



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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More Sad Than Bad

Was in Chicago not 1 a g ago, writes M. Simac, and while there I caught the Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus at Kings Theatre. They gave three shows to pretty good audience -but there wasn't any music.

Apparently they had some trouble with the musicians union and as a result not even the show's three piece band played for this date. The announcer, Austin Miles, explained to the audience that local regulations required the hiring of local musicians, which was something the show wasn't prepared to do on short notice. Actually the audience didn't seem to mind at all.

Later when I talked with some of the acts I heard there were other problems too. Like with the stagehands union, who wouldn't let the show folks handle some of their own equipment,

Also heard that the show had been at the White House on Oct. 31st, as part of a Halloween Party thing. Some of the people said they'd be going back again in the spring.

The show program featured:

- Pamela's Mad Mod Dogs
- Miss Tina - single trapeze
- The Blue Streaks - roller skater8
- Merlin, the Magician
- Emmett Kelly, Jr.
- Les Thina - trampoline
- Judy and Thoto - chimps
- Gentle Ben - bear act

Austin Miles did the announcing, with Derrick Rosaire serving as animal supt., and Clement Tosca, band leader.

fla. visitors

Both John and Henry Ringling North spent a week visiting friends, including Rudy Bundy, early in November. It was the first time they had been in Sarasota, Fla. for suns time. Henry was last there about a year ago, while John hasn't been there in six or seven years.

About the first of November a New York columnist noted that the Norths had arrived in that city. One report said John had been champagneing it up all night long. In fact hadn't been to bed in ever 30 hours.

Later it was said the two brothers had undergone a check-up at the Mayo Clinic, then flew into Ardmore, Okla., where they have oil wells. Enroute to Sarasota they stopped at New Orleans.

John now lives in Zurich, and has brought along him Mercedes and chauffeur, and returned to Europe via luxury liner. Henry, on the other hand, flew back to his home in Rome.

Grim outlook

The Sole Bros. Circus of Australia recently reported they were short of acts for their dates in the suburbs of Sydney.

Several acts hsd left the show to join other circuses or to play previously signed night club dates.

A spokesman said the circus was hoping to sign several overseas acts for their upcoming tour.

J. BELL DIES

John W. Bell, 74, longtime circus bandmaster and namesake of the Jack Be13 CFA tent at Seattle, Wash. passed away an Nov. 23rd, following a stroke.

A native of Oklahoma, he was born on Sept. 25, 1898. During World War I he played trumpet in Gen. Pershing's band.

He traveled with Robbins Bros. Lee Bros. and the C. R. Liggett Shows, as well as serving as bandmaster for: 101 Ranch 1929-31; Gorman Bros. 1934; C. R. Montgomery 1946; P. Lack Bros. 1947; King Br. 1948; Biller Bros. 1949; Ward Bros. and Stevens Bros. 1950; Cole & Walters 1951-53.

He moved to Seattle in 1954 and was active in several organizations in that area. He operated the Holn' One Donut Shop and helped to sponsor the Wenatchee Youth Circus.

Survivors include: his wife, and daughters, Mrs. Sally Paul and Mrs. Kay Day; a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Lindblad, all of Washington, and a brother, Joe Bell, of California.

Burial was at the Abbey View Cemetery in Seattle, Wash.

NOTES

The Billy Smart Circus will open at Croydon, England, on Dec. 26th. They will play there thru late January

A variety show, sponsored by the Albany (Calif.) Police Officers Assoc. will be presented at the nearby Berkeley Community Theatre on Dec. 21st.

The Circus Hall of Fame show is going to be produced by Clyde Bros. Circus this winter season.

The Beatty-Cole Circus did "outstanding" business at its date in New Orleans, shortly before closing the 1972 tour.

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show rolls on

Circus Royal (of Australia) played at Mackay on Oct. 4-7 and at Townsville on Oct. 12-14, reports our Australian news sources. The show is now expected to move inland for a long series of show dates, he adds.

This show, he states, has a Pins program, which is hampered by the poor music. However, this will probably be improved when they obtain a new sound system.

Ron Marshall is doing a great job as ringmaster. The show recently purchased some horses and they are being trained by Tony Holt, who was with the Bertram Mills Circus for many years.

Frank Gasser, the show's manager, has plenty of ideas to keep the Circus a favorite of Australia. They parade into town, usually with a police escort, and that attracts lots of attention.

Roar, Lion, Roar!

An animal act well worth mentioning is currently being presented in England much to the delight of the public.

Dick Chipperfield, Jr. who was recently featured an Ringling-Barnum's Blue Unit (with his lions and panthers) is featuring on act with 15 lions. He is planning to add another five lions to the act, making it a group of 20 animals.

This is the biggest wild animal act seen in England since Clyde Beatty was featured with the Bertram Mills Circus at the Olympia many years ago.

RONRITAS

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rehearsals start

Rehearsals for the 103rd edition of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus got underway last week (Dec. 4) at the show's quarters in Venice, Fla.

The 103rd edition, produced by circus president Irvin Feld, and staged and directed by Richard Barstow (it's his 25 yr. with the show) will be the most spectacular in the history of the circus. It will feature five of the most elaborate production numbers ever seen, plus many exciting acts which will be making their American debut in 1973.

The Greatest Show on Earth's 103rd season will open a three day engagement at its Venice quarters on Jan. 5th.

Clowns by Arthur Maurice

When George L. Fox climbed to eminence he was acclaimed as "the Grimaldi of America." To indicate the importance of Fox in his day, it may be said that the part of Humpty Dumpty was as inseparable from the name of George L. Fox as the name of Joseph Jefferson became inseparable from the part of Rip Van Winkle.

Fox, like Grimaldi, was of a theatrical family, and like Grimaldi, began young, making his first stage appearance in Boston in 1830 when he was 5 yrs old.

He played Phineas Fletcher in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" during the famous run in New York City in 1853-54. His "Humpty Dumpty" ran for ten consecutive weeks at the Olympic Theatre in New York, and in that city alone he played the part some 1,268 times.

On George L. Fox's life too the curtain fell darkly. He was last seen upon the stage at Booth's Theatre on Nov. 25, 1875, "the saddest, saddest clown that ever chalked his face." Appropriately it was in "Humpty Dumpty".

For some time previously he had given evidence of mental affliction, and that night after the play, it was thought best to take him to an asylum. He died two years later.

guests named

An exciting list of guest conductors has been announced for the Jan. 5-7 convention of The Windjammers Unlimited. The three day event will be held at Calusa Park in Key Biscayne, Fla. and promises to provide traditional circus music each day.

The guest conductors as announced last week are:

ROBERT HILLS - Composer and arranger at circus compositions.

JIM ILLE - Former director of the RBBB band and currently band director at the Hanneford Circus.

EARLE MOSS - Bandmaster for many shows such as: Hagenbeck-Wallace, Gentry Bros. and Mighty Haag. Also served as arranger at Radio City Music Hall.

HARVEY PHILLIPS - noted musician with RBBB and now Professor of Music at Indiana University.

CHUCK SCHLARBAUM - Bandmaster for the Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus.

HAROLD WALTERS - Composer and arranger, whose circus numbers include: Copa Cabana, The Ringmaster, etc.

SPECIAL

Would you like to send a Christmas Greeting to your friends via The Circus Report?

If you want to rush your order we'll plan an attractive greeting note for the Dec. 25th issue, and it will cost you only \$2.50

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PEOPLE

HANS BRICK, European animal trainer, died in England on Aug. 22nd. He was 83.

THE BANANA SPLITS were featured in a Christmas parade in San Leandro, Calif. on Dec. 2nd.

MORGAN BERRY and ELOISE BEBCHTOLD will be with the Hubert Castle Circus in March and will rejoin Rudy Bros. in May for the summer season.

ANGELA and TED AKEMAN recently attended a Shrine Club event at Las Vegas, Nev.

THE BUMPKISS PUPPETS were featured at the San Francisco (Calif.) Library for a special program on Dec. 9th.

ANDRE KOLE, magician, will spend most of 1973 touring in South America and Asia. He will also play a few dates in the Los Angeles area.

RAY GRANT, magician, is using a leopard in his illusion feature instead of a tiger this year.

BRUNO ZACCHINI, Jr. is manufacturing shows and rides from his headquarters in Sarasota, Fla.

BOB-O, the Clown, will be producing clown numbers for the Kay Bros. Circus at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, Cal.

CLARK McDERMOTT is back in San Francisco, Calif. for the holidays. He will be working some west coast dates during the winter season.

HAROLD RONK, has resigned from the RBBB organization and reportedly will not be touring next year. He reports that he will take it easy because he's tired.

BERT F. PRATT

Died: Dec. 1, 1972
San Leandro, Calif.

Bert F. Pratt, 74, passed away suddenly at his home in San Leandro, Calif. on Dec. 1st. He was a member of the Oakland Magic Circle; International Brotherhood of Magicians and the Society of American Magicians.

Survivors include: his wife Gladys S. and a sister, Mrs. A. Carnahan of Vancouver, B. C.

suit filed

A Florida State official and two Sarasota County officials have been sued by the Ringling Bros. - Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows, Inc. and their subsidiary, Hagenbeck-Wallace. The suits were filed against Tax Assessor John Mikos, Tax Collector Miss C. Hagerman and executive director of the Florida State Dept. of Revenue, J. Ed Straughn, over the firm's 1972 tax assessments.

The suits were filed by State Rep. Granville Crabtree, Jr. attorney for the circus and its subsidiary, Hagenbeck-Wallace, Inc., both listed as Delaware corporations.

Until Oct. 1971, Crabtree was attorney for the tax assessor's office and was chiefly responsible for drafting a 1971 agreement approved by the 1971 County Board of Tax Adjustment, whereby the circus was taxed on the percentage of time it was physically in Florida. The 1972 Board of Tax Adjustment threw out that agreement, mainly on the recommendation of Mikos and his new office counsel, John Dent.

The suit in behalf of the circus asks the court to declare Mikos' \$1,371,440 (reduced to \$878,860 by the Board) tangible personal property assessment was "illegal and improper" under state law and unconstitutional under both the state and Federal constitutions.

On Nov. 3rd, the circus suit states \$772.44 was paid Miss Hagerman and represented \$643.70 in tax and \$128.74 in penalties levied by Mikos for late filing of the tax return on \$19,600 worth of equipment and animals that are permanently located at Venice, Fla. "The remainder of \$859,060 is the subject of the dispute in this proceeding," the suit states.

In the suit by Hagenbeck-Wallace, which furnishes the circus with its costumes, and other accessories, it asks the court to rule "null and void" the entire \$488,750 assessment and penalties for late filing of the return, on the grounds the firm does not do business in the state and delivered the equipment to the circus in Delaware.

KUHN CIRCUS

By TED
LaVelda

In the spring of 1936 Eddie Kuhn set up a truck show, at Kansas City, Kans. All new Chevrolet trucks were used and included in the equipment was a calliope and a light plant. Even the big top, made by Baker & Lockwood Tent & Awning Co. was new.

The show opened at Argentine, Kans., with Dud Lawrence as agent, while Slim Brown and his wife, Bobby, were in charge of the billing.

Eddie Kuhn was the owner/manager. Tiger Bill Snyder was equestrian director and Dutch LaBlair handled concessions. Jerry Kerns was bannerman and legal adjuster for the show.

Show acts included:

The Moore Duo (Jack & Clara) tightwire and loop-the-loop feature

Freda La Velda - ring contortion and single trapeze

Ted La Velda - hand balancing and back bending contortion

Clowns: Tommy Hayden, Jack Rogers and two others who I can't recall.

Tiger Bill's family had the concert and they did trick roping, whips, etc.

Sometime after the opening date Doc Ford and his wife, Borghild, joined. She did two aerial turns and then they both worked mental acts in the side show, as well as a vent act.

Russell Hall joined with some animal acts such as: Pony and mule; dogs; camels; monkeys; bear and Razor Back Hogs. Several years later Hall operated a one man show with his animals which was called "Capt. Russell's Barnyard Circus."

(Continued on Page 6 - Column 1)



Acts appearing at the Circus Circus Casino in Las Vegas, Nev. during the JAFE and SLA convention Dec. 12-14 includes:

Flying Palacios

Flying Gibsons

Berosini Family

Senior Antonio

Tony Steele

Le Lisa

Peluzo, clown

Smaha's elephant Tanya

The Hilarys

Flying Farfans

Marco Polo

Rodriguez Bros.

The Randells

Carlos & Teresa

Gigi - web

Ringmaster's chores are shared by Clarence Hoffman and Mike Hartzell.

animals found

More than 40 animals stolen from a Children's Zoo in New Zealand were recently found in a small steel shed about 20 miles from the zoo.

A man who told officials he lived in the small building has been charged with possession and maltreatment of the animal group.

Among the animals which were stolen were: 11 sheep, 11 goats, 6 horses, a llama, 3 pigs, a tortoise and a miniature white bull.

collector's item

The program and route book for Circus Kirk for 1972, now available from Jim Kieffer, 1927 Queenswood Dr., York, Pa. is a real collector's item.

The two booklets sell for \$2.50 and are filled with pictures. The route book offers the show's routes for the past few years, plus a day-by-day route for 1972.

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ROUTES

Bechtel Christmas Show	
Dec.	17 San Francisco, Calif.
John Strong Circus	
Dec.	11 Tulare, Calif.
	12 Visalia
	13 Los Banos
	14 Atwater
	15 Gustine
	36 Lodi
	17 Roseville

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KUHN CIRCUS (Continued from Page 5)

Opening in mid-April the show suffered through a rainy spring and it finally folded on July 7th at Sisseton, S. Dakota, then went into the barn at Kansas City. Later on Eddie took the show out again.

Some years later Eddie framed a wild animal act which he presented on many indoor shows, as well as tented shows.

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The above advertisement was used in 1943 by Russell Bros. Circus for their Oakland, Cal engagement - June 9-13.