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holiday show

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! Thousands of children and adults will attest to that fact for they saw him with Rudy Bros. Circus last week.

This year Rudy Jacobi put together an exciting program of acts for his annual Christmas-time tour on the west coast. The show toured for about two weeks and played to what was described as "generally good business every day."



The program as seen in Richmond, Calif. (Dec. 9-10) at the end of the tour, featured:

The Belltones - bell ringers
The Holder's Tropical Birds
Wiley Keo - trampoline
Ray Grant & Co. - magic
Miss Estelle - aerial web
The Rudenko Bros. - juggling
Senor Ramos - single trapeze
Henry's Chimps
Ray Grant - puppets
The Saxons - unicycles
Hair Hang - Miss Tai Ming
Santa Claus - Mingo

When asked about the 1972 summer tour of his show, Mr. Jacobi said "the tour was essentially a good one, that was marred only by the blowdown in Chicago."

For the upcoming 1973 season, Mr. Jacobi reports "there will be some nice surprises in the way of a program that should appeal to everyone. It looks like we are going to have a really long season."

Farewell

Officials at the Clackamas High School in Milwaukie, Oregon, report their Youth Circus has been completely discontinued. The show, which operated along the Pacific Coast during the summer month time of June to September, for many years was directed by Dave Williams, a teacher at the school.

Miss Ann Perry, one of the teachers who worked closely with the circus project, told The Circus Report just last week that "there is no more Clackamas Youth Circus."

About a year ago it was announced that the Youth Circus would probably be dropped in favor of other activities. One of those proposed was summer canoe trips for boys and their fathers on the rivers of the Pacific Northwest.

The loss of the Clackamas Youth Circus leaves only the Wenatchee Youth Circus still operating on the Pacific coast. This show has been traveling extensively throughout the summer months for many years, under the direction of Paul Pugh. Incidentally, his son, David, has been featured on the John Strong Circus for the past two years.

Three other Youth circuses are still operating. One is in Peru, Indiana, while the other two are in Florida.

HISTORICAL FACT

The Lamont Bros. Circus baseball team of 1913 didn't lose a game all season. Their mascot was a white French poodle.

CHRISTMAS party

Observers report that an overflow crowd filled the Cow Palace, in San Francisco, Calif. for the 2nd annual Lockheed Christmas Circus Party on Dec. 10th. This year's show was again presented by Loni Ironberg (Kay Bros. Circus) but only one performance was given -- at 1:30 p.m.

Aerial numbers on the show were arranged by Bob Yerkes, with outside animal acts being provided by the Kaye elephants and Ed Steeples.

Music for the circus presentation was presented by a full band, while a rock band appeared as a special feature, and a second rock band provided music in the lobby.

The program consisted of:

Dogs and Ponies
Aerial webs
Ken Wiler - balance
Alfie, the elephant
Tumbling
Chimps
Clowns
Trampoline
Bears
High Dive
Ken Wiler - juggling
Loni's horse
Loop-the-loop
Ponies
Clowns
Indians
Loni - trick roping
Clowns
Kaye's elephants
Clowns
The Flying Artons
Santa Claus - finale

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macon date

The Macon, Ga., Shrine Circus held on Nov. 24-26 was produced by Eddie Zacchini. Attendance, says a correspondent from the Deep South, was good not as many people as one might expect from a Shrine promotion.

The show's program featured:

Struppi Hanneford - cat act
Johnny Jordan & Co. - trampoline, high act and leaps
Faye Alexander - funny car - flying act
The Antonetts - teeterboard-juggling
Johnny Jordan - sponge dive
Gino Bogino & Co. - risley - juggling
Kirby's and Rucker's chimp acts
The Ruckers - Carden-Johnson elephants
Patterson & Co. - Trampoline and ladder
Geo. Hanneford, Jr. - perch - Riding act
Hugo Zacchini - cannon act.

Clowns on the show were Eddie Dulum and Bert Daniels.

GREAT NEW ACT

There aren't too many "first time ever" acts being presented in the circus these days, but the big attraction of Circus Knie, in Switzerland, surely must be one of them. That is Fredy Knie, Jr.'s presentation of the tiger riding a rhinoceros. Certainly it is proving to be one of the greatest animal sensations of all time.

Fredy Knie, of course, is well known for his training of horses. He is just 26, and earlier this year married Mary Jose Galland, a policeman's daughter, in a traditional circus wedding. The ceremony took place in the circus ring at Lucerne, before a group of some 5,000 people. A guard of honor, consisting of the clowns and circus staff attended the couple during the ceremony.

Featured with Circus Knie for season 1972 are as follows: The young Knie brothers, Fredy, Rolf, Louis and Franco in a high-school act with elephants and horses; The Great Coray, equilibrist; Franco Knie presenting camels and exotics; clowns Little Teddy and Little Terry; the Walgardi Brothers, catapulting teeterboard act; clowns, the Two Stefi; Rolf Knie with the liberty horse act; the Three Dymeks, hand and pole-vaulting act; the Dymek second act is Italina Wrzesinska, web rope; Louis Knie presents a herd of seven Asian elephants and two African elephants; Klants' Polar Bears presented by Barbara and

Eugen Poludniak (the Dutch animal-dealing firm of Klants is famous for its ice bears and other animals used in circus and film work); Troupe Rodriguez of Mexico (five people) perform daring stunts on a set of horizontal bars high under the roof of the Big Top; The New Wollys, superb trick cyclists, one man and three girls, direct from the London Palladium and Kelvin Hall Circus in Glasgow; Willy Lenz's Chimpanzees; Chy Bao Guy, traditional Chinese tumbling and acrobat act; Fredy Knie with a mixed horse act, and not forgetting the tiger and rhinoceros.

YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - May 31-Jun 1 '20

The Joseph G. Ferari Shows arrived from a New York stand on Sunday at 10 p.m. in one train of 15 cars. The train includes ten flat cars, three box cars, two coaches, 26 wagons and two engines.

They have three rides - Ferris Wheel, Merry-go-round, The Whip, plus eight shows - Silo Drome, Springtime, Circus, Dixieland, Athletic Show, Arabian Nights, Noma Show, Side show, plus 21 concessions

Four shows have wagon fronts that fit together to make a good showing. These are the Springtime, Circus, Dixieland and Athletic shows.

Everything is painted yellow.

The show was all set up for Monday's opening and good crowds were around all week, except on Saturday when it rained and the show closed early.

They left here on Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. for North Adams.

- -

Pittsfield, Mass. - June 13, 1920

The Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus went through here today on their way from Syracuse to Boston.

The first section went through at noon and had three horse cars, 16 flat cars, three sleepers, 50 wagons, one car with 20 cages.

Section two went through at 4 p.m. with 22 flat cars and 64 wagons, four autos and two chariots.

Section three went through at 6 p.m. with 11 horse cars, four flat cars, 7 sleepers and 9 wagons.

The fourth section went through at 7:15 p.m. with seven horse cars, six stock cars and twelve sleepers.

Wagons and sleepers are all red, the other cars are yellow and red.

The Advance car is here and all of its members were out to wave as the show trains went by. This car is painted yellow with drab green.

a great show

by Harry L. Kingston

This reporter was able to catch the Clark & Walters Circus at Lumberton, Texas on Dec. 1 and Montgomery on Dec. 2nd, on their way into winterquarters. It was a surprise to see a show in Texas so late in the season, and I understand they are wintering at Alamo, Texas.

The Silverlakes have really put together a good show and it reminds this reporter of what I have read the Gentry Bros. Circus was like. They use dogs and monkeys, with horses and the elephant "Anna Marie" from the Circus Williams is worked by one of the Silverlake brothers.

Music was provided by a genuine air calliope. As far as I know this is the only show in the country that still uses a calliope. It brought back some memories, that's for sure.

The big top looks good even though it has been used for four years. However, the round ends are starting to show use.

The midway featured a snake show and in the menagerie were a bear, 2 elephants a chimp and several monkeys.

The show did real well in Montgomery and local folks said it was the biggest event since the fire.

California SHOWS

Circuses playing in the San Francisco, Calif. area during the past year included:

- George Matthews Circus
- Miller Johnson Circus
- Kay Bros. Circus
- Clownaround
- John Strong Circus
- Polack Bros. Circus
- Rudy Bros. Circus
- Gatti-Charles Circus
- Happytime Circus
- Europorama
- Major Chumleigh's Circus
- Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Shows
- De Wayne Bros. Circus
- The PAL Circus

Santa makes Christmas

by NORMAN WILBERT

Santa Claus and 21 industrious elves made their annual pilgrimage to Kohler Village (Kohler, Wisc.) on Dec. 9th to entertain the children of employees of the Kohler Co. The company sponsored the annual Christmas Party held at beautiful Kohler Memorial Theatre.



More than 5,000 children and parents attended the four performances presented this year. After the show each child received a Christmas stocking filled with Yule-tide candy, fruit and toys, as they left the theatre. Santa sat in the lobby to listen attentively to the children and wished each of them a "Merry Christmas."

- - - THE SHOW - - -

To get the show started Santa was escorted to his throne and Mel's band of musical clowns led the audience in the singing of several Christmas favorites.

The circus program consisted of five acts, all booked by Mel Hummitzsch Theatrical Agency, Inc. of Sheboygan, Wis. In addition Mel and his clever clown band presented a short concert before each performance and Mel served as ringmaster and announcer. His timely comments kept the show moving rapidly and smoothly.

The program included:

- The Frauensteins - German jugglers.
- The Olmedas - Cycling Acrobats (4)
- Lacy's California Seals
- Anden's Poodle Revue
- Faye & Bry - Pantomime Comedy

Happy Joe (Guisippe Dominic Ferreri) and his partner Bry (Ben Hogan) provided an unusual pantomime routine. According to Guisippe, their act is in style again today, and their antics were well received. He is a well known trouper from the old-time burlesque days and stage shows, and has performed throughout the U. S. The number was a delightful and welcome return of entertainment that had been discontinued for several decades. The act was appealing the kiddies and is scheduled to appear on several Shrine shows next year.

HISTORICAL FACT

Aerial bar performers with the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus of 1908 included:

George Smith, Pearl Wilson, Clarence Stokes, Walter Guice, Abe and Pete Adair, Bert Delno and Fred Pirard.

Lacy's talented California seals were billed as a group of noisy and frolicious seals and they were exactly that. Lacy Toth and his capable wife, Lucia, have been presenting the seals for five years. Mr. Lacy, who has been in show business for 43 years, was born in Hungary. He has appeared on the Hamid Morton and Hubert Castle Circus, as well as with Rudy Bros. and the Bewitched TV show.

Anden's Poodles showed exceptional skill and the capering canines cleverly exemplified their expertise everytime they appeared on stage. Without exaggeration it was a fine dog act.

The Olmedas Troupe of cycling acrobats have an exciting and pleasing act. In addition to being masters of the cycles they are impressive jugglers. Their act is a superior team effort by Antonio, Jose, Enrique and Irmhild Olmeda, wife of Enrique. Her husband was with Ringling Bros. in 1958, and the present troupe was organized in 1968. They'll be with the Polack Bros. Circus in 1973.

Heinz Frauenstein and his wife, Margaret, presented an amazing teeterboard number. Their juggling is also noteworthy. The daring Heinz thrilled the crowd with his teeterboard and knife act, whereby the knife is thrown into the air and lands in a cushion on his head. He was born in Dresden, Germany and at one time was with the Moscow State Circus. He came to this country in 1961, and has appeared with many shows and circuses in the ensuing years.

It was certainly a pleasant day of entertainment for children and parents, an unusual Christmas gift sponsored by the Kohler Co. This firm was founded in 1873 and employs over 5,000 persons. It was my good fortune to work in the company's Sales Dept. (their plumbing products are sold all over the world.) At the present time they are making plans for an elaborate 100th anniversary celebration next year.

PEOPLE

MONTIE MONTANA was recently a guest on the TV show "To Tell the Truth."

ANDREW EGGERS is looking for photos of athletic circus women. You can write him at: 2961 Ridge Road, Manlius, N. Y.

PICASSO is currently appearing with the TV Circus in England. He plans to be there over the holidays.

JAY BEARDSLEY reports he was able to visit several circuses in Wisconsin during the past summer season.

FRANK and BERNICE DEAN, whip artists, are in Mexico for the winter season.

KAY ALLEN was hospitalized last week with a ruptured tumor, while CARMEN HENRY was hospitalized after a mis-carriage.

ED MOTTA visited the Ringling-Barnum Blue Unit at Springfield, Mass. on Dec. 2nd and 3rd.

SEITZ and MENDEZ, wire act, are now playing winter dates and reportedly will not be back with the RBBB show in 1973.

GERALDO, the Clown, plans to tour with Rudy Bros. Circus in 1973.

LAURENCE CROSS, clown, slipped and fell last week, and broke his wrist. He is remaining at home in Pittsburg, Calif.

THE GAONA FLYING ACT is currently appearing with the Circus Festival at Madrid, Spain.

Dr. GEORGE BOYD reports the Pacific Coast Showmen's Assoc. held their annual Memorial Services at the Evergreen Cemetery (Los Angeles, Calif.) on Dec. 3rd.

EMMETT KELLY, Jr., received a special feature write-up with five photos in the Dec. 2nd issue of What's Happening paper in Georgia.

BOB EMRICO, clown, has reportedly signed to appear for several holiday shows during the month.

BERT HANSEN, novelty act, is working Holiday dates despite a bad cold and adverse weather in the area.

NOTES

Some 100,522 people attended the Grand Nationals at San Francisco, Calif. on Oct. 27-Nov. 5. They paid \$301,809 to see the annual show.

Tanya, the elephant (owned by Jenda Smaha) recently won an "Entertainer of the Year" award in the field of live entertainment.

Both the Clark & Walters and Fischer Bros. Circuses are planning to open early in March for the 1973 season.

Officials recently found a cache of dope in the floor of two cages in which bears were shipped to San Francisco from Nepal.

The Zacchini X-15 Double Cannon has been presented to the Ringling Museum of the Circus.

Contrary to earlier reports the Police Dept. at Pittsburgh, Pa. reports they are not sponsoring any circus this year.

The Ringling-Barnum show will be at St. Petersburg, Fla. early in January for the annual TV filming of the circus.

THRILLS ON WHEELS, roller skaters, have worked two benefit shows in the San Francisco (Calif.) area this month.

DON MARCKS, was MC for three Christmas Shows in his home area this past week. He also does comedy magic routines.

RAY NEWSOME reportedly has been working as Santa Claus for Christmas parties in the Oakland, Calif. area.

JIM DANDY, unicyclist, is keeping busy performing over the current Holiday season.

Thames Crossed by Tight Rope

German building instructor, Franz Burbach (31), walked across the River Thames on an 800 foot long tightrope, 55 feet above the water, near Southwark Bridge in London. The event took place on August 23.

Herr Burbach, using a 32 foot balancing pole, completed the walk from the south bank in 13 minutes. During a similar attempt last year, he fell into the river halfway across. He is now looking for a sponsor for

his plan to break the 3,790-yard-long tightrope walk record across the Rhine in Germany, set by a Frenchman in 1969.

With Karl Wallenda's "walk in the sun" across the Tallulah Gorge in Georgia, and nude trapezist Angela Revell's trapeze stunt from an aeroplane in Sydney recently, and now Franz Burbach, it seems as though the dare-devil aerial stunts, so famous during the twenties, are coming back into vogue.

ROUTES

Belle Vue Circus
Dec. 20 Manchester, England
(Opening date)

Bugs Bunny Show
Dec. 18 Melbourne, Australia

Shenyang Acrobat Troupe of Manchuria
Dec. 18-24 Chicago, Illinois

John Strong Circus
Dec. 18 Oakland, Calif.
19 San Jose
-- End of the Season --

fascinating acts

Had to be in Las Vegas for a couple days last week, writes M. Simic, and as a result saw some nice acts.

Novelty acts seen working at the Las Vegas hotels were:

Tropicana Hotel . . .
Gus Augspurg - monkeys

Dunes Hotel
The Stupide Troupe - acrobats
Rico - illusions

Stardust Hotel . . .
Rudy Cardenas - juggler
The Volantes - unicycles
Robbi La Londe - ice skater
Dominique - pick pocket
Seigfried & Roy - magic

Circus Circus Casino . . .
Anna's Poodles Miss Astrid

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