



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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ITS A GIFT

Author Gene Plowden has donated some nine hours of taped interviews with circus personalities to the Ringling Circus Museum at Sarasota, Florida.

The tapes contain the complete story of Evans' life and served as the basis for Plowden's recently published book "Merle Evans, Maestro of the Circus". Also included on the tapes are interviews with Evans' wife, Nena, and Art Concello a former manager of the Ringling Circus.

GROSSES AHEAD

The big date on the West Coast this season for RBBB was its six day stand at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. Attendance there reportedly outranked even that of Oakland which is traditionally been an outstanding show town.

Although no actual figures have been released, show officials report that attendance at the Cow Palace was up 55% over that of 1972, and 37% higher than the previous record set at that building.

SUIT FILED

In San Francisco, Cal., the District Attorney filed charges, on Oct. 5th, against two local organizations for alleged sales of merchandise made from illegal animal skins. The suit named the Boot Hook Corp. and Fancy Pants, and asked that a restraining order be placed on the firms and that fines of \$2,500 each be set.

The District Attorney charged the two firms were selling articles that have been made from the skins of kangaroo, python, alligator, cobra and sea turtle.

RECORD-BREAKER

Some 25,000 people turned out to see the Wonderful World of Horses show during its Sept. 7-9 date in Quebec. Rain kept attendance down on the opening night, but big crowds were on hand for the other performances.

Attendance at Bangor, Me. (Sep. 27-28) and Augusta, Me. (Sep 29-30) was also up considerably. Advance sales at these two spots, were reportedly very good.

HE REMEMBERS

For almost 30 years a Hartford, Conn., detective has been placing flowers on the grave of a 6 year old girl whose identity is a mystery. The child, known as "Little Miss 1565" was one of the 168 people who died as a result of the R888 fire at Hartford on July 6, 1944.



For years Det. Capt. Thomas Barber searched for someone who might know the youngster, but without any success. She was the only victim who was never identified, yet she was not burned and her picture was published in newspapers throughout the world.

Barber was on duty when the fire broke out and helped to set up the morgue for identification of the bodies. It was a tragic event, he says, and no one really knows just how the fire started.

At first people from all over were sending in money for flowers, he says, but the fund was depleted in 1952. Since then a Hartford florist provides the flowers and Barber takes them to the grave site - to insure that the little girl is always remembered.

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TOUR A PLEASER

In a recent story written by L. David Harris, show owner/mgr Dr. Charles Boas (Circus Kirk) was quoted as saying "it was the best season ever." This has been something we've worked for, reported Boas, and now "we're really rolling."

The show's 1973 tour closed on Labor Day at East Berlin, Pa., after playing 95 days and covering six states. Business was up at almost every location, the show owner said, and we had eight phone promotion days. The highest gross ever recorded by the circus came at West Wyoming, Pa. which Boas said was not a phone promotion date.

The circus moved on six big semi vans this season, using leased tractors. They also used three small trucks, plus a concession and office trailer. A new big top (60 ft. with two 30 ft. and one 40 ft. center) was used this year, along with new canvas for the marquee, pit show and novelty stand. Next year the show will add a new side show top.

For Sale!

Original Billboard sized circus posters from the 1940's. Each is 6½ ft. x 10 ft. and in full color. - \$35.00 each (Free Photo). Write: L. Koltnow, 165 West End Ave., New York, N.Y. - 10023 or phone (212) 799-9065

SHOW visitors

Although the season's tour is over it may still be of interest to report that the following show folks visited Rudy Bros. Circus during the Chicago engagement this year (Aug. 1-14). Some of the show people came back several times and all reported they enjoyed the circus performance and a chance to see their friends.

The show visitors included:

Murray Hill, Mike Gorman, the Alberti Family, Clark McDermott, Al Antonucci, Dorey Miller, Chester and Vande Cable, Ivan Henry, the Lacey's, Gus and Ursula, Baptiste Schreiber and Herbert Weber.

notes

On Jan. 1, 1974, the State of Washington will adopt promotional control laws similar to those now in effect in Seattle.

RBBB'S red unit reportedly disposed of a large female elephant at Cincinnati, Ohio, because she was getting difficult to handle.

The George Matthews Circus played to straw houses while at Longview, Wash.

John Strong's holiday show unit will open its winter run on Nov. 18th at Santa Ana, Calif.

The Happytime Circus has a date scheduled at the San Fernando Valley Fair (California).

A BIG SHOW

The Carson & Barnes Circus recently made a swing through Missouri, and I understand they had good business at most of the dates.

I visited the show at New Madrid. They made an impressive sight with the six pole top and five big rings. The show carries the largest menagerie currently being presented by an American Circus, which includes a herd of 17 elephants.

..... Earl M. Allen

impressive SHOW

We got home in time to catch the Wallace & Rogers Circus in Oregon, writes Morgan Berry, and they have a nice show. They have one of the best PA and organ systems on the road, which adds a lot to the performance.

This show has a new concept and it is worth the time and effort to go and see them. All but the clown are members of the Hartzell family, and the show moves fast with John, Jr. on the mike. It goes without saying that everyone is a professional on this show.

For Sale

Some 435 negatives of carnivals, consisting of 40 different sets of pictures. Price is \$140.00 for the entire lot. Would consider a trade for circus negatives.

Write: Jay Beardsley, 122 No. Bassett, St., Madison, Wisc. 53703.

ROUTES

Beatty-Cole Circus
 Oct. 15 Ponca City, Okla
 16 Bartlesville
 17 Miami

Ben Hur Shrine Circus
 Oct. 19-28 Austin, Texas

Carson & Barnes Circus
 Oct. 21 Decatur, Texas

Hubert Castle Circus
 Oct. 19-21 Chattanooga, Tenn

Clyde Bros. Circus
 Oct. 18-20 Spartanburg, S.C.

De Wayne Bros. Circus
 Oct. 17 17 Napa, Calif.

Fisher Bros. Circus
 Oct. 15 Tahoka, Texas
 16 Levelland

Hall's Circus Side Show
 Oct. 15-21 Pensacola, Fla.

Hoxie Bros. Circus
 Oct. 15 Gulfport, Miss.
 16 Pritchard, Ala.
 17 Elgin, AFB

-- End of Season --

Int'l Boys Circus
 Oct. 16-17 Springfield, Mas
 18-21 Boston

Key Bros. Circus
 Oct. 18-21 San Jose, Calif.

Kaye Int'l Circus
 Oct. 18-21 Wichita, Kans.

Olympic International
 Oct. 15-20 Macon, Ga.

Ringling's Blue Unit
 Oct. 16-17 Saginaw, Mich.
 19-21 Kalamazoo

Ringling's Red Unit
 to Oct. 22 Chicago, Ill.

Royal Lipizzan Show
 Oct. 16 Rochester, N.Y.
 19-21 Cherry Hill, NJ

.... SPECIAL ROUTES

Albacker's Magic Show
 Oct. 17-21 Jacksonv'le, Fla

Fiesta Folklorico
 Oct. 16 Farmville, Va.
 18 Cordele, Ga.
 19 Daytona Bch, Fla
 20 Tampa
 21 Ft. Lauderdale
 22 Miami
 23 Orlando

Holiday on Ice (Int'l)
 Oct. 16-21 Canton, Ohio

Holiday on Ice (Nat'l)
 Oct. 16-21 Philadelphia, Pa

Ice Capades
 Oct. 16-21 Albuquerque, NM

Ice Classic
 Oct. 18-28 Tallahassee, Fla

Small World (Disney)
 Oct. 16-21 New Orleans, La.

..... CARNIVALS

Amusements of America
 Oct. 15-20 Macon, Ga.
 15-20 Lancaster, S.C.

Matt Armstrong Shows
 Oct. 17-20 Franklinton, La.

Belle City Amusements
 Oct. 15-20 Moultrie, Ga.

Big H Rides
 Oct. 15-20 Braford, S.C.

James H. Drew Shows
 Oct. 15-20 Dublin, Ga.

Farrow Amusements
 Oct. 15-19 Tallulah, La.

Fun Fair Amusements
 Oct. 15-20 Moncks Crnr, SC

Gold Medal Shows
 Oct. 15-20 Eufaula, Ala.
 15-20 Crestview, Fla.

Louden Amusements
 Oct. 15-20 Jessup, La.

Mid-South Amusement Corp.
 Oct. 15-21 Florale, Ala.

Mississippi Valley Shows
 Oct. 15-20 Ozark, Ala.

Otterbacher Amusements
 Oct. 17-22 Boxley, Ga.

Rezorback Amusements
 Oct. 15-20 Winnsboro, La.

Reithoffer Shows
 Oct. 15-20 Rock Hill, SC

Rose City Rides
 Oct. 15-20 Poplar Bluff, Mo

Royal Amusements
 Oct. 15-20 Live Oak, Fla.

Ralph Wagner Shows
 Oct. 16-19 Belleville, Tex.

WANTED

News and stories about shows you have seen during the past year. Also want routes and other information about the circus world.

Help us to help you by sending in your show news promptly.

Half-Told Tale

The 101 Ranch Wild West Circus of 1946 published a four page paper called the Circus News which was mailed to residents of each city they played. The paper carried stories about the show and its people, along with a variety of performers, pictured in the presentation of their acts.

Featured on the show that year were Mark Smith and his horses, an all girl riding act, Maurice, wire walker, the Gutierrez Sisters, Landon's midgets, and Shirley, the elephant.

Included in the paper was an advertisement for Mobiloil products, who offered special discount tickets for children, which would let them into the show for just 35¢.

NEW REVUE

Two young promoters - Daniel S. Briggs and Robert S. Sullivan - have announced plans for reviving and touring a Ziegfeld Follies production next year. The show will be put together in Los Angeles and then is expected to play the nation's leading arenas.

The show will be a two part program. The first half will feature show girls, sets, costumes and music of the Ziegfeld era in a tribute to the famous show producer. The second half, with contemporary music, will feature a "star" performer, with a different star appearing in each city the show plays.

Carson & Barnes

Late this month the Carson & Barnes Circus will wind up their 1973 season, after having covered ten states and spending 225 days on the road. The show opened its season on Mar. 18th and will close Oct. 28th, with only three days off. They played only 4 two day stands and one three day stand and missed only two matinees.

They left Hugo in the cool of the Spring.

They toured to Texas and Minnesota and back again.

They traveled over 10,000 miles

And left behind them a million smiles.

They battled all nature's elements, except the snow

Their road was weary and filled with woe.

From March thru October they went on their way

Each looking for their perfect Circus Day.

During these months they had their ups and downs

They are show folks and show old wear crowns

For they are "True Circus", one and all

Who are saddened by closing in the fall.

.....Gladys Black

NOTICE

Old Billboards and Hobbies magazines - \$1.25 each. Write to Circus Memories Museum, Fryeburg, Me.

TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for reminding me to re-new my subscription. I happily en-close my check for \$10.00 for the coming year. I want to take this opportunity to compliment you on this fine paper.

I have come to anticipate eagerly its arrival each week and to depend on it for news of the circus world. Keep up the good work.

.....Herbert Ueckert

We really enjoy The Circus Report and it shows a lot of improvement in the style and those pictures come out pretty sharp. Keep up the good work. Harry Chipman

YEARS AGO

On Aug. 10, 1873, two trains of the John Robinson Circus collided at Ellis, Kans. on the Kansas Pacific Line.

The first train had stopped at the station and was signalling for the second unit to stop, when it plowed into the standing train. Some four cars, including the caboose, were damaged and thrown off the rails.

It was later stated that the fireman and engineer on the second unit had been drinking prior to the accident. Their train consisted of flat cars carrying cages and other wagons.



Pot-Pourri

The Disney on Parade Show will be touring South America during 1974.

A circus worker was killed when three lions attacked him in Mexico City on Oct. 4th.

The second annual County Rodee was held at Pleasanton, Cal. on Oct. 13-14 and featured clown Karl Doering.

The George Matthews Circus played the fairgrounds at Vallejo, Calif. on Oct. 13th.

Critics say the Chinese Opera, now touring the U.S. is a combination of circus, and opera, all rolled into one.

The Ailanthus Jr. Branch of Children's Hospital (Oakland, Cal.) held a fashion show last month and called it "The Greatest Show on Earth."

The Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe's tour of the U. S. was reportedly sponsored by Norton Simon, Inc. and was produced by Talent Associates.

Circo Blue (in Mexico) purchased their first elephant last week in the mid-western area.

Butler Amusements were in Oakland Calif. on Oct. 12-14

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FINALE

JOHN MANKO, a circus rigger who worked with RBBB, as well as with the Wallenda act. He had also worked as a prop man with Tom Packs, Al Dobritch, and the Paul Keye Circus. He died at East St. Louis, Mo. on Aug. 29th.

CHARLES SHANNON, who was known as Shorty, the Clown. He had worked for several shows including RBBB. He died at Greenfield, Mass. on Sept. 16th.

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You can get The Circus Report each week - why not order your copy today and keep up with all that's new in show business.

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

PEOPLE

KARL WALLEDA made a 400 ft. wire walk at the new Capitol Center in Washington, DC on Sept. 5th.

KIM and DALE BAER (daughters of Parley Beer) are both working on the Miller Johnson Circus.

CHARLIE SMITH, a former circus clown, now works birthday parties and a shopping center at Denver, Col.

JEAN GORMAN (acrobat) has received a contract from the RBBB show and will join the show as a ballet girl for the 1974 tour.

THE FLYING APOLLOS recently laid over in San Diego, Cal. due to a truck break-down. They are enroute to eastern dates.

GUS and URSULA (jugglers) are currently living in the Chicago area.

JOHN STRONG will be producing a show for BOB TRIPPE for 16 weeks starting on April 15, 1974.

SMOKEY JONES will have his elephant "Tika" at the Paul Eagles Luncheon Club on Oct. 29th. An earlier report was made in error.

DAVID HAMMARSTROM had his review on the Paul Keye Circus printed in a recent issue of Variety magazine.



HAWAIIAN DANCERS, members of Golden Bros.' Circus, season of 1923, snapped on the lot at Corpus Christi, Tex., with the Gulf of Mexico as background. Left to right: Ruth Kane, Elsie (last name not remembered); Flora Bruce, now residing in Garland, Tex.; Mrs. Ira M. Watts, wife of the manager of Parker & Watts Circus, and Mary Rickman.

A NEW ROLE

A recent Associated Press report indicates that Lash La Rue, well-known whip and gun artist, is now working at Mission Power Headquarters at St. Petersburg, Fla. The Mission was founded by John

Cook as a means of helping the down-and-out class, as well as serving the Lord.



LaRue was a big name in film westerns, starting in the 1940's. In 1952 the LaRue comics

sold over 12 million copies and he even toured with shows, where he was featured as a headliner.

Then things started to slip and LaRue ended up managing a restaurant in Reno, Nev. It was there that he heard evangelist Bob Woodward, and was thus moved by the spirit of rededication.

I got sidetracked in the world of competition and got lost, says LaRue, the 54 year old former matinee idol. "I was in a situation where I didn't make a bargain with the Lord, but I dedicated my life to Him as His servant. My sense of values changed."

Now LaRue works hard and for long hours at a time, helping to turn lost souls towards Christ. Because he was once down he knows the problems of those he is trying to help.

One project at the mission which LaRue favors is the Hollywood Western Revue for the Lord. The show features trick gun and whip handling, Lash LaRue movies and a smattering of old-time religion.