



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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almost ready

"Everything is just about ready for our opening date," says John Strong, "it will be on March 17th at Blythe, Calif."

The 1973 John Strong Circus will be presented under a brand new big top, the show's first completely new tent. All the show trucks have been newly painted and the lettering and scroll work is being completed by Lloyd Roach, well known show painter.



The Wendany Family will be with the John Strong Circus when it opens, but they'll leave in April to tour their own show. The Waltims, John reports, were signed last week to join the show April 20th at Escondido. They'll stay through the Detroit date of Aug. 1st. The act is (Continued on Page 6 - Column 2)

THE LAW RULES

Over in England officials recently forced a young performer to conform with the rules and obtain a trainer's license, even though he was only presenting an animal act trained by others. Actually, the young man, Carl Norman, only presents the acts which have been trained and perfected by his parents.

Carl is just two years old and presents a mixed group of animals -- dogs, geese, pony, bull and chimps. They were all trained by his parents, Hal and Olga Norman. They not only train animals for shows and circuses, but also operate their own park and zoo, as well as performing a knife throwing act called The Sensational Denvers.

Something for Everybody

The George-Matthews Circus got off to a rousing start as its three week winter tour opened at Martinez, Calif. on Feb. 17-18. The opening performance ran as smooth as though the show had already been on the road for several weeks.

Attendance at all six shows during the two days was up to expectations and in some cases exceeded what had been hoped for. All show equipment has been newly painted and looks to be in good shape. The trucks are white with the show's insignia in red on the door of each cab.



This year's show has a four piece band (accordion, trombone, trumpet, drums) which is directed by John Molanari. The show's announcer is Ed Russell. Concessions are handled by Ron Henon and Herbert Weber, while Chester Cable serves as the handy man for a wide variety of tasks.

The program as caught on opening day features:

- Ron Hennon - juggler
- Clowns - Dr. Ben Crazy
- Senor Antonio - balancing
- Clowns - Magic tricks
- The Paulo's - aerial cradle
- Pauncho's ponies
- Clowns - Arabian snake dance
- Ben Williams - elephants (3)
- Pauncho's liberty horses
- Chester Cable - foot juggling
- Senor Antonio - single trapeze
- Clowns - Convict number
- Los Latinos - wire act

(Continued on Page 2 - Column 2)

Cold Flash

In case you've forgotten, 1973 marks the 50th anniversary of the song "Yes, We Have No Bananas," which used to be considered pretty ridiculous, but that was before the birth of rock'n'roll.

To mark this great event, Irvin Feld, president of Ringling-Barnum, has ordered a cake made of 50 bananas, which will be presented to the chimps who perform in the big show.

After the presentation the Rudi Lenz Chimps, a "rock group", will add to the festivities with their own rendition of "Yes, We Have No Bananas," in which their trainer is currently rehearsing them.

Q—Who wrote the kooky song of the '20s, "Yes We Have No Bananas?" And how did the lyrics go? — S.K.D., Pittsburgh.

A—Frank Silver, whose small orchestra played at a hotel in Long Island, wrote the verse while a pal, Irving Cohn, composed the tune. The copy-

righted lyrics went: "Yes, we have no bananas, we have no bananas today. We have stringbeans and onions, cabbages and scallions, and all kinds of fruits, etc." Later there was litigation about the original source of the daffy ditty.

clowns

Clowns who worked the Auto Show at Detroit, Mich. on Nov. 17-24, 1972 were:

Irvin Romig	Don Philips
Joe Sweeney	John Daly
Bill Brickles	Bill Slater
Bill Goldy	Wally Metz
Debbie Schulz	Leroy Schulz
Joe Vittorelli	Geri Herrington
Randy Wagner	Bill Fenton
John Dawson	Wimpey
Lee Marx	Richard Bennett
Lyle Richard	Kenneth Burrett

A Run for the Money

After finishing a stand at Canberra, in Australia, the Sole Bros. Circus made the long trek across the Continent to Western Australia. They played dates during December in that part of the country and are now in the Northern area.

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GEORGE MATTHEWS CIRCUS (Continued)

Clowns - The cannon
Ronitas - space wheel

The shows clowns include: Harry Ross, Ken Miller, Bill Goldy, Bill Williams and Ron Henon.

Seen visiting the show in Martinez were Ruth Strong, Tom Upton and Don Marcks

Right Man, Right Time

The appointment of Fred Brooks as vice-president of operations for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World was announced last week by the circus' president Irvin Feld. Mr. Brooks, who is 30 yrs. of age, is a native of Los Angeles, Calif. and holds degrees from Long Beach State University and California State University.

He started working at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif.

Rustle of Wind

A delayed note from New Zealand reports that strong winds ripped three of the Ridgway Bros. Circus tents to shreds on Oct. 15, 1972. The loss was reported as amounting to \$1,500 and forced the cancellation of its performances at Timaru. The circus was in town to perform as a benefit for the annual Commonwealth Games.

In November, one of the Ridgway Bros. Circus' animal trucks (2 elephants, camel and some horses) got stuck on the Taramakau Bridge, just south of Greymouth, N.Z. All traffic, including a train were delayed for about an hour.

The top of the truck got caught within an overhead beam, which was slightly lower than the rest of the girders. Show people had to switch wheels on the truck, and put on a smaller size, then the truck was able to move across without further trouble.

Just a few days later a carnival playing at Cannons Creek (Wellington) was damaged by a fire. Officials report the fire was most likely set deliberately.

Three side show tents were completely destroyed, while many show fronts and concession stands were damaged.

feats of memory!

Every so often there appears among the teeming millions of the world a "master mind", to be regarded by us brethren of humbler knowledge with awed suspicion and respected interest.

According to psychologists, the memory has a definite seat in the brain, and the ability to remember depends on two qualities of the mind—retentiveness and associations. Although you can develop its degree, retentiveness is something you are largely born with; what you do with associations is largely up to you.

The first "phenomenal calculator" of whom any definite record exists is Jebediah Buxton, a Derbyshire laborer, who lived during the first half of the 18th century. Buxton never learned to read or use written figures. He could not even use ordinary terms for big numbers, such as "thousand" and "million"; he referred to them as a "tribe" or a "cramp".

Yet numbers fascinated him, a dull-witted yokel, and he seems to have spent most of his life, even when hard at work in fields, in staggering mental calculations.

In 1750, Buxton was asked to work out to the nearest pound what sum a farthing would come to if doubled 140 times. Several days' pitchforking later, he gave the correct answer, which runs into 30 figures.

He was then asked if he could multiply this colossal number by itself. He said he thought so. Two months later he returned with the answer which sounded like a house number at the far end of the Milky Way, explaining that he carried on the calculation "now and then", whenever he felt like it.

The father of the term "Quiz Kid" seems to have been Zerah Colburn, born in Vermont, U.S.A., in 1804. After touring the States at the age of six as a "lightning calculator", he went to London. The boy was unable to explain his powers, and once in a reply to a persistent inquirer, exploded: "God put it into my head and I can't put it into yours."

The young Zerah could answer all the stock questions about the number of seconds in so many centuries, the number of grains in so many tons of corn, and so on. He could instantly multiply together any two numbers of four figures each.

What was more remarkable—and has puzzled mathematicians ever since—he could factorise at sight, any number up to a million. For example, on being asked for the

factors of 171,395, Zerah at once said it was the product of, 5, 7, 59 and 83. For those of 247,483, he gave 941 and 263.

Abnormally great though Colburn's powers were, he was defeated in a public contest by George Parker Bidder, son of a Devonshire stonemason. Bidder became a railway engineer and died at 72 after founding a dynasty of mental imagery giants.

When aged about seven, Bidder began to show extraordinary powers of mental calculation, although at the time he had been taught only to count up to 100 and could neither read nor write.

These are typical questions put to him when on tour, aged 10, as a "calculating boy":

If a wheel is 5 ft. 10 in. in circumference, how many turns will be made in 800 million miles?

Answer: 724,114,285,704, given in 50 seconds.

What is the square root of 119,550,669,121?

Answer: 345,761, given in 30 seconds.

If I have 42 watches and sell the first for a farthing and each succeeding one at double the price of the one before, what will be the price of the last watch?

Answer: £2,290,649,224/10/8, given in less than a minute.

At this age, Bidder could work out mentally and rapidly the most complicated questions relating to annuities and compound interest that would have given hours of work to a practising income tax return specialist. He retained and developed his extraordinary powers, and while in practice as a railway engineer thought nothing of working out offhand, and on data just sup-

plied, the exact cubic content and cost of digging of a railway cutting a mile long and varying in slope.

He remained modest about his gift, laboring under the amiable delusion that he had quite a poor memory for figures. Yet at one performance when a large number was read to him backwards, he at once repeated it forwards. An hour or so later, he was asked if he remembered it—and promptly recited it off again correctly. The number was 2,563,721,987,653,461,708,746,231,905,607,541,128,975,231!

One of the best known modern mental calculators who gave public performances was Jacques Inaudi, an Italian, whose powers first became apparent when he was herding sheep. He was repeatedly examined by doctors and leading specialists and scientists, including the great neurologist, Charcot, and was before the public continuously for many years.

He appeared at the London Hippodrome in 1904. His performance was more or less on the traditional lines of Bidder's. He stood with his back to a gigantic blackboard on which an assistant worked out the sums dictated by the audience, and with which Inaudi dealt mentally. He would conclude his performance by repeating in a prearranged order. By this time, the board was covered with figures.

Perhaps the greatest of all child prodigies was Christian Heinrich Heineken, "the child of Lubeck" born in 1721. Able to speak at 10 months, Christian knew by heart the principal incidents in the Pentateuch by the time he was a year old.

At two he had mastered sacred history, at three he knew history and geography—ancient and modern, sacred and profane—and could speak French and Latin. When he was four, he knew intimately the history of the Church. But little Christian was too bright. When he was learning to write in his fifth year, he sickened and died.

One Minute Please

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personalities

RAY GRANT, magician, worked a few days in the San Francisco, Cal. area last week.

BUCKLES WOODCOCK is handling elephants on the Circo Palace London show in Mexico at this time.

DAVID ROSAIRE (dog trainer) married LYNNE POWNALL at Blackpool, Eng. on Feb. 17th. They'll honeymoon on the Circus Bannewels in Europe this summer.

JOE and ANNA HODGINI aren't touring this year. They are staying in Florida to handle other work.

MIKE BOURBON will be producing clown on Hoxie Bros. Circus this year. He'll have an alley of six clowns for the season.

EMMETT KELLY, Jr. was a guest on the Mike Douglas TV Show on Feb. 15th.

GEORGE WHITE will be in charge of the Beatty-Cole side show again this year.

GERALD HYDE, former Hagenbeck trainer and European circus star, is now living in Australia where he has a pig farm.

EDDIE, the American Clown, visited the RBBB Red Unit at Macon, Ga. He reports he talked with Lou JACOBS, BOBBY KAYE and DAVE BEATTY.

THE HARTZELLS plan to open their own circus in the Pacific Northwest in April.

JERRY DIGNEY clowned with the Paul Kays Circus at Cleveland (Feb. 5-25). He will be with Carson & Barnes for the summer.

DON McCLENNAN has reportedly sold all his animals and equipment. He will devote his time to training animals for others.

THE ALLUSIONAIRS, magic act, was featured in a benefit show in Oakland, Calif. on Feb. 23-25.

KEN JENSEN is reportedly booking dates for a show in Oregon.

BILL GOLDY, clown, recently had two discs removed from his back.

MRS. JIM PERRY (Perry's Circus of Australia) fell from a trapeze on Nov. 24th and fractured her wrist and injured a hip.

In Memory
GEORGE B. REARICK
Died
Feb. 6, 1973

For many years George was a well-known clown and he traveled with America's major circuses for over 20 years. At one time he also had his own dance band.

animal control

The U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is asking all horse owners to have their animals vaccinated for Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, the deadly horse sleeping sickness, before mosquitoes that carry the disease emerge in large numbers during the spring and summer.

USDA officials report that many of the horses, mules and other equine animal in the country have not been vaccinated against this dreaded disease.

In 1971 an emergency vaccination program was conducted by the government, but since then less and less horses are being vaccinated. There were no confirmed cases of the disease in the U. S. last year, but an outbreak was reported in northwestern Mexico during the summer and early fall.

Vaccination is especially recommended for horses subject to interstate travel to shows, races and such events, or those coming in contact with horses from other areas of the country.

HERBIE WEBER reports his act is booked solid this year. Most of the dates are for Shrine circuses, he said.

KEN MILLER recently retired from the Los Angeles, Calif. Police Dept. to become a full-time clown.

THE McGUIRE SISTERS have been signed to present their Bird Fantasy Revue on the Hoxie Bros. Circus this season.

HARRY ROSS, clown, always carries a stand-in chicken for his famous cannon number.

ROUTES

- Artisten Tiere Circus
Thru March 11 Vienna, Austria
- Hubert Castle Circus
March 1-3 Odessa, Texas
- L. N. Fleckles Circus
March 2-10 Minneapolis, Minn.
- FSU FLYING High Circus
March 3 Jacksonville, Fla.
- George Matthews Circus
March 1 Simi, Calif.
3-4 Highgrove
5 Santa Ana
- Hamid Morton Circus
March 2-4 Topeka, Kansas
- Miller-Johnson Circus
Feb. 21-22 Pensacola, Fla.
- Polack Bros. Circus
Feb. 23-25 Reading, Penna.
Mar. 2-3 Allentown
- Ringling-Barnum (Blue Unit)
Feb. 27-28 Savannah, Ga.
Mar. 2-4 Columbia, S. C.
- Ringling-Barnum (Red Unit)
Thru Feb. 27 Richmond, Va.
- Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show
Feb. 26 Selma, Ala.
27 Prattville-Montgomery
28 Gulfport, Miss.
Mar. 1 Bogalusa, La.
2 Hammond

SPECIAL

Mid-Winter Fair
March 2-11 Imperial, Calif.

Porpoises

2-18-73

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson has announced a program designed to save porpoises from accidental deaths in the nets of the United States' tuna fleet.

Peterson said all tuna fishermen are encouraged to use Medina nets. In 1970 Harold Medina, a tuna boat captain, devised a panel to be incorporated in tuna seines, using smaller-mesh webbing which makes it more difficult for porpoises to become entangled.

Peterson also said a cooperative federal-industry program will be launched to teach tuna fishermen to use more efficient backing techniques to allow porpoises to escape

Ex-Western Star Tim Holt Dies at 53

2-16-73
SHAWNEE, Okla. (AP) — Former movie star Tim Holt, 54, of Harrah, Okla., died yesterday in the Shawnee, Okla., Medical Center Clinic after a lengthy illness.

Holt, a popular star in western movies before and after World War II, was a rancher and sales manager of Oklahoma City radio station KEBC-FM before his death.

He is survived by his widow, Birdie, and three teen-age children.

His father was the late Jack Holt, a star of silent pictures.

Short Takes

An American Legion sponsored Donkey Baseball game has been announced for Apr. 7th at Oakland, Calif.

The John Strong Circus will play on the Pleasanton, Calif. fairgrounds May 23-24.

According to reports the Miller Johnson Circus is drawing better than Ringling at its Florida dates.

The former George Matthews Circus bull "Ellie" is now on the Carson & Barnes show.

Butler Amusements provided rides for the Chinese New Years celebration at San Francisco, Calif. last week.

Alberto's Circus of Australia is reportedly planning a tour of Tasmania.

Playboy magazine for April 1973 will have an article titled "Days and Nights at Hoxie Bros. Circus."

The Berosini Jungle Fantasy is to be featured with the Cirque Jean Richard in France this summer.

RBBB will reportedly break ground for their proposed Circus Park in Florida in mid-April.

A story of Pawnee Bill, with many interesting pictures, is featured in the March 1973 magazine "The West."

The Los Angeles, Calif. Zoo has many near-extinct species, such as a Siberian tiger, bald eagle and tule elk.

That 1932 film "Polly of The Circus" is now being shown in New York theatres.

'FAT ALBERT' TO RINGLING

NEW YORK—Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Records has acquired the soundtrack rights to "Fat Albert & The Cosby Kids," an animated series aired on CBS television, according to Joe D'Imperio of Ringling Bros.

D'Imperio said that negotiations are under way for the release of the material and that concert and fair appearances by Fat Albert are being coordinated with upcoming single releases. Filimation Studios produces the series.

Kelly, circus clown, in opera

BOSTON — (AP) — Emmett Kelly, famous circus clown, appeared in the Opera Company of Boston's two recent performances of Smetana's "The Bartered Bride."

Kelly, who was a star of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus for 15 years, appeared in the carnival scene, which also featured a fire eater, a juggler, a wire walker and trained dogs.

The New Crackdown

West coast show owners and promoters are confused and upset now that Governor Reagan (Calif.) has signed into law a bill regulating their promotional activities. The bill - AB-1082 - sets strict controls over door-to-door and phone sale operations for the entire state.

One promoter said the fault is not necessarily that of the show or the actual promotion. Usually, he added, it is the fault of the individuals who make the phone calls. They tend to change the prepared sales talk and sometimes get over anxious trying to make a sale - as a result the customer gets the wrong impression.

Under the new law, said the promoter, we'll possibly get many customers who hang up on us before we can sell our tickets. It may be that we will have to go back to using full-time professional people who can and do know how to handle the job.

(For a report on the new rules and regulations see The Circus Report of Jan. 8, '73)

RONRITAS

SENSATIONAL HIGH WHEEL ACT

Booked from Mid-April to Late-Oct. with

Gatti Charles Circus

U.S. Address: Box 461, Rising Sun, Md.

Trying to Hammer a Deal

Officials with Ashton's Circus in Australia report they are finding it more and more difficult to find suitable show grounds in the large cities. The problem gets worse every year, they said, and we need help to change the minds of many local City Councils.

Ashton's Circus most recent dates included:

Nov. 8-9 Traralgon
10-11 Morwell
13 Trafalgar
14 Drowin

The show left for South Australia in December and then open its 1973 season on Jan. 1st at Adelaide.

ALMOST READY (Continued from Page 1)

currently playing sports shows.

A total of some 70 west coast dates have been booked by John himself and will be worked by the ten promoters who handle advance for the show. One of these promoters -- Chet Thomas -- is on loan for a promotion in Chicago. He handled the successful Monterey, Calif. and other west coast dates for John last year.

"Tell all my friends," John said, "that my son, John Strong Jr. is recovering rapidly from his broken arm. It looks as if he will be back in the show this summer, right on schedule."