
TABLES

Table 1

Noms d'arena
Examples of adopted Australian circus names

Vide: Page 32.

| Circus family name | Main period | Original name |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Barton | c1904 + | Worley |
| Colleano | c1910 + | Sullivan |
| Cousins | c1857 + | Bumpuss |
| Eroni | 1893-1922 | Perry |
| Hyland | c1888-c1923 | Roberts |
| Lennon | c1904 + | Weiss |
| St Leon | 1865-c1963 | Jones |

Sources: Interviews; birth, marriage & death registrations; death notices; obituaries.

Table 2

Early circus entrepreneurs

Vide: Page 37.

| Name | From | Origin | Status | Exp | Edu | Father |
|------------------|------|------------------|--------|-----|------|------------|
| George Croft | 1832 | London | TOL | Yes | Unk | Soldier |
| Edward Hughes | 1841 | Dublin, Ireland | Free | Yes | Ill | Farmer |
| Robert A Radford | 1847 | Exeter, Devon | Free | Yes | R, W | Gardener |
| John Jones | 1847 | London | TOL | Yes | R | Chim sweep |
| William H Hayes | 1848 | Unknown | Unk | Unk | Unk | Unknown |
| James H Ashton | 1848 | Rochford, Essex | Free | Yes | R, W | Tinker |
| John Malcom | 1850 | Unknown | Free | No | R, W | Unknown |
| Henry Burton | 1850 | Horncastle,Lincs | Free | Yes | R, W | Esquire |
| Henry Adams | 1851 | London | Free | Yes | Unk | Performer |
| John S Noble | 1851 | Mass, USA | Free | Yes | Unk | Unknown |
| James Melville | 1851 | Inverness, Scot | Free | No | Unk | Boatman |
| Joseph A Rowe | 1852 | S Carolina,USA | Free | Yes | R, W | Unknown |
| William Banham | 1854 | England | Free | Yes | Unk | Performer |
| R J Osborne | 1854 | Unknown | Unk | Unk | Unk | Unknown |
| G B W Lewis | 1854 | London | Free | Yes | R, W | Unknown |
| William H Foley | 1854 | Washington, USA | Free | Yes | Unk | Unknown |
| William Brown | 1855 | Norfolk | TOL | No | R, W | Gunsmith |

Sources: Interviews; convict indents; birth, marriage & death registrations; obituaries.

Abbreviations: TOL (Ticket of leave), Unk (unknown), Ill (illiterate), R (can read), W (can write).

Table 3
Radfords Royal Circus, Van Diemens Land
Cumulative composition of performers
Vide: Page 45.

| Adult performers | | Juvenile performers | |
|------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| Male | Female | Male | Female |
| 59 | 7 | 4 | 5 |

Sources: Data compiled from reports in Van Diemens Land newspapers, Dec 1847-Jan 1850.

Table 4
Major Australian circuses
Reliance on rail transport
Vide: Page 182.

| Year | Track km | Circus | | | | | Rail |
|------|-------------|--------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|
| | | Wirth | FitzG | Perry | Coll | St L | Total |
| 1855 | 37 | N | N | N | N | W | 0 |
| 1861 | 390 | N | N | N | N | W | 0 |
| 1871 | 1,657 | N | N | N | N | W | 0 |
| 1881 | 6,456 | W | N | N | N | W | 0 |
| 1891 | 15,290 | R | O | W | N | W | 1 |
| 1901 | 20,240 | R | R | W | N | W | 2 |
| 1911 | 25,876 | R | N | W | W | W | 1 |
| 1921 | 37,492 | R | N | W | R | R | 2 |
| 1931 | 42,867 | R | N | R | N | M | 2 |
| 1941 | 43,829 | R | N | R | N | M | 2 |
| 1951 | 43,380 | R | N | M | N | N | 1 |
| 1961 | 42,007 | R | N | M | N | N | 1 |
| 1971 | 40,269 | N | N | M | N | N | 0 |

Sources: Contemporary advertisements & memoirs.

Abbreviations: N (non-operational); W (wagon based transport); M (motorised transport); R (rail-based transport); FitzG (FitzGerald Bros Circus); Coll (Colleanos All-Star Circus); St L (St Leons Circus).

Table 5
Wagga Wagga & Rockhampton
Comparison of transitory show activity
Vide: Page 196.

| | 1881 | 1881 | 1891 | 1891 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Wagga Wagga & area | Town | Australia | Town | Australia |
| Population | 3,795 | 2,250,194 | 4,596 | 3,240,985 |
| Circus | 4 | 11 | 4 | 12 |
| Other | 6 | 20 | 8 | 43 |
| Total | 10 | 31 | 12 | 55 |
| Rockhampton & area | Town | Australia | Town | Australia |
| Population | 7,435 | 2,250,194 | 11,629 | 3,240,985 |
| Circus | 1 | 11 | 1 | 12 |
| Other | 5 | 20 | 2 | 43 |
| Total | 6 | 31 | 3 | 55 |

Sources: Swan, 1970; St Leon, 1986; Brown, 1986.

Table 6
Visiting circuses & wild west shows
Vide: Page 219.

| | First | Second | Third | Origin |
|---|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| Nobles, J S, Olympic Circus | 1851-54 | | | USA |
| Rowes, J A, North American Circus | 1852-54 | 1858-59 | | USA |
| Cooke, Zoyara & Wilsons Great World Circus | 1866-67 | | | USA |
| Chiarinis Royal Italian Circus | 1873 | 1880 | 1884-85 | USA |
| Wilsons San Francisco Palace Circus | 1876 | 1877 | 1881-82 | USA |
| Cooper, Bailey & Co.'s International Allied Shows | 1876-77 | 1877-78 | | USA |
| Coles, W W, Concorporated Shows | 1880-81 | | | USA |
| Fryer & Co.'s | 1885-87 | | | USA |
| Silbon-Stirk Congress of Wonders | 1889 | | | UK/USA |
| Carvers, Dr W F, Wild America | 1890-91 | | | USA |
| Harmstons Great American & Continental Cirque | 1890-91 | 1897-98 | | UK/USA |
| Sells Bros | 1891-92 | | | USA |
| Fillis' Great Circus & Menagerie | 1892-94 | | | South Africa |
| Bristols, Professor D M, Great American Circus | 1897-98 | | | USA |
| Texas Jacks Wild West Show | 1898 | | | USA |
| Jordans, The Flying, Circus Carnival | 1897-98 | 1899 | | USA |
| Bostock & Wombells Novelty Circus & Menagerie | 1906 | | | UK |
| Bud Atkinsons American Circus & Wild West | 1911 | 1912-13 | | USA |
| Kid Carters American Wild West Show | 1920 | | | USA |

Sources: Contemporary Australian newspapers.

Table 7
Cooper, Bailey & Co.'s 1876-77 Australian Tour
Income statement, as reconstructed
Vide: Page 222.

| | US \$ | £ | £ | £ |
|---|--------|-------|--------|---------------|
| Total reported receipts | | | | 44,362 |
| Less: Expenses (USA) | | | | |
| Transportation by sea San Francisco to Sydney | 11,100 | | | |
| Other expenses at San Francisco on a/c of Australian trip | 8,656 | | | |
| <i>Translated into £ Australian @ £1 = US \$2.40.</i> | 19,756 | | 8,232 | |
| Less: Expenses (Australia) | | | | |
| Salaries @ £340 for 26 weeks | | 8,840 | | |
| Printing | | 3,123 | | |
| Coastal shipping, Australia (approx 3,888 miles) | | 3,050 | | |
| Erection of 'amphitheatres' in colonial capitals | | 2,275 | | |
| Rail transportation (2,006 miles) | | 1,380 | | |
| Gas piping and billing in colonial capitals | | 721 | | |
| Haulage | | 427 | | |
| Other expenses, <i>not detailed</i> | | 8,277 | 28,093 | |
| Total reported expenses | | | | 36,325 |
| Net profit, as reconstructed | | | | £8,037 |

Source: James A. Bailey Papers, McCaddon Collection, Princeton Library, New Jersey, USA.

Table 8
W W Coles Concorporated Shows
Summary of touring activity, 1880-81
Vide: Page 225.

| Year | Tour | Stands | Days | Attendance | | |
|--------|---------------------------|--------|------|------------|-----------|---------|
| | | | | Total | Per stand | Per day |
| 1880 | American [^] | 146 | 166 | 1.229m | 8,415 | 7,401 |
| 1880-1 | Australasian [#] | 48 | 135 | 1.085m | 22,604 | 8,037 |
| 1881 | American [^] | 111 | 130 | 1.041m | 9,375 | 8,005 |

Source: Data drawn from Cole's 1882 Courier as presented in Slout, 2002, p.293.

Notes: # Australia and New Zealand, approximately 5 months; ^ The American circus season typically lasted from April to October. The commencement of Cole's 1881 domestic season was delayed until 23 May 1881 due to the return crossing of the Pacific from Australia. Hence the numbers of stands and days for the 1881 home season were somewhat smaller than for 1880.

Table 9

**Capital investment for 'road' shows
Expressed in 2005 Australian dollars**

Vide: Page 242,

| Year | Company | Investment | \$A 2005 |
|------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| 1855 | Browns | £3,000e | 122,000 |
| 1883 | St Leons | £5,000 | 298,000 |
| 1896 | Probascos | £3,000 | 229,000 |
| 1912 | Bud Atkinsons | £8,300 | 481,000 |
| 1935 | Ivan Bros | £40,000 | 1,682,000 |
| 1961 | Bullen Bros | £250,000 | 2,668,319 |

Sources: Contemporary reports, interviews, author's estimate ('e').

Table 10

Australia's population distribution

Vide: Page 269.

| Year | Capital cities | Other urban | Rural areas |
|------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1861 | 20% | 19% | 61% |
| 1901 | 32% | 26% | 42% |

Source: Vamplew, 198, p.41.

Table 11

**Capital investment for a 'rail' based circus, Wirth Bros
Expressed in 2005 Australian dollars**

Vide: Page 270.

| Year | Company | Investment | \$A 2005 |
|------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1907 | Wirth Bros | £15.000 | 2,175,508 |
| 1948 | Wirth Bros | £250,000 | 5,889, 632 |

Sources: Referee, 31 Jan, 1907; Anon, 1951.

Table 12

Real wages, Australia, 1861-1901

Vide: Page 271.

| Year | Australia |
|-------|-----------|
| 1861e | 100 |
| 1871 | 103 |
| 1881 | 117 |
| 1891 | 125 |
| 1900 | 102 |

Source: Vamplew, 1987, p.160, author's estimate ('e').

Table 13
Economic activity & itinerant shows

Vide: Page 273.

| | Pop@ | Urban@ | Rural@ | Rail@ | GDP# | Itinerant companies | |
|---------|-------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | | % | % | Kms | \$A 1939 | Circus+ | Other |
| 1850 | 0.438m | 46 | 54 | 0 | 11.7 | 2 | 8 |
| 1855 | | | | 37 | 50.9 | 14 | 25 |
| 1860-61 | 1.149m | 39 | 61 | 389 | 63.6 | 12 | 38 |
| 1865 | | | | | 65.5 | 14 | 41 |
| 1870-71 | 1.660m | 46 | 54 | 1,648 | 81.7 | 8 | 25 |
| 1875 | | | | | 118.8 | 16 | 23 |
| 1880-81 | 2.244m | 49 | 51 | 6,420 | 133.8 | 16 | 16 |
| 1885 | | | | | 173.3 | 15 | 38 |
| 1890-91 | 3.152m | 56 | 44 | 15,200 | 206.3 | 23 | 52 |
| 1895 | | | | | 140.6 | 21 | 74 |
| 1900-01 | 3.763m | 58 | 42 | 20,123 | 189.1 | 9 | 27 |
| 1905 | | | | | 224.1 | 21 | 61 |
| 1910-11 | 4.428m | 60 | 40 | 25,726 | 313.4 | 12 | 36 |
| 1915 | | | | | 372.4 | 17 | 23 |
| 1920-21 | 5.436m | 63 | 37 | 37,274 | 576.9 | 4 | 7 |

Sources:

Vamplew, 1987, p.41, 132-33.

St Leon, M, 2005.

Testro, 1971, p.106.

contemporary newspapers.

Notes:

GDP at 1939 price levels.

@ Population & rail data lagged one year behind GDP & company data.

+ Includes circus-style troupes, wild west shows and rodeos.

Table 14
Cooper, Bailey & Co.'s Great International Allied Shows
Composition of train used for South Australian tour, 1877.

Vide: Page 274.

| Carriage type | No. |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Goods waggons | 2 |
| Timber trucks - long | 5 |
| Timber trucks - short | 9 |
| Waggons - high side | 5 |
| Cattle trucks | 6 |
| 1 st class carriage | 1 |
| 2 nd class carriage | 4 |
| Heavy brake vans | 2 |
| Total | 34 |

Source: South Australian Government Railways manifest contained within James A Bailey papers, McCaddon Collection, Princeton University, New Jersey, USA.

Table 15
Major Australian circus 'wagon' shows

Vide: Page 276.

| Circus | Year | Wagons | Personnnel | Horses |
|------------------------|------|--------|------------|--------|
| Eroni Bros (M) | 1900 | 47 | 80e | 150 |
| Lennons (M) | 1914 | 27 | 26a, 8m | 120 |
| Eronis & Soles (M) | 1913 | >30e | 70e | 110 |
| Gus St Leons | 1912 | 20 | 60 | 55 |
| St Leon Bros | 1904 | 15 | 30e | 50e |
| Probascos | 1899 | 16e | 55A | 40 |
| FitzGerald Bros | 1894 | 20 | n | 140 |
| FitzGerald Bros | 1893 | 18 | 80 | 100 |
| Wirth Bros | 1888 | 24 | 80e | 100 |
| St Leons (M) | 1883 | 20 | 50 | 100 |
| Ashton's | 1873 | 12 | 25e | 40 |

Sources: Contemporary Australian newspapers, interviews.

Notes:

a Artists

m Musicians

e Estimate

A All personnel

n no data available

M includes menagerie.

Table 16
Rail-based circuses
Rail costs as a proportion of total operating costs

Vide: Page 277.

| Year | Circus | Operating costs | Rail costs | Proportion |
|------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | \$A 2005 | \$A 2005 | % |
| 1877 | Cooper, Bailey & Co. | 7,669,971 | 325,168 | 4.2% |
| 1901 | FitzGerald Bros | 6,482,107 | 762,875 | 11.8% |
| 1907 | Wirth Bros | 6,033,410 | 1,619, 117 + | 26.8% |
| 1911 | Wirth Bros | 6,908,327 | 1,484,465 + | 21.5% |
| 1963 | Wirth Bros | 3,254,630 | 1,084,877 | 33.3% |

Sources:

James A Bailey Papers, McCaddon Collection, Princeton University, USA

Anon, 1901

Referee, 31 Jan 1907

Anon, 1911

Higham, 1963.

Notes

:

Australian component, annualised, excluding cost of trans-continental shipping.

+ *Annualised transportation costs.*

Table 17
Comparison of Australian and British travelling conditions

Vide: Page 278.

| Circus | Gus St Leons | Lord George Sangers |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Period | Jan 1912-Apr 1913 | Mar 1886-Nov 1886 |
| Touring region | NSW | England & Wales |
| Population | 1,646,734 (1911) | 25,974,439 (1881) |
| Operational period | 61 weeks# | 39 weeks |
| Kilometres travelled | 8,816 | 3,914 |
| Number of towns visited | 217 | 192 |
| Average towns per week | 3.56 | 4.92 |
| Average kilometres per week | 145 | 100 |
| Average k'metres between towns | 40.6 | 20.4 |
| Population density per sq km | 2.1 | 173.8 |

Sources:

Referee, 30 Apr 1913.

Lukens, 1956.

Notes:

69 weeks less 8 weeks estimated period for winter camp, 1912.

Table 18
Comparison of touring patterns (I)
Wagon, rail and motorised circuses

Vide: Page 281.

| | St Leons | | Wirth Bros | | McConvilles | |
|--------|-----------------|----|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|
| | Wagon, SA, 1879 | km | Rail, NSW, 1916 | km | Road, Qld, 1948 | km |
| 31-May | Kapunda | | | | | |
| 01-Jun | | | Parramatta | | Pittsworth | |
| 02-Jun | Clare | 61 | | | Toowoomba | 85 |
| 03-Jun | Burra Burra | 43 | Lithgow | 98 | Toowoomba | |
| 04-Jun | Hallett | 33 | | | Toowoomba | |
| 05-Jun | Jamestown | 39 | | | Toowoomba | |
| 06-Jun | Laura | 40 | | | | |
| 07-Jun | Melrose | 45 | Bathurst | 62 | Helidon | 17 |
| 08-Jun | | | Orange | 53 | Gatton | 18 |
| 09-Jun | Port Augusta | 84 | Wellington | 107 | Laidley | 20 |
| 10-Jun | | | Dubbo | 50 | Rosewood | 30 |
| 11-Jun | | | | | Ipswich | 17 |
| 12-Jun | Wilmington | 63 | Coonamble | 154 | | |
| 13-Jun | | | | | | |
| 14-Jun | Gladstone | 77 | Narromine | 193 | Ipswich | |
| 15-Jun | | | | | Booyal | 300 |
| 16-Jun | Port Pirie | 84 | Parkes | 98 | Lowood | 225 |
| 17-Jun | | | Forbes | 33 | Esk | 35 |
| 18-Jun | Crystal Brook | 27 | | | Toogoolawah | 16 |
| 19-Jun | Redhill | 25 | Molong | 112 | Toogoolawah | |
| 20-Jun | Blythe | 53 | | | | |
| 21-Jun | Snowtown | 40 | Cowra | 97 | Bundamba | 50 |
| 22-Jun | | | Grenfell | 54 | Goodna | 66 |
| 23-Jun | Kadina | 55 | Young | 52 | Windsor | 6 |
| 24-Jun | Kadina | | | | Nundah | 5 |
| 25-Jun | Wallaroo | 10 | | | Sandgate | 8 |
| 26-Jun | Moonta | 18 | | | Sandgate | |
| 27-Jun | Moonta | | Yass | 83 | | |
| 28-Jun | Moonta | | Cootamundra | 112 | Wynnum | 20 |
| 29-Jun | | | | | Bulimba | 4 |
| 30-Jun | Kulpara | 50 | Wagga Wagga | 102 | Hawthorn | 2 |

Sources: Contemporary Australian newspapers.

Table 19

**Comparison of touring patterns (II)
Wagon, rail and motorised circuses**

Vide: Page 281.

| Summary | Wagon | Rail | Motor |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Company | St Leons | Wirths | McConvilles |
| Year | 1879 | 1916 | 1948 |
| Distance travelled (km) | 847 | 1460 | 924 |
| Average distance per day (km) | 28 | 49 | 31 |
| Number of stands | 18 | 16 | 19 |
| - One night stands | 16 | 16 | 15 |
| - Two night stands | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| - Three night stands | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| - Four night stands | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of performances | 21 | 16 | 25 |
| Avg distance between stands (km) | 47 | 91 | 49 |

Sources: Contemporary Australian newspapers.

Table 20

Australian itinerant show activity, 1909

Vide: Page 282.

| Show type | 1909 |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Circus | 10 |
| Pictures, moving & still | 8 |
| Concert & musical | 7 |
| Theatrical & vaudeville | 6 |
| Buckjumping | 3 |
| Total | 34 |

Sources: Contemporary Australian newspapers.

DATA

Measurements

Unless stated otherwise, all distances and weights were expressed in metric form. Distances originally expressed in miles were converted into kilometres at the rate of 1 mile = 1.6 kilometres. Weights originally expressed in pounds were converted into kilograms at the rate of 1 pound = 2.2 kilograms.

Currencies

Unless stated otherwise, currency amounts have been expressed in the prevailing Australian denomination, Australian pounds until 1966 and Australian dollars thereafter. Other currencies, principally the pound sterling and the American dollar, were identified with the symbols £Stg and US\$ respectively. British and American currencies were translated into their Australian equivalents in terms of historical rates provided by the Reserve Bank of Australia. The New Zealand pound was translated, where necessary, at parity with the pound sterling.

For the purposes of temporal comparisons (for example, Tables 9 and 16), contemporary Australian currency amounts were expressed in current (2005) dollars (converted from Australian pounds, if pre-1966, at the official rate of two Australian dollars = one Australian pound) using price deflation tables, based on Consumer Price Index data provided by the Reserve Bank of Australia as well as tables presented in Vamplew, R, *Australians: historical statistics*, Sydney: Fairfax, Syme & Weldon Associates, 1987.

MILESTONES

Milestones

| Year | Event | Page* |
|-------------|--|--------------|
| 1780 | Founding of Astleys Amphitheatre, London. | 1 |
| 1841 | Arrival of Signor Luigi Dalle Case & Troupe. | 231 |
| 1847 | George Croft opens amphitheatre in Moreton Bay [Brisbane]. | 175 |
| 1847 | Opening of Radfords Royal Circus, Launceston. | 4 |
| 1848 | Robert Avis Radfords seasons in Hobart Town. | 41 |
| 1848 | John Quinn walks along the forestay of US ship Junior, Hobart Town. | 216 |
| 1848 | Ashton gives first appearance in Radfords Amphitheatre, Hobart Town. | 4 |
| 1849 | Opening of Hayes shortlived amphitheatre, Melbourne. | 4 |
| 1850 | Opening of Royal Australian Equestrian Circus ['Malcoms'], Sydney. | 4 |
| 1850 | Opening of E H Taylors Amphitheatre, Adelaide. | 4 |
| 1850 | Opening of Beaumont & Wallers Zoological Gardens. | 336 |
| 1851 | Arrival of Nobles Olympic Circus in Adelaide from Cape Town. | 219 |
| 1851 | Burtons Circus arrives on goldfields, Turon River, from Maitland. | 11 |
| 1851 | First appearances of Aboriginal infant performers. | 55 |
| 1852 | Arrival of J A Rowes North American Circus in Melbourne. | 153 |
| 1853 | First use of tents to accommodate circus performance. | 169 |
| 1853 | Burtons Circus travels overland from Sydney to Port Phillip. | 192 |
| 1854 | Opening of Astleys Amphitheatre, Melbourne. | 231 |
| 1855 | Opening of Ashtons Amphitheatre, formerly Malcoms, Sydney. | 332 |
| 1855 | William Browns Roman Amphitheatre & Australian Coliseum. | 113 |
| 1859 | First colonial exhibition of a trapeze act by The Wieland Troupe. | 252 |
| 1865 | Appearance of St Leon Troupe at Theatre Royal, Melbourne. | 32 |
| 1866 | Billy Jones walks tightrope from Foleys Circus to Theatre Royal, Hobart. | 42 |
| 1867 | Arrival of first Japanese acrobatic troupes. | 217 |
| 1869 | First visit of a circus to Western Australia, Stebbings Intercolonial. | 181 |
| 1870 | Bird & Taylors Great American Circus organised, Sydney. | 142 |
| 1873 | Adelaide Hippodrome; first visit of Chiarinis Royal Italian Circus. | 161 |
| 1873 | Partnership of Burton & Taylors Grand United Circus Company. | 363 |
| 1874 | First visit of Blondin, tightrope walker. | 233 |
| 1875 | Founding of St Leons Royal Victoria Circus. | 247 |
| 1876 | First visit of Wilsons San Francisco Palace Circus. | 273 |
| 1876 | First visit of Cooper, Bailey & Co.'s Circus, from U S A. | 161 |
| 1877 | Harry L'Estrange walks tightrope across Middle Harbour, Sydney. | 233 |
| 1878 | Burtons Great Australian Circus tours New Zealand. | 377 |
| 1880 | Insolvency of Henry Burton, sale of Burtons Circus to W & J Woodyear. | 46 |
| 1880 | W W Coles Concorporated Shows commence Australasian tour. | 153 |
| 1882 | Wirth Bros Circus commences travels. | 243 |
| 1885 | St Leons Royal Palace Circus tours New Zealand. | 113 |
| 1888 | Wirths Circus visits New Caledonia. | 275 |

Milestones

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 1888 | Wirths Circus commits to rail travel. | 275 |
| 1889 | Insolvency of Matthew St Leon. | 265 |
| 1889 | Death of James Henry Ashton at Gladstone, Queensland | 145 |
| 1890 | Wirth Bros Circus engages Wild West Show from U S A. | 163 |
| 1890 | First visit of Harmstons Circus, from San Francisco. | 157 |
| 1891 | Visit of Sells Bros Circus, from U S A. | 136 |
| 1893 | Departure of Wirth Bros Circus on extended international tour. | 131 |
| 1893 | Organisation of Eroni Bros Circus by family of W G Perry. | 33 |
| 1893 | Archduke Ferdinand d'Este sees FitzGerald Bros Circus in Sydney. | 25 |
| 1894 | Birth of May Zinga - later known as May Wirth - at Bundaberg, Qld. | 126 |
| 1895 | Engagement of FitzGeralds New London Company. | 276 |
| 1895 | Wirths Pacific Circus tours S E Asia [Harry Wirth, proprietor]. | 377 |
| 1896 | Founding of Probascos Circus, Dunedin. | 241 |
| 1896 | Death of C O Peart, high diver in FitzGerald's Circus, Sydney. | 92 |
| 1897 | First visit of Flying Jordans Circus & Carnival, from U S A. | 352 |
| 1896 | Wirths Australian Circus tours England. | 132 |
| 1899 | Liquidation of Probascos Circus, Bega. | 248 |
| 1900 | Return of Wirth Bros Circus to Australia. | 133 |
| 1900 | Death of Henry Burton at Melbourne Dramatic Home | 264 |
| 1902 | FitzGerald Bros Circus divided into two companies. | 203 |
| 1903 | Death of Matthew St Leon, circus proprietor. | 146 |
| 1906 | Deaths of Dan & Tom FitzGerald, circus proprietors. | 229 |
| 1906 | Visit of Bostock & Wombells Circus, Menagerie & Vaudeville Show. | 209 |
| 1906 | Partnership between James Ashton & Walter St Leon circuses. | 58 |
| 1908 | Circuses entertain sailors of the US Great White Fleet at Albany W A | 195 |
| 1909 | Founding of Gus St Leons Great United Circus, Liverpool. | 143 |
| 1909 | Formation of Showmens Association of Australia. | 17 |
| 1910 | Founding of Colleanos Circus, near Warialda, N S W. | 371 |
| 1911 | Ashtons Circus preceded by agent, Mr Jack, in his own motor vehicle. | 184 |
| 1912 | US debut of May Wirth, Australian rider, Barnum & Bailey, New York. | 126 |
| 1912 | Bud Atkinsons American Circus & Wild West Show. | 184 |
| 1914 | Founding of Perry Bros Circus by James Perry | 244 |
| 1915 | Australian tour of May Wirth & Troupe for Wirth Bros Circus. | 127 |
| 1916 | Founding of Sole Bros Circus. | 245 |
| 1917 | Imposition of Amusement Tax by Commonwealth Government | 254 |
| 1919 | Wirth Bros Circus crosses Nullarbor Plain by rail. | 181 |
| 1920 | Holden Bros Circus adopts electric lighting. | 177 |
| 1923 | Closure of Colleanos Circus. | 128 |
| 1923 | Holden Bros Circus, first circus to motorise. | 278 |
| 1923 | Founding of Bullen Bros Circus. | 353 |
| 1923 | Bill Sole and Charles Eroni, circus proprietors, killed at Blayney, N S W. | 93 |
| 1923 | Working agreement between Wirth and Ringling circuses formalised | 235 |

Milestones

| | | |
|------|---|-------|
| 1925 | Con Colleano 'center ring' star in Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey. | 129 |
| 1925 | George Wirth publishes autobiography. | xxiii |
| 1926 | Departure of Sole Bros Circus for three year tour of southern Africa. | 352 |
| 1933 | Philip Wirth publishes autobiography. | xxiii |
| 1934 | West's Circus crosses Nullarbor Plain by horsedrawn wagons. | 187 |
| 1936 | Ivan Bros Circus tours. | 249 |
| 1937 | Death of Philip Wirth. | 265 |
| 1941 | Death of George Wirth. | 265 |
| 1946 | Founding of Silvers Circus. | 247 |
| 1956 | Closure of Silvers Circus. | 380 |
| 1960 | Con Colleano gives final performance in Honolulu. | 130 |
| 1963 | Closure of Wirth Bros Circus. | 381` |
| 1964 | First Australian tour of Great Moscow Circus. | 230 |
| 1969 | Closure of Bullen Bros Circus at Parramatta, N S W. | 382 |
| 1973 | Launch of New Circus. | 384 |
| 1973 | Death of Con Colleano, Miami, U S A. | 130 |
| 1973 | Philip Petit walks tightrope between pylons of Sydney Harbour Bridge. | 234 |
| 1974 | Death of Alfred Percival Bullen. | 147 |
| 1978 | Launch of Circus Oz, Melbourne. | 138 |
| 1978 | Death of May Wirth, Sarasota, U S A. | 128 |
| 1979 | Founding of Flying Fruit Fly Circus. | 387 |
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