



Volume 2

January 22, 1973

Number 3

World's Greatest

A famous circus personality - Lucio Cristiani - was recently named to the Sarasota Circus Celebrities by the Ringling Museum of the Circus, and the Showfolks of Sarasota, Fla. Lucio received his award at a reception in the John Ringling Residence on Dec. 3rd.

Originator of many of the most complicated and dangerous stunts performed in bareback riding, Cristiani was presented with a plaque by Ringling Circus Museum Curator John Hurdle. A special display of his costumes, props, photos and posters will be featured at the Ringling Museum for a period of three months.

A performer for 60 years, Cristiani has appeared with numerous circuses such as Ringling-Barnum, Clyde Beatty, James Bros, etc. He now has his own circus act.

Deciding Whether to Decide

This is going to be a year of decision for CFA members, at least for those who live in the San Francisco, Calif. area.

They are going to have to decide whether they'll attend the CFA Convention in Seattle, Wash. (Aug. 23-25), or stay at home and see the Ringling-Barnum Red Unit at the Oakland Coliseum.

At the Seattle Convention the group will be honored by the De Wayne Bros. Circus, which made such a hit with the CFA a few years back.

R/B Red Wins Again

The 103rd edition of the Ringling-Barnum Circus -- The Red Unit -- is on the road and critics are applauding it.

In addition to 25 new acts, who are making their American debut, the show features five big specs.

The first of the production numbers is called "Fanfare" and brings out most of the circus performers. It's all a lead-in to the introduction of Gunther Gebel-Williams, who comes in riding a Roman chariot, then dashes into an arena full of tigers.

The second event is "The Eagles Call" an aerial ballet number with 30 girls, which features Elvin Bale. He's billed as "Thunderbird of the Trapeze."

"Once Upon a Circus" invites two spectators to serve as king and queen of a circus fantasyland. They visit an enchanted forest and are greeted by the circus performers.

The spec "2002 An Elephant Odyssey" features Gebel-Williams' elephant act, plus clowns and girls. It's truly an outer space number.

The finale - "And The Beat Goes On" has the entire company back, plus Gebel-Williams for an encore. This time he offers his exciting new act with tigers, horses and an elephant.

(Continued on Page 3 - Column 1)

CIRCUS INVENTORY

When you inventory the circus,
 You count the poles and stakes
 And add in all the canvas,
 That its canopy takes.

You figure in the bleachers
 From ringside to the top
 That seat the happy creatures
 Whose pleasure will never stop.

You count in the aerial stunters
 Who swing and fly through space
 And clowns whose comic blunders
 Give mirth to every face.

You include the wary trainer,
 And the cats he makes behave,
 As watchers change demeanor
 In concern for one so brave.

You need to add the clumsy bears
 And the cycles that they ride,
 Jugglers who run up flimsy stairs
 And tumblers full of pride.

Don't forget the circling steeds
 And the riders that they bear,
 High wire darers in awesome deeds
 And assisting damsels fair.

Remember too the elephants,
 That stack up and pose on knees,
 The stilt man tall in striped pants,
 And those clever chimpanzees.

Dainty ponies in formal stance,
 Also on the list must be,
 Dressed up dogs that strut and dance
 And scrambling ones in sport melee.

The ringmaster and circus band,
 Working crews that make things go,
 The calliope and parade props grand,
 And rolling stock you must show.

When you get it all recorded
 And the computer seeks its worth,
 The figures it has hoarded
 Miss the thrills and mirth.

In Memory

HEIDI COLE

Died

Jan. 5, 1973

A Gilt-Edged Year

We had our best year ever last season, reports Hubert Castle, and we're anticipating an even better year for '73.

This year's tour for the Hubert Castle Circus will start at Grand Rapids, Mich. where the show opens today (Jan. 22) This six day stand will be followed by a busy schedule that will find the circus moving through many states to play for Shrine Clubs everywhere.

The 1973 program will include five numbers that are being presented in this country for the first time. In addition to the steady acts signed for the entire season extra acts will be added to the show for the many big and special dates that this circus plays.

(A list of the show's acts will be found on another page)

The spirit of the performance
 No tally will reveal
 And the anxious moments
 Not only stars can feel.

The public alone can put a value
 On these properties it loves
 And let each heart thus tell you
 As it somehow always does.

The circus must go on forever
 In spectacle and full glee
 And remain a joyous treasure
 For generations yet to be.

LOUIS J. HORN

NOTES

The Happytime Circus was the first show in the country to open under canvas this year. That date was last week.

One of the Powers' elephant's baseball uniforms was recently acquired by the New York City Library, Theatre Collection.

The Oakland (Calif.) Police Officers Assoc. reports they are no longer sponsoring circus type promotions.

R/B RED WINS AGAIN (Continued)

Among the new acts this year are: Hargita Troupe, from Hungary, jugglers; The Tsekovis Troupe, from Bulgaria, who work on giant swings; the acrobatics of Atlas, who dives from the top of the arena; The Pinotos, of Switzerland, high sway pole act; Violetta, princess of the trapeze;

Other feature acts include: Wolfgang Holzmaier, lion act; The Charles Troupe, on teeterboard; The Jupiters, an aerial number; Gran Picaso, juggler; Mitica, unicycle balance; Pio Nock & Co.; Althoff's bears; Jeanette Williams' Lipizan horses; The Flying Waynes and Flying Medallions; Miss Isabella, single trapeze; Rudy Lenz, Jack Rhodin and Mickey Antalek, chimp acts; Sarah Chapman, trapeze; Sigrid Gebel's liberty horses; the Virjoba Troupe, jugglers; the Petrov act on the high perch; Victoria, on the trapeze; the Sillagis on the teeterboard and the acrobatic Charivari.

People

FELIX ADANOS, juggler, recently completed several months work in Yugoslavia and is now playing dates in Austria.

PAUL HUDSON, an assistant to LLOYD MORGAN on an RBBB unit, has reportedly left that show for another position.

JOHN STRONG visited with the Hanneford Family, the Bartoks and the Circus Hall of Fame during his holiday trip to Florida.

TAD TOSKY, old-time clown, is looking for additional names of clowns for his new book. Why not write him about yourself (give name, type of make-up, etc). 3121 South Avers Ave., Chicago, Illinois.

DAVID HAMMARSTROM had an interesting circus article in the Variety magazine for Jan. 3, 1973.

EVEL KNIEVEL escaped injury when his motorcycle exploded and burned at Las Vegas, Nevada not long ago.

CHRYS HOLT and TOM INABINETTE were married at Sarasota, Fla. on Jan. 3rd. They are both with Hubert Castle's Circus.

LUCIAN PHELPS, an entertainer at Finocchio's in San Francisco, Calif. died on Jan. 11th. He had been at the club for 25 years.

RAYMOND ESCORIA, former Cristiani band leader is reportedly living in the Bronx, N. Y.

POPOV, the Russian clown, was a feature on the Mike Douglas TV Show for early last week.

RALPH GREER, Box 123, Addison, Ill. is looking for an air calliope.



Have You Heard

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Write immediately to: Don Marcks, 525 Oak Street, El Cerrito, Calif. 94530

You'll be happy you got started reading the paper -- that's for sure.

Coming soon

The first big circus event in Southern California this year will be the 3rd annual presentation of the "Caltech Children's Circus" at the Beckman Auditorium in Pasadena. The two day event (Jan. 27-28) will offer four shows for the public.

The circus program will feature Miss Astra, sponge dive; Happy's Canine Review; The Willettys, juggling; Miss Aurora, iron jaw; The Bouncing Braytons, trampoline; Ken Willer, balancing; Miss Carjotta, single trapeze; an aerial ballet; clowns and the elephant Baby Neena. The entire program will be backed by the Caltech Circus Concert Band.

In addition to the circus performance there will be a display of old-time circus lithos, borrowed from the Circus World Museum, plus an exhibit of model circuses by various Southern California model builders.

A special feature during the two days will be the continuous showing of the movie "Greatest Show on Earth."

Tickets for the circus have been priced at \$1.50 for children and \$2.00 for adults.

not true

Inspectors from the Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service, Dept. of Agriculture, report there is no truth to the complaints about Jungle Habitat at West Milford, N. J. It had been implied, they said, that animals were forced to stay out in the cold without access to shelter.

Three inspections were made and at one time 11 lions were found out in the snow and rain, while 15 others were inside a large concrete building. All of the lions had free access to the building and could have been inside if they wanted to be. The same thing held true for the bears, they said.

Hoofed stock had free access to heated buildings. The elephants, rhino, ostrich and emu were kept inside build-

From: The Oakland Tribune (Calif.) 1-16-73

Injunction Dismissed In Puppet Show Case

The district attorney's office yesterday dismissed a petition for an injunction against promoters of a benefit puppet show after receiving assurances that allegedly misrepresentative ticket solicitation had ceased.

Deputy Dist. Atty. Alfred Bucher of the civil fraud division told Superior Court Judge Zook Sutton that the dismissal was without prejudice to renew the petition.

Advance ticket sales promotion for the fairgrounds production were conducted from a "telephone boiler room," Bucher said. He said the calls on behalf of the show being staged for a handicapped Boy Scout troop of San Leandro represented that proceeds also would benefit Scouts in other areas.

Complaints had been received from Castro Valley and Hayward citizens.

The prosecutor's office sued California Entertainment Enterprises of Stockton, the sponsoring San Leandro Junior Chamber of Commerce and promoter Jack O'Rourke of Castro Valley.

Attorney Leroy Parker, representing the Stockton firm, announced that in the trial of the case, which still pends, there will be no evidence of any fraud on the part of his client. He said that any misrepresentation would be found to be by "an individual person."

The junior chamber was represented in court by Attorney Anthony A. Blunden, who said that the show would go on as scheduled on Saturday.

BOOKS

"COME BACKSTAGE WITH ME" by Benny Rubin. Here's an opportunity read how it really was -- W. R. Hearst at San Simeon; Orson Welles' entrance into Hollywood; Max Baer's conquest in society. There's also stories about Lucille Ball, Charlie Chaplin, Al Capone, Milton Berle, Eddie Cantor, Jack Haley, Al Johnson, Ruby Keeler, George Jessel, Ziegfeld and many others.

Read about them all in this recently published volume.

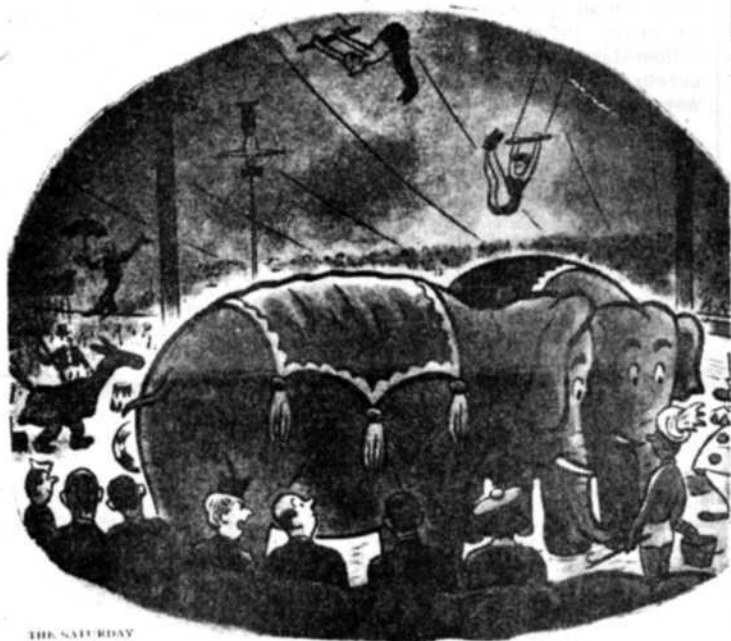
The book was published by the Bowling Green University Press of Bowling Green, Ohio - 43403. It contains some 225 pages, plus 40 pictures and sells for \$4.95.

ings that were heated to 70 degrees. Some animals were even kept warm by individual heat lamps.

"Overall care at Jungle Habitat was rated superior," says the APHIS. One inspector added, "The finest food and water is available. Sanitation is excellent. Qualifications of the management in animal care is superior. I would say the facilities approach the ideal."

ROUTES

- Cal-Tech Children's Circus
Jan. 27-28 Pasadena, Calif.
- Hubert Castle Circus
Jan. 22-27 Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Cole All Star Circus
Jan. 22 Shamokin, Penna.
23 Philipsburg
24 Spring Mills
25 State College
26 Huntingdon
27 Milesburg
- L. N. Fleckles Circus
Jan. 26-Feb. 11 Detroit, Mich.
- Moscow Circus
Jan. 24-28 Uniondale, N. Y.
- Pojack Bros. Circus
Jan. 13-21 Flint, Mich.
26-28 Roanoke, Va.
- Ringling-Barnum (Red Unit)
Jan. 24-30 Miami Beach, Fla.



THE SATURDAY
EVENING POST

"How much did you pay for these seats?"

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SHOW PROGRAM

Acts signed for the 1973 season by the Hubert Castle Circus include:

- Roger Zoppe Troupe of Arabian Riders
The Jan Mar Elephants
Roger Smith - lions and tigers
Marhal Camels and Llamas
Castle's Baby elephants
Cardinale - equilibrist (*)
Kassle's bears
The Flying Latinos - fling act
Trio Angelos - aerial motorcycle
Hernandez Troupe - teeterboard
Jose Cole - hand balancing
Charmaine's Sophisticated Playmates
Eduardo's Continental Taxi (*)
Rudolfo Alles - tightwire
The Young Duo - aerial team
Bisbini Trio - balance and juggling
Bounding Plunketts - trampoline
Cycling Wizards - unicycles/bicycles
Zavatta Troupe - unsupported ladder
Sanchez Troupe - teeterboard
The Pablos - forehead perch pole
Herman & Petunia - comedy Roman riding
Sylvia Trio - roly boly
Ponce Bros. - Forehead perch (*)
Evita - aerialist
Lee Marx - rolling globe and juggling
Arturo Ponce - Trapeze balance (*)
Chrys Holt - Har-hanging juggler
Mell Hall's monkeys
Cristina - Contortionist (*)
Yolanda - aerialist
(*) - Denotes first time in America

Clowns: Rex Young, (Producing), Jimmie Armstrong, Lee Marx, Dusty Rhoades, James Plunkett, Jeffrey Plunkett.

Staff:

- Hubert Castle - owner-manager
Tom Inabinette - assistant manager
Cleo Plunkett - ringmaster
Verner Schmucker - Supt. of Props
Cliff Moresi - band leader
Manley Gilbert - electrician
Corky Plunkett - Equipment Supt.
Bert Pettus - Elephant Supt.
Frank Krumenacher - Advance Sales

NOTES. . . .

MGM Studios are planning to remake the film "Trader Horn". Production will start sometime in the early part of this year.

Viewpoints

Critics everywhere were more than enthusiastic about the Shenyang Acrobatic Troupe from China during their recent tour of the United States. Some even noted that it was a shame the tour was so short.

Among the rave reviews were:

William Glover of Associated Press.. For anyone who remembers bygone variety or digs circus, the show is a constant and colorful delight.

Clive Barnes of the New York Times.. To call it sensational would be merely to underpraise it woefully.....These Chinese acrobats are close to the incredible.

Douglas Watt of the Daily News.. They performed a dazzling variety of feats... What was new was the irresistible charm with which everything was presented.

Jerry Tallmer of the New York Post.. It was worth writing for.

Probably the most spectacular performer on the show was Chao Sing-pai, who performs a handstand atop a stack of some 20 or so chairs.

Other featured numbers included Liu Chung, a magician, a fabulous bicycle act and the colorful opening number with dozens of ribbons filling the air.

HISTORICAL FACT

Touring with the Charles L. Alderfer Circus in 1913 were:

Nick Carter, clown; Scott Ruth, trapeze; Chas. Welch, acrobat; Sylvia Alderfer, wire act; Bert Pitts, clown; Mary Alderfer Solts, aerialist; Emma Alderfer, wife of the show's owner; Roy Alderfer, son of the owner and Charles L. Alderfer, the show's owner.

HISTORICAL FACT

Side Show personnel on the R. T. Richards Circus of 1917 included:

An Indian named Felix; Mr. and Mrs. George Cole; F. M. Farrell; Tillie Emery and Bill Walsh, manager.

Wrong Guess A Boon To Children

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A man operating a "guess-your-weight-or-you-win-a-prize" booth at the Alabama state fair recently tackled a group of 16 customers, guessed wrong on all of them and gave out prizes. He guessed wrong deliberately. The 16 kids were cerebral palsy victims who were special guests of the fair. "That was a fine thing you did," an officer who was escorting the group told the weight guesser.

"It was nothing," said the man. "But it means I've got to be right with the next 16 customers."



White Elephant Trail

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore's Guppy Club and Pet Farm needed an elephant for the 1973 Carnival Trade Fair, so they arranged for 8,000-pound Bala to walk down from Bangkok. Organizers said the elephant made the 800 miles on foot because its weight blew out trailer tires.