



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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A NEW TRAIN

Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus has a brand-new railroad train, the only one of its kind in the world. It's a train that will probably cause every dyed-in-the-wool TV fanatic to turn green with envy.

The Circus streamliner consists of 32 cars, each one being equipped with a TV antenna for the enjoyment of the show's personnel, who get to sample the video fare of states all across the country, as well as in Canada. The show tours from January to December so there's plenty of time for TV watching.

What do the folks with "The Greatest Show on Earth" watch most? Movies, according to a recent poll. Among their favorites were: Great Train Robbery, Last Train, Shanghai Express, Union Pacific.

One thing's for sure, on Sunday evening, Feb. 25th all of the Circus' TV sets will be tuned to the NBC-TV special featuring "Highlights of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus."

Treasure Dividend

The Circus World Museum recently announced they had been given two major gifts of circus material for their reference departments.

One gift, consisting of books, programs, route books, lithos and pictures, was presented to the Museum by Walter W. Tyson, of Guelph, Ontario, Canada. I had to make a decision about where my collection would go, Tyson said, and after see-

convention meet

The first Windjammers Convention, recently held in Miami, Fla. was really a good affair.

The band wasn't as well rehearsed as one would hope for, but just the fact we heard numbers which are no longer played made up for any lack of practice. Good crowds were on hand for every performance and especially the final one.

Archie Schlarbaum hosted the group with a steak cookout at his home, which was well attended. Incidentally, his wife played clarinet in the band, the first time in years she has played.

At the business meeting Bob Hills, of Delaware, Ohio, was elected president of the organization the membership votes on a full slate of officers.

Charlie Bennett, Bob Hills, Ward Stauth and Paul Fitzpatrick were appointed a committee to work out the group's By-Laws.

After this convention the writer, and his family, visited the old Ringling site in Sarasota, the Hannefords, Art Concello's home and the new Ringling quarters in Venice.

ing the facilities at the Circus World Museum I knew that was the place for my collection.

The other gift came from Billboard Publications, Inc. of New York and consisted of 239 bound volumes of the Billboard magazine, covering a period of 63 years. It is one of the few virtually intact files known to exist.

show program

The Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus featured a strong format, writes Pat Bissonette, who caught the show at both the Westbury Music Fair and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, both in New York. They had some nice animal acts presented by Derrick Roseire in a relaxed and skillful presentation.

The show's program featured:

Clarence Jr. - the cross-eyed lion
 Judy & Thoto - chimps from Daktari
 Gentle Ben, wrestling a man on stage
 Tony, the wonder horse
 Pam's Mad Mod Dogs - skillful hurdle act
 Terri Lewis - dancing as Raggedy Ann
 Emmett Kelly, Jr. - Comedy magic/juggling
 Merlin, the Magician (Phil Chandler)
 Les Thisis - trampoline (7yr. old Diana)
 Miss Tina - single trapeze
 Blue Streaks - roller skaters

Austin Miles - ringmaster/announcer

Clowns: Whizzer Birdwell (producing),
 Billy Gowan, Kevin Hendricks, Frank Jewell,
 Henry Selman, Larry Salken.

trip to texas

Early this month, Shirley and Helen Walters, along with Margaret McKay, made a trip from Hugo, Okla. to Texas. There they visited several show business friends.

At McAllen they visited with the Wiegands, who traveled with Carson & Barnes Circus last season. Then they went on to see the Silverlakes and the winter home of the Clark & Walters and Fisher Bros. circuses.

The three gals report they had a nice trip, but there was a lot of cold wind and rain during the trip. Later when they arrived back in Hugo they discovered that city had also had bad weather.

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PEOPLE

ANN and TED AKEMAN have been visiting some show business friends in Texas.

THE STEPHENSON FAMILY, along with H. Ross, an investor, plan to open a new zoo at Bowie, Maryland.

POPOV, the Russian Clown, was a guest on the Mike Douglas TV show last week.

LOLO, the clown, will be a guest at the White Elephant Sale, on Jan. 29th, to raise money for the Oakland, Calif. Museum.

CARL FLETCHER, comedy lion and tiger act, is with the Busch-Roland Circus now playing in Bucharest, Rumania.

THE FLYING FERDOS (acrobats) and LES QUATRE TONYNS (Jugglers) are currently at the Dunes Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

STAN KRAMIEN was MC for the Sherri Lewis Puppet Show at Pleasanton, Calif. on Jan. 20th. He is also touring his magic show in the Pacific Northwest.

MRS. PHYLLIS ASHTON and her daughter JAN, of Australia's Circus Ashton, were recently guests of the Paul Pughs at Wenatchee, Wash.

CARLOS FARFAN plans to take out his own circus this year. He will call it the "Las Vegas International Circus."

PUNCH JACOBS had his Candyland Circus in the Seattle/Tacoma and Portland areas over the holiday season.

THE ALCETTY JUGGLERS were featured on the "Tonight" TV show on Jan. 15th.

TIM COONEY (Pocket's the Clown) and CYNTHIA HOVEZAK will be married in Van Nuys, Calif. on Feb. 3rd. They were both with Miller-Johnson Circus last year.

DICK WESTEN, ventiloquist; LOS RIOS, tumblers, and Milo & Rogers, magicians, are currently playing the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

LOUIS KNIE and GERMAINE THERON were married last month. He is the son of Rolf Knie circus owner, and she is a member of The Dollies, a cycling troupe.

GUNTHER GEBEL-WILLIAMS is featured in a photo exhibit now displayed in many California shopping centers.

NOTES

RBBB's Red Unit will play Madison Square Garden for 63 days this year.

The Oakland (Cal) Magic Circle held their Installation Dinner on Jan. 26th.

Britain's Chipperfield Circus closed a months engagement at Birmingham, Eng. on Jan. 20.

The life of John Ringling is to be featured on an upcoming American Life Style TV show

The New York City Library, Theatre Collection, has a part of the RBBB big top for 1923.

Circus sequences in a recent "Medical Center" TV show were arranged by Bob Yerkes.

The Oakland (Cal) Museum has a painting of the Chiarini Circus, painted in the 1890's by W. Hahn. The picture shows some boys peaking under the canvas.

The Hamid-Morton Circus is set to open its 1973 season at Wichita, Kans. on Feb. 22nd.

Abbott's will hold their annual Magic Get-together on Aug. 15 to 18th.

Rumor has it that the Hartzell Family is planning to take out their own show this summer.

That winter circus in Puerto Rico, now underway, is a 40 day stand.

An American Legion group will sponsor a Hee Haw Jamboree at Pleasanton, Calif. on June 3rd. Proceeds go to help local crippled children.

Some \$14 million has been paid for rentals for the film "Greatest Show on Earth."

Cole's All Star Circus will play Warren, Pa. today (Jan. 29th)

Storm Warnings — Is the End Near?

The Seattle, Wash. City Council is currently working on legislation to control door-to-door and phone sales promotions. At the present time they are hearing arguments for and against such legislation in effort to work out a suitable program.

Councilman George Cooley wants to restrict fly-by-night operations that cheat the public and invade their privacy. He has asked for the licensing of all door-to-door salesmen, as well as bonding and requiring identification badges.

His plan calls for bond fees of \$1,000 and \$2,000 for both small and large direct sales operations. Civil and criminal penalties would be established as a means of enforcing the proposed legislation.

William Clark, assistant attorney general for consumer protection, says that "direct selling is one of the major problems confronting our office. This legislation is needed to clean up the industry."

Robert Porterfield, director of the Seattle consumers protective office, reports that complaints concerning door-to-door and phone sales ranks fourth in the total number of complaints handled at his office.

Last year a citizen's advisory committee, appointed by the Council, recommended that door-to-door and phone sales be outlawed in Seattle.

Those opposing the legislation were representatives of such firms as Fuller Brush, Stanley Products, Tupperware and the local newspapers. They maintained there is a big turnover in personnel because so many people come to work for the companies for only a brief period of time.

THE LAW

Gothic Tale

Stanley Berent was born with his armless hands growing directly out of his shoulders, and he is known, in the cruel world of the carnival, as "Sealo the Sealboy." Norbert P. Terhune is a dwarf, 3 ft. 6 in. tall, billed as "Poo-Bah the Pygmy." Both of them worked for World Fair Freaks and Attractions, a sideshow that toured various Southern county fairs. In the summer of 1969 World Fair was preparing to open in North Bay Village, near Miami, when the local police threatened to prosecute under a 1921 state law against freak shows, which calls for up to a \$1,000 fine or a year in jail.

Freak shows have been in a long decline—there are only five such shows of any size left—but a number of states still have laws designed to protect citizens from displays of deformity and to protect the deformed themselves from exploitation. Berent and Terhune were not grateful. Along with World Fair, they went to the Florida Supreme Court to argue that the state was interfering with their right to make a living; neither, despite their normal intelligence, had been able to find any other job. By a 6-to-1 vote, the court found: "It may be that certain malformations, perhaps those relating to private areas of the body or some which may be repulsive or vulgar in nature, would so affect the morals and general welfare as to lend themselves to a prohibition." But this was not so, said the court, in the case of a dwarf and a "sealboy." Declaring the law unconstitutionally broad and imprecise, Justice Hal Dekle ruled that "one who is handicapped must be allowed a reasonable chance within his capacities to earn a livelihood." For Terhune, 46, who was appearing last week in Beaumont, Texas, this meant he could work again without harassment in Florida. But Berent, the sealboy, retired last year at the age of 70.

really exciting

. . . by CHUCK SATEJA

The Moscow Circus played at the Spectrum in Philadelphia, Pa. on Jan. 4-7 and it is by far the best show to come to the states. They have top quality lights and acts and costumes that are much better than the prior shows.

The volzhansky Troupe of Highwire Artists are the best. Their three levels of walking the highwire not only makes you gasp, but at times one wonders how foolish an act can get in trying to present something different for the public.

The Valentin Filatov Bears is an act that I doubt any other such act can top. It is really delightful to watch these almost human bears work for their tid bits and occasional honey.

Oleg Popov's clowning is also very good and offers something different all the time.

Business at Philadelphia was very good with packed houses for every show. Unfortunately opening night was marred by some local protestors, but there were no incidents during the rest of the show stand.

One thing about all these performers is the fact they all smile and act like they enjoy their work.

PROGRAM in Britain

The New International Circus, produced by Victor O'Mara, opened at the Grove Theatre in Belfast, Ireland, on Dec. 25th. The show will be playing there for the winter months.

The show's program features:

Hanna Muck - Five African lions
 Ella Stey - aerial trapeze
 Fossetts - llamas, ponies, elephants
 The Salskys - Dive of Death/tumbling
 Hans Vogelbein - comedy dogs
 Christine Martell - juggler
 Fossett's libaty horses and ponies
 Congo and Nadia - gorilla parody
 Bobo, Barney, Pedro - clowns
 Hans Vogelbein - trick pony "Sandor"

VET AGENT DIES

Just recently it was reported that Clarence Auskings, a veteran agent for over 50 yrs. had passed away. The sad part is that when Auskings died at Afton, Okla. on Jan. 17, 1973, there were no known relatives.

This writer once had an opportunity to visit with Auskings and to make some notes on his career. His files were all lost in a fire, but there were some memories he could easily recall.

The first show he traveled with was the George W. Ely Circus, in 1903. This show had come out of Harrisburg, Ill. The following year he had the Thardo Family Circus, a wagon show, out on the road, an outfit from Linesville, Pa.

He worked for George (Popcorn) Hall, when William Campbell was the manager. Later he worked for Campbell when his two car Minstrel show was out.

In 1912, he was with George Christy, who was operating a movie show under canvas. The next year he added vaudeville to the show and called it The Hippodrome Show.

Auskings worked for Felix Hermann, the magician, and a cousin of the famous Alexander Herrmann. Once they ran into trouble in the coal field area of Southern Illinois, but Auskings wild-catted the show into new territory and eventually brought them into New Orleans. There Hermann got a government job, while his wife continued to tell fortunes.

He also worked for Golden Bros. and Bible Bros. and in later years worked for school shows, carnivals, etc.

His last real road work was being out ahead for R. P. Crotser, a one-hand magician from Talala, Okla. He was well-known in Oklahoma and was booked for a long tour.

. . . . by BILL RUESSKAMP

Bobo's Crazy Taxi
 Eduardo Stey Troupe - highwire

Show staff: Victor O'Mara, Ringmaster;
 Edward Fossett, Equestrian Director and
 Iris Tate, Musical Director.

ROUTES

- Belle Vue Int'l Circus
thru Feb. 3 Manchester, England
- Busch-Roland Circus
thru Feb. 5 Bucharest, Rumania
- Hubert Castle Circus
Feb. 2-4 Fort Wayne, Ind.
- L. N. Fleckles Circus
Jan. 26-Feb. 11 Detroit, Mich
- Miller-Johnson Circus
Jan. 28 Hollywood, Fla.
- Moscow Circus
Jan. 30-Feb. 4 New Haven, Conn.
- Polack Bros. Circus
Feb. 3-4 Cherry Point, N. C.
- Ringling-Barnum (Red Unit)
Feb. 1-4 Jacksonville, Fla.
- Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show
Jan. 22 Anderson, S. C.
23 Fayetteville, N. C.
24 Smithfield
25 Kinston
26 Goldsboro
27 Roanoke Rapids
28 Off
29 Charlottesville, Va.
30 Washington, N. C.
31 Wilmington
Feb. 1 Georgetown, S. C.
2 Manning
3 Orangeburg
4 Off
- Golden Gate Dog Show
Feb. 3-4 San Francisco, Calif.

The Pacemaker

In addition to featuring a very good program, the annual winter production of the Kelvin Hall Circus (Glasgow) featured an outstanding ringmaster. Alfred Delbosq was celebrating his 21st yr. with this show.

He reportedly keeps a firm, but yet flexible command over the show, directing its performance in a calm and efficient manner. All too often good ringmasters are overlooked, and it is not until a ringmaster is bad that one realizes how many things can come up during a circus show.

The show's program featured:

- The Duo Dobritch - perch act
- The Balken Troupe - trampoline
- The Alexandro & Co. - Russian swing
- Peter Bantos & Co. - clowns

The Long Journey

Just recently Tex Dreyfus and Harry Kingston (of Houston, Texas) headed out to visit the shows that were wintering in the southern part of their state. On the way they stopped at Richmond, Victoria, Corpus Christi and Kingsville, but were unable to find a single circus litho despite the fact that the Beatty-Cole and Carson & Barnes circuses had played some of the towns not long before.

From Kingsville they drove to Raymondsville (65 miles) via the Big King Ranch highway. They then moved on to Harlegin for a visit with John and Ethel Lewis, whose 1" scale model wagons are said to be truly beautiful.

The next day they drove into Donna and a raging rain storm, but it was down a side road to the quarters of the Fisher Bros. and Clark & Walters Circuses. There they found refuge in the private trailer of Mel Silverlake. After coffee and a visit, Mel proudly showed the two men his huge hippo, and other circus equipment.

Later they went to see John Lewis who was readying his own show for a 1973 opening. Then Mel's father-in-law arrived and he's a real old-time trouper, thus the day turned into a real talk session.

Before heading for home, some 300 miles away, both Tex and Harry were given a big variety of circus items for their collection. "It was as if someone had handed us a million dollars," Tex reports

That long drive home, says Tex, was made in a pouring rain, but while it was wet outside there was certainly sunshine in our hearts, thanks to John Lewis and Mel Silverlake, some real great people.

- The Rosarios - unsupported ladders
- Rudy Horn - juggler
- Rudolfo Stey Family - high wire
- The Four Gerardins - cycles
- Les Raluys - bar act
- The Gay Ghezzis - comedy knockabout
- Billy Wilson - elephants (4)
- Kitty Roberts - dogs
- Katja Schumann - ponies (8)

The show's band leader was Bernard Weller; while the clowns included: Carl Pinter, Noe Noe & Son and Clown Willey

Transit from **CALIF.**

Last week Wally Ross, Ben Avers and Bud Moore were seen driving East across the nation last week, enroute to the Miller Johnson opening yesterday (Jan. 28) at Hollywood, Fla. Each man was driving a semi with a Ryder tractor and in the three vans were: 5 elephants, 2 tigers, 1 black leopard, 2 mountain lions, 2 camels and 10 horses.

smart's goes on

The Billy Smart's Circus is alive and kicking, despite reports to the contrary. Although the show did not tour in 1972 and will not be on the road in 1973 they are still quite actively involved in the world of circus.

This past winter season (Dec. 26-Jan. 20) the Annual Holiday presentation of the Billy Smart's Circus was presented at Fairfield Hall, in Croydon, Surrey, England.

The show program featured:

The Five Gervai - acrobatics
 Alun Davies - dogs (10)
 Blandini - cloud swing
 John & Beverly Roberts - plate spinning
 Clowns - washing a car
 Box Kangaroo
 Vivi Schmidt's sea lions
 The Arata - high wire
 Miss Atlas - strong lady

The stars

Specialty acts playing with the Harlem Globetrotters during their Jan. 20-21 date in Oakland, Calif. were:

Charlie Charles & Family - bicycles
 A table tennis team
 Marco Brunn - juggler

Both evening shows for the Globetrotters was sold out well ahead of time and they drew the largest crowds ever seen at the Oakland Coliseum.



Our folks all read the Circus Report every Monday. They say it is the best circus news

in the country - you ought to be reading it each week too.

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Duo Milik - hand voltage
 Les Coudoux - balancing
 Brenner & Beverly - aerial ladder
 The Flying Oscas - flying act

Clowns included: Michael Austin, Graham Bland, Beano, Mario, Carl Benner.

Staff: Ringmaster - Chris Christian
 Ringmistress - Yasmin Smart
 Band leader - Ken Griffen