



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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## PARADE CALLED OFF — Energy Crisis

The energy crisis has forced the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. to cancel its annual July 4th parade at Milwaukee, Wisc.

In his announcement to the press, Robert A. Uihlein, Jr. president of Schlitz said, "we hope that we shall be able to hold the parade again in 1975." By that time, Uihlein added, he hoped the fuel problem will be resolved and that definite plans can then be made.

According to Uihlein the 1974 parade budget was approved last fall and a considerable amount of money and effort had already been spent on the '74 event. However, Schlitz will sponsor a fire works show -- billed as the biggest in the nation -- on the night of July 3rd, at the lakefront near Juneau Park.

Some 750 horses from throughout the U.S. and Canada have to be trucked into Milwaukee to pull the old-time circus wagons in the big parade. All those who have been invited accepted, but expressed their concern about the availability of fuel.

Bands are also a problem this year. The first section of the parade  
(Continued on Page 3)

## shrine show

The 1974 Moslem Shrine Circus here at Detroit, Mich., was produced by L. N. Fleckles. This year's show seemed to lack the flash that previous performances had. The George Hanneford, Jr., Riding act was listed in the show program, but didn't arrive until several days after the opening date.

Elephant numbers in the show were provided by Oscar Cristiani, Vidbell and John Cuneo. Incidentally Cuneo also had the tiger act with Bill Golden and the bear act with Herta Klauser.

The Flying Armors had Reggie trying for a three and a half to  
(Continued on Page 5)

# PEOPLE

THE GREAT BRUNO worked his sway pole act for the Western Fair Convention at Disneyland (Calif.) on Feb. 4-6.

IVAN HENRY reports business has been very good for the Suarez Circus in Mexico. They recently played a date at Puerto Vallarta.

BILL VAN ALMEN (Sparky, the Magic Clown) will tour universities and high schools this coming winter doing readings.

JOHN CLINE's elephant truck got caught in the mid-west truck strike while enroute to a Shrine date. His tires were slashed by angry truckers.

FAYE SNYDER recently worked her animal acts at a Baptist High School Circus for producers IDA and HENRY CROWELL.

FRANK and BERNICE DEAN will be touring with the Happytime Circus this season. They'll present their western and dancing horse acts.

PAUL FITZPATRICK is working on plans for a Spring Concert with Merle Evans, to be held in Georgia.

BOB LEONARD, animal trainer, is moving his winterquarters and work facilities to Mission, Texas.

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# Suit Filed

The expected circus battle at Washington, DC has already started to erupt, with the first guns being fired last week. In a 17 page suit, Irvin Feld, president of Ringling-Barnum has asked for \$7.5 million in damages, charging that Capitol Centre reneged on a verbal agreement with the circus.

Feld charges that Circus America, the Capitol Centre produced show, bought up all the available TV advertising around the Feb. 14 annual RBBB TV Highlight Show. "If they have a circus special," says a Capitol Centre spokesman, "we want people to know we're having a circus too."

Circus America will be offering five rings of acts, plus four big screens for instant replay of the acts. They claim to be bringing in some 50 acts that are new to the area.

Ringling-Barnum will play at the D.C. Armory and will emphasize its 104 year history. They are going to offer patrons bus service from the parking lot to the front door, and will also offer a menagerie and side show for the date.

Also included in Feld's suit is a demand that he be permitted to buy 24% of a National Hockey League franchise. He claims he was offered 24 to 49% in return for helping the Center obtain its hockey franchise. Now, he charges, he is offered only 3 1/3%.

## PEOPLE

MAURY CASTLEMAN plans to be on the John Strong Circus this season, backing the show with his drums.

BOBBY and ROSA GIBBS recently visited Circus Union and Circo Bar-nus in Mexico. He reports that his quarters at Mission, Texas, are busy every day and visitors are always welcome to come and watch the training and practice sessions.

DAVE TWOREY (Happy, the Clown) attended the Western Fair Convention at Anaheim, Calif.

### PARADE CALLED OFF (Continued)

ade is composed of various military bands and they have been concerned about the fuel shortage. Some 30 other musical units, mostly high school marching bands, were scheduled to be in the parade and they also would be traveling by special bus.

"We simply cannot plan such an intricate production without positively knowing that all participants can arrive safely and on time. It is doubtful, for example, that a horseman would leave home with a truckload of valuable horses without knowing that he could obtain fuel along the way -- and on his way home again."

In Baraboo, William Schultz, director of the Circus World Museum said: "In spite of the energy crisis and the cancellation of the parade, the Circus World Museum will be in full swing, expecting a banner year."

## ITS BIG ONE

The World Premiere of "Circus America" as presented by Capital Centre, has been announced in 7 x 11 in. advertisements in Washington, DC area newspapers. The show is advertised as a five ring circus which will feature 50 acts all new to the area.

Of special interest in connection with this show is the huge television screens which will be hung from the ceiling. This will enable spectators to watch close-ups of the action, plus instant replays of daring feats.

Among the acts advertised as appearing in the circus are: Emmett Kelly, Sr., clown; Karl Wellenda and the Wellenda Troupe; Farzan Zerbini and his wild animals; the Zucchini Cannon act; The Feller Boys; Victor Julian's dogs; the Sensational Leighs and Johnny Luxem on the high wheels; and Norbu, the almost human gorilla.

Prices for the show are set at \$4.50, \$5.50 and \$6.50.

### SUIT FILED (Continued)

Feld also charges that the Center promised to let his circus use its facility "on the most favorable financial terms that Ringling Bros. then had for any engagement in any locality in the United States and Canada, including sole and exclusive rights to the sale of cotton candy, snow cones, program books and novelties during circus performances."

# ROUTES

Allen's Petting Zoo  
Feb. 25-Mar 3 Irvine, Cal.

Mubert Castle Circus  
Feb. 28-Mar 2 Odessa, Texas  
Mar. 1-9 Minneapolis, Minn

Circus Vargas  
Feb. 25-27 Orlando, Fla.  
Feb. 28-Mar 2 Jacksonville

Cole All Star TV Circus  
Feb. 25 Waterloo, N. Y.  
26 Enroute  
27 Newfield  
28 Groten  
Mar. 1 Enroute  
2 East Rochester

Fisher Bros. Circus  
Feb. 25 Mercedes, Texas  
26 Mc Allen  
27 Los Fresnos  
28 Port Isabel  
Mar. 1-3 Brownsville

Hamid-Morton Circus  
Mar. 1-3 Topeka, Kans.

Holiday Hippodrome Circus  
Feb. 26 Gulfport, Miss.  
28 Selma, Ala.  
Mar. 1 Prattville  
2 Marietta, Ga.  
3 East Ridge, Tenn.

Ringling-Barnum - Red Unit  
Feb 27-Mar 3 Greenville, SC

Royal Lipizzen Stallion Show  
Feb. 25 Athens, Ga.  
27 Jacksonville, Fla.  
Mar. 1-3 Montgomery, Ala.  
4 Mobile

Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show  
Feb. 25 Sanford, Fla.  
26 Leesburg  
27 Clermont  
28 New Smyrna Beach  
Mar. 1 Enroute  
2 Jacksonville  
3 Brunswick, Ga.

... OTHER ROUTES ...

Disney on Parade  
Feb 27-Mar 3 El Paso, Tex.

Holiday on Ice  
Feb 26-Mar 3 Birmingham, Ala

Ice Capades  
Feb 26-Mar 3 Kitchener, Ont

Ice Follies  
Feb 26-Mar 10 Clevel'd, Ohio

Peter Pan Show  
Feb 26-Mar 3 Utica, N.Y.

Taiwan & Nat'l Chinese Caval.  
Feb 28- Mar 2 Seattle, Wash



## DO YOU LIKE CIRCUS MUSIC.....

Interested in Circus Band-leaders -- past and present

Want to learn more about composers, names of grand old marches, waltzes, galops and other numbers the circus band plays

JOIN NOW -- BEFORE THERE IS AN INCREASE IN DUES

Send \$3.00 for membership  
Make Checks payable to:

The Secretary  
WINDJANNERS UNLIMITED

Contact:

Percy Turner  
Windjammers Regional Director  
1510 Grand Avenue  
San Diego, Calif. - 92109



## Outdoor Ads

It's good to see outdoor advertising making a comeback with the Ringling-Barnum shows. This year the Red Unit used a number of standard 24 sheet billboards to advertise their date at Atlanta, Ga. on Feb. 13-27. At least a dozen or more were in use here.

The lithos feature the show title in red on a yellow background, with a large clown head and an elephant, plus the Greatest Show on Earth decal in blue. On the right side is a date sheet with white on red.

The show also used a tie-in with the popular Lum's Restaurants. With the purchase of a special Olive Burger one received an RBBB one sheet. Three designs are used -- the 103rd year special, a lion and tiger and a leopard head on a green background with red letters.

These are real one sheets (not miniatures or half sheets) and are printed on excellent quality paper. They were lavishly displayed on windows and walls of all local Lum outlets. This just may be the start of a return to this type of advertising, at least for selected dates.

Reports indicate the sale of miniature versions of old Ringling lithos through the program book have been very successful. Wouldn't it be great if the circus was to start selling miniature lithos of the old Corporation shows of

## PEOPLE

THE MALTINS and MISS JAN will be on the George Matthews Circus for the 1974 season.

C. C. DAY will be in the office on Carson & Barnes Circus this season, starting in March.

M. L. DUPONT visited the Holiday Hippodrome (stage) Circus at Lake Charles, La. on Feb. 18th. His review of the show will appear in next week's Circus Report.

THE RONRITAS, high wheel act, reports they have signed to tour with the George Matthews Circus for the coming season.

The SCHLITZ CIRCUS PARADE, an annual July 4th feature at Milwaukee has been presented with the Famous Freedom Award for 1973. The presentation was in recognition of the parade's recreation.

### SHRINE SHOW (Continued)

the catcher, but was unable to successfully complete the trick on many occasions.

Other acts appearing on the show's program were: The Fearless Bauers, the Sensational Leighs, the Rosell Troupe, Beresini's orangutans and the Hugo Zecchini cannon act, which closed the show. Musical director was Al Youngman.

.....Don F. Smith

the 1930's. They ought to be popular and would certainly help out the new collector.

....Joe Bradbury

## ANIMAL WELFARE

Controls affecting animal health and welfare have gained momentum under the watchful eye of the USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service. The courts are upholding most of the Service's charges, and several new dealers have been licensed and inspected.

Last year charges and fines were assessed against 14 individuals for violation of the Horse Protection Act. Charges against 5 others were unable to be proved, and charges against 38 others are still pending.

As of Feb. 1st, the USDA had licensed 4,585 animal dealers; registered 904 research facilities and licensed or registered some 913 animal exhibitors.

The drive against horse sores is gaining with all sore horses being barred from the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, without deliberating as to whether the horse had been sores intentionally.

Two quarantine stations for the importing of pet birds - Animal World at Miami, Fla. and David Mohler, of Los Angeles, Cal., have been approved. Dr. Bern Levine, of Miami, will begin to import birds as soon as he receives USDA approval.

Dog dealers have also been charged and fined for various violations of the animal act. Such violations have included failure

## YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - May 11, 1905

Thomas Hargreaves 15 car-Two Ring Circus.

The show arrived here early in the morning, starting the unloading work at 4:30 a.m. They have a 16 car train consisting of: 7 flat cars, 4 horse cars, 5 sleepers and 30 wagons.

Tents included: big ton (3 pole menagerie (2 poles), side show (2 poles), dressing tent (3 poles). The show animals are: an elephant, a camel, musk ox.

The parade was presented at 10 a.m. and it had a 10 piece band, several clowns, but only a few animals.

Attendance was good for both of the two shows.

It started to rain while they were loading the show, but even so they were on the cars and leaving for Westfield at 1 a.m.

**World's Fair**  
**Spokane, USA**  
**May 4 - Nov. 3**

to obtain a license, shipment of dogs across state lines without proper identification and the use of crates that are too small.



This photo was snapped on the Great Wallace Shows of 1912. Seated left to right are: Slivers Holland, asst boss canvasman; Joseph Sparenberg, head usher; Dick Barker and E. L. Burnett, both ushers. Standing, left to right are: George, a workingman; an usher whose name is not remembered; A. O. Duncan, mail man and Fred Miller, usher.

## Letters

Circus Report is a welcome weekly visitor. You get lots of real meaty news in its columns. I hope you can continue it indefinitely.

.....Eric Wilson

Certainly enjoy Circus Report -- you are doing a great job.

....Herbie Weber

We look forward every week to Circus Report -- keep up the good work.

.....Paul Horsman

Have just heard about your paper and want to subscribe immediately. Can I get back copies so I'll have a complete set?

.....Robert T. Miller

# TOP SECRET



### WHAT IS IT?

A deep, rich, black base with a concave top surface on which a small Saturn shape spins like a top - well almost like a top - the Saturn spinner is started like a top - with your hand - but then the fun and mystery starts. Watch for a moment and suddenly you will realize that the top is moving faster and faster, until it reaches almost 2500 revolutions per minute - and it moves - it moves all over the top of the base in some strange irregular pattern - and it goes and goes - start it in the morning - it will still be running at night and the next morning and the next. Well for a long, long time. Maybe a month, maybe a year. As long as you own it you can make it work - for ever and that's fascinating, but that's all we can tell you because it's a "TOP SECRET".

**Price \$10.00 Prepaid**

U. S. A. only



**HOUSE OF MAGIC**

2025 CHESTNUT STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 94123



THIS PICTURE of the Gran Circo Canaries, Cuban show, was snapped season of 1923-'24. Among acts appearing above are the Arley Duo, Original Three Bernards, Great Frederic and Company, Koch Tam Kia Troupe; May and Cherry, bar act, and a Mr. Gordon, who presented a boxing kangaroo.



Performers on Christy Bros. Circus of 1922 were: Back row - Jerry D. Martin, serialist; Ray O'Wesney, horseman; Ray Wood, clown; Josephine Martin, Mabel James and "Shorty" Evans. In front are: Kinko, Harry James (boy), Charles Nelson.



WITH the French poodle as mascot, this baseball team, all members of Lamont Bros.' Circus, didn't lose a game season of 1913. Second from left, standing, is Charles (Zeke) Baker, clown. The man in the "dickey" is Charles Lamont, owner-manager of the show, while the two on the right are Andy Nolan, superintendent of lights, and Frank Satiro, Japanese tight wire walker and hand-balancer. Seated at the right is Carl Williams, who did trampoline casting and flying with the show and pitched and played first base for the team.



This photo was taken at Stuttgart, Ark. on the Yankee Robinson Circus of 1916. In the back row are: Daisy Beckman, contortionist; Mona MacDhu, iron jaw; Maud E. Hickey, trapeze; Kate Smith, trained dogs; Gene MacDhu, iron jaw; Mrs. Jewell Lloyd, high school horses. Seated are: Ruth Weigle, iron jaw and trapeze; George Elser, the Merry-Go-Round operator; Rena Wingert, iron jaw and trapeze.



**THE FAMOUS AVALLON TROUPE** as it appeared in 1913 on the Barnum & Bailey Greatest Show on Earth. Top row, left to right: Archie Bell, "Windy" (last name not remembered), Mrs. Bob Avallon, Bob Avallon and "Dewey". Standing in front are Hazel Cotter and Naida Miller



**SOME SIDE-SHOW MEMBERS** of R. T. Richards' Circus, snapped August 7, 1917, at Windsor, Conn. Richard T. Ringling, son of Alf T. Ringling, owned the show. Standing, left to right, are Felix (Indian), Mrs. George Cole; F. M. Farrell, magician; George Cole and Tillie Emery. Bill Walsh, side-show manager, is holding the pony, Caldwell, born in Caldwell, N. J., the third day of the tour.

## Sawdust Trail

Jon Friday, who was manager of the Side Show and big show announcer on Sells & Gray Circus in 1973 will be partners with Ward Hall and C. M. Christ, with shows on Gooding's Million Dollar Midway for 1974. Already signed with them for the show are the Jerry Conklin Family, of Colon, Mich. who will present the Zig Zag Illusion as recently seen on Mark Wilson's TV special.

A new show is being formed in Florida for the 1974 season called "Continental Circus." Probably coming out of the Miami area.

Ringling-Barnum has signed a contract to play Monroe, La.'s Civic

Center on July 22-24, A three day stand that starts on Monday. The circus by-passed Monroe last year.

The Northeast Louisiana Shrine Club is negotiating for a new circus to be held in their city in Nov. 1974. CFA fan and clown M. L. Dupont is meeting with both the Shrine Club and Civic Center to help decide on a name show for 1974.

Rumor has it that the Paul Keye Circus will play Shreveport, La., in September for the local Shrine Club.

Gene Christian, advance agent on Royson Bros. Circus in 1973, hasn't signed any 1974 contracts thus far. He states he is undecided as to whether he wants to go on tour this season.

Jon Friday visited both Circus Vargas and Ringling-Barnum Red Unit while in Florida on business.

..... M. L. Dupont

### HISTORICAL FACT ....

About 1900 Gentrys Dog and Pony Show was advertising a cast of 150 dogs, ponies, monkeys and baby elephants could be seen in every show performance. They usually offered a matinee at 2:30 and an evening show at 8 pm. All at reasonable admission prices.



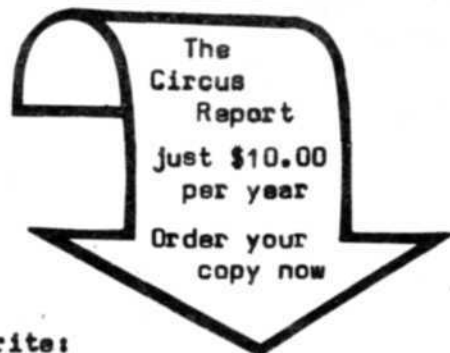
SOME MEMBERS of the Scribner & Smith Circus, season of 1894. Standing, left to right, are Harry Hill, Billy St. Elmo; next not remembered; Mrs. St. Elmo, Robert Stickney Sr., Frank Burchim, Jules Jordan, Emma Stickney, Charles McPhee and Billy O'Dale. Left to right, seated: Madeline Smith; Sam Scribner, co-owner of the show, and Jessie Boyd. On the ground, left to right, are Billy LaRue, M. Tude and George Hartzell.



# finale

JANE THOMAS, mother of the Flying Melzoras, died at Saginaw, Mich on Feb. 3rd, following a stroke. She was 87 yrs old and had worked on the trapeze until she was 76. Two sons, Buster and Bill, and a daughter, Ann (wife of the late Ray Thomas) survive.

BILL SLOAN, veteran circus man and owner of Bill Sloan's Monkey Business attraction, died at Aliquippa, Pa. on Jan. 26th. He worked up until last year when he suffered a stroke, and had planned to be back in business this year.



Write:

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El Cerrito, Calif. - 94530



BOX 2512  
SARASOTA, FLA 33578  
TEL. 813-924-6763

# notes

King Bros. Circus will open at Apoka, Fla., while Sells & Gray is going to open on the same day at De Land, Fla.

A specialty store in San Francisco, Cal. is advertising R888 pop corn at just 19¢ per package. The regular price is 39¢.

Fisher Bros. Circus trucks are newly painted - red with yellow numbers - for the coming season.

Some 90% or more of the items in Circus Report are provided by various readers and friends.

Both R888 and Circus America ran full page advertisements in the Washington, DC Post on Feb. 10th.

The Happytime Circus played a date at the Sonoma State Hospital (Calif.) on Feb. 19th, then jumped to Pismo Beach for the Clam Diggers Festival on Feb. 21-23.

Rumor has it that a new show is set to open on the West Coast soon.

## FOR SALE

Clark & Walters Collector kit. The kit includes a choice pictorial, tickets, passes, letterheads, advance forms, route cards, herald, color book and program (color book was drawn by Mrs. Silverlake)

While they last - just \$3.50, plus 75¢ for postage.

Barnes & Daly Circus; Box 197-A;  
Dept. C&W; Medora, Indiana 47260.

## show preview

The all new 1974 edition of the Hamid-Morton Circus will open March 1st, at Topeka, Kans. For several years the show made Topeka their opening date, but last year it was decided to open at the new Century II Arena in Wichita. However, things are back as they were and the show will open once again at Topeka.

Vice-President James Hamid announced that this year's show is to be the best in Hamid-Morton's 32 year history. Feature acts appearing in the show will be: Eloise Berchtold's mixed wild animal act; the Flying Del Steeles and Miss Berchtold's performing elephants.

Charles Baisle, who has been the show's announcer for many years will be on the staff this season as general manager. Replacing him will be Mike Klucker, who previously worked as a clown in the show. As usual, Al Youngman, will be the show's musical director

.... David M. Chabira

## *THE Circus*

A group of west coast hippy type people recently presented a Circus at "The Last Great Hiding Place" restaurant in Northern California.

The program, presented at 7, 8:30 and 10 p.m. on Feb. 1st, featured several clowns, a fire eater, juggler, unicyclist and a human anvil.