



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

3rd Year

September 16, 1974

Number 37

Show Hits Losing Streak

"The first part of the year was really a great one and I never had it so good," says John Strong. "Then as we started moving back through the mid-west we found ourselves playing losing dates, day after day. I must have lost at least \$30,000 due to that drought and the unemployment situation."

The Eastern Canadian dates, according to John, were some of the best stands his show has played. Next year he hopes to expand his Canadian tour.

The circus had one very bad blowdown this summer. It happened between shows and there were no injuries, but the show was without a tent for a few days, so the top could be repaired. A new tent has been ordered, but won't be delivered until late this year.

The show program has been altered and expanded several times during the season. The Wal-Tims will continue with the show, while Ruth Strong and the three children have returned to their home in Thousand Oaks. Parley and Ernestine Baer are working on the show, learning

(Continued on Page 5)

GILBERT'S CIRCUS

A highly entertaining show was offered by Gilbert's Circus (in Britain) during its annual summer season, which runs from May 26 to Sept. 8th.

Acts appearing in the 1974 performance included:

Frank Paulo - riding monkey
Patricia's trained dogs
Frank and Bruno - clowning
Spitfire, educated pony
Frank, the Tramp
Emily Thompson - liberty ponies
Jane Thompson - trained doves
June and Billy - riding act
Judi and Alex - sharp shooting
Wally McKimmie - organist

daredevil bill

Evil Knieval's attempt to jump the Snake River Canyon, near Twin Falls, Idaho (Sep. 8), was highlighted by several feature attractions from the circus world. The acts were presented by Circus Vargas through the Dobritch Enterprises, with Sandy Dobritch an announcer for the event. The warm-up program was billed as "The World's Largest Congress of Daredevile."

Acts appearing at the big cliffside program were:

Sensational Park - sway pole
The Wallendas - high wire
Great Manzini - escape artist
Gil Eagles - cycle rider

SHOW TALENT

Acts reportedly set to work with the Olympic Int'l Circus, at Memphis, Tenn. (Sep. 20-28) include:

Ralph's Canine Revue
The Cycling Five
The Rosales Duo
The Flying Belgettys
Al's Lemonzine - comedy car
The Carden Johnson elephants
The Spartans - aerial feature
Hugo Zacchini's Rocket Cannon

Clowns signed to appear with the circus are: Dime Wilson, Happy Phelps and Ronald McDonald. Ringmaster will be Gary Strong, while the bandleader is to be Alfred Vernon.

Ski Show Tour

Every year the U.S. ski industry sponsors a ski show that tours the country, showing the many new products that are available. This year the show is called "Expo-winter 74" and will feature TV star Barbara Alley as MC for a ski fashion show called "The Ski Fashion Circus."

A group of aerialists and trampoline performers will put the stretchability of the ski fashions to a full test on the trapeze and trampoline. There will also be a giant moving mountain, indoor snow, various equipment displays and several ski films.

(Watch for the show's route in Circus Report starting in October).

..... Warren Wood

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BEATTY-COLE BROS. CIRCUS

WORLD'S LARGEST

The Beatty-Cole Circus played the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti (Mich) area (Aug. 27) and although the weather was gloomy and dark there was little under the big top but smiles of patrons and show folks alike as this popular show drew a straw house in the evening and about a 3/4 house for the late afternoon matinee.

The best news for circus fans is the fact that Fred Logan is working the bulls in the center ring after a lay-off of "about 50 days." He appears well recovered from the accident which sent him to the hospital, and he was busy greeting friends on the lot.

There are many new acts on the show this year. Certainly the most spectacular is the Rodriguez Troupe, five men on the aerial bars. It's a good act, well paced which builds to a strong conclusion. The addition of the Herriotts is a definite asset to the show. Mary Ruth's Poodle and Pony Circus, which stopped the show at the evening performance, gets better and better. John's work with American Anthem is always a crowd pleaser. His handling of the liberty horses is smooth as silk. These very professional performances are just what you expect from this family whose work we have followed over the years.

David Hoover seemed in fine shape, although he worked only six of his big cats. Jon Jon, the lion star, was in good fettle too.



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Special mention must be made of Charles Schlarbaum and the band he fronts. Cues were excellent and the band sounded better than I can remember hearing it. One sour note (no pun), I wish for more circus music and fewer show tunes.

All in all, a typical CB-CB performance, well costumed, nice balance between animal and human acts, tight performance (thanks to Roger Boyd), good clowning, good circus fun for everybody. If you have not seen it this year, you're missing a good one.

..... George Bird

ROUTES

Allen's Pet Zoo

Sep. 19-22 Vallejo, Cal.

Beatty-Cole Circus

Sep. 16 Richmond, Ind.
17 Columbus, Ohio
18 Mansfield
19 Youngstown
20 Canton
21 Zanesville
22 Chillicothe

Carson & Barnes Circus

Sep. 16 Sturgis, Kty.
17 Paris, Tenn.
18 Martin
19 Trenton
20 Milan
21 Camden
22 Linden

Hubert Castle Circus

Sep. 16 Minot, N.D.

Circus Vargas

Sep. 16-18 Devon, Pa.
19-22 Allentown

El Karaubah Shrine Circus

Sep. 19-22 Greenville, SC

Fisher Bros. Circus

Sep. 7 Cabot, Ark.

Franzan Bros. Circus

Sep. 16 Neco, Ill.
17 Kohoka
18 Lancaster
19 Huntingt'n, Iowa
20 Enroute
21 Bethany, Mo.

Gatti-Charles Circus

Sep. 16 Lake Williams,
17-18 Kamloops BC
19 Kelowna
21-23 Kernisdale

George Matthews Circus

Sep. 16-18 Wheaton, Ill.
19 Cedarburg, Wisc
20 Madison
21 La Crosse

Hoxie Bros. Circus

Sep. 16 Avenel, N.J.
17-18 Union City
19 Secaucus
20 Livingston
21 Irvington

Kaye Cont'l Circus

Sep. 19-22 Shreveport, La

Emmett Kelly, Jr. Circus

Sep. 17 Monroe, La.

King Bros. Circus

Sep. 16 Tinley Park, Ill
17 Ottawa

King Bros. (Continued)

Sep. 18 Farmington, Ill
19 Knoxville
20 Hamilton

Lions Club Circus

Sep. 21 Riverside, Cal

Olympic Int'l Circus

Sep. 20-22 Memphis, Tenn

Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit

Sep. 18-22 Portland, Ore.

Ringling-Barnum Red Unit

Sep. 18-22 Cincinnati, Oh.

Royal Bros. Circus

Sep. 16 Tottenham, Ont.
17 Unionville
18 Flosa
19 Cambridge
20 Ridgeway
21 Niagara-on-Fls
22 Waterford

Royal Lipizzan Stal. Show

Sep. 17 Sherbrooke, Qbc
20 Brantford, Ont
21 Kitchener
22 London

Billy Russell's Circus

to Sep 27 Yarmouth, Eng.

(Continued on Page 10)

Mishap Kills Father and Son

A father and son working with Royal Bros. Circus, in Canada, were electrocuted while helping to set up the circus on Prince Edward Island late last month.

The accident occurred as 14 year old Steve Raborn was setting up a circus center pole, when it came in contact with an overhead electric line. His father, Robert, watching from nearby, saw what happened and rushed to aid his son and then he, too, was electrocuted.

AT MIDWAY POINT

The TNT & Royal Olympic Circus' summer tour is almost over. It was highlighted by an eleven day stand at Evergreen Park, Ill., five days in Kansas, five days at Toledo and early in the season an eight week tour for John Strong.

Acts appearing with the circus were:

- Don Philips & Co. - unicycles and juggling
- The Vickinas - risley
- Chris Alberti Family - rolling globes
- Giovanni - spinning plates ..
- Freddy Kursawe - bicycle/plate
- Glen Henry - trained dogs
- Tim Tegge - clown/vent

Music was provided by Marj Armstrong at the organ and Tim Tegge on drums.

The upcoming fall tour will provide some three weeks of one night stands in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas and Missouri. This will be followed by a Christmas tour, with details to be announced later.

The father, who was 53 yrs. old, was the circus superintendent and formerly had been with the Carson & Barnes Circus. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, and two children who live in Arizona. He was buried in Hugo, Okla.

Steve's mother lives in Oregon, and his body was sent there for burial.

JOHN STRONG CIRCUS (Continued)
the operation of a small tented circus in preparation for touring their own circus in 1975.

John reports he has several plans in the fire for expanding his operations next year. This includes a Magic Circus, which will go on the road in January, and will be managed by Betty Wendany.

While there will be several John Strong units on the road this next year, John himself, will continue to travel with the Big John 1869 Circus.

DAN MILLER's hobby of clowning was featured on the front page of the Tacoma (Wash.) News Tribune on Aug. 4, 1974.



The above picture has been reproduced from an E. J. Kelty (Century) picture which was taken in 1933. It shows the personnel of Junco Circus, plus several members of the local Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of the circus.

STRONG FAIR SHOW

"Circus Internationale" played its ninth consecutive year at the Kentucky State Fair (Aug. 15-24) in Louisville, offering two shows each weekday and three on Saturdays and Sundays. The circus was produced by Grace McIntosh and Charles Marine, and offered a strong one ring, one hour action packed show.

The circus program was presented under the M&M Circus tent, a red and white striped bale ring top (125 ft. round end with three 45 ft. middles). This top has been blown down three times over the past three years, the most recent and most destructive being June 20th (1974) at Bollingbrook, Ill. It was repaired in time for the fair and looks good considering its history.

Extra seating was added this year, and for all eight shows which this writer saw, there were "overflow crowds" in attendance.

The show's announcer was Jim Douglas, who also provided the clowns for the engagement -- Vern Woerner and Fred Marco. The band, which included drums, 2 trumpets, 2 saxophones, trombone, tuba, organ and an air calliope, was directed by Bill "Boom Boom" Browning.

Gee Gee and Bucky Steele were with the show, handling the concessions, and adding their group of five elephants to the show's cast of performers.

Several visitors were on the show during its ten day stand at the fair and some of them were: Bob Timmel, Vern Dav, Bill Rhodes, Bill Lortz, Gus Taliaferro, along with Henry and Sally Payne.

The circus program featured the following acts:

Irma and Peppy - rola bola feats
The Clowns - Bits of Magic



**The above picture has
It shows the personnel
sponsors of the circus**

Al's Pals - Liberty ponies (8)
Miss Cheri - aerial web
The Clowns - an illusion
The Navarro Duo - balancing lad
Morgan Ashton Family - risley
The Clown Car
Jimmy Troy - comedy trapeze
Al Vidbel's three elephants

(Note: Immediately following
the last trick in Vidbel's act,
the Steele's herd of five bulls
were brought into the ring for
an 8 elephant long mount)
Les Martinos - high wire

..... James Kalivoda

show Visitors

Seen visiting RBBB's Blue
Unit at Fresno, Calif. (Sep. 4-
8) were: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gor-
man; Bob MacDougall, Tom Upton,
and Paul Wessler.

Notes

Circus Kirk closed its
tour at Grove Park (Mechanics-
ville) Pa. on Labor Day weekend
and will winter in nearby East
Berlin.

SOLID EARNINGS AT MOST DATES

Despite the mid-west drought, Melvin Silverlake reports his Fisher Bros. Circus has been doing good business. The way things were, with gas and Nixon, it looked as if business would off, Silverlake says. Instead "it's been terrific."

All dates are usually sponsored with advance sale tickets priced at \$1.50 for everyone. At the door the prices are \$1.50 for children and \$2.50 for adults. When sponsors are not used discount tickets are offered, and these provide the show with the same income as when sponsors are used.

VARIETY ACTS

Many acts have been seen at various fairs over the past month or so:

- PRINCE ALBERT, SASK. -

In Canada, the July 30-Aug 3 fair featured: The Bardette dancers; Gene Cupita, singer; Howard Hardin, juggler; The Goetschi Bros., comedy unicycles; Joanne and Bob Keller, adagio; and Leo Gasca, comedy wire.

- SUPERIOR, WISC. -

At the July 23-28 Tri-State Fair the stage show featured: The Kellys; the Wainwrights; Rich, Gibson & Rich; The Arrowwood Acro Pups, and Paul Lennon, comedian.

- REGINA, SASK. -

Appearing at the July 29-Aug. 3 Buffalo Days Exhibition were: Glenn Haywood, vent; The Esquedas, unicycles; The Conti Family, song and dance; The Stardusters, swaypole; The Harmonicats; The Bumpy Family, comedy; Saskatchewan Indian dancers and John Shirley, balloons.

The show uses lots of lithos and heralds. The mail-out sheets carry a discount ticket for the lady of the house.

The circus is using a 70 ft. big top with one 40 ft. middle piece. They travel on nine show trucks, plus several privately owned trailers, cars, etc.

On the midway is a menagerie at 50¢ (two elephants, a hippo, six cages of animals, a five footed horse, a five legged cow, four horses, three ponies and two goats); There's also an elephant ride at 50¢; a Moonwalk at 50¢; a midget cow show at 25¢, and a snake show at 25¢.

Next year they hope to add an elephant, bringing their herd to three; another 40 ft. center section to the big top and seat wagons.

HISTORICAL FACT

The Wirth Family (riding act) played the Pantages theatre in Los Angeles, Calif. in March of 1917.

GRANDSTAND FEATURE

Needless to say with a free admission the Circus Continental drew overflow crowds at the Ohio State Fair (Aug. 22-Sep. 2). There were two performances each weekday and three on Saturdays and Sundays.

The program was directed by Kenny Milton, ringmaster, and featured:-

Eloise Berchtold - mixed animals
Clowns (5) - The Boxing Match
The Tabeks - aerial cradle
John Dailey, Jr. - comedy bike
Angelo & Wendy - unsupported lad
The Alejanoros - bounding wire
Sarazochil - sword balancing
Malikova - high wire
The Esquedas - cycles/springb'rd
Eloise Berchtold - five male
elephants with Morgan Berry

..... Don Sandman

ROUTES

Century 21 Shows - Red Unit

Sep. 16-21 Rome, Ga.

Roy Clark Show

Sep. 21 New York, N.Y.

22 Bismarck, N.D.

James H. Drew Shows

Sep. 16-21 Chattanooga, Tenn.

Frazier World Fair Shows

to Sep. 22 Albuquerque, N.M.

Golden State Rodeo

Sep. 20-22 Bakersfield, Calif

Holiday on Ice

Sep. 17-22 Columbus, Ohio

HE LIKED SOME

"No other act captured the audience quite as thoroughly" as did Gerard Soules and his poodles, wrote Pierre Bowman, entertainment director for the Honolulu Star Bulletin, in his Aug. 9th review of the Int'l 3-Ring Circus. "Soules' dogs wore human costumes befitting a show staged by Ziegfeld. The dogs danced -- the Mexican hat dance a ballet, the hesitation waltz, a Tahitian number. They were splendid and the audience loved them."

Bowman called the Feller Boys & Dodo an effective wire act. "Showmanship, honed to a fine edge, was their ingredient

He also noted that Norbu got the audience excited. So too did Blinko & Maran with their balloons during the pre-show time.

The Carillo Brothers, he added, "gave the audience oohs and aahs and a gasp or two." They perform beautifully, he said, "in an act that showed off skill and generated that magic element of danger."

A TV SLOT

Variety acts seen on TV's Hollywood Palladium Show, the night of Sept. 6th included:
Great Arturo - single trapeze
Mark Wilson - illusion
Krasavina & Fedin - clowns

ROUTES

Sells & Gray Circus

- Sep. 16 Pocomoke City, Ind
 17 Ocean City
 18 Seafort, Dela
 19 Cambridge, Md.
 20 Easton

Stebbing's Circus

- Sep. 19-29 Richmond, Va.

John Strong 1869 Circus

- Sep. 16 Coos Bay, Oreg.
 17 Enroute
 18 Yreka, Calif
 19 Redding
 20 Red Bluff
 21-22 Chico

Voorheis Bros. Circus

- Sep. 21 Big Rapids, Mich.

Wenatchee Youth Circus

- Sep. 22 Sunnyside, Wash.

.... OTHER DATES

Longhorn Rodeo

- Sep. 16-21 Texarkana, Texas

Nat'l Air Races

- Sep. 13-15 Reno, Nev.

Rose City Rides

- Sep. 16-21 Dexter, Mo.

Miscellaneous

The Great Rock Circus, at Disneyland (Calif.) last month included a slack wire, juggling, single trapeze and web numbers, plus the usual rock music.

They Visit Circus

Wisconsin circus fans Percy Rademacher and wife, Norman Wilbert and Wayne Bolz, visited the Beatty-Cole circus at Racine, Wisc. on Sept. 3rd. Weather was cool, and the show was set up on the lakefront.

This show continues to lead the tent circuses in size and quality of presentation. The tent and equipment, both look good, and Charles Schlarbaum's band keeps the show moving.

The good news is that Freddie Logan is back working full time and presenting his center ring elephant act. He's feeling fine and has little or no after effects from his unfortunate accident.

..... Wayne Bolz

Finale

KENNEDY JOHN SWAIN, who was associated with various Hugo, Okla., shows, died late last month at San Antonio, Texas. He is survived by his wife Zelda, and a son, William Ira Swain, of Gonzales, Texas.

When RBBB plays Columbus (Ohio) this month (Sep. 24-29) it will be the first time the show has been there in 16 yrs.

Sells & Gray suffered a blowdown at Lake Grove, L.I., on Aug. 31st. A new tent was sent right out by the Leaf Canvas Co.

PEOPLE

THE VETERANS, a tumbling act, is currently working with the Frank Sinatra Show.

ELOISE BERCHTOLD was recently featured on Ohio TV, being interviewed from inside the big steel arena, just prior to her mixed animal act.

AL WEIR, retired clown, was a frequent visitor at the Wallace & Rogers Circus, when that show played the PNE.

MR. & MRS. F. C. CANTEY, of Orlando, Fla., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by attending the Ringling-Barnum Circus, just as they did on their honeymoon.

STAN KRAMIEN, magician, was a recent visitor on the John Strong Circus in the Northwest.

SMOKEY JONES will have his baby elephant "Tika" on the Voorheis Circus this month. The

MEDALS, the Clown, worked the Appalachian District Fair at Gray, Tenn. on Aug. 19-24.

MURRAY HILL has had his animals on the Carl Harlan Shows as a free attraction.

DAVID CHABIRA (Jocko, the Clown) has been playing at Joyland Amusement Park in Topeka, Kans. He also appeared with Polack Bros. Circus at the Topeka Mid-America Fair on Sep. 6-11.

ELI and ROSALDA ALBARRACINE, aerialists, are featured in a story "Circus Marriage" in the April 29th issue of People Weekly paper.

NANCY WITTENBERG, an RBBB camel driver at Circus World Showcase, recently made a TV film with "What's My Line."

HENRY W. GAFFNEY (Box 42, Newark, N.J. 07101) would like to locate elephant trainer SLIM WALKER. If you can help him, be sure to write.

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They Fight Law

Some 30 speakers, representing zoos and wildlife researchers, spoke out against the new animal control laws at a recent public meeting in Kansas City. They charged the Endangered Species Act would cause undue hardship and would damage the study of wildlife in this country.

These people also charged that the federal government is a major importer of animals, yet would not have to abide by the law. They also complained about the complex regulations and huge amounts of red tape that will be required.

An official at the Kansas City Zoo said he supports a ban on the sale of exotic animals for pets. He charged that the law is a step backward.

Another official, Wallace Armstrong, said that some officials "are anti-zoo." He named Nathaniel P. Reed, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish & Wildlife, as being highly critical of zoos, and stated that Reed recently made a talk in which he said no one can learn anything from a captive animal.

Armstrong warned that interested parties had only until mid-September to get their final arguments ready to prevent the enactment of the bill.