
- Snow White and Seven Dwarfs - a walk-around
- Clowns - The long shirt
- Russ Saunders Trio - teeterb'd
- Clowns - The Moving Men (Pops Levinson, Chip & Rick Burnes)
- Aerial web feature - Miss Dale, Bambi and Dianne
- Clowns - The Birdcage (Joey Bra-ga)
- Miss Cindy - chimpanzee
- Clowns - A musical invention
- John Strong Jr - juggler
- Clowns - The Dentist
- Miss Dale (Baer) - trapeze
- Linda Strong and the elephant "Neena"
- Spec - "Over the Rainbow" with floats and a bird act

## EXPERT TALENT FOR D.C. SHOW

Next week (Apr. 3) the all-new "Circus America" opens at Capital Centre (Washington, DC) for a 19 day run. The show will feature top name circus talent, with five ring presentations, plus TV viewing for instant rerun and close-ups of the performers. In addition to the circus performance, a menagerie, side show and petting zoo will also be provided for patrons.

The circus program will be presented in next week's issue of Circus Report. The show's executive staff and Clown Alley is presented below:

Executive staff for the Circus America will include:

Paul V. Keys - Exec. Director  
 Karl Wellenda - Perf. Director  
 Jack Leontini - Comp. Manager  
 Wm. N. Strong - Person. Direct.  
 Philip McDonald - Announcer  
 Jack Cervone - Musical Direct.  
 Judy Jacobs - Prod. Coordinatr  
 Trudy Strong - Aerial Ballet  
 Gene Randow and Max Craig -  
 producing clowns  
 Tom Pettus - Prop supt.  
 Lloyd Crabb - Electrician  
 Walter Patterson - Spec. Effect  
 John Welde - floats & wagons  
 Karl Davis - Transp. Consult.  
 Donna Mitchell - Wardrobe

Clowns who will be appear-

## Texas Gets Crowded

Sometimes, at least when it comes to circuses, it can become pretty crowded in Texas. Already this year the Circus Vargas and Carson & Barnes have been playing the same cities.

Circus Vargas played Arlington on Jan. 17-24 and Beaumont on Jan. 25. They came back this month to play Austin on Mar. 18-20 and El Paso on Mar. 22-25.

Then Carson & Barnes moved into the state to open its 1974 season with a Mar. 22-24 date at Austin, followed by a day (Mar. 27) at Mexia and an April 2nd engagement at Beaumont

In the meantime Fisher Br. is playing the small towns of the state. Later on several other shows will move in for their share of the business.

ing with Circus America next month are:

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Jay Armor           | Don Beshman   |
| John Cirillino      | Grady Craig   |
| Max Craig           | John Daly     |
| Linda Daly          | June Dewsbury |
| Blinko              | Meran         |
| Charlie Frank       | Abe Goldstein |
| Herold Hall         | Mildred Hall  |
| Neil Kay            | Emmett Kelly  |
| Don Kirby           | John McKay    |
| Peluze              | Gene Randow   |
| Chuck Sateja        | Walter Stimas |
| David Strong        | Albert White  |
| David Schwinkendorf |               |

# ROUTES

- Allen's Petting Zoo  
Mar. 27-31 Canoga Prk, Cal
- Bale's Buckeye Circus  
Mar. 25 Loudonville, Ohio  
26 Lewiston  
27 Lima  
28 Tipp City  
30 Delaware
- Carson & Barnes Circus  
Mar. 27 Mexia, Texas.  
April 2 Beaumont
- Hubert Castle Circus  
Mar 28-Apr 6 Columbus, Oh.  
28-31 Los Angeles, Cal
- Circus Vargas  
Mar. 27-31 Phoenix, Ariz.
- Cole All Star TV Circus  
Mar. 25 Canton, N. Y.  
26 Madrid  
27 De Kalb Junction  
28 Ogdensburg  
29 Brasher Falls  
30 Potsdam  
31 Enroute
- Fisher Bros. Circus  
Mar. 25 Winnie, Texas  
26 Hardin  
27 New Caney  
28 Magnolia

- Fisher Bros. (Continued)  
Mar. 29 Industry, Texas  
30 Somerville
- Great Moscow Circus  
Mar 29-Apr 7 Sydney, Aust.
- Hamid-Morton Circus  
Mar. 22-24 Wichita, Kans.  
28-31 Okla. City, Okl.
- Hamilton Mini Circus  
Mar. 28-30 Hamilton, Ohio
- Hoxie Bros. Circus  
Mar. 25 Sweetwater, Fla.  
26 Sunrise  
27 Davis  
28 Coral Springs  
29 Okeechobee  
30-31 Melbourne
- Hubler's Int'l Circus  
Mar. 29-31 Decatur, Ill.  
30-31 Steubenville, Oh
- Pen American Circus  
Mar. 29-31 Morristown, N.J.
- Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit  
Mar 28-May 27 New York, NY
- Ringling-Barnum Red Unit  
Mar. 26-31 Charlotte, N.C.
- Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show  
Mar. 25 Bloomington, Ind.  
28-29 Cincinnati, Oh.  
30-31 Dayton

- Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show  
Mar. 25 Staunton, Va.  
26 Bedford  
27 Radford  
28 Pulaski  
29 Wytheville  
30 Statesville, N.C.  
31 Lenoir
- Sells & Gray Circus  
Mar. 25 Miramar, Fla.  
26 Deerfield Beach  
27 Boynton Beach  
28 Fort Pierce  
29 Melbourne  
30 Titusville  
31 Daytona Beach
- Wallace & Rogers Circus  
Mar. 21 St. Helens, Ore.  
Apr. 6-7 Mercer Island, Wh
- World Pet Expo  
Mar. 30-31 Trenton, N. J.

## NOTES .....

In 1859 the Dan Rice Circus played Hartford, Conn. on Aug. 27-28. At that time they reportedly featured a trained rhino. The show had some 40 horses, plus the elephant "Lalla Roach". Admission price was 25¢.

# the CASTLE CIRCUS notes

This year's presentation of the Hubert Castle Circus, at Portland, Ore. (Mar. 7-10) marked the show's eighth year in our city. The circus was sponsored by Al Kader Shrine Temple and was presented at the Memorial Coliseum.

It didn't seem as if the crowds were quite as large as those of last year, perhaps it was due to the gas shortage. The admission prices were up slightly and this year they were \$3.50 \$4.00 and \$5.00.

The program as presented here featured:

Joe Hartman - lions and tigers  
 Clowns - Target practice  
 Miss Anita and Rebecca - web  
 Miss Belinda - single trapeze  
 Marshal's camels and llamas  
 The Zamperlas - bicycles  
 The Olmedas - una-cycle  
 Irene, Tonga and Tonga - comedy  
 The Carlos Twins - hand balance  
 The Four Nandos - acrobats  
 The Torino Bros. - juggling  
 Francarro - single trapeze  
 The Torrenis - bikes on wire  
 The Atos Troupe - trampoline  
 Bounding Plunketts - trampoline  
 Clowns - hair grower  
 Willy Lenz - chimps  
 -- Intermission --  
 The Flying Latinos  
 Clowns - The fire cracker  
 Tony Foster - bounding rope

The March 1974 issue of "Horse & Rider" magazine has a story about the Schlitz 40 Horse Hitch.

Allen's Petting Zoo has ordered a new 35' x 60' vinyl red and white striped tent from the Canvas Specialty Co. of Los Angeles, Calif.

Some 28 CFA members visited the Hubert Castle Circus during its recent Portland, Ore. date.

The John Strong Circus played to turnaway business at each performance during a two day stand in Simi, Calif.

A full hour program will be filmed on the Paul Kaye Circus during its Hawaiian engagement for the Hawaii 5-0 program.

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus is scheduled to give two shows on the U.C. Campus in Berkeley, Calif. on May 25th. They will also play the World's Fair in Spokane, Wash. for a few days

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Ray Grant & Co. - illusions  
 The Kolmedys - balancing  
 The Pablos - perch act  
 The Torre Duo - bicycle balance  
 The Amendis Troupe - teeterboard  
 The Delaneys - serial audacity  
 Wallace Diehl - Janmer elephants  
 La Norma - serial display  
 ..... Michael Sporrer

# people



ALBERT WHITE is just one of several clowns who will be with the all-new Circus America at Washington, DC during the month of April.

DAVID CHABIRA received a two page write-up (with pictures) about his clowning with the Hamid-Morton Circus. The item was in the March 3rd issue of the Topeka (Kans.) Capital-Journal.

PEGGY WILLIAMS, an RBBB circus clown, recently delivered the sermon at the Church of St. Stephen in Washington, DC.

KEN WILLER, THE WAL-TIMS and MISS JAN were with the Globe-trotters in San Francisco last week.

JOAN BYRON, former RBBB showgirl and Disney on Parade performer, currently does a striptease on a trapeze to open the stage show "Jumpers" which is now playing Washington, DC.

BOB BUTLER, risley performer is reportedly working up a new act in the San Francisco, Calif. area.

MIKE KLUCKER has changed his name to "Earl Michaels". He is ringmaster/announcer with the Hamid-Morton Circus.

RAY RODMAN, PAT GRAHAM, and KARI and SMOKEY JONES visited the John Strong Circus when the

# ROUTES

## Bugs Bunny Show

Mar. 25-30 Huntington Stat., N. Y.  
25-27 Cherry Hill, N. J.  
27-30 Port Arthur, Texas  
28-30 Woodbridge, N. J.

## Des Moines Sport Show

Mar. 26-31 Des Moines, Iowa

## Disney on Parade Show

Mar. 26-31 Louisville, Ky.

## Holiday on Ice

Mar. 26-31 St. Petersburg, Fla.

## Ice Capades

Mar. 27-31 Sherbrooke, Quebec

## Ice Follies

Mar. 27-Apr. 7 Minneapolis, Minn

## Krawien's Mad World of Magic

Mar. 22 Wickenburg, Ariz.  
26 Camp Verde  
27 Cottonwood  
28 Williams  
29 Winslow

## Peter Pan Show

Mar. 26-31 New Haven, Conn.



show played Bloomington, Calif. on March 15th.

DIME WILSON is the producing clown on Hamid-Morton Circus for its current tour.

# The H-M Show Program

The program for Hamid-Morton Circus, as presented at two sponsored dates this month is shown below. There is a slight difference between the two, but basically they are pretty much the same.

The program as presented at Topeka, Kans., on March 1-3 featured the following acts.

National Anthem  
Circus Overture  
Wanda Ward - on the iron ring  
Eloise Berchtold - wild animals  
The Charles - acrobats

The Milantis - comedy casting

The Clowns  
Baby African elephant  
Fulbrights - liberty ponies  
The Clowns  
Betty Woods - doves  
Girls on swinging ladders  
Tony Steel - sponge dive

-- Intermission --

Musical Interlude

The Flying Del-Steeles

The Clowns

Szymanski Chimps

The Fulbrights - trained horses

Gutis Jungle Fantasy

Eloise Berchtold - elephants

The Ayala Troupe - teeterboard

Grand Finale



Eloise Berchtold, who works both wild animals and elephants in the show program

The program as presented at Kansas City, Mo. on March 5-10 featured the followings:

Nat'l Anthem  
Circus Overture  
Spec - Mother Goose  
Wanda Ward - rings  
Eloise Berchtold - wild animals  
The Charles - acro  
The Milantis - com  
edy casting  
Carlotta Winn - a slide for life

The Clowns

Eloise - baby African elephant

Fulbrights - liberty ponies

Barney Cipriani - comedy

Wanda Ward - "Alfie" the seal

Winn Bros. - high wire walk

Betty Woods - doves

The Aerial Ballet

Tony Steel - sponge dive

-- Intermission --

Musical Interlude

Prof. Alberto - riding school

The Flying Del-Steeles

The Clowns

The Ayala Troupe - teeterboard

Barney Cipriani - comedy div'ng

The Fulbrights - trained horses

Zoppe's dogs and horse

Gutis Jungle Fantasy

Eloise Berchtold - elephants

The Winns - aerial motorcycle

Grand Finale.

Order your copy today at \$10.00 per year.

Write: Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal. 94530

# NOW OPEN

The Duncklee scale model of Ringling Bros. Circus opened its 1974 season on March 10th. The circus display, on view at the Wayside Country Store, Rte. 20, Marlboro, Mass. is open to the public from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. with special arrangements for groups.

The display is on view through September, and what was once a two month operation has now developed into a ten month stand.

The scale model circus is an accurate reproduction of the old-time tented circus, completely hand-made. The display includes an animated street parade 18 animated circus acts, the big top, backyard, railroad, a cookhouse, menagerie, 140 wagon display, 400 horses, 30 elephants and some 1,000 people.

Also on view is a collection of posters

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## *Readers Please Note!*

Under a U.S. Supreme Court ruling, USDA agents do not have jurisdiction over entertainers who are purely "exhibitors", even though they own animals and cross state lines. "An exhibition is not interstate commerce. The exhibition is purely a local affair and the travel merely incidental."

# RANDOM RAMBLINGS . . . . . by ART "Doc" MILLER

Life on a fair grounds midway is a continuous round of work, but now and then incidents happen which make the show folks forget the strenuous hours they put in catering to the fun seeking public.

Take for example the time a carnival owner named Shirley was working like mad patting ground beef into shape for hamburgers. The crowd had just poured out of the grandstand, everyone was hungry and she could hardly keep up with the demand. Suddenly she noticed with horror that the diamond was missing from her ring, and thought, it must be mixed in with the meat.



With a scream, she cried, "My diamond, I have lost my diamond."

Tearing apart the patties on the griddle without success she dashed out onto the midway, grabbing hamburgers right and left out of the astonished people's mouths and hands, examining them minutely, particle by particle, then throwing the pieces to the ground, and rushing on. Right up the midway went Shirley, repeating the process, leaving a trail of astonished people gaping after her in open mouth wonder. It didn't matter whose stand they had purchased the hamburgers from, Shirley snatched them all, until finally she located what she sought.

Without a smile of gratitude, she screamed, "I found it - I found my diamond" and proceeded back to her stand as calmly as if this were an ordinary run of the day incident.

The score of fair-goers whose lunches she had grabbed and discarded figured she must have flipped her lid and thought "Now I've

seen everything."

Then there is the tale of the sausage vendor at the Buffalo, N.Y. Pan American Exposition, who ran out of sausages the last night of the fair. Not wanting to lose sales, he daubed one of his fingers with iodine, and at each request for a sandwich, he placed his finger on the bun, smeared it with mustard, and copiously loaded it with onions. As he passed it over the counter to the customer he quickly with-drew the finger, and repeated the process with the next impatient buyer.

When angry customers returned to his stand to scream, "Hey there ain't any meat in my bun," he'd shrug his shoulders and say, "sorry you must have dropped it on the ground."

This recalls what happened years ago up in the Yukon when a tender-foot would order milk at the trading post cafe. Naturally with cows hundreds of miles away, no such drink was available, so the cook would stir flour into a glass of water under the counter and pro-

Turn to Page 4 of Supplement



# AL G. BARNES CIRCUS

WILD ANIMAL



EARLY MORNING SCENE FOLLOWING THE ARRIVAL OF THE AL G. BARNES CIRCUS TRAIN



The kitty draped around the neck of Alfred Court is Droushka, if that matters. She is a Siberian spotted leopard, guaranteed to eat anything that moves. Droushka is one of the stars of the Ringling Brothers-Barnum & Bailey circus.

The picture on the extreme left reportedly is Ruth Nelson. This picture was used by the Cole Bros. Circus during its 1943 tour.

The picture in the center was also used by Cole Bros. Circus, but on its 1940 tour. The name of the riding act is not known, but when used the picture would include a tag line reading a feature riding act now appearing with Cole Bros.

The Al G. Barnes picture is a reproduction of an early litho that show used.

12 Part IV—Thurs., Feb. 7, 1974

Los Angeles Times

# 'Cosmic Circus' in Debut at Starwood

In a blizzard of glitter, West Hollywood's Starwood Club Tuesday night baptized a new rock musical called "Bimbo's Cosmic Circus." Like most infants, the show is shrill, untidy and makes very little sense. Yet, in its best moments, "Bimbo" is enormously appealing—and it will be fun to watch it grow.

A self-styled "hard-core, low-budget circus show," the musical follows the fortunes of a clown who opts out of the system, gets swiftly raped by his new freedom and is propelled into a tantalizing fantasy interlude as a Jaggeresque pop star. In the end, he's back where he started and so are we, wondering what we've learned on the way. That fame is fleeting? That life is a cabaret—oops, sorry—circus? Or maybe that Dorothy's speech at the end of "The Wizard of Oz" was pretty much right on.

Anyway, "Bimbo" borrows from a dozen more distinctive sources, never gets beyond a superficial rapport with any of its themes and manages to put down the success ethic while wanting desperately to succeed. Moreover, the

score (like the book and lyrics credited to Kenny Ortega and John Flynn, with additional material by John Beatty and Billy Schwartz) insists on being incessantly overwhelming and takes on too many styles for its own good. The result may be undeniably diverting, but all the contrasts soon cancel each other out.

No matter — for what "Bimbo" can do superbly is work an audience, particularly a young audience that considers itself consummately knowing. Ortega is a veteran of touring "Hair" performances and, in his staging, (with David Shacker also separately credited as director), the eight-member company and five-man band put out an awesome amount of kinetic energy.

Let by Ortega himself in the exhausting title role, the cast includes collaborator Flynn, Debbie Ortega, Jurgune Wood, Gloria Brown, Patricia Keene, Michael Rhone, James Sbrano—plus juggler extraordinaire Hillary Carlip. Each contributes moments demonstrating ability and commitment—and if they all worked for a genuine sense of commun-

## RANDOM RAMBLINGS (Continued)

duce the requested beverage with a flourish. After a generous gulp the buyer would yell, "Hey, that ain't milk" which brought the reply, "Yup, its Yukon milk."

## YEARS AGO

Thayer's Wild West and Congress of Indian Nations was in Boston, Mass. in 1884, playing from May 30th to Sept. 6th at Nantucket Beach.

The show reportedly carried 40 cowboys and cowgirls, plus 32 Sioux Indians. Their stock included: 10 long horn cattle, (Texas steers), 4 Buffalo, 75 Western broncos and 8 burros.

- \* - \* -

In 1865 the Thayer & Noyes Circus played New Orleans late in the year, then divided into two shows. One show, Nixon's Circus Co. was managed by Dr. Thayer and went on to play at Atlanta, Ga. for three days.

ity in the crucial circus scenes, "Bimbo's" shaky premise might seem at least momentarily convincing.

For now though, "Bimbo's Cosmic Circus" resembles "Hair" in its earliest Village incarnation: loaded with exhilarating drive and talent but badly needing focus, direction and an original vision.

—LEWIS SEGAL

