

The Time The Circus Came To Goodsprings

This story was originally published in the Goodsprings Historical Society's Spring 2015 newsletter. It was written and the pictures were provided by Mickey Moran.

Sometime in early 1950 a circus came to town to rest before going on to Las Vegas for performance shows. Circus wagons were parked east of the Pioneer Saloon. I'm not sure what the name was but one of the wagons had "Seal-Bros." advertisement displayed.

My mother, Irene Moran, was leasing the Hotel from Deke and Celeste Lowe at the time and she became acquainted with the circus management when they came to dine/drink. She loved elephants and talked her way into riding one.

I was more interested in horses/ponies and talked them into setting up their pony ring. One of the girls my age stayed with me at the hotel and I talked her into going to school with me for a few weeks so the circus must have stayed for a while. Nearly everyone in town was given a free pass to attend a show in Vegas, I think. It was quite an experience.











Editor's Note: I fell in love with this story the first time I heard it. I am thrilled when the Ringling Brothers train parks on the tracks outside my office a couple of times a year, so I can only imagine how amazing it must have been for the circus roll into Goodsprings back in 1950. I wanted to find out more about the Seal Bros. Circus and their visit to southern Nevada that year and it led me on quite the journey.

As I started researching I was very surprised to find that there were many circuses touring the country back in 1950 and that they were covered every week in Billboard magazine. In fact, at that time, Billboard included sections about Radio, TV, Vaudeville, Night Clubs, Carnivals, Coin Machines, and several other entertainment related subjects. The "Circuses" section reported on their schedules, performers, successes, failures, and included help wanted ads. In

the April 22, 1950 issue it was reported that the Seal Bros. had performed 4 shows in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 2nd followed by 2 shows in Overton the next day, then moved along to Utah. Although I never was able to find any mention of their stay in Goodsprings, I did discover that their time spent here in Nevada was some of the last that they spent as a group.

The Seal Bros. Circus toured throughout the western US and was led by Bud E. Anderson, a long time showman and horse trainer. Bud always drove the semi that carried his horses and on Wednesday, June 14, 1950, his truck

April 22, 1950

CIRCUSES
Communications to 188 W. Randolph St., Chicago 1, Ill.

Seal Does Four Shows in Good

Las Vegas Bow

King Scores **Straw Houses** At Macon Bow

Children's Show Draws

NN, Ga., April 15.—The en-cling Bros.' Circus, owned by King and Lucio Cristiani, its season here Saturday (8) ree shows and bodt bix (1) and any current of kids, (1) and any current show ertised and drew better than

HM Buffalo Date McCarthy To Blow Not Hep on Hoppy Below Last Year CHICAGO, April 15. — new F. W. Woolworth porium on State Street here the right idea but got its a

Lack of Easter vacation blamed for slow kid biz— strong week-end expected

Opening Whistle At Gainesville

Beatty Biz Up; Weather Kills LA Record Hope

crashed on a mountain highway near Miles City, Montana. Bud died along with 7 of his 12 horses. The brakes on Bud's truck had been getting hot, so he had been stopping along the side of the road periodically to let them cool down. Most of the remainder of the circus had gone ahead and were having lunch at a café in Miles City when they heard the news. The show that afternoon was performed on schedule with Bud's son, Luke, stepping into his father's role. Although the Seal Bros. Circus was disbanded a few days later, Luke and his mother moved the equipment from Kansas to Southern California and created a new circus to continue Bud's legacy.

Most of the facts came from the Billboard articles, but some of the details I learned from talking to Ward Hall, the sideshow manager for the Seal Bros. in 1950. When I spoke to him at his home in Florida, I was hopeful that he had been with the circus when they had stayed in Goodsprings. It turns out that he had joined them just a couple of weeks before the accident in response to one of those help wanted ads in Billboard. He recalled that Bud E. Anderson was a "good showman and an excellent horse trainer" and how shocked he was to get the news of the accident at that café in Miles City. Ward went on to have a long circus career and has a biography written about him called "Ward Hall: King of the Sideshow!" that is available on-line.

While I didn't end up getting any more details about the time the circus spent in Goodsprings, I did learn that the residents of Goodsprings that were lucky enough to have that experience are part of the interesting history of the circus in America.



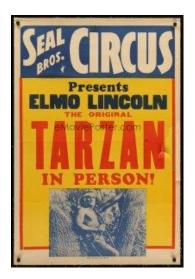
★MILLS BROS.' CIRCUS WANTS★

WANTED FOR SEAL BROS.' CIRCUS

Brigade Manager at once, Lithographers and Billposters, Band Leader, Clowns, also Wild West People or Family for Concert. Work-ing Men, come on. Can also place Boss Can-vasman. All address BUD E. ANDERSON, Seal Bros. Circus, Fontana, Calif.

WILD WEST PERFORMERS WANTED FOR CONCERT an and Wife with Stock who can Tr de and Rope, Impalement Act, Ropers, e

Enclose photograph. All expenses paid afte oining. Show opens April 8th, Address KING BROTHERS' CIRCUS



Events for August - Southwest

- Every Wednesday Sewing/craft group at the Goodsprings Community Center, 4 pm
- Every Wednesday Adult/Teen basketball from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Sandy Valley School Gym, \$2.00. People are welcome to come walk around the gym, too.**
- Tuesday & Wednesday, August 2 & 3, 9& 10 Volleyball camp at the Sandy Valley School, 10 am to noon
- Wednesday, August 3 Movie at the Sandy Valley Community Center at 2 pm
- Tuesday, August 9 Sandy Mesquite Valley Dev. Assoc. meeting at the SV Community Center, 6:30 pm
- Tuesday, August 9 Sandy Valley CAC* meeting at the SV Community Center, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, August 10 Mountain Springs CAC meeting at the Mountain Springs Fire Station, 6:30 pm
- Saturday, August 20 Sandy Valley Community Breakfast, 8 am to 10:30 am at the Senior Center, \$3.50 for the best pancakes & sausage or biscuits & gravy
- Tuesday, August 30 Goodsprings CAC meeting, Goodsprings Community Center, 7:30 pm
- Wednesday, August 31 Red Rock CAC meeting, Blue Diamond Library, 7 pm

*CAC = Citizens Advisory Council **Contact Shawna at 702-723-5040 for more information



Page 4 Rural Connections

Fun 4th of July Celebration in Indian Springs

The Independence Day celebration in Indian Springs started out with a parade through town led by State Assemblyman James Oscarson. The parade ended at the park where the evening's festivities kicked off with a wonderful guitar rendition of the National Anthem played by Halle Jackson. Delicious bbq, fun games, beautiful weather, and a phenomenal fireworks display made for a great evening.

















Backcountry Horsemen Work on Grant Project

Earlier this year the Bristlecone Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Nevada received a grant from the Mt. Charleston License Plate Grant program to provide much needed rehabilitation to sections of the Bonanza Trail. In order to make the trail safer for all users, their goal is to eliminate/repair jagged, eroded stone steps, slide rock areas, and narrow, steep switchbacks. Over the weekend of July 22nd through the 24th the group began their work on the project. With the help of 7 group members on Friday and 8 on Saturday, they wre able to get a good section of trail widened, shored up and 3 steps

installed. Once backfilled, the steps should be about 10–12 inches high, which is a comfortable step up for most folks and for stock animals. Part of this design is that users will have a relatively level spot to rest, or to turn around on the trail. The area is no easy place to work – it contains steep switch backs with loose rocks and debris and requires the entire crew to be vigilant and safety conscious at all times. To learn more about BCHN, their events and the work they do, visit http://www.bchnvb.com/













Page 6 Rural Connections

Events for August - Northwest

- Wednesdays Coffee Talk at the Indian Springs Community Center, 10:30 am**
- Mondays and Tuesdays Open Rec at the Indian Springs Community Center, 5 to 9 pm
- Wednesdays Open Rec at the Indian Springs Community Center, 11 am to 3 pm
- Monday, August 8 Indian Springs Flag Football and Cheer registration for ages 5-14 at the Indian Springs Community Center, 6 to 8 pm
- Wednesday, August 10 Celebrate National S'Mores Day at the springs Mountain Visitors Gateway. Make s'mores, sing campfire songs, and tell classic fireside stories in the Large Amphitheater, 6:30 to 8 pm
- Thursday, August 11 Indian Springs TAB* Meeting at the Indian Springs Community Center, 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, August 16 Pokemon Movie and a craft at the Indian Springs Community Center, 1 pm, Cost \$1, bring your own snacks, water bottles to drink (water only), blankets and pillows. Just after the movie, we will be making a Poke ball and having a scavenger hunt for your favorite Pokémon. Cost for the craft and hunt is \$1.00per person. This is for elementary Aged Children; younger children are welcome however, an adult would need to stay and assist them.
- Saturday, August 20 Try-outs for Youth Flag Football at the Trucks Baseball Field, 6:30 pm
- Thursday, August 25 BINGO at the Indian Springs Community Center, 7 9 pm
- Thursday, September 1 Mt. Charleston TAB* Meeting at the Mt. Charleston Library, 7pm

Indian Springs After School Safekey Program

The Program is a recreational program for children in grades K-6. Participants must be at least 5 years of age or in kindergarten, through 13 years at the start of the school year in order to participate. The program provides participants with a safe, supervised and fun environment. Recreation activities are part of the daily activities and may include sports, arts & crafts, cooperative games.

Program Hours: Before School 6:30 am to 7:30 am and After School until 5:30 pm

Price: \$3 per day per participant for before school, \$6 per day per participant for after school

For more information stop by the Safekey room next to the elementary school playground or call 702-879-3890.

Commissioners to Host Hall Meetings to Discuss CCSD Reorganization



The Clark County Commissioners will be hosting town hall Meeting to seek public comment and input regarding the proposal to reorganize the Clark County School District. These Town Halls are mandated pursuant to Section 28 of Assembly Bill 394 [Chapter 543, Statutes of Nevada 2015]

Dates and Locations

Commissioner Mary Beth Scow

Thursday, July 28th at 6 pm Henderson Convention Center 200 S. Water Street Henderson, NV 89015

Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick

Monday, August 1st at 6 pm Silver Mesa Recreation Center 4025 Allen Lane North Las Vegas, NV 89032

Commissioner Steve Sisolak

Tuesday, August 2nd at 6 pm Sierra Vista High School 8100 W. Robindale Road Las Vegas, NV 89113

Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick

(on behalf of Commissioner Larry Brown)
Wednesday, August 3rd at 6 pm
8200 West Tropical Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89149

Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick

Thursday, August 4th at 6 pm Clark County Fairgrounds Fine Arts Bldg. 1301 Whipple Avenue Logandale, NV 89021

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly

Tuesday, August 9th at 6 pm Clark County Government Center 500 S. Grand Central Pkwy Las Vegas, NV 89155

Commissioner Susan Brager

Monday, August 8th at 6:30 pm Desert Breeze Community Center 8275 Spring Mountain Road Las Vegas, NV 89117

Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani

Wednesday, August 10th at 6 pm Winchester Cultural Center 3130 McLeod Drive Las Vegas, NV 89121

Please join your County Commissioner and share your opinions.

For information regarding the Prelimniary Findings and the Proposal to Reorganize the Clark County School District, visit: http://bit.ly/29KKx4p

For more information regarding the town Hall Meetings, please contact the Clark County Department of Administrative Services at (702) 455-3530

Page 8 Rural Connections

The Changing Landscape of Southern Nevada Through Maps

July 21st found about 20 residents of Moapa Valley enjoying a presentation, the first in a series, about the history of northeastern Clark County. Dustin Nelson, local history buff with family ties to the original settlers in this area, provided a colorful trip through history, via maps. The first map showing North America from the early 1500's; Dustin informed the crowd that this was also the most expensive map ever purchased as the Library of Congress spent \$10 million dollars, decades ago to acquire this map. North and South America were portrayed as a long skinny island, and the map also showed the Pacific Ocean for the first time.

Other maps alternated between incredibly accurate to ... not so accurate as several maps showed an enormous lake north of the Great Salt Lake and a mysterious river from Nevada through the Sierras to the Pacific Ocean. To counter those mistakes, Dustin focused on how accurately drawn many maps were when all they had was the most primitive of instruments, plus pen and paper. One map, drawn to predict what land Lake Mead would eventually cover when full, was so accurate that when Dustin super-imposed a GPS'ed map of the same area, measurements were less than 100 feet off.

Those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the presentation, sponsored by Partners In Conservation (PIC). PIC focuses on public land issues but Dustin, a board member, stated that so much of Moapa Valley's early history occurred on public land and that so much of that history still exists today. He said, "We wanted to do some presentations to make people aware of our history that they can visit; the corrals, mines, old buildings, and even the roads all tell a story of our past and we wanted to bring that message to more people."

Partners In Conservation plans on at least 2 historic presentations a year with the next one in early January, 2017. Information can be found on their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/partnersinconservation/







Story and Photos contributed by Elise McAllister

Events for August - Northeast

- Wednesday, August 10 Moapa Valley TAB* meeting at the Moapa Valley Community Center, 7 pm
- Tuesday, August 2 Little STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) club explores ramps and gravity at the Bunkerville Library, Ages 0–5, 2 pm
- Tuesday, August 2 Club Read Craft buffet for ages 0-11 at the Moapa Valley Library, 11:15 am
- Thursday, August 11 Club Read Craft buffet for ages 0-11 at the Moapa Valley Library, 2 pm
- Friday, August 12 End of Summer Celebration at the Laughlin Library a salute to all the super readers who reach for the stars! Ages 0 11, 11:15 am
- Tuesday, August 16 Make a book and then decorate it at the Bunkerville Library, ages 6-11, 2 pm
- Tuesday, August 30 Moapa TAB* meeting at the Robinson Justice Court & Community Center, 7 pm
- Thursday, September 1 Bunkerville TAB* meeting at the Bunkerville Community Center, 7 pm

*TAB = Town Advisory Board **For details call 702-397-2690

Moapa Valley Enjoys A Small Town Fourth

The Moapa Valley community gathered at the Logandale Fairgrounds for the annual Fourth of July celebration! The day started off with a 7:00 am flag raising ceremony followed by a free community breakfast sponsored by the Moapa Valley Rotary club. Children decorated their bikes, scooters, wagons and other toy vehicles to ride in the "Young Patriots on Parade" which was led by Boy Scouts in uniform, holding a large banner announcing the parade. After the parade, the kids ditched their bikes and raced over to the fields in front of the Fine Arts building for the annual candy drop. The Leaders of the Future then directed the children to various water games that were set up on the field. Then the real fun started. Volunteer firefighters from the Overton Station 74 and Logandale station 73 rolled in, hooked up and started to spray down the crowds with their fire hoses. Later in the evening, after the community dinner was served, folks set up chairs and blankets on the grass in anticipation for the fireworks display. While they waited, Rick Houston and several local groups provided entertainment and music for the crowd. As darkness descended, Logandale youth Lexi Robison performed the "National Anthem" and the fireworks began.







Page 10 Rural Connections



United States Department of Agriculture

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89130 (702) 515-5400 http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf/



News Release

Erica Hupp

o: (775) 355-5311 c: (775) 771-4777

ehupp@fs.fed.us

Naaman Horn o: (702) 515-5413

c: (702) 659-2586

nhorn@fs.fed.us

Stage II Fire Restrictions and Shooting Closure Order in Effect on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Las Vegas, July 20, 2016 – Due to high fire danger, the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will be entering into Stage II Fire Restrictions. The restrictions will remain in place until Sept. 30, 2016, or when Forest officials determine that conditions have changed sufficiently to reduce the risk of human-caused wildfire.

"Due to the current high fire danger in the area, the SMNRA is going into both Level II Fire Restrictions and an Area-wide shooting closure," said Donn Christiansen, SMNRA Area Manager. "We have had several human-caused fires in the last month, started by both unattended campfires and recreational shooting. It is in the best interest of the public and for the protection of the natural resources to temporarily implement these restrictions."

As of Thursday, July 21, the following fire restrictions will apply on the SMNRA:

- All campfires, charcoal grills, and stove fires (wood, charcoal, and coal burning) are prohibited, including in developed recreation sites. Portable cooking stoves utilizing liquefied or bottled fuel sources continue to be allowed.
- Smoking is only allowed in an enclosed vehicle or building.
- Discharging a firearm is prohibited, except while engaged in a lawful hunt pursuant to state and federal regulations.
- Fireworks, exploding targets (for example Tannerite), and incendiary or tracer ammo are always prohibited on public lands.

Members of the public are cautioned that failure to comply with these restrictions may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. Also, a person found responsible for causing a wildfire as a result of violating these restrictions could also be charged for associated fire suppression costs.

For more detailed information on fire restrictions on the SMNRA, visit:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/htnf/alerts-notices

National Night Out, Laughlin Style

Look up the word "community" in the dictionary and you'll find that it is defined as more than a group of people living in one place. It's also a feeling of fellowship with others and a sharing of common attitudes, interests, and goals. Come and enjoy and evening filled with fun and free snacks. Held at the Laughlin Community Pool on Monday, August 1st from 6–9 pm, this family event is a chance to get to know the



officers of Laughlin. "This (event) allows us to come together and introduce ourselves, put a name with a face so that when they see us on the street... it allows us to have a comfortable atmosphere. And maybe they'll feel a little more comfortable and a little more relaxed and get to see the personal side of us versus law enforcement." Come out and enjoy hot dogs and beverages at this free event. For more information call the Laughlin Town Managers Office at 702–298–0828.

Pirates of the Colorado River Regatta

Shiver Me Timbers!!!!! Thousands of pirates are expected to invade the Colorado River for this 10th annual wet and wild, bi-state event that run from 7 am to 4 pm from August 11th through August 14th.

Locals and visitors alike are encouraged to put together pirate-themed floats and join this jolly extravaganza. The regatta welcomes fun-loving, outdoor enthusiasts to ride on adorned inner tubes; decked-out kayaks and canoes; and decorative, non-motorized parade-type floats for a colorful float down the Colorado River.

Launching will take place from four different sites located on both the Arizona and Nevada sides of the river. Join in on the fun contests for best decorated floats and Ms. River Regatta 2016. The festivities include pre- and post-event parties at various Laughlin resorts.

For details and registration information, visit www.bullheadregatta.com and for hotel accommodations, visit www.VisitLaughlin.com or call 1-800-4LAUGHLIN.



Page 12 Rural Connections

Events for August - Southeast

- Tuesday, August 9 Laughlin TAB Meeting at the Regional Gov. Center, 1:30 pm
- Monday, August 1 National Night Out at Laughlin Community Pool, 6 to 9 pm
- Tuesday, August 2 National Night Out at Searchlight Park, 6 to 8 pm
- Wednesday, August 10 Searchlight TAB meeting at the Searchlight Community Center, 6 pm
- Saturday, August 20 End of Summer Celebration at the Laughlin Library a salute to all the super readers who reach for the stars! Ages 0 11, 3 pm**
- Sunday, August 21 Movie Matinee at the Laughlin Library, 1:30 pm**

*TAB = Town Advisory Board **For more information call the Laughlin Library at 702-507-4060

Kids Learn About The Night Sky At The Laughlin Library

On Tuesday, July 19th National Park Service Rangers Elizabeth and Jacqueline presented their Night sky Explorers program an enthusiastic group at the Laughlin Library. Attendees learned about nocturnal

animals, light pollution the upcoming Perseid Meteor Shower, and common constellations in the summer sky. Not only were there plenty of books to read, there were also animal displays to give everyone a hand's on experience. Participating kids received a Junior Ranger Night Sky explorer badge and 2 library staff members were super excited to become Jr. Rangers!







