



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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## strong dates

Two successful engagements were reported by the Yerkes Continental Circus last month. The show, produced and directed by Bob Yerkes, featured a strong line of circus acts in a two hour program

"Both of our dates," said Yerkes, "were sponsored by local organizations. They worked hard and sold many tickets."

The advance sale for the show's date at Fairfield, Calif. (May 26) came to \$43,000. For the Vallejo engagement (May 28) the advance sale amounted to \$52,000.

## RUDY BROS. CIRCUS

Those attending the Rudy Bros. Circus at San Jose, Calif. (May 25-28) were in for a real treat. The show looked just the way one expects a circus to be.

The weather was ideal, even a bit on the warm side. The big top, rented from Harold Barnes, was set up on the fair grounds, nestled among the trees and on a full grass lot. The blue and white top looked new, all the show props had been recently painted and the clean white sawdust (on the track and in the rings) gave an excellent appearance to the spectator.

The performance under the big top was essentially the same as was reported in Circus Report for May 21, 1973. However, Adele Smeija and her tigers were added at the San Jose stand. Their big arena was set up at one end of the tent.

Attendance throughout the four day stand was good, with extra seating being required for several of the performances.

## NICE TOUR SET

Recent reports indicate that John Winn's "Europorame, Inc." has some eight weeks of dates booked for the summer run. The 1973 season will get underway on July 5th, at Roseburg, Oregon, Winn said.

The show, which will be touring in Canada, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California, will feature:

- Winn Family - motorcycle, death walk and slide for life
- Jose Gonzales Gonzales - comedian
- Otto Berocini - balancing and juggling
- Adele and Gory - gorilla act
- Day Vee - balancing and clown
- Dynamic Deville - flying act
- Friske - high wire

Officers of the corporation are:

- John Winn - president
- Ray Vogel - vice president
- Karin Winn - secretary/treasurer

## museum saved

The Tom Mix Museum, at Dewey, Okla., which was being threatened with a shut-down (see Circus Report for May 7, 1973) has been rescued by state aid. The Oklahoma Legislature last week approved a \$30,000 fund for operation of the museum, which will be taken over by the State Historical Society on July 1st.

The Tom Mix Museum owes some \$30,000 in bills at the present time. About half of this will be paid off with the funds that have been provided. The remainder of the money will be used to operate the museum for the coming year.

## Rough Year

Just about everything that could happen to a circus occurred during the short tour of Royal Int'l Circus. The show played the Southwestern states, as well as those on the Pacific Coast during its four week run.

The circus ran into a heat wave in Arizona, then found itself in cold weather in California, followed by an overnight heatwave on Memorial Day weekend. In addition to bad weather the elephant "Alfie" died, a chimp chased a man, an aerialist was injured, elephants got loose and the horses kicked at least one man. Big gnats took over the grandstand one night, while a swarm of bees dropped in on the stage area and delayed the show program.

While operating as a small show, the circus carried the strongest program ever offered on shows of this type. In addition to top-notch center ring acts they had several multi-ring displays and an aerial ballet featuring 10 girls.

All equipment was new, built especially for the show. This included center poles for rigging, a blue and white backdrop, plus red and white ring curbs.

The band, consisting of five men, was under the direction of Ken Richey, and provided excellent backing for every number.

# CLASSIFIED

WANTED - CIRCUS LITHOGRAPHS for my collection. Truck and Railroad Shows. Shows most wanted: Mighty Hoag, Gollmar, Christy Bros., Sparks, Sells-Fleto and Gentry Bros. Will pay premium price. R. G. Gore, 332 West 23rd St., Jacksonville, Fla.

THE CIRCUS REPORT is published every week by Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530

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## show is okay

Good crowds have been attending the Lewis Bros. Circus, writes Charles Terry, who visited the show at several locations in Indiana last month. Performances, he reports, are scheduled for 6 and 8 p.m., which seems to work rather well.

He reports the show is using a 60 ft. top with one 30 ft. middle. It is a brown top, with blue side walls. All show trucks are orange, with yellow lettering and blue trim.

Some of the people with the show include:

Art "Doc" Miller - booking  
 Bob Grene - announcer/calliope  
 Joe Eddie - drums  
 Duane Martin - electrician  
 Harver Orr - canvas  
 Fred Brown - cookhouse

## A SHORT TOUR

An interesting and well received show was presented in at least two California cities last month. Called the "Circus Variety Show" the program was produced by Pan American Circus Productions for Watsonville (May 19) and Santa Cruz (May 20) under the sponsorship of the California Division of Forestry Employees Assoc.

Appearing on the program were:

Little Moe and Smitty - clowns  
 Larry Tarriel - juggling/unicycle  
 Clark McDermott - Cold Nose Five  
 Pack O'Dreams - puppets  
 Pelan Family - magical illusions

## The fatal Fall

High wire performer Vincente Caradozi, died late last month from injuries suffered in a fall during a circus performance at Green Bay, Wisc.

Caradozi lost his balance on the high wire and fell 30 feet to a concrete floor, after missing the net.

The accident happened before a capacity crowd attending the Tripoli Shrine Circus, in the Brown County Arena.

# Great

... by P. J. Bissonette

Despite a light rain, the Royal Wild West Circus drew straw houses for its two performances at Princeton, N.J., on May 20th. The show played at Avalon place and was sponsored by the local YMCA.

This is truly a beautiful show. Its trucks are all white and well lettered, complete with scroll work and Indian designs and scenes. The Khaki big top (110 ft. qith a 50 ft. middle) has red and white side walls. Four seat wagons are used, plus traditional seating at both ends of the tent. All prop men wear orange coveralls.

Two generators, a 45 kw and a 40 kw, provide ample power for the show. On the midway is an "Wounded Knee Trading Post", which offers your name on a sheriff's badge or horseshoe, plus concessions, a Clown's face Moon Walk and a real pony ride.

The show runs about 1 hour and 45 minutes and features some 17 numbers, of both circus and western acts. A show coloring book is sold during intermission.

Acts appearing in the big show were:

- M. Loyale - head to head on trapeze
- Uncle Zeke - educated mule
- Ed Hendricks - Parisian poodles
- Segrera - slack wire/unicycle and unsupported ladder
- Chas. Hilton and horse "Hi Chaparel"
- Kalamer - Magic and Burning Coffin Ills
- Capt. Edwin - liberty ponies
- Chief White Cloud and Princess Shining Star - knife throwing
- Satrira Trio - rola bola/head balancing
- A. Shleetz - baby elephant "Sheila"
- Frank & Barbara Dean - sharp shooting
- Great Segrero - hand balancing
- Hoot and Judy - rope spinning/gun twirl

The clowns appear in three production numbers under the direction of Joe "Jo-Mar" Myers, producing clown. Others in Clown Alley are: Ricky Percy and Stan Penny.

The show's booking and mail agent is James Percy, while the five piece band is

## A HAPPY ORGANIST

Music for the John Strong Circus is currently being provided by Dick Cross and his organ. He's been playing the organ for many years and enjoys every minute of it.

Dick makes his music an important part of the show and as a result he is in demand to play for special programs and show events. His music is distinctive and swings with every beat.

Although he has played music for several circuses and magic shows, he has been away from the circus world for the past few years. It's nice to be back on a show he says. Most of his work, of late, has been with Arabian horse shows, as well as working with Wayne Newton.

His future engagements include playing for a big horse show in Africa and a program at Hickman Air Force Base in Honolulu. He also has a date at a horse show in Washington, DC in November, and of course, will continue to be providing the background music for John Strong's show.

Thus it looks as if Dick Cross won't have too many free days. He's got a busy schedule -- that's for sure.

### Quick Cuts

The Gatti-Charles Circus played Portland, Oregon on June 1-3.

The Miller-Johnson Circus has been making some long jumps and playing a lot of one day stands.

Business for the John Strong Circus was good at Morro Bay; slow at Lompoc and a sell-out at Atascadero (all Calif. dates).

Carson & Barnes Circus recently lost their big giraffe. The animal died after an attack of pneumonia.

The Beatty-Cole show is getting plenty of rain and muddy lots again this season.

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directed by Prof. Moyers.

This is certainly a friendly show and owner Auggie Shleetz graciously took time out to be sure we enjoyed our visit. Everyone from adult to youngster finds they like this circus.

## PERSONNEL

RALPH RUCKER is working with the Stoyan-off Triple Bar act on the Carden & Johnson Circus this year.

RAY O'FLATTERY worked the promotion for John Strong's Circus date at San Mateo, Cal. last month.

RUDY JACOBI was hospitalized for a check-up at Monterey, Calif. late last month.

CESAR ROMERO and SEBASTIAN CABOT attended the opening night performance of Miller Johnson Circus when that show played in Los Angeles, Calif.

KARL WALLEDA recently purchased a new Wells Cargo trailer.

PHIL SHEAR, clown, is working advance for the John Strong Circus this year.

HARRY ROSS, clown, was at one time a printer. He won several awards for his composition and layout work.

SPARKY, the Clown, (D. W. Washburn) visited the Royal Int'l Circus at Vallejo, on May 28th, enroute to join the George Matthew Circus.

DR. DAVID REID and his wife visited the Happytime Circus, Rudy Bros. Circus and Royal Int'l Circus over the Memorial Day weekend.

LEON FOOTE, former high wire artist, was a visitor at the Royal Int'l Circus at Vallejo, Calif. on May 28th.

BOB EMRICO, clown, will be working some show dates in the San Francisco, Calif. area during the middle of June.

TOM UPTON has been showing his circus movies for personnel on all the shows that come into the Bay Area, in California.

CLARK McDERMOTT (Cold Nose Five act) has a new address. It is: 1912 Eastor Drive, Burlingame, Calif. - 94010.

TERRELL JACOBS, Jr., recently visited the De Wayne Bros. Circus in Washington. He also visited STAN KREMIEN, who is touring his magic show.

CLARENCE HOFFMAN is the announcer for show acts at the Circus Circus Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## BIG JOHN STRONG'S CIRCUS

The John Strong Circus has wound up its California dates for the present time and is now moving east. The show will be back on the West Coast for the fall and winter season.

"Business," says John, "has generally been good, with some slow days. At San Diego business was off, but that was because they now have a control system on the number of show tickets that can be issued per day.



Throughout the San Francisco area the show drew good crowds and three performances a day became a common practice. Business was especially good for the show at towns they have been playing for several years. This proves the value of a good reputation and the building of a following for the past several years.

This year's program in California was featuring:

- Clerk Craig - liberty ponies
- Sparky, the clown - floating cane
- The Wal-Tims - risley
- Pat Roberts - dogs
- Miss Robin - swinging ladder
- Mr. Meatball - comedy ladder number
- Clerk Craig - pony and dogs
- Clowns - hair growing number
- Arthur - trained macaw (John Strong)
- Ginger Street - contortionist
- Clowns - balloon number
- Clerk Craig - trained pony
- Miss Jan - high trapeze
- Side show pitch and fire eating
- Neena, the elephant - John Strong

Music for the show was provided by Dick Cross at the organ.



Someplace a band is playing and a circus performance is starting. Find out which one and where it is by reading THE CIRCUS REPORT each week.

Order your subscription today - it's \$10.00 per year.

Write: Don Marcks, 525 Oak Street, El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

**ROUTES****Beatty-Cole Circus**

June 4 New City, N.J.  
5 Kingston, NY  
6 Oneonta  
7 Ithaca  
8-9 Binghamton  
10 Elmira

**Hubert Castle Circus**

June 4-5 Lethbridge, Albt  
6-7 Red Deer  
8 Grand Prairie  
9 Dawson Creek, BC  
10-11 Prince George

**Circus Kirk**

June 4 Off  
5 Green Haven, Ind.  
6 Odenton  
7 Bainbridge  
8 Oxford, Pa.  
9-10 Off

**Clyde Bros. Circus**

June 4-5 Brantford, Ont.  
6 Brampton

**Fisher Bros. Circus**

June 4 Atoma, Okla.  
5 Coalgate  
6 Allen  
7 Stratford  
8 Maysville  
9 Tuttle

**Garden Bros. Circus**

June 4 Goderich, Ont.  
5 Owen Sound

**Hamid-Morton Circus**

June 7-10 Trenton, N.J.

**Happytime Circus**

June 4-5 Petaluma, Calif.  
7-9 Modesto

**Hoxie Bros. Circus**

June 4 Ft. Atkinson, Ws  
5 Janesville  
6 Beloit  
7 Carpentersville,  
8 Bradley Ill.  
9 Romeoville  
10 Peoria

**Miller-Johnson Circus**

June 4 Oskosh, Wisc.  
5 Fond du Lac  
6 Kenosha  
7-8 Peoria, Ill.

**Ringling's Blue Unit**

June 5-6 Binghamton, NY  
8-10 Hampton, Va.

**Ringling's Red Unit**

June 7-10 Hershey, Pa.

**Royson Bros. Circus**

June 8 Rougemont, NC  
9-10 Butler

**Rudy Bros. Circus**

June 8-17 Boston, Mass.

**Sells & Gray Circus**

June 4 Bowie, Md.  
5 Joppatowns  
6 York, Pa.  
7 Nudia  
8 West Chester  
9 Lancaster

**John Strong Circus**

June 4 Off  
5 Sparks, Nev.  
6 Fallon  
7 Hawthorne  
8 Carson City  
9 Lake Tahoe  
10 Bishop, Calif.

**Voorheis Bros. Circus**

June 9 Napoleon, Ohio

**..... CARNIVALS .....****Rose City Rides**

June 5-9 Sullivan, Mo.

**American Eagle Shows**

June 9-10 Norfolk, Nebr.

**D. L. Manning Shows**

June 4-9 Ellsworth, Pa.

**Don's Amusements**

June 5-6 Clarkfield, Minn.  
8-9 De Smet, N.D.

**James H. Drew Shows**

June 4-9 Bluefield, W. Va.

**Fun Fair Shows**

June 6-10 San Leandro, Cal.

**Bob Hammond Shows**

June 1-10 Austin, Texas

**Johnny's United Shows**

June 4-9 Florence, Ala.

**King Reid Shows**

June 5-25 Quebec, Ont.

**Myers Amusements Corp.**

June 4-10 Lexington, Tenn.

**..... OTHER ROUTES .....****Roller Derby**

June 8 Oakland, Calif.

**ATTENTION!**

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**\* CLOWNS \***

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★ THE CIRCUS WITH MORE FRIENDS THAN SANTA —

Watch for our route in The Circus Report each week, then come and visit us -- we'd love to have you.

The Allusionairs (Magic Show)

June 9 Pacifica, Calif.

10 Concord

# Music Adds Zest To Ice Follies

By PETER COWAN  
Tribune Staff Writer

The music from "Shaft" opened the 1973 Ice Follies, an indication that the show is looking for a new image. But it wasn't Richard Roundtree striding down the streets of New York. It was the Follies company in all their costumed splendor, cutting graceful figures on the rink of the Oakland Coliseum Arena.

This year's show, here through Sunday, makes the most of contemporary music to set the pace and it works well. Skating to the familiarity of hit tunes makes the '73 show a faster paced production than last year's.

During the opening number Tuesday night, the two key young principals, Karen Kresge and Atoy Wilson, introduced themselves to the tune of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" and "Jesus Christ Superstar," respectively. Kresge's "golden girl" image and Wilson's entertaining dance-style were both good.

Ice Follies is primarily a happy event. The stars leap for joy, the chorus weaves around them in symmetrical group patterns, the costumes are gaudy and bright and everyone has a permanent smile affixed to his face. They want you to have a good time and for the most part you do. Optimism rubs off.

For the children this year, there are two humorous production numbers, one about a camp of potbellied gorillas and the second where the Thing-A-Mings thwart a gang of motorcycle creeps from spoiling the fun.

But the big emphasis is on dancing. Richard Dwyer and Susan Berens started it off. She is all radiance. He is all stud. Together they are effortless grace, or so it seems. It's a tribute to their teamwork. In "Make Your Own Kind of Music," they were joined by another smooth couple, Judy Schwomeyer and Jim Sladky, North American Dance Champions, and Kathleen Miller for a nicely choreographed trib-

ute to all kinds of music. Included were: "I Don't Know How To Love Him," the theme from "Sweet Charity" and "The Sunny Side of the Street." It was one of the evening's high points.

After Dwyer's debonair scene with the Dwyer Dream Girls, where he dons a top hat and cane for some truly smooth maneuvers, came the second big dance production. "Sounds and Motion" featured Karen Kresge, Kathleen Miller, Christy Ito and Judy and Jim in a dazzling display of solo moves.

The solo acts were up to par except for one. Mr. Frick's ice pantomime imitating a football receiver, shooting gallery target and wooden soldier showed why he is so popular. Dave Comb leaped over barrels with flaming skates, turning flips and gainers. And Atoy Wilson was clearly one of the show's best. This is his first year with the Follies and you can see why he's a featured performer already. Compared to Dwyer, Wilson is a flashier skater who exhibits the ability to be funky on ice. He is a treat to see.

Trixi Schuba, former world and Olympic champion who is billed as the show's headliner, was a bore. In fact, the less experienced girls were much better. It was unfortunate though, that she seemed to be cued off before she had finished.

The Scarecrows were there when you needed them, breaking up the lull of the second half of the show with their madcap antics. Their trick skating was better than ever and they do have some fun with those sitting down front.

(The above review is reprinted from the Oakland Tribune (cal) of May 24, 1973.



# YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - May 27, 1916

The BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS

The circus arrived a bit late this morning and as a result it was 3 p.m. when the downtown parade started. The line-up was:

- Fred Bradna - two horse carriage
- Nine mounted buglers
- Twelve mounted ladies
- Band tab - 12 horses
- six tab wagons - six horses each
- Outrider
- Twelve mounted men
- Band tab - eight horses
- Four cages - four horses each
- Outrider
- Ten mounted ladies
- Five cages - four horses each
- Chariot - four horses
- Hippo cage - ten horses
- Nine mounted men
- Band tab - eight horses
- Small tab - four horses
- Outrider
- America tab - ten horses
- Europe tab - eight horses
- Asia tab - four horses
- Rhino cage - eight horses
- Nine lady riders
- Colored band tab - six horses
- Two cages - four horses each
- Outrider
- Six cages - four horses each
- Twenty cowboys and cowgirls
- Clown band tab - four horses
- 20 elephants
- 14 camels
- 1 baby camel
- 2 zebras
- 3 sacred cattle
- 21 lady and men riders
- Little Folks Tab - 20 ponies.

The show's side show was featuring:

The Minstrels; Mr. & Mrs. Short, midgets; Zip, What is it; Marionettes; Hindus; Eddie Masher, human skeleton; Jack Wilson, fat boy; snake charmer; Jim Terver, giant; Mlle. Clifford, sword swallower; The Taylor Triplets; Princess Wee Wee, midget; Alastair Mac Wilkie, long beard; Alice Cherry, the fat girl and Frank Ward, tattooed man.

## John Strong Circus In Town

# 'Boiler Room' Brings Clowns To First Street

By JOAN BOER

Sparky the Clown and his pal Patches brightened Livermore's First Street yesterday.

They were trying to drum up a little business for Big John Strong's 1869 Circus, which appears at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton for three final performances today.

Sparky and Patches were handing out free family tickets to fill up the bleachers as the result of their association with John Hargrove's San Leandro "boiler room" operation having been abruptly severed in March.

A "boiler room" describes an organization which sets up temporarily for phone solicitations supposedly to benefit a charity. Often the boiler room operators are the only ones who benefit.

Hargrove, selling the circus tickets purportedly for VFW Post 2707 of the East Bay Police and Firemen to benefit "widows and orphans," was closed down by the law.

The Post contains only a handful of policemen and firemen. The law requires an organization to contain 90% of such membership.

Hargrove violated another code section dealing with false advertising, according to investigator Bernie Hughes of the district attorney's office.

Since a number of tickets had been sold prior to the shutdown, Strong petitioned the district attorney to let him keep his performance dates.

"He felt that cancelling the circus would be damaging to his reputation, which I understand is pretty good statewide," Hughes said. "He also was concerned about the people who already had bought tickets and expected to see the show."

Strong, hired at a flat fee by Hargrove, had nothing to do with the boiler room, so the Independent was told yesterday by the towering circus owner.

He explained that it's difficult for a traveling circus



Patches (Gary Ray) and Sparky (D.W. Washburn) take their ease on a Livermore streetcorner.

photo - Bob Several

to sell its own advance tickets. The usual procedure is to rely on local groups or a professional "boiler room" to bring in the audiences.

"I have 25 people connected with the circus and daily expenses of \$2000. I like being hired on a flat fee which guarantees I can meet those expenses," said Strong.

A traveling circus can be a chancy business, he added. He used to book engagements with civic groups who were sometimes lackadaisical when it came to selling tickets.

"I used to work on a 50-50 basis with women's clubs or a local Jaycee group," said Strong. "But too often they'd get lazy and only sell \$100 worth. Then after the show they'd say, 'Well, here's your 50 bucks.'"

"To me boiler rooms are necessary evils," Strong continued. "New laws make it much tougher for them to cheat. Now they've got to identify themselves over the phone and state what percentage of the profits goes to the charitable operation that is sponsoring the show or whatever."

"Boiler rooms are common," he commented. "Newspapers often do it to increase their subscriptions, saying they'll give a certain percent of the take to some charity or another."

Strong's circus is a familiar one in the valley, having been at the Alameda County Fair for the past 15 years.

Strong is proud of performers like Sparky, who is a veteran of 10 years of clowning, including stints with the world-famous Ringling Brothers.

Today's performances are set for 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Children will be let in free as will the lucky family ticket-holders who met Sparky or Patches on local streets.

The 1869 Circus features old-time circus acts and costumes. Besides Sparky and Patches, there'll be a full show of acrobats, aerialists, jugglers, trained animals and an old-time sideshow, all a recreation of the first circus to travel the West.

This page has been reprinted from the Independent, of Livermore, Cal. - May 25, 1973

# ANNOUNCING

Fourth of July "fireworks" will explode early this year when circus daredevils are hurled from the mouth of a monster repeating cannon as a first-time attraction of Old Milwaukee Days.

Lakefront showgrounds entertainment -- free to the public -- includes trained wild animal acts, equestrian and elephant performers, plus aerial thrillers on a twice-a-day schedule from June 30 to July 3, the day before the Schlitz Circus Parade on July 4th.

The lakefront hippodrome at the new showgrounds site will be the scene of double detonations from the 28 foot barrel used in the Edmondo Zacchini cannon act. Zacchini, who is 78, will fire his niece Carol and her husband, Wayne Wright, 150 ft. through the air in quick succession from the two ft. cannon mouth into a net at each performance. The senior Zacchini has been "shooting" members of his family -- 14 so far -- from the big guns for more than 50 years.

Rumor credits his conceiving the idea during World War I as a means of delivering parachutists behind Austrian lines. The Zacchis deny this notion, but Edmondo, a graduate engineer from the Polytechnic Institute at Turin, Italy, did build his first cannon during that war and was himself the first projectile.

Zacchini revolutionized the whole human cannonball concept. Cannon acts always had been circuses' surest crowd-holders, but also were hazardous. From the first such act recorded -- the Sapoy Gun Feat billed by the Yankee Robinson Circus in 1875 -- the means of hurling the daredevil was a huge spring in the cannon. These often misfired, or released unexpectedly, catching the flyer unawares and sometimes resulted in injury or death.

Edmondo used compressed air as the propellant, adding a safety valve to release pressure in case of an emergency. A carefully timed firecracker provided the explosion expected by the crowd, and the Zacchini act was born. Edmondo and his six brothers toured much of Europe in the 1920's before Hugo Zacchini came to the United States with a cannon at the behest of John Ringling. Edmondo's contingent toured South America before joining Hugo in this country in 1930.

Since then, the original Zacchini Bros., and their families have been soaring from Edmondo's cannons to thrill countless audiences everywhere.



Have you heard some show news recently? If so why keep it a secret -- lets share it with those who are interested.

We're always looking for show news of all kinds, and routes too.