



America's Favorite Circus Weekly

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## Circus-buying fever

Rumors have been running wild this past week or two regarding the possible buyer of Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus. Since Mattel, Inc., announced they were selling the circus (Dec. 18) every one in and out of the business has been trying to guess who the buyer will be. Speculation still runs high about the mysterious "U. S. Corporation" that is interested in being the show's next owner.

Some say that 20th Century Fox is buying the show. That company admits they talked about the idea last October "but couldn't reach an agreement."

One report named Anhauser-Busch as the new show owner. That firm's public relations department denies the report.

Other firms named as possible buyers are: U. S. Steel, A Wisconsin brewery, Shell Oil Co. and even General Electric.

In the meantime about all we can do is wait until the middle of February for the name of that mys-

## NOW TOURING THE COUNTRY

One of the earliest shows to open this year was Circus Vargas, whose first performances were presented on Jan. 17th at Arlington, Texas. The show is expected to be on tour until sometime in December, covering the entire U.S., playing mostly sponsored dates.

Just prior to the initial performance it was announced that Circus Vargas would carry a large petting zoo, presented under a new tent. It, like all of the other show tops, is orange and white.

Among the acts signed for the current tour are:

- The Villams - juggling
- Pat Anthony - wild animals
- Miss Rogena - ladder act
- Ali Hassani Troupe - tumbling
- The Armon Duo - cradle act
- Harry Thomas - wild animals
- The Naughtin's - bears
- The Flying Farias - flying act
- Semon's chimps

terious corporation to be announced to the public.

## schedule plans altered

Extreme heat forced Count Sanger to cancel a scheduled booking tour into Western Australia last month. He had planned every detail of the trip, but was unable to predict the weather conditions. Temperatures soared to 110 degrees or more and two performing dogs died because of the heat.

Count Sanger is currently at the Bacchus Marsh Lion Safari Park. He plans to spend some time there and to train some new dogs for his Circus Sanger.

## he's down

After spending six months on a tightrope, 80 ft. above the ground, Henry Rachatin reports he was bothered by the weather, but never really got lonesome. On Mar. 28, 1973, he went up on the cable at St. Etienne, France, where he lived for six months.

When he broke all the records Rachatin came down, to be greeted by bands, entertainers and a big contingent of fans. After greeting the crowd, he and his family retired to a nearby restaurant for his first real meal.

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## OF INTEREST TO EVERYBODY

Members of the Circus Historical Society have recently received the new 1974 "Circus World Museum Brochure." It is a beautiful 12 page folder explaining all the services offered by the Circus Museum to Public Libraries, clubs and organizations.

The brochure has colorful copies of old lithos, wagons and other items. It gives a complete run-down on what the Museum offers and what is available. It is a nice collector's item and is the best brochure thus far issued by the Museum.

Posters and other display items require insurance, with all costs being listed in the brochure.

To secure your copy write to: Bob Parkinson, Librarian, Circus World Museum, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

.....M. L. Dupont

## SPORT SHOW Acts

The 40th annual Philadelphia Sports Show opens this weekend (Jan. 26) under the direction of Paul Rimmier. The show, in addition to its big array of sports features, will also offer a program of circus acts, presented on a daily basis through Feb. 3.

Acts appearing at the show will include:-

- Scott's Unridable Mules
- The Guzmans - high wire
- The Bauers - sway poles
- Miss Lisa - aerialist
- Canadian Guides - sport events
- Rudy Sexon - announcer

## Sawdust Trail

The first route cards for 1974 have been issued by both R888 Units. The Blue Unit opened Jan. 4 at Venice then went to St. Petersburg for the annual TV filming of the show. The Red Unit opens Feb. 8th at Venice, then goes to Atlanta, Ga.

Dot and Sonny Burdett, jugglers on King Bros. Circus last year will tour with the Barnes & Dailey Circus during 1974.

Ko, Ko, the Clown (William Speath) with the Emmett Kelly Jr. Circus will travel with the show to Singapore (12 weeks) later in the year.

One of the stars of the American Bowl football game at Tampa, Fla., was Tony Cristiani, one of the famous Cristiani family. He was mentioned several times by the sports caster.

The Eastwoods, teeterboard act on King Bros. in '73, will be touring with the new Charles Bros. Circus. The show is directed by Charles and Jessie Moyer.

Jon Friday, '73 manager of Sells & Gray Circus Side Show and big show announcer, had a by-line story in the Jan. 5th issue of Amusement Business magazine.

1974 will no doubt see a tightening up of equipment on most shows - in order to reduce the number of units on the road. We may also see the return of traditional seating, since this would save some equipment and drivers as well.

## WINTER LINEUP

Some 500 invited guests attended the 15th annual preview of circus acts presented at the Circus Hall of Fame on Dec. 20th. The event, directed by Col. W. W. Naramore, president, and George Petty, managing director, was designed to acquaint local business personnel with the acts that would be performing at the Hall through April 15.

The circus program is produced by Howard Suez, of Clyde Bros. Circus, and no two shows are exactly alike. Music is provided by an organ, while Bill Joiner handled the announcing chores.

Acts appearing at the Circus Hall of Fame include:-

Barradis Bros. - 3 chimps  
 Galambos Duo - aerial cradle  
 The Great Macias - balancing  
 Paula and Clarice - tight wire  
 Dorothy and Frank - rolling globe  
 Barradas Bros. - 3 camels  
 Great Oscar Macias - cloud swing  
 Barradas Bros. - 2 bears  
 Miss Clarice - aerial web  
 Barradas Bros. - 3 elephants  
 P. J. Clown - unusual number

.....Eric Wilson

The "energy crisis" could have its good points for shows anyway. It might mean increased attendance and perhaps even a return to the rail-type shows. The best approach to 1974 is a positive attitude and circus people are known for overpowering the impossible.

..... M. L. Dupont

# ROUTES

Aladin Shrine Circus  
Jan. 21-26 Grnd Rapids, Mo

Allen's Petting Zoo  
Jan. 25-27 Palm Desert, Ca

Cole All-Star TV Circus  
Jan. 21 Ashland, Pa.  
22 Blossburg  
23 Jersey Shore  
24-25 Enroute  
26 Huntingdon

Fleckles Circus  
Jan. 25-Feb 10 Detroit, Mo

Great Moscow Circus  
to Jan. 29 Wellington, NZ

Hubler's Int'l Circus  
Jan. 25-27 Mentor, Ohio

Kramien's Med World of Mag.  
Jan. 22 Henderson, Nev  
26 Florence, Arz  
28 Coolidge  
29 Globe/Miami

Ringling's Blue Unit  
Jan. 23-29 Miami Bch, Fla

Royal Lipizzan Stallion Sh.  
Jan. 22-23 Sarasota, Fla  
25-27 W. Palm Beach

Tommy Scott-Tim McCoy Show  
Jan. 21 Anderson, S.C.,  
22 Gaffney  
23 Fayetteville, NC  
24 Kinston  
25 Goldsboro  
26 Raleigh  
27 Burlington

Stabbing Family Circus  
Jan. 26-Feb 3 W. Palm Bch, Fla

Voorheis Bros. Circus  
Jan. 21 Van Wert, Ohio  
22 St. Marys  
23 Enroute  
24 Yale, Mich.  
25-26 Port Huron

....OTHER ROUTES .....

Assoc. Troupers Banquet  
Jan. 24 Long Beach, Calif.

Disney on Parade  
Jan. 22-27 Tulsa, Okla.

Fiesta Folklorico  
Jan. 21 Florence, Ala.  
22 Charlotte, N.C.  
23 Atlanta, Ga.  
25 Indianapolis, Ind  
27 Cincinnati, Ohio

Peggy Fleming Ice Show  
Jan. 24-27 Portland, Oregon

Harlem Globetrotters  
Jan. 23 Fresno, Calif.  
24 Bakersfield  
25 San Diego

Holiday on Ice (Nat'l)  
Jan. 24-Feb 3 Milwaukee, Wis

Ice Capades  
Jan. 23-29 Winnipeg, Man.

Ice Follies  
to Jan 27 Toronto, Ont.

Peter Pan Show  
to Jan 27 Cleveland, Ohio

TV Entertainer Awards Night  
Jan. 26 - CBS-TV

Southwest Stock Show  
Jan. 25-Feb 1 Ft. Worth, Tex

# finale

Belle J. Benchley, 91, former director of the San Diego, Calif Zoo, died in that city on Dec. 15th. She was a recognized authority on animals and at one time was the only woman zoo director in the world.

Edson J. Driscoll, who was known as "Eddie Frisco" touring with circuses and playing night clubs. He died at Tampa, Fla. early this month.

Clinton W. Shuford, who traveled with the Sparks Circus, working in the office. He passed away on Dec. 30th at Hot Springs, Ark.

# notes

Two former Bill Smart elephants were recently purchased from RBBB by the Carson & Barnes Circus.

The PAL Circus (November) at San Francisco, Cal. reportedly drew 28,555 persons for its five shows.

RBBB closes at West Palm Beach, Fla. on Jan. 22nd and the Royal Lipizzan Stallion Show opens there on Jan. 25.

# The Circus Widow Case

When Mrs. Alberta Gollmar failed to appear one morning, two of her neighbors went looking for her. As they entered the open door of her home they suddenly froze in terror. The walls and floor were all spotted with blood, dishes were scattered everywhere, and in the doorway to a bed room lay the body of Mrs. Gollmar.

The police said she had fought desperately for her life. But she died from a dozen stab wounds and two strong blows on the head.

As the wife of Charles Gollmar, a circus owner and cousin of the Ringling brothers, she traveled extensively. After her husband sold the Gollmar Br. Circus he became manager of Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus, and they continued to travel. Then at the end of the 1918 season they retired to Baraboo, Wisc., where Mrs. Gollmar continued to live after her husband passed away.



Mrs. Gollmar was always good for a meal and a few dollars whenever an unemployed circus hand was in town, the sheriff said. "And it cost her her life."

The Coroner said she had died about 6 a.m. She was an early riser and that morning had planned to bake a cake for a grand-niece. The cake material, partly mixed, indicated she had been interrupted as she was working.

An inventory of the house, made by a relative, showed that a fur coat, jewelry and money were missing.

## A REALLY BIG NEW YEAR'S

Circus folks in the Hugo, Oklahoma area enjoyed a New Years Eve Party at the Choctaw Cultural Center, planned especially for them. Music for the evening was provided by Dale Madden at the organ.

It was an advance reservation affair only, with no tickets sold at the door. In addition to favors and snacks, the group was served black-eyed peas and corn bread at mid-night.

Some of those attending were: Mr. & Mrs. Whitey Black, Margaret McKay, Mr. & Mrs. Donnie McIntosh, Helen Walters, Mr. & Mrs. Ted Akeman, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Rawls, Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Frazier.

## he's released

Johnny Weissmuller, the famous film Tarzan star, was released from Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital (Las Vegas, Nev.) on Saturday, Jan. 12th. He had been undergoing treatment for a heart ailment.

## CIRCUS WIDOW CASE (Continued)

When the police started their investigation the name Dick Davidson kept popping up.

Further investigation revealed that a salesman had given Davidson a ride into town the night before the murder. Someone remembered that Davidson had been given \$20.00 by Mrs. Gollmar about two weeks before her death. Another man said he had helped Davidson get a job in a nearby town, he also knew that Davidson had been in trouble many times.

Soon it was discovered that Davidson had boarded a train for Madison just a few hours after the murder was committed. He was carrying a suitcase. In Madison a ticket seller had sold him a ticket for Milwaukee.

Within 48 hours police had discovered Davidson's room, but he was not there. There was no sign of the fur coat or jewels, but there were several letters addressed to Mrs. Gollmar in his room.

For hours the police waited in the darkened room, wondering if he would return. Finally, they heard footsteps, a key turned in the lock, the door opened and Davidson stepped into the room.

We're police. Put your hands up, the officers ordered. But Davidson turned and fled, slamming the door behind him. Racing after him the Police officers reached the hall just as Davidson flung himself against the door to the street.

"Halt or we'll shoot," was the order.

# people

PERCY TURNER, KEN DAVIS and WILLIAM BURGER attended the Dec. 31st meeting of the Paul Eagles Luncheon Club in Los Angeles, Calif.

MAURIE CASTLEMAN, circus drummer, plans to tour with a show again this season.

DON McLENNAN, head trainer at the San Diego, Cal. Zoo is breaking the zoo's elephants for public shows.

THE AMANDIS, Teeterboard act, will be with the Hubert Castle Circus for the 1974 season.

DAVID HAMMARSTROM has his story on Phone Promotions in the special issue of Variety Magazine, which is now on the news stands.

TREVOR BALE and Family are featured on the current Royal Lipizan Stallion Show. Announcements are under the direction of AUSTIN MILES.

ROGER SMITH, wild animal trainer is reportedly retiring on a temporary basis due to his father's illness.

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But Davidson turned the knob and started through the doorway. The guns roared and Davidson fell to the floor.

He was dead by the time they got him to the hospital -- and the police marked the murder case "solved."

(The above article was rewritten from a story that was originally published by Fred Dickenson on Aug. 15, 1959).



Pictured here are some performers on the Cole, Younger & Nichols Show at Mt. Pleasant, Texas in 1906. They are at top: Mrs. W. H. Davis, Mrs. Ray Woods, Mattie Gibbs. In the center is Mrs. Sadie Gibbs. In front are Irene James and Myrtle Gibbs.

#### INTERESTING FACT . . . . .

According to a recent Wrigley Gum "Fun Facts" feature George Washington made a deal to display his 28 year old horse "Jack" at a circus, as the first side show in history.

## SHOW NOTES

Some interesting notes have just been received on RBBB's Blue Unit, from an observer at St. Petersburg, Fla.

The show is running over 3 hours and will surely be cut a bit by the time they get rolling across the country. They have 18 elephants and the best numbers of the show are the liberty horses and perch acts.

Wardrobe is spectacular. The big spec is called "Circus Rainbow," while the elephant number is titled "Barnum & Bailey Raz Ma Tazz." The ballet feature is called "Roaring 20's".

The show train consists of 32 cars -- 6 flats, 4 stock cars, a duo level car, 1 tunnel car and 20 coaches. The train has been completely repainted and is now white with blue decals.

## Pot-Pourri

An extra flat car is going to be added to RBBB's Red Unit train for the 1974 season.

The Children's Film Festival TV Show of Jan. 12th featured some circus bears and chimps.

Garden Bros. Circus is advertising for promotional men for the upcoming summer tour.

A four truck circus out of Owensville, Ohio, is up for sale. The full show is priced at \$17,000.

## expanded tour

Announcing that Garden Bros. would start its 1974 tour at Altoona, Pa. on April 22nd, showman Ian Garden says the circus will be on tour for 25 to 30 weeks this year. The Altoona date and a five day stand at Montreal will be new show dates for the circus.

The circus plays for various Shrine Clubs, as well as sold out engagements, phone promotional activities, etc. There is a possibility, adds Garden, that because of the increase in dates this year (last year the show played for 21 weeks) we will need two units.

Among those signed for the upcoming tour are:-

Don and Joanne Anderson - horses  
 Remo Cristiani - elephants  
 Jimmy Troy - aerial numbers  
 Baron Von Uhl - wild animals  
 The Robertsons - ladder/juggling  
 Salvadori - seal act  
 Happy Davis - comedy car  
 Sampson - roly-boly/juggling  
 Jay Jay Troy - tramp/sponge dive  
 The Bertinis - bicycles  
 Miss Clarissa - low wire  
 Frank Daly - superintendent



They are building for the coming season - so find out all about it by subscribing to The Circus Report at just \$10.00 per year.

Write to: Don Marcks,  
 525 Oak Street  
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