



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

Volume 2

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Number 37

## Review Program

Billy Daniels, who recorded "That Old Black Magic" will star in a show called "Broadway USA" at Oakland, Calif. on Nov. 18th. He is replacing Tony Martin who has cancelled his appearance on the VFW sponsored show.

## Show Highlights

Business has been above expectations, says Karl Wallenda in a discussion about his show's operations. Every date, he said, was a winner and it didn't seem to matter whether we had good or bad days.

At Clarksburg, W. Va. (July 12) the show pulled 11,000 people, while at Parkersburg (July 14) some 9,500 people attended the two performances. About 13,000 were on hand to see the show at Warren, Ohio (Jul 18) and 17,000 attended three performances at Wheeling, W. Va.

Other good stands included: Gulfport, Miss, with 12,000; Baton Rouge, La. with 41,100 (Aug. 3-4) as well as Lafayette, La. (Aug. 6) with 16,500 people.

## Counterattack

Owners of horses have been urged to have their horses vaccinated against sleeping sickness. The USDA reports there is an increase in the disease and that outbreaks have occurred in the East, South and West areas.

The virus, it is reported, is carried by birds and mosquitoes. Early signs of the disease are depression, lack of appetite and drowsiness, and owners whose animals show any such signs are urged to contact their veterinarian or an animal health official.

## Party time

R888 is looking for the world's largest cake for the smallest man on earth's birthday.

Sunday, Sept. 30th, will be the 34th birthday of Michu, the tiny performer who is just 33 in. tall. His big birthday party will be held at the Metro Sports Center in Bloomington, Minn. where the big show is playing Sept. 27-30.

## Common Concern

An organization devoted to the preservation of the Merry-go-round -- National Carousel Roundtable -- has announced its first meeting is to be held at Sandwich, Mass. on Oct. 20-23.

Some 110 people reportedly are already registered to attend the three day meet and others are also expected. The agenda includes such things as workshops, panel discussions, a tour of old machines and a talk by Frederic Fried, the author of the book "Pictorial History of the Carousel."

## Record Deadline

There isn't much time left, but circus music enthusiasts can still order their this year's Merle Evans Concert recording, as was sponsored by the James Duggan CFA Tent of Georgia.



Most of the numbers on the new recording have never before been recorded. Included are numbers such as: Al G. Barnes March, Red Wagons, Minstrel Days, Eclipse Galop, etc.

Orders are \$5.00 each and must be placed by Oct. 1, 1973. Write to The Secretary, James Duggan CFA Tent, Box 63, Jonesboro, Ge. 30236.

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## GOOD BUSINESS IN A City

Two shows had successful engagements at Anaheim, Calif., according to recent reports. The RBBB Blue Unit played there Aug. 13-21 and offered 18 performances, while the Royal Lipizzen Show played the same building for three days prior to the above date.

RBBB set a new attendance record at the Convention Center with a total of 110,050 people attending the show. Gross ticket sales were reported as being \$500,000. At the same time the show renewed its contract with the 7,100 seat house for another five years.

The Lipizzen show played a weekend engagement and grossed some \$70,000, an increase of 65% over that of last year.

## cfa People

Fred and Fifi Reed (Glendale, Arz) June Curry (Phoenix, Arz) and Jim Reilly of Tucson, Arz. visited the Fisher Bros. Circus at Benson on Sept. 1st.

It was the first time the show has been in the area and the fans were out there helping all they can. The lot was dirty and dusty, but both shows were straw houses and it was a "great show" they report.

Mel Silverlake really rolls out the red carpet for visitors, said one fan, and he even put us to work which was a real treat and gave us a chance to be part of the show.

"This show is made up of a great bunch of people."

## ITS GOOD ONE

A show so big it can't fit into the auditorium is what was promised, and that's exactly what Paul Kaye provided when he brought his circus to San Jose, Calif. for the Shrine Club on Sept. 7-9. Seven performances were presented before good crowds, while temperatures zoomed into the high 90's.

An eleven piece band, directed by Jack Cervone, backed the circus, which offered many three and two ring displays.

Ring curbs were yellow with red and green star patterns, and the announcing was handled by Phil McDonald.



The program featured:

- Blinko and Maran - balloons
- Loop-the-loop girls (3)
- Miss Trudella - slide for life
- Adele Smieja - wild animals
- The Pharoahs - aerial cradle
- Clowns - Taking pictures
- Senor Santos - juggling
- Great De Mille - tightwire
- Mr. Bell - balancing
- Murrillo Bros. - aerial cycle
- The Fulbrights - dressage (2)
- Clowns - Hair growing
- Aerial display with 7 girls on web, featured Miss Donna
- Niccolini's chimps
- Clowns - snake dancer
- Fulbrights liberty ponies
- Anderson's liberty horses
- Great Bruno - breakaway sway pole
- Intermission --
- The Flying Astros

## Big LOSS

A \$7.85 million loss has been reported by Mattel, Inc., parent company of RBBB, for its second quarter period which ended on Aug. 4th. The loss, equal to 48¢ per share, was blamed on three unprofitable subsidiaries -- Optigan Music Maker, Audio Magnetics Cassette and Turco Playground Equip.

Mattel said it had earned \$2.43 million, or 15¢ per share, for the quarter on operations that it plans to continue. The Optigan unit has already been sold and the company plans to dispose of the other two units

## For Sale!

Famous Cole Circus 1960 season route folder (route, program and personnel list) - \$1.50 each

Famous Cole Circus 1961 season route book with about 75 photos. \$5.00 each.

Limited number of each. Order today from: Ted LaVelda, Box 531, Hugo, Okla. - 74743

- Great Huston - illusions
- Clowns - boxing match
- Freil Trio, Walters Family and Niclos Troupe - trampoline
- The Wallendas - high wire
- Kaye Circus elephants
- The Kimris Duo - aerial plane
- Salute to Stars and Stripes

Clowns on the show were: Blinko, Laurence Cross, Harold Hall, John Day, Albert White and Johnny Cirillino.

# ROUTES

- Beatty-Cole Circus  
 Sep. 16-17 Mobile, Ala.  
 18 Pascagoula, Miss  
 19 Baton Rouge, La  
 20 Beaumont, Texas  
 21 College Stat'n  
 22 Austin  
 23 San Antonio
- Carson & Barnes Circus  
 Sep. 17 Ripley, Tenn.  
 18 Millington  
 19 New Madrid, Mo.  
 21 Malden  
 22 Paducah, Kty  
 23 Charleston, Mo.
- Hubert Castle Circus  
 Sep. 15-17 Minot, N.D.  
 22 Kingman, Ariz.  
 23 Yuma
- Clyde Bros. Circus  
 Sep. 17-19 Lake Charles, La  
 20-23 Shreveport
- George Matthews Circus  
 Sep. 18-19 Calgary, Canada  
 21 Cranbrook  
 23 Couer d'Alene, Id
- Hall's Circus Side Show  
 Sep. 17-22 Anderson, S.C.
- Happytime Circus  
 Sep. 21-29 Bakersfield, Cal
- Hoxie Bros. Circus  
 Sep. 17 W. New York, NJ  
 18 Union City  
 19 Union  
 20 Pennesville  
 21-23 Columbia, Md.
- King Bros. Circus  
 Sep. 17 Kirksville, Mo.  
 18 Moberly  
 19 Hannibal  
 20 Pittsfield, Ill
- Lewis Bros. Circus  
 Sep. 17 LaFollette, Tenn  
 18 Sunbright  
 19 Whitley City, Kty  
 21 Albany  
 22 Alloons, Tenn
- Los Muchachos Circus  
 Sep. 20-22 Providence, R.I.
- Plack Bros. Circus  
 Sep. 14-26 Pomona, Cal.
- Ringling's Blue Unit  
 Sep. 19-23 Vancouver, BC
- Ringling's Red Unit  
 Sep. 19-23 Denver, Colo.
- Royson Bros. Circus  
 Sep. 17-18 Waynesboro, Ga.

# Circus alley

Some changes have been reported in the personnel line up on the George Matthews Circus as the show moves into its Canadian dates.

Ken Miller, clown, has returned to his home in Southern California. This leaves the show's clown alley with Harry Ross, producing clown, D. W. Washburn (Sparky) and a new 19 year old clown, Scott Morris.

The show's line-up of big top acts includes:

- Xavier Morales - juggling
- Chester Cable - foot juggle
- Pat & Gwen - juggling
- Clowns - Chicken number
- Cindy Poncho - elephants
- Tony & Brenda - elephants
- Sparky - the floating cane
- Great Huberto - rope slide
- Henry's Chimps
- Intermission --
- Liberty Horses
- Xavier and Patricks - role
- bole in two rings
- Los Latinos - tight wire
- Clowns - Dr. Ben Crazy
- Senior Antonio - trapeze
- Clowns - The Arabs
- The Circus Elephants

## .... SPECIAL ROUTES .....

- oliday on Ice
- Sep. 19-23 Columbus, Ohio
- Ice Capades
- Sep. 21-26 Oklahoma City,
- Ice Classic
- Sep. 19-22 Kansas City, Kns
- Renaissance Fair
- Sep. 21-23 Novato, Calif.
- Rodeo
- Sep. 21-23 Oakland, Cal.
- Tannen's Magic Jubilee
- Sep. 21-23 New York, NY
- Virginia State Fair
- Sep. 21-30 Richmond, Va.
- Walnut Festival
- Sep. 20-23 Walnut Crk, Cal.

## ..... CARNIVALS .....

- James H. Drew Shows
- Sep. 17-22 Chattanooga, Tenn
- Rose City Rides
- Sep. 17-22 Dexter, Mo.

# People

FLOYD HILL, press agent for Carson & Barnes Circus, recently visited friends at Hugo, Okla.

DR. BOYDEN L. CROUCH, of Phoenix, Arz., has joined the CFA. He owns a 52 whistle caliope and plans to use it on Fisher Bros. Circus dates.

TOMMY DONOHO and the Polack Bros. elephants layed over at San Jose, Calif. the other week.

ED RILEY, opened the season as press agent for Sells & Gray, then had to quit due to ill health. He's been at Hugo, Okla. most of the summer

ROBERT PERRY, manager of Alberto's Circus in Australia has been visiting friends in California this past week.

M. L. DUPONT clowned for the opening of "Happyland" a children's park at Monroe, La which he suggested sometime ago. He shook hands with almost 65,000 kids during a four day period.

RAY RODMAN, elephant man, visited the RBBB Blue unit at Anaheim, Calif. last month.

KENNETH FELD, vice president and co-producer RBBB, plans to marry BONNIE LUREN, of Short Hills, N.J., in March of 1974.

# Pot-Pourri

The grand prize at the recent CFA convention in Seattle, Wash. was a hand carved Cinderella Float, with a four zebra hitch, donated by Fred Reed, of Glendale, Ariz.

According to unconfirmed reports the Canadian Circus folded last month.

Time limits forced the Wenatchee Youth Circus to postpone their trip to Mexico and Europe until next year

20 Pittsfield, Ill

Lewis Bros. Circus

- Sep. 17 LaFollette, Tenn  
 18 Sunbright  
 19 Whitley City, Kty  
 21 Albany  
 22 Alloons, Tenn

Los Muchachos Circus

- Sep. 20-22 Providence, R.I.

Plack Bros. Circus

- Sep. 14-26 Pomona, Cal.

Ringling's Blue Unit

- Sep. 19-23 Vancouver, BC

Ringling's Red Unit

- Sep. 19-23 Denver, Colo.

Royson Bros. Circus

- Sep. 17-18 Waynesboro, Ga.

Sells &amp; Gray Circus

- Sep. 17 Bradford, Pa.  
 18 Warren  
 19 St. Marys  
 20 Indiana  
 21 Du Bois  
 22 Allison Park

Voorheis Bros. Circus

- Sep. 17 Marquette, Mich  
 18 Newberry  
 19 St. Ste. Marie  
 20 St. Ignace  
 22 Cheboygan

Wallace &amp; Rogers Circus

- Sep. 20 Reedsport, Oreg.  
 22 Medford



Ice Classic

Sep. 19-22 Kansas City, Kns  
 Renaissance Fair

- Sep. 21-23 Novato, Calif.

Rodeo

- Sep. 21-23 Oakland, Cal.

Tannen's Magic Jubilee

- Sep. 21-23 New York, NY

Virginia State Fair

- Sep. 21-30 Richmond, Va.

Walnut Festival

- Sep. 20-23 Walnut Crk, Cal.

..... CARNIVALS .....

James H. Drew Shows

- Sep. 17-22 Chattanooga, Tenn

Rose City Rides

- Sep. 17-22 Dexter, Mo.

Amusements of America

- Sep. 17-22 Salisbury, NC  
 17-22 Zebulan

Bella City Amusements

- Sep. 17-22 Newman, Ga.

Jay Belle Amusements

- Sep. 17-22 Smithfield, NC

Central States Shows

- Sep. 20-23 Haskell, Texas

Childress Shows

- Sep. 17-22 Madison, Ga.

Cumberland Valley Shows

- Sep. 17-22 Manchester, Tenn

Diamond State Shows

- Sep. 17-22 Roanoke, Va.

Farrow Amusement Co.

- Sep. 17-22 Eldorado, Ark

Fun Fair Amusements

- Sep. 17-22 Taylorsville, NC

Gold Medal Shows

- Sep. 17-22 Columbus, Ga

# Pot-Pourri

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Time limits forced the Wenatchee Youth Circus to postpone their trip to Mexico and Europe until next year.

Huge crowds at Wichita, Kans., made it necessary for the George Matthews Circus to present three shows at that city.

Rumors circulating last week indicated the Beatty-Cole Circus will soon be making dates in New Mexico and other Southwest areas.

Australia's Alberto's Circus has been advertising admission prices of \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children.



# Soft-Sell

by DAVID L. HAMMARSTROM

**R**ingling/Red came to San Francisco's Cow Palace amid a welcome surge of anxious and responsive crowds. Alas - this is not the thrill-filled big top of P. T. Barnum or the Ringling brothers. This is not one of John Ringling North's artfully crafted three-ring spectacles. This is the Americanized circus of Irvin Feld - complete with method clowns, a center ring that in the spirit of equal opportunity is now termed "ring number two," a bland band exuding a safe-as-candy sound, self-indulging spectacles and a ringmaster with a southern drawl, who makes it all sound like the Nicest Show Anywhere.



Fairness dictates that the circus' positive points be honored - and there are a handful of stars worthy of "center ring" -- juggler Picaso; highwire buffoon Pio Nock; trapeze artist

Elvin Bale; and the Sillagis on the teeterboard; the Pinotos on sway poles, and of course, Gunther Gebel Williams, whose climatic ride around the hippodrome track atop an elephant with a tiger offers one of the most breath-taking moments in all circus history.

But the ultimate impression one is left with tastes more like one of those big city sponsored shows -- splashy and noisy and not very well put together.

Al Ringling, using the words "elusive yet vital" described how a ringmaster should appear, thus alluding to a quality essential to a great circus. The Ringling show, above all others, had an other-worldly mystique. It had secrets. It had strange, almost mystical ways. There are indications that the circus is starting to pander

to the sentiments of a mid-America culture, and that much of its unique, "elusive yet vital" magic is being sold down the drain.

Irvin Feld's obsession to prove himself "top man of the big top" continues to dominate the circus. Like Barnum, Feld is a master press agent. His well publicized moves to bring a sense of democracy to the big top, to update it if you will, have brought new faces to the gate. They came on a whim. Will they leave convinced?

First it was the stock market, then the Clown College, then the black performer, then youth. Now it is the Florida theme park -- a move that might be Feld's greatest accomplishment. What will it be tomorrow? There are more hints in the wind that Feld may begin courting sponsors himself. This year the big circus is playing for the Shriners in Seattle. And, in San Francisco, at least to get one show underway, ringmaster Bob Welz turned the mike over to a local resident who welcomed us to the show in behalf of an automobile agency.

What Feld has done so well is deliver on all his public allusions to unprecedented showmanship. His Clown College has driven clown alley to a virtual standstill. The efforts of these intellectual fun makers are for the most part astoundingly meager in the vast Ringling setting; it takes an old master like Danny Chapman or Lou Jacobs only a few seconds -- working with simple ideas and clearly visible gestures -- to remind us of the almost lost art of Ringling merry-making.

The production numbers have a thrown-together look, and they all end up touting what is becoming a repitious message: "Isn't this circus the greatest; Aren't you having fun; Don't you agree? Come on, let's all hear it now." It sounds like something a market research analyst recommended.

The pagentry is narcissistic in conception and execution. It comes at you like an ice cream cone dripping with so many colors that it's hard to know what you're tasting, if, indeed, anything. The circus tries hard to please, there are even shadings this year of the Disney ethic in a song "It's A Circus World" that is very reminiscent of the tune "It's A Small World." One wonders if the circus can no longer speak for itself.

They're starting to play the National Anthem at the circus, and they're starting to think more about the Shriners. They're thinking that maybe if they can train clowns, which they think they can,

## sawdust trail

by M. L. DUPONT

Fisher Bros. Circus is reportedly playing to good business in the Southwest area.

Royal Ranch Wild West has issued their last summer route card. Two more cards are due for the fall season.

Lewis Bros. Circus plans to increase their show this month with the addition of an elephant, and liberty act.

Dave Knoderer, announcer and drummer on Royal Bros. Circus says the show is doing good business.

The CFA selected Springfield, Ohio, as its convention site for next year.

Can you imagine a tent show with 18 elephants, well Ted Bowman has them on Carson & Barnes and says come by and count them.

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### NOTE . . .

Four different routes just \$1.00 --  
Write: Circus Memories Museum,  
Fryeburg, Maine - 04037

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that they can also teach people to walk up wires and spin off teeterboards. And the public, clamoring to participate, may for a season or two, identify with all this. But one may also sense the passing, away of a unique entertainment empire that once jealously guarded its own secret identity, its own strange magic. Sadly, much of that magic, much of that "elusive yet vital" excitement has vanished.

## Doing OK

Attendance at the Zamora Shrine Circus (Birmingham, Ala.), produced by Eddie Zacchini, was up 18% over that of last year.

The show offered four performances -- Aug. 23-25 -- and drew some 15,000 for the opening show and 9,000 for the closing performance.

Acts appearing on the program included:

- The Dubskys - uncaged leopards, chimps, perch, risley
- Johnnie Zoppe - ladder, high act
- The Albarracines - balance, aerial
- Jim Connors - dogs and ponies
- Larry & Jeanie Rucker - chimps, dogs
- Don Johnson - elephant
- The Aguillars - risley, perch
- Trude Luvas - poodles
- Johnny Rivers - diving mules
- La Norma - single trapeze
- Eddie Razini - loop-the-loop car

Staff consisted of:

- Eddie Zacchini - producer
- Alfred Vernon - musical director
- Gary Strong - announcer/ring master
- Happy Phelps - producing clown
- Bela Eyzias - prop. boss



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