



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

Volume 3

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Number 6

DEBUT SET

Ringling-Barnum's Circus World Showcase, a brightly striped, tent-like structure, at Barnum City, Fla just 30 miles southwest of Orlando, will be opened to the public on Thursday, Feb. 21st.

The Showcase, which covers 25,000 sq. ft., represents an exciting introduction to Circus



World. The memories of yesterday and magic of tomorrow will be previewed

in this unique and interesting portion of the planned park.

Among the features to be seen are: a giant circus mural depicting highlights of Ringling Br. and Barnum & Bailey Circus World; a display of circus posters and dioramas; the Circus World Story; an IMAX film on the circus; the cookhouse tent with a menu of delightful goodies; the Circus Bazaar; live "backyard shows" with live animals; camel and elephant rides; and a 1910 carousel.

Expanding, etc.

While the energy crisis causes grave concern on the part of everyone, there's one firm that is moving ahead in the field of Recreational Vehicles just as if everything was normal. That company is Venture Out In America, Inc., a subsidiary of Gulf Oil Co. and the reported new owner of Ringling Bros Barnum & Bailey Circus and Circus World Park.

The subsidiary, whose president is W. Wayne Carr, has been buying recreational land, travel trailers and motor homes as if they were going out of style. They have also been acquiring a California RV dealership, an RV resort in Oregon, and are still looking for more RV's, new RV outlets plus sites for RV parks -- especially in the west.

The purchase of the circus and park, from Mattel, is probably their biggest acquisition since the firm was organized. No one is saying how much the circus will be
(Continued on Page 6 - Column 2)

A NEW office

A new office trailer has been added to the list of rolling equipment for the 1974 tour of Barnes & Daly Circus, according to show officials. The office unit was formerly on the Clark & Walters Circus and was purchased last month from Fisher Bros. Circus.

The Clark & Walters Circus, owned by the Silverlake family since 1967, was closed last year because of advance problems and a series of truck accidents. The show equipment was then placed in storage at Hugo, Okla., while the show's personnel was merged into Fisher Bros. Circus.

notes

The Hamid-Morton Circus is set to open its season in early March and will tour until late June.

Both the CFA and CHS has been busy urging its members to write Gulf Oil urging them to buy Ringling-Barnum and continue it as a family entertainment organization.

The Detroit, Mich. Shrine Circus was featured in that city from Jan. 25 to Feb. 10.

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music ok

Musically, the Windjammers Convention here in Georgia was a success, writes Paul E. Fitzpatrick. We had several local student musicians helping out, many of the students had played with the Merle Evans concerts, which we recorded.

The official band concert was held in the Shannon Room of the Holiday Inn, the afternoon of Jan. 20th. This and other music was recorded so that circus music of yesteryear can be saved for the future. Some real old numbers were provided by Bob Hoe.

The 1975 convention will be held in the New Orleans area.



For just \$10.00 each year you can have your own copy of The Circus Report.

Subscribe today - send your order to:
Don Marcks, 525 Oak St., El Cerrito, Cal.



Flip Wilson to Host Circus

Tune in NBC-TV February 14 to see Flip Wilson host the Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey Circus, presented by the Bell System Family Theatre. Check local listings for time and possible date change.

PEOPLE

IVAN HENRY is touring with Circo Suarez in Mexico at the present time

MANZINI, escape artist, failed to get out of a strait jacket while being suspended upside down by a burning rope at Philadelphia, Pa. last month.

SYD MOORE had his dog act at the Dog Show in San Francisco the weekend of Feb. 2-3.

TREVIS SMITH recently returned to her home due to her father's illness. She was working as assistant to BOB ENRICO and hopes to rejoin the magic act soon.

SNAP WYATT, famous side show banner painter, has been busy painting the Strates Railroad show for its coming tour.

FRANKIE LU WOODS, a former member of the Dutton Riding Act, recently visited BEA FRISCO and NELLIE DUTTON

TIM McCOY is quoted as saying "I'll never retire" in a Feb. 17th issue of National Enquirer.

ROBERT HILLS has reportedly resigned as president of the Windjammers Unlimited.

WALLY DIEHL, former Hamid-Morton elephant man, has replaced BERT PETUS on Hubert Castle's Circus.

JOHN and HELENE HARTZELL report their first tour with Wallace & Rogers Circus was a good one.

THE STOYANOFF horizontal bar act also offers a ground perch pole act

needs help

In late '73, aerialist Mary Gill, with RBBB's Red Unit, suffered a serious fall at Ottawa. She underwent several hours of surgery for skull fractures and leg injuries. The following information has been provided by Rev. Wells Newell Graham, chaplain for RBBB.

"Mary Gill's present condition is one of very gradual improvement. She is presently in a rehabilitation center at Ottawa. She has been fitted with a leg brace, for her left leg, in hopes that this limb may be strengthened by use. She sees and hears well, although she cannot speak but a very few words and these with great difficulty.

"I am told that the doctors in Ottawa are amazed at her recovery and some have said that she may even be restored to a near normal condition."

Now is the time for circus fans, performers and others to aid a lovely young lady and star. She brought entertainment and thrills to all of us many times.

Let's get the ball rolling -- send a check, no matter how small, to: The Rev. Wells Newell Graham, Chaplain RBBB, 3773 Wilkinson Road St. Wilfred's Episcopal Church, Sarasota, Fla. - 33581.

which is called TRIO LUBEN.

DINO MEDRO, of the Medro Family, is now doing a one finger stand

ROUTES

Hubert Castle Circus
 Feb. 15-17 Tucson, Ariz.
 19 Las Cruces

Circus Vargas
 Feb. 9-12 Seminole, Fla.
 13 Hialeah
 14-16 Hollywood
 17 Miami Beach
 18-20 Miami

Cole All Star TV Circus
 Feb. 11 Wayland, N.Y.
 12 Fillmore
 13 Belmont
 14 Lockport
 15 Oakfield
 16 Newfane
 17 Open
 18 Perry
 19 Penn Yan

Happytime Circus
 Feb. 14-17 Cloverdale, Calif.

Hubler's Int'l Circus
 Feb. 16-17 Franklin Hghts, Oh

William Kay Circus
 Feb. 15-17 Madison, Wisc.

M & M Circus
 Feb. 14-17 Rochester, NY

Polack Bros. Circus
 Feb. 6-10 Louisville, Ky

Ringling's Blue Unit
 Feb. 12-13 Fayetteville, NC
 15-18 Hampton, Va.

Ringling's Red Unit
 Feb. 13-25 Atlanta, Ga.

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show
 Feb. 12 Jackson, Tenn.
 15 Lake Charles, La
 16-17 Shreveport
 18-19 Hot Springs, Ark

Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show
 Feb. 11 Bainbridge, Ga.
 12 Thomasville
 13 Moultrie
 14 Tipton
 15 Lake City, Fla.
 16 Gainesville
 17 Dade City
 18 Plant City
 19 Lakeland

..... OTHER ROUTES

Disney on Parade
 Feb. 12-17 Indianapolis, In

Golden Gate Fields
 Feb. 16 Albany, Calif.
 (Opening Day)

Holiday on Ice
 Feb. 12-17 Dayton, Ohio

Ice Capades
 Feb. 13-17 Notre Dame, Ind

Peter Pan Show
 to Feb 17 Detroit, Mich.

Wonderful World of Magic
 Feb. 16 Bordentown, NJ
 18 Kearny



on the run

(From the "Outdoor Showman" magazine of Australia).

SAWDUST TRAILS

Sole Bros. Circus moved out of Victoria in early November and headed up the coast of New South Wales to Kiama.

Ashton's and Circus Royale combined was located at Orange in New South Wales en route to Adelaide in South Australia for a festive season performance.

Alberto's Circus and Zoo did a fast jump in early November to be located at Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., on the way for a complete tour of Victorian country centres.

Perry Bros. Circus, last reported to be in West Australia, must have fallen into a rabbit burrow, they are lost!

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 May May May

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AL G. BARNES
 - SELLS-FLOTO
 Combined
CIRCUS

Ready for '74

Anticipating a long season Fisher Bros. Circus has announced they will start their 1974 tour on Feb. 23rd at Alamo, Texas, just three miles from winterquarters. All of this year's dates will be 100% sponsored, but no phone promotion will be used. Advance tickets will sell for \$1.00, while door prices will be \$2.00 for adults and \$1.50 for children.



The show will have a new big top -- 70 ft. round end with one 40 ft. middle section. Seven row high seats will provide room for 1200 people, and there will be no reserved seats.

The side show will be a 30 ft by 50 ft. square end top. Featured here will be six small cages, several freak animals, a hippo and the show's three elephants. Admission will be 50¢.

On the midway will be, in addition to the side show's canvas bannerline, a show owned candy wagon and snake show, plus a contracted rat show, jewelry joint and grease joint.

The big show program is expected to run 1½ hours offering performances by: Joe Silverlake, Cloud swing, juggling, dogs; Freddie White, single trapeze, anchor perch and contortion; Diane White, web, trampoline, contortion; Jerry Presley, goats; Mel and B. K. Silverlake and Jim Davis, elephants;

Readers Please Note

The Al G. Barnes and Sells-Floto Circus advertisement which appears on Page 4 of today's paper is a copy of an ad used by that show at Oakland, Calif. in 1938. That year the show used a variety of designs and layouts for their display advertising on theatre pages of newspapers.

Mike Swan and Mike Gasca, comedy; Brownie Silverlake, monkeys. A souvenir program/color book will be sold during intermission, with a peanut pitch and inflatable prizes.

Rolling equipment on the show includes: canvas/poles/seats semi; stake driver/water tanker/winch; elephants/lead stock semi; a hippo semi; light plant pulls cage wagon cookhouse pulls office/candy wagon props/sleeper. Several privately owned vehicles and trailers will also be on the show.

The 1974 staff includes:
 Mel and B. K. Silverlake - owners and Managers
 Raymond Duke and Billy Sheets - contracting agents
 Billy Grubb - bill poster
 Kathleen Stevens - office
 Jim Davis - general supt. and electrician
 Bill Cloud - boss canvassman
 Harold Cloud - elephant supt.
 Wes Barton - animal supt.
 Josephine Silverlake - front door
 Brownie Silverlake - snake show
 Clara Stevens - concessions mgr.
 Marie Loter - organ
 Rbt. (Boom Boom) Stiles - drums

SHOW STARS

Former circus stars Nellie and Buzzie Dutton are living in Florida, reports Art "Doc" Miller. For many years they were starred in the circus world, and performed before the Crown Heads of Europe, Asia and the Orient.

When World War I started to rumble the act was playing in South Africa, where the American Consul advised them to book their passage home immediately. Otherwise it was possible that their horses, wardrobe, etc. might be confiscated and perhaps they'd even be placed in prison. The trip home was long and tedious, but they arrived safely.

Nellie was born on the old Dock (Sam) and Jordan wagon show of the late 1880's. Her parents were the Flying Jordons, who were featured on all the old major shows. Nellie was introduced to a trapeze act at the age of five.

FOR SALE

Clark & Walters Collector Kit. The kit includes a choice pictorial, tickets, passes, letterheads, advance forms, route cards, herald, color book and program (the color book was drawn by Mrs. Silverlake)

While they last just \$3.50, plus 75¢ for postage.

Barnes & Daly Circus, Box 197-A, Dept. C&W, Medora, Indiana 47260.

big load

The biggest load recored to be pulled by a pair of draft horses was 50 logs, weighing 95.2 tons, in Ontonagon County, Michigan in 1893.

EXPANDING, ETC. (Continued)
costing them, but it accounted for the majority of the \$25 million in sales and \$3.6 million in net income before taxes that Mattel reported for its entertainment group in 1972.

Both Gulf and Venture Out insist the energy crisis is real, that recent acquisitions reflect a decision made several years ago to expand into leisure time and real estate. Gulf developed Reston, Va. in 1971 and has been helping to finance Holiday Inns since 1963, and has service stations alongside most of them. They are also participating in a joint venture with Pam Am to build and operate motor inns and hotels in Europe.

Venture Out was started in 1969, with Gulf as a minority stock holder. After the company reported losses for two years Gulf stepped in and bought out the firm. They hired Carr to run the company and named an eight year oil man, from their merger and acquisition group as vice president. Since then the firm has been expanding and growing rapidly in a quiet sort of way. In fact the company was almost unknown until news leaked out it was in the process of buying the circus from Mattel.

NOSTALGIA

by Bill Ruesskamp

About the turn of the century two shows - Cooper Bros. and the Clark's Great Monster Shows -- arrived at Cape Girardeau, Mo. The Clark show played here for quite a time and offered a nice performance.

Am not sure which show had what acts, but there was a popular bareback act on one show. The performer started out dressed as a tramp and had a routine with the ringmaster. Finally he was allowed on the horse, then after a bit of comedy he removed his coat, several vests and pants to reveal his performing wardrobe. I recall he presented an interesting routine.

One of the shows had several leapers, who ran down a runway to
(Continued on Page 8)

Sawdust Trail

Circus Vargas ran into some bad weather during their Texas and Louisiana dates. But now that they are in Florida the weather should be better for them.

This reporter would like to get a "Mary Gill Fund" started. See news story elsewhere in this issue.

The latest from Australia is that the Alberto Circus has been playing to big crowds. Vern Ellis, who quit his job to join the circus reports they book the show into a town for a week and end up playing for three or four.

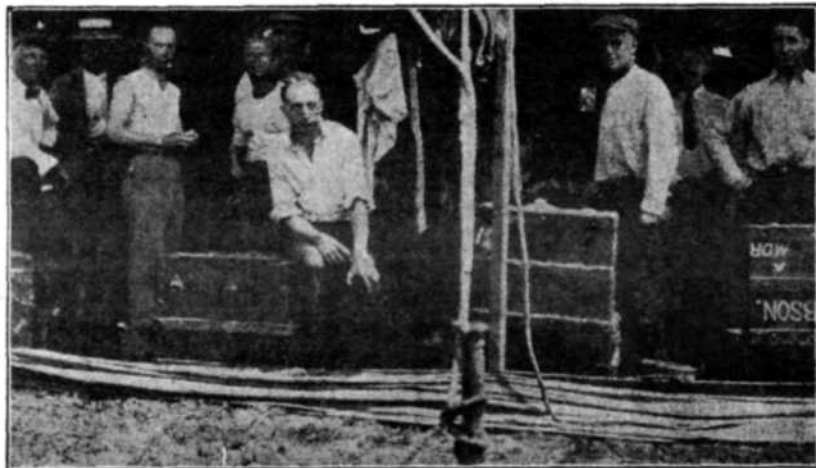
RBBB has a confirmed date at the Monroe, La. Civic Center in July. It will be the first time a circus has played the building on any date other than a weekend.

Cliff Day, last year with Fisher Bros. Circus, now is planning to tour on Carson & Barnes this season. He was with the Kelly-Miller show in 1933 and also in 1952.

.....M. L. Dupont

COMING SOON.....

Reports and reviews on the 1974 shows as they open for the new season. Watch Circus Report every week for the latest and best of all show news - read it here as it happens.



DRESSING ROOM SCENE on the Walter L. Main Circus, season of 1926. Left to right are George Weyman, Captain Delbeane, Clyde O'Neal, Roy Brown, Buck Leahy, Louie Plamondon, Harry LaPearl, and Glenn Purdy.



NOSTALGIA (Continued)

leap over horses and an elephant. Want to mention Fred Lexington, one of the best of all leapers. With a short run of possibly 15 ft he could leap over six or eight chairs with a man sitting in the last chair. He was seldom with a circus, working mostly on medicine shows (heard those med show performers only got \$10.00 and food per week).

Think that both shows had a clown Jerge act, which was always popular with the audiences.

Cooper Bros. had a side show where two men presented the substitution trunk trick, the same act that Houdini was doing. They were very good and must have been quite clever.