

H O B B Y

B A N D W A G O N



December

1947

10c

Shown above is Joseph L. Tracy of Buffalo, N.Y. with several of his fine circus parade wagon models. Mr. Tracy also is the owner of the largest collection of "human oddities of the circus photographs" in the world. See publisher's column in this issue.

— The Collector's Monthly —

Hobby-Bandwagon

"The Collector's Monthly"

(Formerly Hobby-Swapper)

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HARRY M. SIMPSON
Publisher

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The Publisher Says



It is a pleasure to honor on this month's front cover, a man that is more than a noted collector, he is Joseph L. Tracy of Buffalo, N. Y., who spends time "ballying" for his fellow collectors and for the good of the clubs which he is a member, but never finds time to "sing praise" for himself, who has one of the largest and finest collections of "human oddities of the circus photographs" in the world. Yes, he is the type of person and collector that we are all proud to know and be friendly with.

Since I have had the pleasure of knowing Joe Tracy, he has been constantly sending praise of other collectors to this office. He wrote a story on the fine model horses made by Bernie Shevlin, yet he has some mighty fine circus models of his own. He has mentioned that C. Spencer Chambers has one of the largest dealer-stock of Circusiana that he has seen or expects to see, he also has mentioned seeing the fine collection of Burt L. Wilson and others, yet you never hear him mention that he is the possessor of a fine collection himself.

I have seen this collection and any part of it would be more than most collectors can boast of having. The collection is neatly mounted in books, classified with the proper data for each and every photograph, the latter is what many collections of this specialty lack.

Joe Tracy is a collector's collector, a friend's friend, lives at 172 Riverside Avenue and is truly worthy of this small honor for what he has done for his fellow collectors.

Holiday greetings to all,

Harry M. Simpson

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded In 1939

By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson Editor

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A CRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Once more it's Christmas, the time of "peace on earth good will toward man" and at this time I want to extend my Christmas Wishes to all the members of "The Circus Historical Society" and as we start in on a new year, let us all work and pull together. For the good of our organization, let's just be neighbors and "do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

And so the old "Merry Christmas" seems happier, too, when I wish it again just especially for you all.

BETTE LEONARD

CHS PHOTO

This month's CHS photograph is furnished by William H. Kasiska, CHS No. 6 of Baraboo, Wis., who gives the following account in regards to the photo: "The picture is a panorama of the lay-out of the lot of Ringline Bros.-& Bailey Circus in Lake Frank Park along the shore of Lake Michigan, Milwaukee, Wis., on Aug. 18, 1935 (two-day stand Aug. 17-18). This lot, which was broken in (used for the first time) that season, is adjacent to the railroad yards, convenient for loading and but a matter of a few blocks from downtown district. The gentle breeze from

Lake Michigan provided "natural air-conditioning" on a warm day. Viewed from the viaduct over C. & N. W. R. R. tracks in Juneau Park, the show on the lot made an imposing picture of its vastness. At night with all the lights, well, who wouldn't wish that he might have a picture of that sight in his album!

In 1935, the show was under the general managership of Sam Gumpertz and Carl Hathaway was supt., Fred Bradna was equestrian director and Merle Evans was musical director. James Wahlen was supt. of canvas, Mickey Graves, supt. of props and Ed Doherty was supt. of elephants. The "Spec" was "Dubar of Delhi". Among the performers were the Reiffenach Sisters, Loyal Repenskis, Walter Guice troupe, The Charles Clarkes (juggling), Yom Kam Troupe, Pollenbergs and their bears, The Tubors and their sea lions, Ed and Jennie Rooney, Mlle. Gillette, Harry Rettley and the toppling tables, Olveras, Antaleks, Karalis, Walknurs, Torrence and Dolores, Yacapis, Danwills, Maschinos, Uyenos, Dorothy Herbert, the fearless equestrian, Otaris, Wallendas, flying acts by the Concellos and Comets, and Hugo Zaccchinis Cannon Act as a finale. Among the clown alley was Felix Adler, Lou Jacob Polidor, Paul Wentzel, Toby Tyler, Charlie Bell, Harry Rettley, Chesty Mortur, DeKoe Bros., Jimmy Davison, Buck Baker, Herman Joseph, Billy Ne Naro, Paul Harompo, Frankie Saluto and several others. Tim McCoy put on a real wild west after-show. There you have it—an old story to most of us but a revival of memories of a grand performance of that season a dozen years ago—worth recollecting."

May Circus Days in'48,
FOR EVERYONE
Be Simply Great!

Don F. Smith

CHS No. 1

SECOND OPENING

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the second opening, the blowoff was undoubtedly that full page splash of clown alley all over the front page of Chicago Tribune's magazine of Books supplement, which called your attention in that gigantic sendoff to Thomas Duncan's new seven hundred page show. Mr. Duncan's extravaganza at three dollars and fifty cents a copy starts off with a couple of errors, such as a bull man wearing a cap and fellows working around hay with sweaters on but it soon gets into that rolling camel gate that a tandem hitch of them working in breast collars will show you during the entirety of that noon-day street parade. It's a good story for anybody and particularly a showman even if he does have to take a few paragraphs with a lick of salt. A big part of Mr. Duncan's show is devoted to finance but not any of his characters in the show business ever makes any money, in his pages.

In the entire performance from the opening on page one to that last and final paragraph on page seven hundred and three, Mr. Duncan only gives you two fine characters, a couple of acrobats that never get more than a baby spot in the entirety of his production. Anyone that has done any troupe-

ing knows that for some quaint reason or other, that can hardly be explained you'll find with any outfit that carries a train car load of grifters, that the working men and kinkers sort of smile about, will also have a number of staff artists that despite their sufferings that Mr. Duncan so aptly describes, have never lost the art of being kind to anyone suffering or acquired the art of becoming a thoro and complete heel.

Those tax artists would probably have a difficulty in understanding a situation of this nature because in the course of their continuous performance in their steal arena they never permit their conscience to bother them regarding the brutal slashes that they have made on take in gate receipts by deliberately adding a tax, the injustice of which injures only show folk who have spent their lives in acquiring the mastery of their art. Most everyone remembers that old gag they used to feed you back in your kid show catching days about a character named Robin Hood that gained the choicest billing on that show by robbing some folks and turning it over to others, the percentage that he took out for handling this enterprise however was never mentioned. Then, too, this was a fictitious character another item the tax experts seem to have forgotten and in real life it won't work, which they will eventually discover to their surprise and undoubted irritation. The chaos and disturbance that a small time grifter created never bothered him very much, either.

This probably isn't playing day and date with Karl Marx or Hegel, but there's still a few folks around that don't figure either one of those fellows had a very good show.

Do the very best that you can to obtain a copy of Mr. Duncan's "Gus The Great," and if you may have an idea that your bookshelves can't cut the nut that their being brightened up with a brand new act at three dollars and fifty cents would create, go to your public library anywhere and ask for a copy, thereby creating as much demand as possible for Thomas W. Duncan's sincere effort. I thank you one and all for your kind attention.

—Mac

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WALTER L. MAIN Parade List and Rules as Issued During 1904

The following is the parade list and rules of the parade as issued by Walter L. Main on March 21, 1904. Hobby-Bandwagon is indebted to this grand old man of the circus for this valuable information from his files. The number before each entry is the number of horses used which totaled 142 horses.

Parade List

(1, Section No. 1. Owen Doud, Marshal; (1) Horse Adonis and Trap, Henry Pullman, leader and layer-out of parade; (2) Mounted Knights; (8) Blacks on Big Band wagon; (10) Five Peru cages, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 with banners on four, last one Continental Band on top; two Llamas led or driven; two year old camel led, child rider; (4) Santa Claus wagon, carrying baby camel, and Rose Monroe playing bag pipes; boy to attend camel, young lady driver if possible; mother camel; No. 7 cage drawn by 4 camels.

(1) Burlesque automobile, (hurde mule); (6) No. 89, Tableaux, lady drum corps on top; (2) No. 8, cottage cage; (2) No. 9, cottage cage; (2) No. 10, cottage cage; (2) No. 11, Den, cage striped hyenas; (2) No. 6 Flower den.; (2) Mrs. Hocum (Tandem); (1) Section No. 2, R. H. Dockrill, marshal.

(10) Lady riders Zig Zag, 1, 2, 3, 4; (2) clown band; (2) Jack & Jill mule, tandem, with clown and monkey riding Jack; (1) led pony, monkey rider; (1) Hocum pony; (8) Ponies on 4. pony cages, 12, 15, 23, 24; Cape cart, lady and gent riders; (6) No. 91, tableaux—Coon band.

(4) Ostrich den No. 16, 3 elks inside with elk emblems, pictures, etc., all over; (4) Big Den with one baby and two male and female leopards; (4) Big Den with two Bengal tigers, and two black leopards closed on open; (4) Big den, one big male, and two female lions inside. One lady in high chair, and one 2-year old lion chained at one end of the top, and one full grown sheep at the other end;

(1) Bugler, British; (8) English soldiers, two abreast, kakai suits, first one on the right carry English flag.

(6) New South Wales lancers, two abreast; (10) mounted band, in Boer band suits, black coats, white pants; (6) Boers two abreast first one on right to carry Boer flag; (4) Mules on stage coach, Boer suit for driver, who must be the oldest driver with show, and gray if possible. Tie any old trunk on rear for parade only. Inside must be filled with people, no matter whether men, women or children, and one or two men on top with guns; (2) Gatling gun, 2 or 4 men on seats, man riding nigh horse, all in uniform.

(2) Two-horse chariot, lady driver; (4) four-horse chariot, gent driver; herd of elephants, single file, lady riding on largest in howdah; bandliers on three; (4) callope; (2) Trambeline, worst harness with show, straw hats on horses, and old Dutch blinds sure; (1) Dr. Stull, supt. parade.

Rules Of Parade

Superintendents must see that tops of cages and tableaux, etc. are cleaned every day before parade.

Last of parade must be back on show grounds at 11 o'clock. Route Rider of parade will give orders what time parade starts.

Equestrian Director will have "Call" blown 20 minutes before the time of getting ready.

If any vehicle breaks in parade, pull to one side and after fixed up, get in anywhere, but do not stop the parade.

Every employee that is not in parade and is not active on the Lot, must be all along the line of parade telling people to look out for their horses.

In case of storm coming up while parade is out, and orders are given to break ranks, want any and all employees that are down street to take off plumes, banners, wardrobe, etc., and keep them in some dry place until the storm is over, and the riders have the right

when the word is given to ride in-
to livery stables and elsewhere to
save the wardrobe. If order comes
to close up in case of a storm, you
are not supposed to keep 30 feet
apart, and therefore run close to-
gether and get to the Lot as soon
as possible without having runa-
ways.

Rehearsal parade in Geneva,
19th, 20th or 21st, according to
weather.

Ladies hold up their reins in
their left hand only. Sit straight,
wear gauntlet gloves in parade and
entry, each lady must furnish her
own. Keep horses heads uniform,
keep proper distance apart.

Bands play, not stall, no mash-
ing. Drivers watch your teams,
and not be looking all around the
streets.

Drivers must leave hats, coats,
etc. in stable or menagerie, under
no consideration on tops of wagons
or cages. Drive or ride no horse
faster than a walk, without orders
from the time the parade leaves
the lot until it is all over.

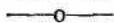
Drivers must be clean shaven,
and have their boots blackened
when time permits.

No smoking or chewing, and no
smoking anywhere while wearing
the company's wardrobe.

Bosses must give each new driv-
er or performer their instructions
All extra people that cannot play
in clown band, must ride in stage
coach or gents with good voices on
top of cages, and warn people to
look out for their horses, and in
case of runaways or accidents must
get down off of wagons and cages
and stop the runaways.

No one must appear in parade
in shirt sleeves or with their vests
unbuttoned.

All riders and vehicles keep just
30 feet apart, except the Mounted
Band, they keep together.



THANKS

To the following for items sent
to the publisher for his collection:
Joseph L. Tracy, Public Stamp Co.
of Shanghai, China, Bette Leonard,
Clarence Shank, Otto Schieman,
Terrell Jacobs, C. Spencer Cham-
bers, Chalmer Condon, Gene Fei-
gert, Walter Pietschmann, Don
Smith, Dr. H. Powers, Burns M.
Kattenberg, W. H. Woodcock,
Walter L. Main, Jake Posey and
John J. Crowley.



A CHRISTMAS NOTE ACROSS THE MILES FOR ALL OF YOU!

"Glory to God in the
highest, and on earth,
Peace, Good Will To-
ward Men."

BETTE LEONARD

President C.H.S.



WE EXTEND SEASON'S GREETINGS

To Everyone Interested
In Or Connected With

THE CIRCUS

Leota D. Chambers

C. Spencer Chambers

Syracuse, N. Y.

REMINISCES of JAKE POSEY

The year of 1879, I was a lad 16 years of age, working for the Cincinnati Railroad Omnibus Co., driving four horses on a large omnibus. In those days there was no Union Station—each railroad had its own individual depot. These was a heavy traffic of emigrants going west. They came in on the Pennsylvania R. R. in the east end and went out on the Ohio



JAKE POSEY, "Last of the Forty Horse Drivers," on his 84th birthday.

& Mississippi R. R. which was in the west end of Cincinnati. It was my duty to transfer those through passengers. The streets of Cincinnati were paved with round cobble stones, about the size of a baseball. They were laid in sand, covered with gravel, and rammed by hand. They became loose very easily and the street was usually full of holes. The connection between trains was very close and when the train from the east was late, it meant use the whip and let them run. I can assure you it was a rough ride.

I contracted the black measles, went home to my parents, who were in Cincinnati. Mother was

running a boarding house, father was in the fire department driving an engine. After I recovered from the measles, I told my folks I was going back to the Omnibus Co., but I went to Connersville, Indiana, where the Van Amburgh Circus and Menagerie was wintering and getting ready for the 1880 season. You can see I was a new beginner when I took a trunk, when the only baggage a driver was allowed was an empty flour sack. In order to get my trunk out of the house, I "stalled" my mother, while two boarders carried my trunk out. But, a cousin who was working for mother, saw the trunk go out. She asked mother where I was going, of course, she thought I was going back to the Bus Co. Cousin told her I had taken a trunk, she "tumbled" at once. When father came home for breakfast, mother told him I had gone to the circus. Father said, "Let him go, he will get a belly full." My uncle, mother's brother, Charley Drum, was boss hostler on the baggage stock.

When I arrived at the winter quarters, Charley Drum gave me four bright bays, which worked on the side-pole wagon. Mr. Hyat Frost, a friend of the family, was manager of the show. Mother wrote him a letter, telling him to send me back home. I was in the horse tent cleaning my team, when Mr. Frost came in and read the letter to me and asked what I was going to do about it. I told him he could fire me, but I was not going back to Cincinnati. I told him there were plenty more shows on the road and I was going with one of them. Mr. Frost wrote mother the show would be in Hamilton, Ohio, in ten days, which is only 25 miles from Cincinnati and if she was not satisfied then, he would send me home. When we arrived in Hamilton, mother came up. Mr. Frost and her brother told her I was doing all right there and was better than running around Cincinnati. She consented, I went down to the depot with her. She gave me a big trade dollar, went back home, and I started on my circus career, which lasted 57 years.

I was with the show only a few days, when Dick Hall, boss hostler on the cage stock, was short of a six horse driver. Charley Drum told Dick he had a driver he would loan him until he could hire one. Dick said the team was too much for me, but after they finished arguing, I took the six flea-bitten grays, and they were hard-mouthed. First day I drove them my fingers were bleeding. They worked on a tableau, which hauled the performers' h o t e l trunks. Performers and band put up at hotels and their trunks were unloaded each Wednesday and Sunday. Denny Bowen was night watchman, he rode over the road with me. I did not go with the train, but went independent.

We usually had a four o'clock call. Any drive over 20 miles was a pack-up breakfast, which meant as soon as the show was torn down and loaded, we had breakfast. After breakfast, we hitched our horses, the canvasesmen tore down the cook house and horse tents. The baggage wagons would start at once, the cage stock with the menagerie, performers and band would start about four o'clock. I would drive down to the hotel, the watchman would call the performers, get them started on their journey. I also ate breakfast at the hotel. Then Denny would make his bed on top of the tableau, I would drive until I came to a place where I could water the team, I would call Denny, he would help water. Denny was a good six-horse driver. He would drive and I would crawl back and take a nap. When we arrived at the edge of town, we would stop, four baggage horses would be waiting to add on the band wagon, making an eight-horse team. We would take the covers off the cages, put in the plumes, and put on the wardrobe and parade to the lot.

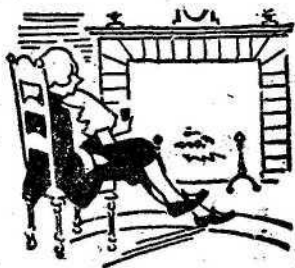
At that time, the Van Amburgh Show was a first class wagon, or mud show. 120-foot round top, 10 cages, one elephant, Bolivar, and he was a bad one, one camel. The cages were placed in the "Big Top." 50 cents general admission, children half price, reserved seats, side-show and concert 10, cents and the old time pink lemonade. Cook house had no stove, had iron stakes, long enough to let cord

wood go under a piece of sheet iron, 4x6 feet, on which they would broil the steaks. A large camp fire boiled the potatoes, coffee and hot water, hauled it all on one wagon, drawn by four horses.

Mr. Hyatt Frost was manager, Frank Wright was boss canvasman, Charley Drum, boss baggage stock, Dick Hall, boss cage stock, "Doc" Horton, - steward, "Hank" Johnson, in charge of menagerie. Working men, except the drivers, had a sleeping tent, in which they would spread straw, about two feet thick, spread blankets and use your coat for a pillow. Drivers slept in hammocks, hung between side-poles in the horse tent. I received three dollars a week, with a bonus of five dollars a month if I stayed the season. It was a tough season, plenty rain and mud no paved roads. We toured Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. I stuck it out, but wished many times I was back in Cincinnati.

A Merry Christmas and Prosperous 1948

JAKE POSEY



Season's Greetings
To All!

Walter J. Pietschmann

CHS No. 3

CHS DISTRICT ONE HOLD MEETING AT PERU

Thirty-five CHS members from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, held their annual fall meeting at Peru, Ind., last month which proved to be one of the finest gatherings ever held by this district. The meeting included a Saturday night banquet, a visit to the Puterbaugh Memorial Museum and climaxed



TERRELL JACOBS, famed wild animal trainer with his cub lion, "My Card." (Shank Photo)

Sunday afternoon when all were guests of Terrell Jacobs, world's famous trainer of lions and tigers.

Brown To Write CHS March

The banquet was held at the Bears Hotel with after-dinner talks by Terrell Jacobs, Dr. Harrison Powers, Herbie Head, Don Smith, Walter Pietschmann and C. L. Brown. Mr. Brown, former band master with Sells-Floto Circus, announced that he would soon write a circus march entitled "Circus Historical Society." Colored circus slides and movies were shown by Richard Conover and Harry Simpson. Herbie Head of Detroit, exhibited several of his fine model circus wagons.

Visit Circus Museum

Sunday morning, through the courtesy of Mrs. William West, members were shown through the

Puterbaugh Memorial and Miami county museums. Both museums have many valuable items from the circuses of the past as well as some fine circus wagon models, built by our own George Graf of Peru.

Guests Of Terrell Jacobs

Sunday afternoon, all were guests of Terrell Jacobs at his winter quarters near Peru. Terrell Jacobs proved a wonderful host and his assistant, Edwin "Teddie" Comeau, worked five lions in a fine special performance. A steel arena was placed on the outside and those that cared to were privileged to have their picture taken with Jacob's famed lioness "Sheba" and his latest addition, a baby cub, "My Card." The weather was fine, Terrell Jacobs was better than the weather, and all had a wonderful time.

Members Registered

Those registering for the meeting included Dr. Harrison Powers, Otto Schieman, Chas. L. Brown, Don Blimm, all of South Bend, Ind., Dick Swartz of Lafayette, Ind., George Piercy of Kokomo, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Chalmer Condon and family of Logansport, Ind., Robert C. King of Richmond, Ind., Murray Guy and friend of Jeanette, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Feigert and family of Van Wert, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conover and family of Dayton, Ohio, Don F. Smith of Farmington, Mich., Herbie Head and friend, Mrs. H. E. Head, sr., Walter J. Pietschmann, all of Detroit, Mich., George Graf, Terrell M. Jacobs, Harry Parkhurst, Robert Helvie and friend, Mr. and Mrs. William West all of Peru, Ind., Clarence R. Shank and Harry M. Simpson of Camden, Ohio.

HUMAN ODDITY PHOTOS

I have 250 actual 5x7 photos of human oddities of the sideshow from Barnum's time to the present including the four legged woman, mule faced woman, lion faced man, double sexed, giants, midgets, rubber and alligator skinned. All authentic freaks. Also other circusiana photos such as wagons, banner lines, old time owners, etc., available. Ten photos, 5x7, for \$1.50 with complete lists of available photos. Bernard L. Kobel, Box 105, Frankfort, Indiana.

BARNARD M. SHEVLIN

It is with deepest regret that I report the passing of one of our beloved members, Barnard M. Shevlin, CHS 254 of Buffalo, N. Y., on November 22nd. Known to us all as Bernie Shevlin, he was one of the greatest horse carvers in this country, had made many friends and will be sadly missed by his family and host of friends. He is survived by the widow, Leonora K.; two daughters, Mrs. E. Gehl and Carol M.; one son, Bernard J.; five brothers, Thomas, Edward and James of Danville, Pa., John and Joseph of Detroit, Mich.; one grandson, John E. Gehl, jr. Funeral services were held Nov. 26th, Blessed Trinity, Buffalo, N. Y.

CIRCUS ARTICLES

CORONET, Dec. 1947—"He Has A Way With Elephants", a fine story about Cheerful Gardner.

Hobbies, White Tops and the Billboard every month. Should you find an article in a recent publication, please advise by post card so we can keep this column going.

NEW MEMBERS

352—Franklin M. Ronk, 1545 South Ave., Toledo, Ohio.

353—John Johnson, 767 First Ave., New York, N. Y.

354—William Watson, 214 Reifert St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

This is the list to November 14th.

John J. Crowley, Secy.

Thalei Dechert, CHS member of Chicago, Ill., and former child star with Mighty Haag Circus, has published a book of circus poems entitled "Postal Patois." The book sells for \$1.00 and has two poems dedicated to Circus Historical Society.

TO CHS MEMBERS
AND CIRCUS FOLKS
GREETINGS

—From—

THE TRACEYS
Buffalo, N. Y.

ANNOUNCING THE
FORMATION OF A
NEW GROUP

CIRCUS LITERARY SOCIETY

Our group will be devoted exclusively to the collection and promotion of Circus Literature, Music and Art.

Membership will be limited to the Literati of Circusdom. A Quarterly Magazine will be published with its circulation limited to members of the Society. If you are eligible, write for Particulars.

WENDELL GOODWIN
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Trenton 4, New Jersey



Season's Greetings and
BETTER CIRCUS
DAYS
In 1948

Clarence R. Shank
CHS 336 CFA 1672

**"Best Wishes To
Everyone"**

John B. Lyon
CHS 15

"Greetings To All"

Walter W. Tyson
CHS 2 CFA 1546

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Happy New Year From

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Young Buffalo Bill

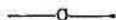
One of the CHS new members is Joe Smith, of Montezuma, Kansas, who from 1909 to 1913 was billed as "Young Buffalo Bill" with the 35 car Young Buffalo Bill Wild West Show out of Peoria, Ill. This show was owned by Col. Vernon Seavers of Peoria. The late Ray



JOE SMITH, as "Young Buffalo Bill" from 1909 to 1913.

Choissier was the arena announcer and made his announcements from horse back. Henry and Flora Kerns had the two bands in the parade and both played a concert before the show . . . the ladies band, dressed in cow girl outfits, paraded on horse back.

Mr. Smith and his wife reside at Montezuma, Kansas, where Mr. Smith operates a filling station, trailer and cabin camp. He is also mayor of Montezuma.



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