



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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R/B SIGNS EUROPEAN STAR

The first East German act to be seen in this country has been signed to tour with the Ringling-Barnum Circus next year. The one-of-a-kind animal act will be featured in the 104th edition of "the Greatest Show on Earth", says RBBB president and producer Irvin Feld.

The Samel Mixed Animal Act, headed by Erhard and Christiane Samel,

consists of a dozen beasts of eight species -- two tigers, two lions, two Himalayan bears, two brown bears, a polar bear, a black panther, a puma and a leopard.



The Samels and their animals will be appearing with the Ringling-Barnum Circus through an "on loan" arrangement with the Central Circus Berlin, of the German Democratic Republic.

The Samel animal act arrived in the U.S. on Nov. 30th, aboard the Atlantic Container Line's ship "Atlantic Song" and debarked at Port Newark, N.J. The animals were then transported by truck to the circus winterquarters at Venice, Fla., for rehearsals which started on Dec. 4th (Continued on Page 5)

OPENING SET

A solid series of dates in the first portion of the coming year has been scheduled for the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show, reports Gary Leshinsky.

The show will open its '74 season with an eleven day stand (Jan. 3-13) at the Felt Forum at Madison Square Garden in New York City. At the conclusion of this engagement the show will go into Florida to start playing through the Atlantic Coast states, and then gradually will head into the midwestern area.

The show's route will be appearing regularly in the Route section of Circus Report.

CHARGE FILED

Dude Crowder, a Shelbyville, Tenn. horse trainer has been charged with violating the Horse Protection Act, by the USDA. In its charge, the USDA said that Crowder had shown a horse named "Delight's Brigade" at a Walking Horse Show at Stevenson, Ala. on Sept. 23, '72 which had been sores.

According to the charges the horse was wearing 16 ounces on its forelegs while being shown, which would be expected to cause pain and irritation to the horse while it was performing.

The Horse Protective Act prohibits the exhibition or transporting of horses across state lines that have been "sores" to enhance their gait in the show ring.

CIRCUS CIRCUS ACTS

Several acts are currently playing the Circus Circus Casino at Las Vegas, Nev. including the following:

The Flying Palacios - trapeze
The Stanek Family - acrobats
Berosini's Jungle Fantasy
Tanya, the elephant
The Endress Troupe
Los Latinos

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A STRONG SEASON

"Our 1973 season was the best year we have ever experienced," says Jim Nordmark, president of the Children's "Magic Circus. A total of 43 weeks were played this past year, he added, with 33 of those weeks being one night stands, the other 10 weeks were played at Circus Towne in New Hampshire.

The show regularly plays an area ranging from Florida to Maine and as far west as Ohio. All dates are booked for indoor presentation with the exception of the Circus Towne engagement, which was presented under a tent.

The 1974 tour will start at Atlanta, Ga. on Jan. 31st (the Georgia Regional State Hospital) and will continue uninterrupted until December. In all some 200 repeat engagements will be played, in addition to many new dates. In anticipation of gasoline shortages the route has been tightened so as to avoid long jumps.

IN QUARTERS

Once again the Royal Wild West Circus has gone into winter-quarters at Valdosta, Ga. The show is already booking acts for the 1974 tour, but reportedly will not be making any holiday dates.

According to show owner O. R. Schlaentz, the 1973 tour was a "highly profitable" one and a big winner. "It was the best we've had," he added.

PLANS ARE SET

All acts have been hired for the 1974 Barnes & Daily Famous Circus tour, show officials reported last week. At the same time it was reported that show owners Jim and Marlyn Silverlake received an early Christmas treat when they were presented with a trunkful of clean usable tournament wardrobe.

"Heels" the January mule, a new arrival at the show's quarters in Medora, Ind., recently gave all those at the quarters a hectic afternoon by racing around the countryside. His tour included a gallop through a saw mill, racing through a chicken coop, kicking a Texaco gas pump and walking into the kitchen of a farmhouse just as the unfortunate housewife stepped out of the bath tub, stark naked.

TV date

The Lance Link Chimps, presented by Darrell Keener, have been booked on several network TV shows by Simone Finner Enterprises the California-based theatrical agency specializing in novelty acts.

Scheduled to be aired on a national basis during the month of December, the chimpanzees will be appearing on: The Mary Tyler Moore Show, The Dating Game and It Pays to be Ignorant.

HISTORICAL FACT

The first hippo appeared on the Geo. F. Bailey & Co. Circus & Managerie in 1863.

A BIG DATE

Attendance at the Macon, Ga., Shrine Circus, produced by Clyde Bros. Circus (red unit), was double that of last year, according to show officials. Some 21,000 persons turned out for the five performances (Nov. 9-11) offered by the show.

The opening night performance was purchased by the local newspaper, who printed a special circus supplement for the occasion. This promotion brought out 8,500 people for the opening show.

Sunday, Nov. 11th, marked the closing date for both Clyde Bros. units, with the Blue Unit closing at Brownwood, Texas.

SMALL SHOW

Acts appearing in the Jr. Police Circus at New Orleans, La. recently included:

Johnny Desmond and Janice Harper - vocalists
Glen Henry - dogs
Hunky Johnson - bears

XMAS WORK

A small promotional program to provide several organizations with a Christmas fund raising program has been completed in the Los Angeles area.

The show, called Wright Bros. Circus, will play all next week starting at Inglewood, Calif. on Dec. 15th.

ROUTES

- Paul Eagles Xmas Circus
 - Dec. 11 Long Beach, Cal.
- Geo. Matthews Variety Show
 - Dec. 10 Columbus, Ohio
 - 11 Zanesville
 - 12 Pittsburgh, Pa.
 - 13-14 Akron, Ohio
 - 15-16 Cleveland
- Lockheed Rec. Club Circus
 - Dec. 15-16 Atlanta, Ga.
- Rudy Bros. Circus
 - Dec. 10 Bakersfield, Cal.
- Santa's Xmas Revue
 - Dec. 10 Atwater, Calif.
 - 11 Los Banos
 - 12 Lodi
 - 13 Stockton
 - 14 Gilroy
- John Strong's Int'l Circus
 - Dec. 10 Ft. Worth, Texas
 - 11 Wichita Falls, Kans
 - 12 Okla. City, Okla.
 - 13 Enroute
 - 14 Albuquerque, N.M.
 - 15 Enroute
 - 16 Tucson, Ariz.
- Tripoli Productions Indoor Cir.
 - Dec. 10 Salina, Kans
 - 11 Hutchinson
 - 12 Wichita
 - 13 Coffeerville
 - 14 Stillwater, Okla.
 - 15 Enroute
 - 16 Muskogee

- Wonderful World of Magic
 - Dec. 11 Warren, Ohio
 - 13 Somerset, Pa.
 - 14 Bedford
 - 16 Bridgeton, N.J.
- Wright's Circus
 - Dec. 16 Inglewood, Cal.
- OTHER ROUTES
- Ice Capades
 - Dec. 12-16 Victoria, BC
- Int'l Independent Showmen
 - Dec. 14 Gibsonton, Fla.
- Kovaz Auto Daredevils
 - Dec. 10 Tuxpan, Mex.
 - 11-12 Poza Rica
 - 14-15 Veracruz
- Yugoslav State Dancers
 - Dec. 13-14 San Fran, Cal.
 - 15 Cupertino

finale

Clayton Le Roy Brown, a band director on many shows (Gentry, Hugo, Sells-Floto, Sparks, Cole). Died Oct. 22 at Topeka, Kans.

Jim Fox, worked in various promotions and at one time worked for Herb Walters. He died on Oct. 10th at Detroit, Mich.

A. W. Kennard, well known horseman and trainer with many shows. Died late Nov.



Pictured above are (left) West Pike, treasurer, and William Campbell, legal adjuster with the Hargreaves Circus in 1907-1908.

with burial at Forest Lawn, Glendale, Cal. on Nov. 30.

Jo Ray, landscape architect who laid out the 1939 New York World's Fair. Died on Dec. 1st at Westport, Con



RINGLING - BARNUM

The act's performance will mark the first time in 32 years that Ringling Bros.-Barnum & Bailey Circus has had an animal act of such diversity. In 1941 and 1942, the legendary Alfred Court, then starring with the circus and considered to be one of the greatest animal trainers of all time, worked a mixed group of animals that included lions, tigers, leopards and bears.

Mr. Feld said, "The Greatest Show on Earth has been searching for an attraction of this caliber for more than three decades. We are delighted that we can, at last, bring the Samels to America after almost two years of negotiations. This act offers the kind of exciting entertainment Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has been presenting for more than a century."

The Samels and their animals first came to the attention of Kenneth Feld, vice president and co-producer of the circus, in 1972 during one of his many talent scouting tours in Europe.

Irvin Feld noted, "We hope that the Samel act will be the first of many circus entertainers from the German Democratic Republic that will be presented in the United States in the future by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus."

HISTORICAL FACT

Ringling Bros. and Sells Floto both played Des Moines, Iowa on the same day in 1914. It was the first time two major shows played the same Iowa town on the same day



Send a Holiday Greeting to your friends via the Dec. 24th issue of The Circus Report.

It's your last chance to place a Greeting order so do it today - it's just \$2.50 for each greeting.

People

HANNA and JOE HODGINI, Sr. ended their 1973 season with the Miller Johnson Circus at Sacramento, Calif. on Nov. 24th, then returned to Florida for the winter.

LOU REGAN, elephant trainer, with Clyde Bros. Circus, is to undergo major surgery at the Veterans Hospital, Shreveport, La.

IVAN HENRY will reportedly have his chimps on a Mexican circus during the coming year.

FLOYD KING has entered a Dallas, Texas hospital. He suddenly became ill late last week.

JAMES CONNERS and wife are wintering at their home in Gainesville, Texas.

COUNT NICHOLAS recently visited the Hanneford Circus quarters at Osprey, Fla.

EDITH JOHNSTON reports she visited 10 circuses this past year, and also visited Circus Towne Park in New Hampshire.

TOM UPTON will be showing his movies at the Oakland, Cal. Library on Jan. 10 and Jan. 14.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS

by ART "Doc" MILLER

With show folks arriving every hour as various shows are put to bed for the season, Gibsonton, Fla. takes on the most astonishing appearance.

Coming down Route 41, if you turn left onto Nundy Road you cross the tracks and there is the large ride factory which just a few years ago was a side project of the Lamkin Bros. Continue on down the street and you will note Al Moody's beautiful home and his array of side show equipment. Across the street resides one of the very early settlers, Stella DuVal, widow of Ralph DuVal, for whom the local Legion Post is named. Tall stately Stella, still affectionately called Blondie, broke in on the original 101 Ranch Show, married Rube Russell world's champion knife thrower and after touring vaudeville coast-to-coast, she returned to the 101 Ranch Show of 1925. As a featured trick and fancy rider she married Ralph DuVal, known as High Pockets, who worked the herd of bulls, in addition to "wet nursing" an 8 up hitch of baggage stock. During the late 20's the DuVals were members of Eddie Ward's nine people flying act on the Hagenbeck-Wallace show.

On down the street are countless fenced-in plots chuck full of rides, shows and concessions, including Jim and Sandy Woodland's Ape Show. All side roads from Nundy and Gibsonton Drive are 100% home to show folks. Take another direction in town and you will note Carl and June Woolrich
(Next Page Please)

MEXICAN FAIR

A selection of marine animals from Sea World, in San Diego, Cal., are currently being exhibited at a National Fish Fair, in Mexico City. Some 120 exhibitos from throughout the world are participating in this year's fair.

The Sea World exhibit includes a one ton elephant seal, a tide pool, trained seals and some 100 varieties of tropical fish.

Readers Please Note!

Many thanks to all those who have sent in their 1974 renewal subscriptions so promptly. We need your continued support and hope that all readers will send in their order for a renewed subscription soon.

Strong lineup offered

Rehearsals got underway last week (Dec. 4) for the 104th edition of the Ringling-Barnum Circus, at its winterquarters in Venice, Fla. The upcoming show will be featuring five new production numbers, plus 24 acts never before seen in this country.

The 1974 circus will premiere at Venice, Fla., on Jan. 4-6, then heads out for its eleven month tour of the U. S. and Canada.

HISTORICAL FACT

The Bachelor & Doris Great Rail road Show of 1879 played Hartford, Conn. on July 4 and Pittsfield, Mass on July 22.

RANDOM RAMBLINGS (Continued)

residence. June proudly recalls first trouping on the Rhoda Royal Circus, plus the Golden, Lee, the Floto and Cole shows. Carl has been bandmaster on many circuses and was a member of the band on Rose Killien, Al F. Wheeler and many others.

Not far distant lives Buster and Helen Hayes. She is Ernest Haag's daughter and can recall many an incident of that grand old mud show, that annually walked to Canada and back to Florida. Only a block away live Connie and Norma who grew up on their father's circus, the Barnett Show. Nearby live the Weldys, of trained bear fame, the Dime Wilsons, etc.

Of course the showman's club is a great place to cut up jackpots. If you want to know about loading the Ringling circus or Charlie Sparks show train in 1922, someone can quickly tell you. If you've wondered where Leo Bistany's midway ended, his charming widow will give you the details.

Not everyone gets to the club, but they sure do congregate at the post office every morning, where the three most popular gals in town -- Margaret, Maxine and Peggy -- keep track of forwarding mail to the hundreds of troupers who call this town home.

It's doubtful if any other Post Office in the U.S. has as dedicated a trio of cheerful youngsters as our Gibsonton favorites. This

XMAS TOUR

The first Christmas Variety Show ever presented by the George Matthews Circus opened last week (Dec. 4) at St. Louis, Mo., with three shows at the Fox Theatre. On Dec. 5-6 the show moved to the Machinist's Hall Auditorium, also in St. Louis, for four performances, then jumped into Louisville, Ky., for two shows on Dec. 9th.

The holiday tour is for 11 days and will offer a total of 23 performances, ending at Cleveland, Ohio on Dec. 16th. Programs are presented in theatres and auditoriums.

Featured in the show program are: The Great Lothar, Bob Walz, Los Latinos, Barclay Shaw, Chester Cable and Ralph Adams & Co

PEOPLE

BILL BIGGERSTAFF will reportedly tour with the Miller Johnson Circus in 1974. He'll handle a variety of jobs, including programs.

THE CHARLES FAMILY, bicycle act, will open at Circus Circus in Las Vegas, Nev. on Jan. 1, 1974.

week, the counter was decorated with a huge basket of roses, a gift from someone in appreciation of having their mail cheerfully forwarded all season "as per the route."

Hats off to Show-town, an ever-exciting, friendly place to call home.

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more PEOPLE

In addition to those people named in Art Miller's column in today's paper, the following folks also live in Gibsonton, Fla.

Mr. & Mrs. Eastwood, who had been serialists; The Rogers daughters, of Barnett fame - Norma and Connie; Fredia Weiswell, whose husband had his Funny Ford on many big shows; Al Woody, who has freak animal shows, Erik Adams, the man with the chimps. Then Buckles and Barbara Woodcock, elephant trainers, live just down the highway at Ruskin.