

Bandwagon

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**RINGLING
BROS.**
WORLD'S GREATEST
SHOWS.

COLOSSAL
SPECTACLE
JOAN OF ARC

LIBRETTO
MAGAZINE OF WONDERS
AND
DAILY REVIEW
PRICE 10 CENTS.

The advertisement is a colorful, vintage-style illustration. At the top, a large hippopotamus head is on the left and a lion's head is on the right. In the center, a woman in armor (Joan of Arc) rides a white horse, holding a sword and a banner that says 'COLOSSAL SPECTACLE JOAN OF ARC'. Below this, on the left, two acrobats are performing a balancing act. On the right, a clown with a large red nose and a red flower in his hair is shown. The background is a yellowish-green field with a crowd of people in the distance. The entire scene is framed by a decorative border with a repeating pattern of small circles.

rived here this morning [Sunday June 22] from Holyoke ay 3:30 a.m. and the first section started to unload at 4:30 a.m. The first section consisted of 21 cars; 17 flats; 2 horse cars; 2 sleepers and 56 wagons, 30 of which are cages.

"The second section arrived at 7 a.m. consisting of 21 cars: 10 flats, 6 horse cars, 5 sleepers; 25 wagons and three small wagons.

"The third section came in at 7:30 a.m. and consisted of 20 cars: 14 flats; 5 horse cars; 1 stock car; 38 wagons and two chariots.

"The fourth section came in at 8:00 a.m. and consisted of 20 cars: 7 horse cars, 4 stock cars and 9 sleepers.

"All of the wagons were unloaded by 10:30 a.m. All tents were put up Sunday morning except the big top. There were 17 tents: big top; menagerie; side show; dining tent; colored dining tent; private dining tent; cookhouse; 3 horse tents; 1 pony tent; 2 dressing tents; ballet tent; wardrobe tent; candy stands and small tents.

"A large crowd watched the unloading and the setup on the lot. Sunday afternoon the horse tents were open to the public.

"A large crowd was on the streets Monday watching the 10:00 a.m. parade, which was the best circus parade ever seen here.

"Side show was opened after the parade and was well attended. Attractions included the Albino man; Bonita, fat girl; George Bell, black giant; Karo, missing link; the Hanna triplets; a snake charmer; George LaMars, smileless man; Five Singaless dancers; a musical act; Grace Gilbert, bearded woman; long bearded man and a black band.

"In the afternoon a large crowd witnessed the performance at 2:00 p.m. The performance was the same as they opened the season, except four acts that did not appear. The performance went through without a hitch until the cowgirls race when Miss Williams took a fall from her horse and had to be helped from the tent. She did appear at the night show. The spectacle *Joan of Arc* was one of the best seen.

"The loading of first section started about 6:00 p.m. It was 3:00 a.m. Tuesday morning before the last wagon, the big top pole wagon was loaded.

"One heavy wagon slipped off the runs while being loaded but was righted without too much delay.

"The first section left for the sixty mile run to Albany, New York shortly after 3:00 a.m."

Pittsfield was a good stand for the

show. The afternoon ticket sale was \$3,150.75. The night show sales were \$2,693.95. The concert sale was strong, totaling \$1,126.80. The side show had a big day grossing \$804.45. Reserve seat sales were \$2,7448.00. Concession sales were \$917.40. Total income for the day including dining cars and the commissary wagon was \$10,552.95.

For a number of years the Ringling had purchased tents from the Thompson & Vandiveer Tent and Awing Company of Cincinnati, Ohio. On January 2, 1913 the show wrote to Thompson & Vandiveer authorizing them to proceed on new canvas for the 1913 season. The big top was a 190 foot round top with one 60 foot and four 50 foot middles and 16 foot side wall.



This cage with the rhino Bill was sent to the Barnum show in July of 1913. Pfening Archives.

This was the same size as had been used in 1912. The cost of the 1912 top was \$4,735 and one assumes the 1913 top cost about the same. A dressing room tent was also ordered. It was a 50 foot round top with one 40 and one 20 foot middle. A pad room tent, a fifty with one 40 and one 20 foot middle, was ordered. A ballet dressing room top, 35 foot push pole round with one 20 foot middle, was ordered. Available records do not list other tents bought for the 1913 season.

A lot of the 1913 tentage was new in 1912 including: menagerie top, 116 foot round with five 40 foot middles (\$2,410); marquee, (size unknown), \$110; stable top, 74 foot round with three 60 foot middles (\$1,100); stable top, 74 foot round with two 60 foot and on 30 foot middles (\$980); side show top, 74 foot round with two 30 foot middles (\$650). Also ordered for 1912 were a set of flags and canvas covers for cages (\$210). Flags ordered for 1912 were: Big top, one 16 foot burgundy "Ringling Bros.;" and four 14 foot, American Jack, British flag, German flag, U. S. flag. For the menagerie: 2 ten foot U. S.

flags, one 14 foot burgundy "Menagerie" and three 10 foot American Jack, British and French flags. A number of other flags were used on the horse, side show, dressing room and cookhouse, Also new in 1912 were 120 2 by 3 feet cage flags. Thirty of these were to be American and balance were of all nations except Spanish and Russian.

On July 3 the *Baraboo Weekly News* reported: "Al Ringling arrived last night for a short stay in the city. Mr. Ringling has been with the circus on its route through the New England states and reports that the weather has been ideal and somewhat cool. He also states that all of the stock are in first class condition and that the show has had remarkable success, in spite of the fact that the people have not as yet adjusted themselves to the political changes [of the new Wilson administration]. Mr. Ringling was accompanied by Mrs. Ringling. They came to Chicago by rail and from that city to Baraboo in a new automobile."

The shortest railroad run of the season, seven miles, was from Albany to Troy, New York. The show moved west across upper New York state. Erie, Pennsylvania was shown on July 4 and Ashtabula, Ohio on July 5. On July 5 the Indian rhino Bill, in old Forepaugh rhino den #27, was shipped to the Barnum & Bailey show. The double horned rhino on the Barnum show had died in Brantford, Ontario on June 17. A second African two-horned rhino remained on the Ringling show.

The following loading order, made on or after July 12, came from the show files:

First section. "The squadron."

Stock car #5, 26 baggage horses, one saddle horse.

Stock car #6, 28 baggage horses.

Sleeping car #80.

Sleeping car #81.

Flat car #47, cookhouse groceries wagon #50; Lion and Mirror tableau, carried trappings and programs; blacksmith wagon #56.

Flat car #57, cookhouse boiler wagon #57, cookhouse tank wagon #52, cookhouse range wagon #51.

Flat car #46, cookhouse wagon #31, water wagon #55, Germany tableau, carried buckets and stalls, pole wagon.

Flat car #45, stable canvas wagon #62; India tableau, ring stock falls; extra red seats wagon #48.

Flat car #44, stable pole wagon #19, water wagon #54, commissary wagon #58.

Flat car #43, tableau wagon #4, with