



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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It's okay

In a recent British newspaper item Don Stacey reports that 1972 was not a bad year for circuses on the whole. The spirit of the circus, so much a part of London's Olympia Grand Hall is not yet completely dead, he adds.

In 1972, says Stacey, the circuses of England gritted their teeth and went out after business, and got it too. They sank capital into equipment, vehicles, improved programs and their business activities in general.

The Bill Smart Circus didn't go out last year (they sold their elephants to Ringling-Barnum), but instead concentrated on development of their Safari Park. A few holiday engagements were played and now that they have acquired new elephants and lions one can expect them to be back on the road in 1973.

There were several news shows out in 1972, Stacey reports. These included the Dunning & Wild (See Circus Report for Jan. 8, 1973); Circus Apollo; Cottle and Austen; plus the long established shows. Of special interest was the new Mary Chipperfield Circus which uses the Italian title -- Circus Enis Togni.

The Rock Circus announced for 1972 failed to materialize, but says Stacey, the Welfare State Circus Co. did tour and gave the circus a bad name. It is sponsored by the Art Council, and other funds, thus competing against shows that have no support except from the box office.

Fossetts & Duffeys were playing in
(Continued on Page 2 - Column 1)

long tour planned

"Even though there is a lot of competition we're looking forward to our best year ever," reports John Strong. "Our '73 tour," he added, "will start on March 17 at Blythe, Calif. and we'll be out until late December."

"Read with interest your recent article 'The Rush East' and want to let you know that even though we'll be playing out-of-state this summer, we will make two tours through California. In fact as the other canvas shows head East we'll be able to play many cities that we have not been in up to this time."

For its canvas tour the John Strong Circus will use a new big top -- 70 ft, with one 30 ft. and two 20 ft. middle pieces. All the poles are aluminum and were made by Wally Bickmore. There will be a new stereo sound system, a new light plant and another truck with the show.

John reports that personnel and program for the 1973 season are now being set. But, says John, you can say that we have signed these people.

Chester Cable - superintendent
Norman Davis - mechanic
Viola Davis - concessions
Tom Bishop - clown, trampoline, wire
Robin Farnsworth - swinging ladder
The Wendany Family - balancing act
Dick Cross - organist
David Slusser (Hi Ho, the Clown) advance

Dave Slusser will be working ahead of the show, John said, and he'll be in town
(Continued on Page 3 - Column 2)

pet zoo ok

The very fine Commerford & Shea Petting Zoo recently spent two days at the Allentown, Pa. Fairgrounds (Feb. 3-4). This show's home base is Wolcott, Conn., and they play extensively along the East coast.

They have an elephant, camel and a pony ride, plus eight miniature circus wagons and several pens, all of which are used to house a variety of animal life -- animals, birds and fowl.

They also have concession stands and the whole operation is a high class, cleandeal. These partners, relatively new to the amusement scene, deserve good patronage and they got it at Allentown.

. . . . Bob Good

star dies

High wire performer Henning Schmucker suffered a fatal heart attack after completing a matinee performance with Hubert Castle Circus at Fort Wayne, Ind. on Feb. 3rd. The 45 year old performer, a member of the Danish Trio Angellos (an aerial motorcycle act) died in the show dressing room at the Memorial Coliseum.

Schmucker, who was reportedly from Gibsonton, Fla., was buried at Fort Wayne.

IT'S OKAY (Continued from Page 1)

Ireland despite the troubles over there. Then during the holidays they played the Grove Theatre at Belfast.

Now that 1973 is underway and with Britain joining the European Common Market everyone is anxious to see what sort of business will develop this year for the circuses. At least one foreign show, The Circus Sarrasani, of Germany, has already announced plans to tour in Britain during the year, with a three month stay in London.

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cheers for circus

The Hubert Castle Circus had turn-away business for every performance at Fort Wayne, Ind. (Feb. 2-4) reports Fred Becker of that city.

The local newspaper reviewer - Marjorie Barnhart, of the News-Sentinel -- says the circus is a show that's worth cheering about. The program is filled with new acts, she added, all of them exciting.

A couple of unusual events took place during the opening performance, she said. Both kept your heart beating at a rapid pace.

While trying for the triple, the flyer (The Flying Latinos) crashed into the catcher and fell into the net. He was in such pain that he was unable to go on and had to be helped from the arena. (He was not seriously injured).

Roger Smith's cat act turned into a duel when one of the tigers refused to do a trick. Smith never gave up and finally won out over the big cat.

Tightwire performer Rudolfo Alles fell and cracked his head rather hard on the floor. However, he was back on his feet quickly and completed his act successfully.

LETTERS

Read with interest your item in the Jan. 15th issue of Circus Report about the King Edward Wild Animal Circus. They seem to be the same people that I saw at the Allentown (Pa.) Fair in 1912 or 1913. But they were with the Col. Francis Ferrari Carnival at that time.

In their introductions they mentioned Capt. Herbertino, an Italian who worked a group of lions, and Mlle. Flora, who had a leopard act.

They also had a bear act and an elephant with the show. The show front was a beautiful thing with carvings, gold leaf and a band organ.

Do you suppose these people were what was left of the Bostock Wild Animal Show acts?

. . . . Bob Good

successful date

That two day showing of the Caltech Children's Circus (Pasadena, Calif. on Jan. 27-28, was a great success. The weather was good and there were turnaway crowds for each performance.

The show was like an old-time circus with good acts and a great band. Chuck Burnes served as ringmaster and did an outstanding job. He was a clown on the Kingling show for many years and for the past three years was with the Disney on Parade Show. Incidentally, this was the first time the Burnes family had worked together professionally.

Chuck Burnes - ringmaster
Bambi Burnes - iron jaw and web
Chip Burnes - clown (8 years)
Rick Burnes - "Cupid" in spec (3 yrs)

The circus litho display from Baraboo was beautiful and a sight to behold. The movie "Greatest Show on Earth" was shown three times each day, and then of course there were good displays by the various members of the Al G. Barnes CMB Ring of Los Angeles.

This show is getting better every year and already they are planning for the coming year and will probably have a midway with banners and everything.

The only thing bad is that the name causes some confusion for it is not a show that's just for the kiddies.

.Gene Moreland

Family Business

In Italy the name "Togni" is a popular one in the circus world. Many members of this family operate their own show.

One such show is the Circus Togni, operated by Oscar Togni. Acts appearing on his show include:

Jerry, Jimmy & Jonny - riding act
The Oriatos - aerialists
The Millettys - acrobats, cycles and a dog act
Leo Cristiani - lions
The Flying Zamgannos

SHOW LOSS

The circus world is mourning the loss of the circus building at Montmartre, France. The charming old building has been demolished to make way for a new, modern office building.

The Montmartre Circus building was built in 1874 for the Cirque Fernando Beert. The clown Medrano was popular at that show, and often was the headline attraction.

In 1909, M. Botent took over the building. He operated it until 1928, when Jerome Medrano gained possession of it. His Medrano Circus flourished there for years, until the ground lease expired.

Then the Bouglione family took over the building. They renamed it Cirque de Montmartre and held circus programs there for just a few weeks each winter. The rest of the year the building was used as a tavern for tourists.

LONG TOUR PLANNED (Continued)

about two weeks before the circus arrives. We also have some other advance plans and will announce them later.

Easter Week will find the show at Phoenix, Ariz. They then jump back to California and Nevada. On June 18-19 the show will be in Albuquerque, N.M. after which they head east for a few months. A good many dates here on the west coast, says John, as well as those in the East have been booked and promoted by Jim Hargrave.

"You can be sure," John told The Circus Report last week, "that you will be able to report my route on an exclusive basis."

TO THE EDITOR

Read your article in Circus Report of Jan. 15, 1973 (Vol. 2 No. 2) and want to correct it in regards to Reid Bros. Circus.

We are currently playing the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, California, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana. Our final date will be Nov. 22nd at New Orleans.

. . .John Reid, Executive Prod.
Reid Bros. Circus

notes

RBBB has a new Elama which was born in late December. They also have two giraffes at their Florida quarters.

Polack Bros. Circus will play for three days at Allentown, Penna. this year.

The Forest Park Zoo (Springfield, Mass) has sent its elephant "Morganetta" to the Frank Stevensen Drive In Zoo (Baltimore, Ind.) until they build a new elephant house for her.

The City Council at Girton, Eng. turned down a request to let the "weight's Famous Family Circus" play there. It will be too easy for children to get tetanus if they should fall and get cut, they said.

The Miller Johnson Circus will play in Southern California in late April, residents of that area report.

Madison Square Garden Corp. had consolidated revenues of \$58,540,000 for the six month period ending Nov. 30, 1972. At the same time a year earlier they reported revenues of \$62,471,000. Net income came to \$532,000 equal to .02¢ a share, as compared to the previous year's total of \$1,838,000 or .08¢ per share.

Cal Expo Under Attack Again

SACRAMENTO (AP)—A new attempt to abolish the California State Exposition and Fair is under way.

For the fourth year, Assemblyman Kenneth Cory, Garden Grove, introduced legislation



yesterday to sell the Cal Expo facility in Sacramento.

Cory said the State Fair should alternate between the Los Angeles County Fair and the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton.

long tour seen

This could be our best tour ever, says Dave Twomey, owner and manager of the Happytime Circus. Last year we were the first canvas season to open and the last to close, he added, and this year will be a repeat of that record.

will be a repeat of that record.

The show recently purchased some Groovy Cars and also a concession wagon, which Twomey figures will greatly increase their financial inflow.

The circus will be playing most of the same stands they played in 1972, along with a variety of new spots. As a result the year is going to be full and busy for the Twomey family. A few trips will be made out-of-state for special dates, but on the whole the show will be playing mostly mostly in Calif.

Their big top is 50 x 80 ft. and is blue with red and white trim. Its poles, seating and all props are painted in pastel colors.

NOTES . . . Cars on & Barnes Circus opens at Austin, Texas on Mar. 18

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SMIDGENS

—By Bob Cordray



ROUTES

Artisten Tiere Circus
 Thru Mar 11 Vienna, Austria
 Hubert Castle Circus
 Feb. 23-25 Albuquerque, N. M.
 Cole All Star Circus
 Feb. 19 Dansville, N.Y.
 20 Hinsdale
 21 Friendship
 22 Belfast
 23 Galeton, Penna.
 24 Salamaneca, N. Y.
 L. N. Fleckles Circus
 Feb. 20-25 Milwaukee, Wisc.
 Hamid-Morton Circus
 Feb. 22-25 Wichita, Kans.
 William Kay Circus
 Feb. 23-25 Madison, Wisc.
 Kaye Continental Circus
 Feb. 15-25 Cleveland, Ohio
 Miller Johnson Circus
 Feb. 11-13 Orlando, Fla.
 16-18 Jacksonville
 Ringling-Barnum (Blue Unit)
 Thru Feb. 25 Atlanta, Ga.
 Ringling-Barnum (Red Unit)
 Feb. 21-27 Richmond, Va.
 Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show
 Feb. 19 Albany, Ga.
 20 Tifton
 21 Carrollton
 22 La Grange
 23 Phenix City
 24 Eufaula, Ala.
 25 Dethan
 SPECIAL . . .
 Nashville Sports Show
 Feb. 20-25 Nashville, Tenn.

PEOPLE

THE WHEELERS (Marimba act); Pat Arieta and Clark McDermott were seen at the recent Western Fairs Assoc. Convention.

THE HARTZELL's have the concessions on Stan Kramien's magic show in the Pacific Northwest states.

WHITEY BLACK and FLOYD KING have been booking dates in Kansas. Whitey is working ahead of Carson & Barnes.

PETE PEPKE reports from Florida that Miller-Johnson and Ringling-Barnum are doing good business at each stand.

THE WENDANY FAMILY will take out their own show again this year. They'll play in the mid-west at towns booked by JOHN TRIPP.

BILL COUCH, wire artist, is featured in the new Ford Torino TV advertisements.

BAXTER, the Illusionist, was featured on the TV show "To Tell The Truth" on Feb. 5th.

FRANK BASSETT has been named to succeed DAVID BARNES as CFA Secretary in England.

BOB EMRICO reports business is very good for his magic show which is touring in Oregon and Washington.

HUGO MARQUARDT is helping to train a new tiger for the Hanneford Circus.

KINKO, The Clown, now living in retirement in Florida, reports he feels fine, but his eyesight is failing fast.

TREVOR BALE and family will tour with Rex Rossi's horse show this summer.

LLOYD MORGAN is helping to frame the RBBB Circus City center. His son is serving as manager of the Blue Unit this year.

JOHN LEWIS recently visited with Hoxie Tucker in Florida.

ROMAN SCHMIDT is helping his father train Ringling's new herd of elephants in Florida.

JOEFFRY, escape artist and magician PAT LAKEY worked for Brooks Camera Shop in San Francisco, Cal. early this month.

JOHN STRONG and JIM HARGROVE recently made a trip to Mexico.

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BELL SYSEM FAMILY THEATRE presents
HIGHLIGHTS OF RINGLING BROS.
AND BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS

Sunday, Feb. 25th - 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. (NBC TV) -- Lorne Greene will be host, and world famous animal trainer Gunther Gebel-Williams will be featured in this new program, with acts from the 103rd edition of The Greatest Show on Earth.

spring tour

A three week tour has been announced for the Buckeye Society Circus by its owner/manager Bill Bale of Westerville, Ohio. The show will open on March 26th and closes at Butler, Ohio on April 13th. All of the dates will be in school gyms or auditoriums.

Acts signed for the tour include:

- The Bentons - acrobats
- The Miller Family - serial numbers
- Hal Haviland - paper tearing, plus dog and pony revue
- The Cyclonians - unicycles
- Bill Bale - illusions
- Al Ross and Smiley Corbin - clowns

The program is expected to run two hours. Music will be provided by a celistiope and taped musical numbers.

The show's staff will include:

- Bill Bale - general manager
- Bob Corin - advertising manager

Beginning Journey

The Italian show Circo Cesare Togni will start touring in Norway this April, after having spent some time in that country as a part of the Circus Arnardo. The show has some 80 wagons and uses a big top that seats 4,000 people.

The circus program features:

- Capt. Francis - lions
- Cesare Togni - liberty horses
- Viviana Togni - riding number
- Gianni Rossi - equilibrist
- The Togni's - trampoline
- The Bogis - perch act
- Spaghetti - clown
- Jolson - illusions
- The Jarz Troupe - flying trapeze
- Duo Bil and Bill
- The Togni Troupe - riding number
- Elvio Togni - elephants
- Six Rossis - musical clowns

SPECIAL DATES . .

The Tucson Rodeo

Feb. 22-25 Tucson, Arizona

QUEBEC Winter Carnival

Feb. 22-March 4 Quebec, Canada

- Richard Hummel - concessions
- Al Ross - producing clown
- Hal Haviland - equestrian director
- Charles Van Buskirk - announcer
- Barry Miller - serial director