New Show To Debut Next Month

Sometime next month, after school has recessed for the summer, a brand new show -- Franzen Bros. Circus -- will start its initial tour, playing the small towns of Wisconsin. The circus was conceived by Wayne Franzen, who talked his family into joining him in putting the show on the road.

Their big top is a 60 x 120 ft. tent that formerly was used by Voorheis Bros. Circus. The seating, for some 1,200 people, came from another show, and in all some 15 people will be traveling with the circus -- all of them new to circus life.

Wayne plans to present a variety of animal acts, and is also going to do juggling as his part of the show program. His wife, Kathleen, has a trained goat act; his brother Neil, will be a clown, plate spinner and elephant trainer; his sister-in-law, Sue, will be the featured aerialist; his mother will be in charge of concessions, and a friend, Richard Dockter, is the show's booking agent. The rest of the circus personnel will be local folks who want to help the show get established.

The circus has a side show (Continued on Page 11)
SHOW Program

The nation's oldest youth show - The Great Y Circus - celebrated its 36th annual production this month. The four advertised performances (May 10-11 and 17-18) were complete sellouts, with tickets priced at $1.75 for students and $2.25 for adults.

The 1974 program included:
The Grand Spec
Aerial cradle
Free Exercise and Tumbling
Table Rock
The Triple Trapeze
Unicycles
Aerial Anchors
Clowns - the magician
Aerial webs
Tight wire
Sponge Plunge
    -- Intermission --
Trampoline
Hanging perch and trapeze
The Uneven
Timber Tumblers
Single Trapeze
Rolling Globes
Teeterboard
Clowns - the boxing match
Juggling
Revolving trapeze
Low Casting

people

JORGE BARADA worked the cat act on Clyde Bros. while his father was recuperating from an attack by a lion.

DOROTHY MERBERT plans to open a Riding and Boarding Facility at Thousand Oaks, Calif., when the current season is over.

HAL HAVILAND is seeking financial assistance in his fight against the government over animal regulations.

JOHNNY CARSON worked with a Fire eater (Jan Monroe) on his May 7th TV Show.

PAT ANTHONY is currently working his cat act on the Polack Bros. Circus.

JACK JOYCE handles the camel ride at Ringling's Circus Park in Florida.

JERRY BOOKER visited with JOHN STRONG when John's show was playing Hollister, Calif.

Still There

"Chappie Fox is still very much a part of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World," writes Jerry Digney, director of publicity for the Florida facility.

Mr. Fox continues to "contribute his invaluable knowledge as a historian to the development of our project."
For the 1974 season Sells & Gray Circus is planning to stay pretty much in the East, moving on 12 show-owned trucks, plus a fuel tanker. Last year's big top (white with white and blue side wall) is in good shape. It is an 80 ft. round and top with three 40 ft. center pieces.

The performance itself runs about 1½ hours and has no规格。Music is provided by a three piece band -- Dick Stuart, organist and announcer with Ray Escoria on trumpet and Giles Austin playing drums.

P.S. ....

We went over to Independence (Kans.) to see Dailey Bros once again (May 5). I don't think any show we've seen has been so nice to us as these show folks are. They were happy having us there and just couldn't do enough to make us comfortable and at home.

They have their new big top now, but the new elephant hadn't arrived, and they need it to help get the tent up, so they were forced to use the old one here.

The combination side show and menagerie has several animal cages, etc. They are: snakes, a hippo, llama, ponies, chimp, monkeys, goat and an elephant.

The Independence date was sponsored by the Rural Fire Dept and they sold over 3,000 tickets to the circus. The tent was jammed for each performance.

...... Velma Lowry
Pictured above is the famous clown Felix Adler, ready for one of his novelty walkaround numbers. He spent most of his years as a clown on the Ringling-Barnum Circus and received a considerable amount of publicity as one of their outstanding clowns.

The other clown picture was taken on Cole Bros. Circus in the early 1940's. The name of the top clown is not known, in the center is Otto Greibling and the bottom clown is Horace Laird.
May 20, 1974

Hoxie Bros. 3-Ring Circus

This year's Hoxie Bros. Circus is again featuring the show's blue and white round top, with three rings grouped around the single center pole. Some 3,000 people can be accommodated in the all new seats, which are 14 rows high.

The program is different this year, for Prince Bogino is no longer here to work the cats and the Mexican acts of 1973 are not on the show. Absent for a time will be Louis Murillo, who was injured when his high wire snapped while he was working with the motorcycle.

The big show program is a good moving performance with:
- Fornasari and Cristianis - trampoline acts
- McGuire Sisters and Linda Chandler - serial numbers
- Bert Pettus - elephant school
- Alfredo Medros - trained dogs
- Anita Fornasari, Benjie and Henry - foot jugglers
- Phil Chandler - trunk escape
- The Medros - head balancing
- Bert Pettus - liberty ponies
- Linda Chandler and the McGuire Sisters - swinging ladders
- Gilda's uncaged leopards
- Fornasari Family - musical comedy
- McGuire Sisters - bird fantasy
- The Riding Cristianis
- The Medros Bros. - balancing
- Bert Pettus - circus elephants

Concession Supt. Johnny Walker is also handling the big top, and King Charles directs a five piece band.

Admission prices at the door are: $2.50 for adults and $1.50 for children, with buyers saving 50% on tickets purchased prior to show time.

The Clowns

At the conclusion of the Maine Shrine Dates, clown Frank (Ho Po) Hannon, headed out for the Pan American Circus at West Orange, N.J. on May 9-11.

For the Maine dates Ho-Po was producing clown and presented his numbers: Jack in the Box, the Human Cannonball and the Sharp Shooter.

Clown alley included: Ho-Po, Mike Monroe, Uncle Jake, Flippo and Wain of the Wainwright family.

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Hamid-Morton Circus
May 23-26 Rockland Co., N.Y.

Hannaford Circus
May 27 Guelph, Ont.

Hexie Bros. Circus
May 20 Saline, Mich.
21 Birmingham
22 Port Huron
23 St. Clair Shores
24 Berkley
25 Fowlerville
26 East Lansing
27 Marshall

Kaye Cont´l Circus
May 24-26 Jackson, Miss.

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus
May 25 Berkeley, Calif.

Lewis Bros. Circus
May 20 West Unity, Ohio
21 Butler, Ind.
22 Bronson, Mich.
23 Decatur
24 White Pigeon
25 Jonesville
26 Enroute
27 Dimondale

Polack Bros. Circus
May 25 Fairfield, Calif.
27 Vallejo

Port Huron
23 St. Clair Shores
24 Berkley
25 Fowlerville
26 East Lansing
27 Marshall

Wallace & Rogers Circus
May 9-10 Cloverdale, BC

Other Routes

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit
May 20-21 Joliet, Ill.

Century 21 Shows - Blue Unit
May 22-June 1 Chgo Hghts.

Disney on Parade Show
May 21-26 Vancouver, BC

James M. Drew Shows
May 20-25 Charleston, W.Va

Frazier World Fair Shows
May 22-26 El Paso, Texas

Holiday on Ice
May 20-25 Charolet, Mo.

Peter Pan Show
May 21-27 Denver, Colo.

Rose City Rides
May 20-25 Desloge, Mo.
26 St. Charles

Spokane - World Fair Shows
May 23 & 25 Seattle Opera
24 Spokane Tmp.

PLEASE keep news and show routes flowing in so this page can be filled with circus dates. We can do it with your help.
Trainers Meet

Several circus animal men, plus interested parties, attended a meeting in Nashville, Tenn. last month to discuss current animal regulations. The meeting was the first one held by the National Congress of Animal Trainers, which was organized by Roger Smith and Tom Wilds (see Circus Report of May 6).

Circus trainers attending the meeting included: Murray Hill, Eric Wilnow, Jerry Lipko, Al Antonucci, Andre Bruneis, N. Zamperla. Also present were: Bill Boren, ringmaster; Koko Spaeth, clown and Johnny Luxam, sky wheel act.

A WINDY PLACE

A cold wind greeted Circus Vargas upon its arrival at Concord, Calif. (May 9-10), where the circus presented its first performances of the year in the Greater San Francisco area. The audiences came out, but were huddled together, some even with blankets, in an effort to ward off the disturbing wind.

The circus made an overnight jump from Capitola, but sent its tent on ahead for a date in Tacoma. The open arena was set-up on a vacant lot by the local airport, where the wind hindered many of the acts -- aerial numbers and jugglers.

The 29th annual Shrine Circus here in Tacoma, Wash. (May 3-5) brought Polack Bros. Circus to the University of Puget Sound Field House, sponsored by the Afife Shrine Temple. The show drew well and received good reception. Don Nothdorft does a fine job of announcing, while the music was excellent.

The program as presented here featured:

The Shrine Clowns, followed by the Polack Bros. Clowns
Jacki Althoff's bears (5)
The Bertini Duo - hanging per.
The Grimaldis - musical comedy
Pompon and the baby elephant
Don Nothdorf - trunk escape
Miss Rose Marie - tight wire
Mickey Antalek's chimps (2)
Carillo Bros. - high wire
-- Intermission --
Miss Antionette - foot juggle
Miss Lona - trained dogs
Polack Bros. Clowns
Miss Francesca - single trap.
Miss Segura - balance trapeze
Althoff's pony riding chimps
Tom and Pompon Donoho - the
Polack Bros. elephants (3)
The Flying Gibsons

Harry Thomas' tiger act is the third number on the program, and otherwise the running order is pretty much the same as was reported earlier this season.
Pictured above is a standard publicity photo of an elephant which was used by many circuses over the years.

The clown shown to the left is Charles Rainier, who appeared with many circuses in his years of trouping. This picture was taken on the Russell Bros. Circus. Charlie was known as "Squeeze Box" to most of his friends.
Sponsored by the Yasrab Shrine Temple, the Clyde Bros. Circus played to capacity business at every performance during its 10 day stand (April 19-28) at Atlanta, Ga. On three evenings the Shrine band, consisting of some 90 plus members, gave an hour's concert before the circus performance.

For the matinee performances music was provided by Mrs. Virginia Lee Fenton, the circus organist and Bill Frye, a Shrine Club drummer. In the evenings the band was augmented with three trumpets, two saxophones and two trombones.

The program here featured:

Opening Overture - "Welcome to The Circus"
"The Circus on Parade"
Jose Barrada
Jungle acts
Myosky Amato
hair hang - aerial bal.
Clown Number
The Enricos
acrobat &
The Aurelios
in risley
Rudy Dockey's
basketball
dog number
Princess Omar - a one finger st'd
Circus camel
The Clowns
Bowade Bros.
chimn act

--- Intermission ---

The Peters - perch pole and
The Galambos - rolling globes
The Clowns
Clyde Bros. circus elephants(3)
Pete & Petrosa and The Frankovos - aerial features

notes

Wallace & Rogers Circus is playing Canadian dates on its way to Alaska. They plan to be in the Far North for about two months, then will play Canadian dates on the way back home.

The Suarez Troupe - riding act
Miss Tina - away pole
The Grand Finale

(Acts not appearing during the Atlanta date included: Arley's bears, The Flying Lopez and Josalito, high wire act).

After the show one evening (April 23) this writer and Howard Suarez visited the "Big Horn" in underground Atlanta to enjoy a Dixieland Jazz Band. Mr. Suarez had his own Jazz band in college and then spent two years on the road with his own band. He says he'd seen Dixieland bands with one or two great musicians, but never saw six great players in a single band, as are featured by Sammy Duncan at the "Big Horn."
**Feature Act**

Circus star Karl Wellenda will walk a high wire across the Milwaukee County Stadium (Milwaukee, Wisc) prior to the Cleveland-Milwaukee game on Jul.4.

Game officials report the day has been titled "Circus Family Day". Several other circus acts will also perform at the 1 p.m. show time.

**PEOPLE**

DEAN WEISS (Dino, the Magic Clown) is a vice president of the State Bank of Lake Zurich in Illinois.

JOHNNY LUXE will have his Wheel of Death on the Atterbury Circus dates at Detroit and Flint, Michigan.

TEX DREYFUS, of Houston, reports he was a guest on the Carson & Barnes Circus during his vacation and not an employee as was reported earlier.

FRED PETRI directed the band on the Shrine dates in Maine this year.

BOBBY GIBBS reports that four of his big dogs were recently poisoned. One of his ponies gave birth to a red filly colt.

JANICE GILLESPIE, an RBBB clown and some elephants, was recently pictured in the Press-Telegram of Long Beach, Calif.

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**NEW SHOW (Continued)**

Franzen says his original idea was to have a few acts for celebrations and picnics, then it just grew. "I was hoping to keep the cost of putting together the circus under $40,000," he says, "I don't think I'm going to make it."

The program, as planned now, will include:

- Overatuer and Grand Entry
- Juggling/balance/unicycle
- Tonto, the Educated Horse
- Comedy clowns
- Doga and Mule number
- Plate Spinning
- Liberty Stallion Act
- Comedy clowns
- Paul Neibouer - illusions
- The performing goats
- Tumbling and Acrobatics
- The Spanish Web
- Comedy clowns
- Mechanical Bareback Riding
- Uneven Parallel Bars
- Swinging ladder
- Trampoline feats
- The Baby elephant
- Grand Finale
Pot-Pourri

An advance advertising paper for Lewis Bros. invites the kids to come and carry water for the circus elephants on show day.

Allen's Pet Zoo had good stands at Bakersfield, Calif., (May 1-4) and at Dixon May Fair (May 9-12).

Business and weather have been good to King Bros. Circus here of late.

The John Strong Circus drew big crowds all last week as the show wound up its Northern California dates for the spring season.

The George Matthews Circus had a big day at Stockton, Calif. (May 13) with all departments showing an increase.

In Memoriam

CARL D. CLANCY, served as a circus cook on many shows including Ringling-Barnum. He died on April 19th at Newport News, Va. at the age of 75. Survivors include a son, daughter and a brother.

CIRCUS VISITORS

Recent visitors at Circus Vergas were: Bill Williams, Tom Upton, Don Marcka, Jess Monfeldt, Bob and Jeanna Moore.