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3rd Year

November 25, 1974

Number 47

Rough Year Ends For The G-M Circus

"This has been a rough year and it is nice to know that the season is over," said Sid Kellner as his George Matthews Circus wound up its 1974 tour at Santa Clara, Calif. (Nov. 15-16). "We had a lot of winning dates," he added, "but we also had lots of bad ones and you know it only takes a few bad spots to wipe out the profits."

The 1974 tour was the longest one the circus has ever made, taking it from Coast-to-coast. They opened at Santa Clara on June 20th and then closed on the very same lot on Nov. 16th.

A Fair Show

A special circus program, arranged for the Arizona State Fair at Phoenix (Nov. 3-8) was called the "Daredevil Circus."

Acts featured in the circus which was presented in front of the grandstand were:

Jimmy Troy - comedy trapeze
Judy Johnson - high dive
Capt. Eddie Ventura - Crater Car
Hope & Mike Kent - Stardusters
The Winn Troupe - High wire
The Flying Astros - trapeze
Johnny Luxem - Wheel of Destiny
Phil McDonald - ringmaster

When the circus started its tour they were using last year's tent, which showed heavy signs of wear and tear. About mid-season they acquired a new orange and white top, which both circus folks and fans were enthusiastic about. It's flashy appearance prompted people everywhere to get their cameras into act. The circus also acquired the Ed Russell side show, then used it only occasionally.

On the last big jump, from Las Vegas to Vallejo, four of the show's trucks broke down
(Continued on Back Page)

PEOPLE

RAY BOUILLON is wintering at his home in Sandoval, Ill., after touring with King Bros.

FLOYD KING will be the guest speaker at a Dec. 5th Dugan Bros. CFA Tent Christmas meeting in Georgia.

HENRY and SALLY PAYNE were able to visit the M & M Circus, Hanneford Circus, Beatty-Cole, Barnes & Daily and Circus Vargas in the Louisville, Ky. area this year.

SMOKEY JONES is back on the west coast after completing his recent tour with the Voorheis Bros. Circus.

THE FENTON FAMILY of youngsters who do balancing and acrobats, are currently featured with the Ice Capades.

ED RUSSELL was robbed on the last day of the George Matthews Circus season.

BOB-O, the Clown, is doing advance work at Sacramento (Calif.) for Circus Vargas.

ED STEEPLES is winding up his work in Africa for the filming of the TV show "Born Free". He hopes to be home about the middle of December.

BOB EMRICO, clown, has been signed to do a Clown Magic lecture in Hayward on Nov. 27th.

CHARLIE ALLEN will have a special Santa Claus Christmas unit for the holidays.

For Sale - Animal Acts

Exotic and Domestic

For Pictures and Information
Write to:--

ANIMAL ACTORS RANCH
P. O. Box 86
Jacksonville, Oreg. 97530

Xmas Party

Members and friends of the Joseph A. Rowe CFA Tent will hold their annual Christmas party and dinner at Tiffany's Restaurant in Temple City, Calif., on Saturday, Dec. 14th. Dinner will be served at 6 p.m.

Tickets are available from Glenn F. Harrison, 1225 North Myers St., Burbank, Cal. 91506, at \$6.00 each; They should be purchased before Dec. 6th.

AVAILABLE

Facilities for boarding hoof stock of all kinds.

CHARLIE ALLEN, P. O. Box 91
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Phone: (209) 757-3501

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Initial Tour Was OK For Franzan Bros.

The maiden tour for Franzan Bros. Circus was a successful one, report co-owner Wayne Franzan, and a time when "we learned a lot." The circus, first show to come out of Wisconsin since the 1950's, is a small pleasant show that rated good reviews almost everywhere it showed.

The circus opened at Rosholt, Wisc. on June 14th, and was out for 96 days, with shows presented on 68 of those days. Their blank spots were due to problems in the booking end. The circus toured in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, closing at Hamiston, Iowa, on Sept. 20th.

The show moves on two semi units, plus a bus, pick-up and a canvas spool. They have a new Anchor Co. big top -- 60 ft. round end with two 30 ft. center sections. It is white with blue and white sidewall, and is capable of seating 1,200 people on traditional type circus seats. Lighting includes colored theatrical spots mounted on the quarter poles, plus lights within the ring curbs.

Expansion plans are already well underway for the coming year, with some new animals already in the show's quarters. An enlarged route is planned in 1975, which will take the circus into Illinois, Minnesota and other Mid-western states as well as its home state of Wisconsin.

HISTORICAL FACT

In one season the Campbell Bros. Circus suffered two bad blow-downs, with extensive damage and many injuries.

show Visitors

Among those seen visiting the George Matthews Circus during its final stands of the season were:

Ron Henon and Family, Tom Upton, Dave Twomey, Chester Cable, Don Marcks, Bob Emrico, John Strong, and L. J. Dolan

Visitors at the PAL Circus included:

Russ Tully, John Hartzell, Bob Emrico, Tom Bentley, Homer Stack, Pat Arieta, Don Marcks, Bill Rice, Floyd Baker, Cindy Magana, Winifred McKay, Harry Ellis and Ralph Horton.

In Memoriam

FELICIA J. BEHEE died early this month at Sarasota, Fla. at the age of 37. She was known as the "Cuban Fire Cracker" and was a sister-in-law of Fidel Castro. Her husband Clayton Behee and a daughter, Paula, survive.

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo

Nov. 27-30 La Mirada, Cal.

Beatty-Cole Circus

Nov. 25 W. Hollyw'd, Fla

26 Ft. Lauderdale

27 Hallandale

28-29 Plantation

30 Pompano Beach

Dec. 1 Pompano Beach

Big John's Indoor Circus

Nov. 29 Green Bay, Wisc

30 O'Connell

Circus Vargas

Nov. 19-24 Sacramento, Cal.

Comerford-Shea Circus

Nov 28-Dec 1 New York, N.Y.

Happytime Circus

Nov 29-Dec 1 Woodland, Cal

Kaye Continental Circus

Nov 28-Dec 1 Evansville, Ind

Polack Bros. Circus

Nov 29-Dec 1 Hammond, Ill

-- End of Tour --

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit

Nov 26-Dec 1 N.Haven, Conn

--End of the Tour--

Royal Lipizzan Show

Nov. 26 Notre Dame, Ind

27 Fort Wayne

29-31 Detroit, Mich.

John Strong Circus

Nov. 24-26 San Diego, Cal

29 Phoenix, Ariz

..... OTHER ROUTES

Ice Capades

Nov 27-Dec 1 Seattle, Wash

Johnny Mathis Show

Nov 26 Detroit, Mich.

27 Peoria, Ill.

29-30 Chicago

Dec. 1 St. Paul, Minn

LET'S SEND CARDS

Maj. Matthew J. Gatti is currently recovering from open heart surgery.

He'd like to hear from friends around the country. Cards and letters can be sent to him at:

Maj. Matthew J. Gatti
Santa Ana Com. Hospital
600 East Washington
Santa Ana, Cal. 92701

CARMICHAEL



NICE PROGRAM

The Tripoli Productions Circus played Council Bluffs, Ia Iowa on Nov. 11th and offered a nice program. Attendance was approximately a half house in the afternoon, with a full crowd in the evening.

The program was backed by drums and organ, playing good circus music.

The show opened with a balloon bit, then came a hoop number, six youngsters in an interesting tumbling act, a baton twirler, magician, a dog act (6) plus a color book sale, slack wire act, a trained chimp and a perch act.

..... Cliff Day

Club Views Film

Highlights of Ringling-Barnum Circus -- past and present -- were provided by the film "Titans of the Tanbark" which was shown to the Bridgeport (Conn.) Lions Club early this month. The event was part of the show's advance public relations campaign for that area.

Irvin Feld, president of RBBB narrated the film and said "When P. T. Barnum called his show the Greatest Show on Earth, it was an exaggeration; today it is an understatement."

The circus, scheduled to play at the New Haven Coliseum this week, has offered free

a good one

Having made a successful debut with dates in Eastern Pennsylvania, the Lions All Star Circus is now booking dates for the summer and fall of 1975. The circus is sponsored by some 80 Lions Clubs in Pennsylvania and features performers of both high school and college age, as well as adults and some professionals.

The circus had eight clowns, two of which were pros, and an eight piece band, with a singing ringmaster. The show is the dream of Richard Polanski, a banker and circus fan, who serves as the show's executive director.

The circus plays exclusively for the Lions Clubs, and reportedly has been approached for dates by other clubs. They are anticipating a tour that will include New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania dates, for the Lions Clubs in 1975. Some day they hope to get the show on the road as a full traveling circus, playing throughout the Eastern United States.

blocks of tickets to agencies or groups that will sponsor the attendance of children, minority persons or senior citizens for the Nov. 27th matinee. The sponsors are responsible for getting their people there and for any chaperoning that is required.

AN ENTERTAINING SHOW by HERBERT B. UECKERT

Fair skies and cool temperatures greeted the George Matthews Great London Circus when the show played Las Vegas (actually North Las Vegas) on Nov. 12th. The orange and white Leaf Tent big top was set up at the corner of Lake Mead Blvd. and Civic Center Drive for two performances - 4 and 8 p.m.

This writer and his mother caught the 4 p.m. show which was a small house. Tickets were priced at \$3.50 for adults, children free. Coloring book programs sold for 50¢. Very little advance billing or advertising was in evidence; and the show was on its way home with some signs of wear and tear after a long season.

The program, in three rings, was excellent (see Circus Report for Oct. 7, 1974, Pg 12), running exactly 90 minutes, including the candy pitch at intermission. Special credit should be given to Moore's Mysterious Mongrels for a really unique act -- lots of action and humorous fun.

Doing an excellent job at pleasing the crowd were Alphonso Magana, and wife, Cindy, working four lions and three small bulls. Ron-ritas Space Wheel, last act on the program, was another outstanding number. Clowning was in capable hands by six masters of the old grease paint, and featuring "Sparky" in his solo spot with the cane.

Costumes were in good shape and the 9 piece band directed by John Molinari provided lively and well-paced accompaniment, with a perponderance of popular tunes rather than old circus favorites.

Owner Sid Kellner was observed visiting with friends. He should be giving
(Continued on last page)

SATURDAY

NOVEMBER						
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14

JANUARY						
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DEC. 1974

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12:00

1:00

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3:00

Deadline for
Space in 1974
Christmas issue
is Dec. 14
Reserve your
Greeting
space
Now!

We Keep Busy

The Clyde Bros. Circus finished up its tour at Columbus (Ga.) where Susan Rawls auditioned her swing act. Ethel Joyce's dog act replaced Dockey and his Basketball dogs in the final performance. The band, 6 pieces, directed by Bob Gwen, did a nice job of backing the performance.

Hines and Patti Rucker visited the show, then on Nov. 9th, had their own Int'l All Star Circus at Decatur, playing the Recreation Center. This is a good fast program, and two shows were presented.

Mary and Hubert Castle were also in the area and several Duggan Bros. CFA Tent members visited with them. Later several of us dined with the other show folks.

..... Paul Fitzgerald

The 1975 edition of the Guinness Book of Records says:

"The longest stock whip ever cracked (i.e. the end made to travel above the speed of sound -- 760 m.p.h.) is one of 80 ft. cracked by Frank Dean (U.S.) at the North Dakota State Fair in 1939."

In 1920 the Ringling-Barnum Circus was traveling on 95 cars in four trains. They carried 124 wagons, plus other vehicles.

Show Looks OK

A very fine show, with excellent attendance, was presented at St. Joseph, Mich., by the Patterson Bros. Circus. The circus was produced by Ida and J. C. Patterson, and gave both an afternoon and evening performance.

The program included:--

- National Anthem - Margie, Mickey and Mark Henneberry
- Dogs (5) - Lynn and Dennis Michaels
- Clowns - The Mechanical Dog Gag "Peanuts" (Wayne Owens)
- Magic and Trunk Illusions - Lee and Rita Henneberry
- Comedy Trapeze - Barry Miller Family
- Balloon Animals - "Mr. Twist" (Edward Peebles)
- Contortion - Amanda and Beatrice Michaels
- Dogs (8) and Monkeys (2) - "The Busy Bees" - Gloria Peebles
- Clowns - Balloon Blowing Contest Les Gibson and Wayne Owens
- Juggling - Lynn and Dennis Michaels
- Crade Act - Steve and Norm Miller
- Illusions - Don Ziegler & Co.
- Clowns - Balancing the bottle - Les Gibson and Wayne Owens
- Comedy Tooth Extraction - Lynn and Dennis Michaels
- Musical and Unicycle Finale - Rita and Lee Henneberry with Margie, Mickey, Mark, Maria and Michelle

..... Kaye Scheiman

GEORGE MATTHEWS CIRCUS (Cont'd)

en credit for putting a fine show on the road this year.

New For RBBB

An all male lion act has been added as a new feature at RBBB's Circus World Park. The act will be presented several times a day, thus giving visitors an opportunity to see the animals as they begin their "finishing" prior to debating as a full fledged circus number.

For 1975 the RBBB circus will feature high wire performer Philippe Petit, of France. Petit made headlines throughout the country early this year after walking a cable stretched between the Twin Towers of New York's World Trade Center. The cable was some 1,350 ft. above the sidewalk.

Read "The Circus Report" for the best and latest news each week. The cost runs just \$10.00 for a year.

ROUGH YEAR ENDS (Continued)

and had to be towed in. As a result the Vallejo date was played in front of the fairgrounds outdoor arena, which made a nice setting and drew pretty fair business.

"We've had both good and bad weather and plenty of competition," said Kellner. "The year was a rough one," he added, "and quite frankly I don't know what we'll do in 1975."

THE THRILL THAT COMES ONCE IN A LIFETIME



WHAT A WARM SPRING DAY WILL DO
TO A BOY WITH AN IMAGINATION

WEBSTER



LOU JACOBS is most famous of the Grotesques

Here Come The Clowns

(See Front Cover)

They make their living by acting dumb,
but it takes a wise man to be a good one

HERE come the clowns! The zany, jocular, buffoon, merry-andrews, mimes, harlequins, punchinellos, pickle-herrings!

There are nearly a hundred words like these in the English language to describe clowns. Some of the terms indicate the antiquity and universality of the clowning profession. "Zany" is the Greek word for clowns, as used by Aristophanes. "Joculators" were Nero's buffoons who entertained in the arena between acts, while the guards went backstage for a fresh batch of early Christians.

The present-day circus clown is called "joey" in the show business—a modern slang term. But the ruff he wears was worn by Shakespeare's merry-andrews, mimicking the fashion of the Elizabethan gallants. His whitened face, his tight skullcap reveal his debt to a character called "Harlequin," invented in the year 1200. His slapstick came down from earliest antiquity.

33 Kinds of Clown

RICKETTS, the first circus that played in the United States, 200 years ago, featured four types of clowns—the talking clown, the silent clown, the pantomimic clown and the trick clown. Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey lists 33 types today, but they are all variations of the original four. Grimaldi, crackerjack, loon, motley fool, French Comique, Pierrot, Harlequin, Silly August, grotesque, bumpkin, ele-

gant, neat, pantaloon, odd zany, cascadeur, character, producing clown—these are some of the technical names, and in the business you do not confuse one with the other.

Each applies to a particular kind of make-up, and a special sort of buffoonery. When a clown adopts one of these styles, he never, if ever, abandons it. Clowns have been known to bequeath their make-ups and their characters to their children and they bitterly resent encroachment upon their specialties.

Charlie Was an "August"

CHARLIE CHAPLIN began as a music-hall clown. He is an "august," a type distinguished by big feet and an ill-fitting costume.

Old-style circus-men were inclined to be contemptuous of clowns. "If a man has proven his incapacity to do anything else," says an old treatise on circuses, "if he can neither ride nor tumble, do the rope act, swing or trapeze, then they smear his face with bismuth and glycerine, put a striped suit on his back, and he's a full-fledged clown."

But a few among the early circus buffoons rose to fame and fortune. Tony Pastor, father of vaudeville, was a clown and got to be a millionaire. Dan Rice, the most famous of all American circus clowns, made as much as \$1,000 a week back in Lincoln's administration. His costume—chin-whiskers, starred vest and striped pantaloons—was the

inspiration for the symbolic figure of Uncle Sam.

Grimaldi, a great English clown, had his memoirs edited by Charles Dickens. An embittered soul, he did much to establish the "Laugh, clown, laugh" tradition of the pained smile and breaking heart. There is a classic story, told in a dozen variations, of the man who went to see the doctor about his melancholia. "What you need is to be amused," said the doctor. "Why don't you go to see the clown, Grimaldi?" "I am Grimaldi," said the patient.

The modern circus recognizes the clown's worth, takes him seriously. For the greatest show on earth still rests upon the laughter of children. Put that to the test. Take any kid to the circus for the first time, question him later on his impressions. He will have forgotten the death-defying feats, the cataclysmic cavalcades. But he will remember the funny man whose nose lit up like an electric bulb. The rest is sop for the elders who must accompany him.

"Make the Kids Laugh"

THE great clowns know this, and keep their comedy on the child's level. One of the greatest of them, Paul Jung (on the cover), admits and takes pride in this. "If the youngsters laugh, the adults have got to. Hospital work is the real test. If you can make the sick kids laugh you've got nothing to worry about while you're under the big top."

Jung is an acrobat and a musician as well as a clown. He is also something of an artist. One of his circus jobs is to build the huge papier-maché heads used by dwarfs and clowns in circus parades, à la Carnival at Nice. He is what is known as a producing clown. That is to say, he originates production numbers and builds the necessary apparatus. One of his prize production numbers called for a "prop" steam roller that ran over his colleagues and flattened them. The flattening effect was obtained by an oilcloth replica of the "victim," who meanwhile concealed himself within the "roller." As may be imagined, the mechanics for this gag were pretty complicated.

Another aristocrat among circus clowns is Emmett Kelly, who, like Jung, started out in the circus as something else. He was an aerialist whose joints got too stiff for the trapeze work, so he turned to clown-

ing. In his youth he was a cartoonist. He adopted as his clown character a hobo he had drawn for a comic strip. His tricks vary from year to year, but one routine he has never changed in his 12 years of clowning. He comes out munching a cabbage and wanders disconsolately about the ring. Pretty soon his eye rests on some woman in the audience. A flash of recognition lights up his woeful features. She is the kind lady who once gave him a hand-out, or she is the one great love of his life. He fixes her with a tenderly ardent gaze.

The Queen Stares Back

IT ALWAYS draws a laugh. Sometimes a stern-visaged lady will try to outstare him. That is a mistake on her part. Eventually she is forced to yield, must turn away or break into laughter.

Only once was Emmett outstared. That was when he was with the Mills Circus in London. The former Queen Victoria of Spain was in the audience, and Emmett tried out his stare on her. But, like her famous namesake, she was not amused. Winston Churchill on the other hand, who was also present, roared with laughter.

Kelly, Adler, Jung, Bell, Jacobs—these are stars, and they get billing when the circus comes. Not the least talented among the clowns, however, are some whose

names never get into the program. These are men who have turned to other professions—former "joey," acrobats or aerialists—who have abandoned the big top.

Can't Resist

BUT the lure of circus life is still strong in them, and from time to time they take a vacation from their new occupations, whiten their faces, get into

a harlequin costume, and join the congress of clowns—for the pure love of it.

A respectable family doctor of our acquaintance used to do this regularly—every time a circus came to town. What's more, he never failed to draw belly laughs from his unsuspecting patients.

One thing distinguishes all clowns. They are without exception intelligent. It takes a logical mind to develop some of the crazy tricks they play in the ring. Or, as the saying goes in the circus: "It takes brains to play the fool." — LOUIS BERG



Dan Rice, 1860 star

- 1947 -



types today, but they are all variations of the original four. Grimaldi, crackerjack, loon, motley fool, French Comique, Pierrot, Harlequin, Silly August, grotesque, bumpkin, ele-

famous of all American circus clowns, made as much as \$1,000 a week back in Lincoln's administration. His costume — chin-whiskers, starred vest and striped pantaloons — was the



FELIX ADLER'S a Silly August



CHARLIE BELL'S type is Neat



KINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY

EMMETT KELLY has been a Tramp for 12 years

THE THRILL THAT COMES ONCE IN A LIFETIME.

