



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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Mattel Sells The Big Circus and Park

In a desperate move to raise money and thus stay alive, Mattel, Inc., has sold Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. Included in the sale is Circus World Park, at Orlando, Florida, which is currently under-construction.

Inside sources report that Mattel agreed to the sale last week "to a major U. S. industrial corporation." The sale price has not been disclosed, but the circus is the only profit-making subsidiary the toy firm had. After taxes the circus realizes a profit of about \$2 million a year.

In Dec. 1970, it was announced that Mattel, Inc. was about to buy the circus, if stockholders approved the sale. To acquire RBBB, Mattel swapped 1,250,000 shares of stock for 3,460,000 shares of RBBB. At the

(Continued on the last page)

star ill

Johnny Weismuller, a former film Tarzan, is confined to a Las Vegas hospital with a serious cardiac condition.

Weismuller, 69, was admitted to Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital on Dec. 19th, after falling and breaking a hip at Caesars Palace Casino where he is employed.

While being treated for his hip injury the cardiac disease was discovered.



NOTES

A total of 43 show days have been scheduled for the 1974 Texas Shrine Circus dates.

Australia's Sole Bros. Circus was presented as a free attraction at a recent Royal Adelaide Show.

The Happytime Circus played holiday dates at San Pablo, Cal. Dec. 21 and Sacramento Dec. 22.

The new Leonardo's Circus, a family show, is now touring in New Zealand.

A brand new show called "Dailey Bros. Circus" will open this spring in Texas.

At least three circuses will play the San Francisco, Calif. area during the early months of 1974.

HOLIDAY TIME

Acts working for the holiday season (Nov. 19-Dec. 23) at the Mt Airy Lodge in Mt. Pocono, Pa. this season were:

The Flying Apollos
 Althoff's bears
 Burger's chimps and dogs
 Hassani Troupe - tumblers
 Lazlo & Lazlo, Jr - one man band

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RBBB clowns

Last week RBBB Circus announced the names of those Clown College graduates who had been given contracts to appear with the show's two units during the 1974 tour. While the new clowns come from throughout the country, the majority are from California.

Touring with the Blue Unit will be: Gayle LaJoye, Escanaba, Mich.; Terry Parsons, Sissonville, W.Va.; James Shill, West Carrollton, Ohio; James Tinsman, Berkeley, Calif. and Ed Smith, Redlands, Cal

Touring with the Red Unit will be: Toby Cicchino, Newark, N. J.; Michael Davis, Denville, Cal.; Gregory Dean, Modesto, Cal.; Mary Hildebrand, San Jose, Cal.; John McHugh, Thomasville, N.C.; Becky Nichols, Manistee, Mich.; Serafin Roche, Bloomington, Cal. and Leonard Wolen, East Los Angeles, Cal.

COLLECTOR KIT

Jimmy Silverlake's Lewis Bros. Circus LAST CALL we're now cleaning out the advance car.

This kit contains: a large number of posters, tickets, letterhead, advance and office forms and a Lewis Bros. Ball Cap -- while they last.

Price: \$5.00, plus 35¢ for postage
 Send check or Money Order

to
 JIMMY SILVERLAKE
 RR No. 1 - Box 197 M
 Medora, Indiana 47260

TOUR IS SUCCESS

We had an exceptionally good date at St. Louis, Mo (Dec. 5) reports John Strong. The show was in the St. Louis Arena and we drew some 9,000 people for one show.

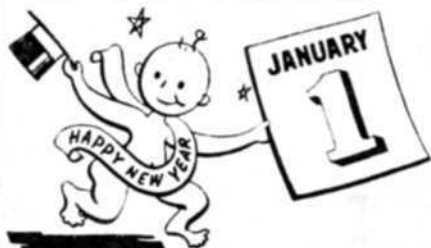
The program was a combination of John's show, the Tripoli Production's circus and Murray



Hill's circus. Working as program director both Steve Baker and Bob Rawls set-up a Spec, complete with Santa Claus and a group of Disney big head units. Herman Apple directed the 22 piece band, which included John Pugh, on trumpet and Bob Gardiner, drummer. Additional help for the date was provided by Lou Kretschman, who loaned his calliope to the circus program.

Included in the show were:

- Bucky Steele (5) and Murray Hill (3) - elephants
- Puma riding an elephant
- Two rings of bear acts
- The Canestrelli Kids - 3 acts
- The Wal-Tims - acrobat/risley
- The Alberti's - rolling globes
- Otto Berosini, Ron Perry, Gus, Ursula and Don - juggling
- The Fenton Kids - tumbling
- Miss Loni - foot juggler
- Dan Carey - hand balancing
- Miss Jan - single trapeze
- Bob Rawls, John Dailey - tramp.
- The Torreanis, Ron Perry, Carmen del Moreno, Bob Rawls - wire
- Birchfield, Dailey - illusions



Best Wishes for the coming year, with hopes for a full and happy circus season.

GOING STRONG

The Bomar Productions, offering a 90 minute show designed especially for children, is enjoying good business in the Ohio area. Developed by Bob and Marji (Bob-O and Bobbino) who have been clowns at the Circus Hall of Fame, and also toured with the Hanneford Circus, the show offers a combination of comedy, slapstick and puppets, plus a Punch & Judy Show.

Some 28 ft. of scenery is used as a backdrop, which depicts the circus backyard. A circus wagon dominates the center stage, from which is produced the Punch & Judy Show. Music for the program is by means of an organ, hired at each date.

Show dates are booked by Bob under sponsorship of a local organization. Marji runs the phone room for advance ticket sales.

- Paulette Brown - baton twirler
- The Canestrellis - unsupported ladders
- Miss Hill - contortionist

PARADE'S SPECIAL

EDITED by LLOYD SHEARER

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE OIL SHORTAGE

The federal government and the major oil corporations are responsible for this country's energy crisis.

Anyone who doubts that statement should read the 40,000-word report on the subject, "Staff Study of the Oversight and Efficiency of Executive Agencies With Respect to the Petroleum Industry, Especially as It Relates to Recent Fuel Shortages."

It costs \$1 and is available from the Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Ask for report Y-4.G74/6: P44/3.

If the above report sounds too lengthy, you might be interested in a most readable three-part series, "Oil--The Created Crisis," written by two ace investigative reporters, Don Barlett and James Steele, of "The Philadelphia Inquirer." The series was published earlier this year on July 22, 23 and 24.

It is available for 25 cents from "The Philadelphia Inquirer," Box 8380,

Philadelphia, Pa. 19101.

If you can't spare the time for a three-part series, a brilliant synopsis is available in the form of a column by John S. Knight, chairman of the Knight Newspapers, which appeared on Nov. 18, 1973. It is available for a self-addressed, stamped envelope from the Promotion Department, Detroit Free Press, 321 West Lafayette, Detroit, Mich. 48231.

In his column Knight agrees with Ralph Nader, an honest, conscientious and knowledgeable lawyer, who declared many weeks ago that the oil shortages in the United States were "orchestrated for political and economic benefit by the oil industry and that it chose to place the country in a short-term energy scare to gain dividends."

Some facts:

(1) During the third quarter of 1973 oil industry profits soared. The world's largest oil corporation, Exxon, increased its profits by 80 percent. Standard Oil of Indiana increased its profits by 37 percent; Gulf, 91 percent; Mobil, 64; Getty, 71; Shell, 23; Phillips, 43; Cities Service, 61; Standard, Ohio, 14 percent.
(2) While the nation undergoes a fuel shortage, the oil industry in the

first nine months of 1973 exported 1.5 billion barrels of distillate fuel to foreign countries, enough oil to heat 42,000 American homes for the entire winter. According to Barlett and Steele, the five largest oil corporations in the U.S. have sold twice as many barrels of petroleum products overseas as they have at home.
(3) Southern California, particularly the Los Angeles area, is the richest gasoline market in the

world. Each time the price of gasoline goes up one cent, the pre-tax profits zoom \$85 million a year for Shell, Richfield, Union, Mobil, Texaco, Phillips, Gulf, Standard of California and Exxon.
(4) The shortage of gasoline in the U.S. this past summer was the responsibility of the government and the oil industry a not the result of demands by the environmental protectionists or the U.S. driving public.

(5) Last winter, after previously refusing to lift restrictions on oil imports, especially from Canada, our most reliable neighbor, the Nixon Administration assured the public it would face no oil difficulties.

There is an energy crisis in this country. It has been aggravated by the Arab oil boycott, but

POLICE SHOW

Overflow crowds were on hand for the two Christmas programs presented for kiddies at Vallejo (Calif) by the local Police Dept on Dec. 19th.

Mary's Poodle Revue
Sharon Layne - dancer
Burnie Burns - comedian
Bob Emrico - clown
Sir Roco and Son - magic

A BULL DIES

One of the two elephants on Ridgeway's Circus died while the show was playing New Zealand for the Industrial Fair in August.

The animal was reportedly under-going treatment for an illness several days before it died. An autopsy report indicated the elephant had died from an accumulation of blood in the lower lung, and subsequent heart failure.

before the Arabs turned off their spigot, it was fomented by the oil corporations and compounded by the bungling of the Administration. That is a large share of the truth, and it's about time the U.S. public was let in on it, instead of being made to feel guilty for the nation's gasoline shortage.

For further details, read any of the above-mentioned reports.

YEARS AGO

Pittsfield, Mass. - June 8, 1919

The Ringling-Barnum Circus went thru here today enroute from Albany, N.Y. to Boston, Mass.

The first section went thru at 4:30 a.m. on 23 cars. They had 18 flats, 3 horse cars and 2 sleepers, with 58 wagons (30 cages and one tractor).

The second section went thru at 7:30 a.m. with 23 cars, consisting of 6 horse cars, 10 flat cars and 7 sleepers, carrying 27 wagons, and two autos.

The third section passed thru at 8:45 a.m. with 22 cars, made up of 6 horse cars, 15 flat cars and one sleeper, carrying 48 wagons.

The fourth section went by at 8:47 a.m. with 24 cars. They included 6 stock cars, 6 horse cars and 12 sleepers.

In 1919, the Buller's Dog and Pony Show played British Columbia. The show operated under owner/manager Robert W. Buller's direction. C. W. Scott was the lot supt.

The show carried some 100 trained domestic animals, plus aerial and ground performers, and an 18 piece band.

Two big dates reported for the show were: Victoria, B.C. on June 7th and Revelstoke, B.C. on Oct. 12th.



ROUTES

- Great Moscow Circus
Jan. 1-14 Christchurch, N.Z.
- Ringling-Barnum Circus
Jan. 4-6 Venice, Fla.
- Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show
Jan. 3-13 New York, N. Y.
- World Festival of Magic
Jan. 2-4 Ottawa, Ont. Can.
5 Montreal

..... OTHER ROUTES

- Marlene Dietrich Show
Jan. 3-5 New York, N. Y.
- Harlem Globetrotters
Jan. 5 Jackson, Miss.
- Holiday on Ice (Nat'l)
Jan. 2-6 San Francisco, Cal.
- Ice Capades
Jan. 2-6 Vancouver, BC
- Ice Follies
Dec. 25-Jan 6 Philadelphia, Pa
- Kovaz Auto Daredevils
to Jan. 7 Mexico City, Mex.
- Nat'l Phone Promoters Meeting
Jan. 5-6 Oklahoma City, Okla.
- Peter Pan Show
Jan. 3-6 San Antonio, Texas
- San Hills Horse Show
Dec. 24-Jan 5 Odessa, Texas



people

BUBBA VOSS, former trumpet man on Beatty-Cole and sax band leader on Kelly-Miller is now married and living at Orange, Texas.

TEX MAYNARD has reportedly retired from the circus business. He is now serving as a guard at a Sarasota, Fla bank.

PETE PEPKE's Band has been playing for dancing at the Kinzue Inn at Warren, Pa.

CAPT. VED D. POWERS, retired showman, is reportedly now living at Westfield, N. Y.

KEN BENSEN, who clowned on Carson & Barnes in 1973 is planning to tour with the new Dailey Bros. Circus in 1974.

DIANE WILSON has been making school dates during the winter with her bird act.

DOC MILLER reports that **CHAPPY FOX**, **RUTH HERRIOTT**, **JUNE RUSSELL WOOLRICH**, **GENE CHRISTIAN** and **MIKE DANIELS** visited him at Gibsonton, Fla. just before the holidays.

BOB GREENE, calliope performer, has been spending the holidays at Ottawa, Canada.



Pictured here are Fred Bradna and his wife Ella, with Edythe Siegrist (at the right). Photo was taken at Venice, Calif. on Sept. 16, 1914.

JIM and **SANDY WINDLAND** plan to tour with the new Barnes & Dailey Circus in 1974. They are currently seeking a new feature for their midway operation.

CLARK McDERMOTT spent the holiday season with his family at Burlingame, Calif.

BOB EMRICO will be working dates in Oregon in January.

humbug

"Scrooge" opened Monday night (Dec. 17) at the Cow Palace, says Robert Taylor of the Oakland, Calif., Tribune. It was "a stumbling, mumb-ling musical lost somewhere in the cavernous building," he added.

"There's no reason to do an arena show unless something's done with all that space, and no production has matched the splendor and excitement of the original arena show, the circus.

"The ice shows often succeed. They've been followed by "Disney on Parade," which has not been a hit, and "Peter Pan," which is now in production. A touring version of the Ziegfeld Follies is being considered, with Sol Hurok as one of the backers.

But Dickens, "A Christmas Carol" is not the kind of big, broad story which might lend itself to arena staging."

READIES FOR TOUR

Anticipating a big 1974 season, Cliff Mosley, co-owner of the DeWayne Bros. Circus, says the show will tour with a new and larger big top. The proposed tent will be a 120 ft. round end top with three 40 ft. middle sections. The seating capacity will be double that of the present tent.

Good business was reported for the show's Alaskan tour this past season, with many extra per-

CMHS convention

A schedule for the Jan. 17-20 convention of Windjammers Unlimited, the Circus Music Historical Society, was announced last week. The organization will be holding its second annual convention at the Holiday Inn, Atlanta, Ga.

The program as announced will provide the following schedule

- Jan. 17 - Pre-convention warm-up for early arrivals
- Jan. 18 - 1 to 3 pm - check in
4 pm General membership meeting
5 pm Dinner
7 pm First rehearsal and taping session
- Jan. 19 - 9 am scenic trip to Stone Mountain
1 pm Second Rehearsal and taping session
4 pm Third rehearsal and taping session
7:30 pm Gala Banquet and entertainment
- Jan. 20 - 12 noon Fourth rehearsal and taping session
2 pm Official Business Meeting - all memb.
4 pm Official Band Concert - open to the public
6:30 pm Buffet Dinner at Old Mill, Covington, Ga.

formances required. Capacity crowds were also on hand for the show's closing dates in Southern California, prior to going into winterquarters in North Hollywood.

PEOPLE



BUCK NOLAN, clown, is going to tour with the Beatty-Cole Circus for the 1974 tour.

MIKE KLUCKER, announcer and clown, will be working on the Hamid-Morton Circus for next year.

JEAN GORMAN, former acrobat, is a show girl and web performer on the R888 Blue Unit.

THE FLYING DEL STEELES reportedly have signed to tour with Hamid Morton in 1974.

TERRY COSSLET, German juggler, is currently touring in Australia.

DON McLENNAN is breaking a baby elephant at the San Diego, Calif. zoo for a public performance.

SCOTT RIDDLE is reportedly working for BUCKLES WOODCOCK at the R888 facilities in Florida.

HAROLD RONK will be touring in 1974 as Ringmaster for the R888's Blue Unit.

BUCKY and GEE GEE STEELE recently purchased a new 35 ft. trailer and a 1974 GMC tractor to pull it.

HENRY DUNCKLEE reports his model circus had a very good season this past year.

BOB ATTERBURY will head the professional staff for the Texas Shrine Dates in 1974.

SID MOORE and Family laid over at Gene Holter's Place in Southern California prior to working some holiday dates in the Los Angeles area.

PETE CRISTIANI is going to have

Attention

Our sincere thanks to everyone for your interest and support. We believe The Circus Report is going to get bigger and better and we need your help to make it grow.

Next week starts our third year of publication and we need more subscribers. Please tell your friends about the paper, for they may want to become regular readers too.

We also need show news and reviews, plus routes on a regular basis. If you see a show, or know where one is playing then let us hear from you. That way we can all share in the news and thus keep up on what is going on in the world of the circus.

Don

concessions on the Carson & Barnes Circus in 1974.

MARY GILL aerialist, is reported to be improving after her fall during an Ottawa performance.

HARRY RAWLS, manager for King Bros. recently purchased a trailed from John Canole of Miami, Fla.

VAL de LEON, head of the Oakland, Calif. Zoo, recently visited with the SMOKEY JONES family in Southern California.

C. A. "Red" SONNEBERG, former Ringling employee, is at his home in Prophetstown, Ill. after suffering a recent illness.



Big John says "Thanks" to

James Hargrove
Ruth Strong

Gene Holloway
Murray Hill

Bob Trippe
Betty Wendany

For a successful engagement at St. Louis, Mo. on Dec. 5th and for a successful holiday tour with both Christmas units.

A BIG THANKS TO ALL MY 1973 SHOW PERSONNEL FOR THEIR HONEST AND LOYAL SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Robin and Tom Bishop
Wally and Jan Bickmore
Dick Cross
Clark Craig
Gary Rey
Ted Tutweiler
Liz and Greg Meyers

Betty, Fred & Heidi Wendany
Tim and Toby Bickmore
Morrie Castleman
John Pugh
Phil Shear
D. W. Washburn
Viola and Norman Davis

P.S. Thanks also to: Little John, Linda, Sandy



Betty Wendany has opened a permanent Big John Strong Circus office at: 10106 Hillhaven Avenue, Tujunga, Calif. - 91042.

We need promoters (man and wife teams) and acts for our 1974 show units. Write or call now. Acts please send late photos and full details.

Phone (213) 353-3585

A GOOD ONE

A successful Jamaica engagement has been registered by the Getti-Charles Circus for the holiday season. Attendance was above



what had been anticipated and the stand was extended through Christmas.

A strong line-up of acts was offered, most of whom were making their first appearance there. (A complete list of acts on the show will be provided soon).

Show officials report the sponsor was pleased with the circus program and the entire arrangement. As a result they have signed to provide holiday shows in Jamaica for the next two years.

MATTEL'S BIG SALE (Continued)

time Mattel's stock was worth \$47,650,000.

In 1969, Mattel earned some \$12,069,000 on sales of \$288,575,000. Since that time they have consistently lost money. They have already sold off three subsidiaries and owe more than \$100 million on outstanding bank loans. One of the major creditors is Wells Fargo Bank, who helped to engineer the purchase of the circus.

The inside sources report several changes are planned for both circus units. However, it is generally assumed that the circus will continue to operate under the Feld management, at least for a time.