

H O B B Y

B A N D W A G O N



January
1948

10c

Norma Davenport Plunkett, talented star of Dailey Bros. Circus
owned by her parents Ben and Eva Davenport.

— The Collector's Monthly —

Hobby-Bandwagon

"The Collector's Monthly"

(Formerly Hobby-Swapper)

122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio

January 1948

Vol. 2 No. 12

HARRY M. SIMPSON
Publisher

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Thomas Burnett, Camden, N.J.
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The
Publisher
Says



We have tried to maintain a low subscription rate in the hope that advertising would off-set the loss from the subscription price, but the high cost of material and other expense makes it impossible to continue at the present rate, so beginning with the February issue the price will advance to \$1.00 per year.

Another change to be made in the near future will be to specialize in the hobby of Circus and the collecting of Circusiana. . . . This is due to the fact that our circulation has changed rapidly toward this hobby and the lack of interest among our readers in other hobbies. We also realize that it is impossible to satisfy all hobbies and felt justified in making the change.

Many outstanding hobbyists have assisted greatly in the effort to interest other collectors through their columns . . . to them I owe a debt of gratitude and thanks for their assistance during the past two years.

I wish to thank readers of every hobby for their continued support, but feel that it is only fair that I tell you now of this future change.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Simpson

5 x 7 Enlargements

from your negative

Single Wgt. - Glossy

20c each

SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank

Member of CHS and CFA

Camden, Ohio

Dailey Bros. Circus

As caught on Saturday, July 19, 1947, at Lewiston, Maine, and visited again on Sunday, July 20, 1947, at Portland, Maine.

By: John J. Crowley, CHS, CFA and CMB&OA, Cambridge, Mass.

On Friday, July 18th, I went over to the North Station in Boston and boarded the Pine Tree limited, the Boston and Maine railroad's crack streamlined train which left at 3:30 p. m. Eastern Standard time. The "Pine Tree" is a non-stop express train and made the 114 mile run to Portland, Maine, in an even two hours. There was a stop of ten minutes in the

into Brown's car for the 22 mile drive up to Lewiston.

Arriving in Lewiston, Maine, about 7:40 a. m., we found the twenty car circus train had already pulled in from Rumford, Maine, where they played on Friday. We looked around, took some photos of the loaded flat cars and then went over to the runs as they were just starting to unload the circus train. Jack Brown and I had taken the train loading order, so I might as well give it here.

There were 6 coaches, 10 flat cars mostly of the Mount Vernon type and 4 stock cars. The coaches were as follows:



Dailey Bros. Circus Big Top from the "backyard" taken at Frankfort, Ind., Sept. 13, 1947.

Portland Union Station while the Maine central's streamlined engine was hooked up to the train. We left Portland at 5:40 p. m. (Est) and arrived in Brunswick, Maine at 6:10 p. m. Eastern standard time. It only took the two railroads 2 hours and 46 minutes to cover the 142 miles between Boston, Mass. and Brunswick, Maine, with a ten minute stop at Portland.

Jack Brown, CHS of Brunswick, Maine, met me at the R. R. Station with his car in his home town, we then went to his house and had supper and talked circus and looked over articles of Circusiana until a very late hour. We were both up bright and early Saturday morning and had breakfast, then

Coach No. 97—Pie car or privilege car; Coach No. 98—mixed and married couples, performers and bosses; Coach No. 99—mixed and couples, performers, big show band and executive; Coach No. 100—Ben Davenport's and his family's private car; Coach No. 96—side show performers and side show band; Coach No. 95—working-men's coach.

All coaches had silver roofs, and the upper halves of the cars sides were also pointed silver, the bottom half of the side of each car was painted red, with "Dailey Bros. Circus" lettered on the cars

sides in silver paint. Numerals of all cars were in silver.

The ten flat cars were loaded as follows:

Flat car No. 50, 72 ft. long—Bulldozer, mounted on a four-wheel carryall; 2 wheel trailer, train light plant; No. 7, truck; No. 69, stake driver, three hammers on this stake driver.

Flat car No. 58, 70 ft. long—No. 21, small tractor truck with runs built on it, station wagon loads upon the runs on the truck; No. 99, big top pole wagon; No. 16, truck used as tractor.

Flat car No. 55, 72 ft. long—No. 77, side show canvas, poles and prop's wagon; No. 100, big top canvas wagon; No. 12, mechanical dept. and blacksmith shop, carries auxiliary light plant.

Flat car No. 57, 72 ft. long—No. 32, midway diner or lunch stand; No. 20—truck, used as tractor, with water tank body (water wagon); No. 14, light plant wagon (three generators).

Flat car No. 51, 70 ft. long—No. 24, cookhouse wagon; No. 22, cookhouse wagon; No. 2, cage, 20 ft long, carrying 8 monkeys and two polar bears.

Flat car N. 56, 72 ft. long—No. 17 menagerie canvas and pole wagon; small four wheel single hammer stake driver; No. 10, cage, 20 ft. long, 2 lions, 1 lion slaying baboon, 1 mandrill, 2 monkeys and 1 Himalayan Bear; No. 40, wardrobe wagon.

Flat car No. 53, 72 ft. long—No. 98, stringers and seat planks wagon; No. 8, cage, 18 ft. long, 5 lions 1 black bear, 1 brown bear, 2 tigers; No. 4, cage 20 ft. long, 7 lions and lincess.

Flat car No. 52, 72 feet long—No. 41, ring curbs and props wagon; No. 45, air calliope, trucks, pad-room and wardrobe wagon; No. 44, horse tops, wardrobe and seat planks wagon.

Flat car No. 59, 72 ft. long—No. 28, seat planks and jacks wagon; No. 25, concessions dept. wagon; No. 11, seat planks, stringers and jacks wagon.

Flat car No. 54, 72 ft. long—No. 33, red ticket wagon, has a built-in automatic calliophone in the front section of this wagon, calliope is used for street bally. No. 43, dog wagon and props wagon, carries 37 dogs, looks like old

H-W cage; No. 6, cage wagon, 19 ft. long, 4 audids, 2 pumas, 1 leopard, 1 baboon; No. 31, concessions and supplies, concession tops and candy stands.

All ten flat cars were painted silver with the show's title "Daily Bros. Circus" in red. 33 vehicles actually laid on the decks of the ten flat cars, but two more vehicles are mounted on other vehicles such as the bulldozer on its carryall and the station wagon mounted on the small ruck, making a grand total of 35 vehicles.

Four stock cars, which were loaded as follows:

Stock car No. 80, 76 ft. long—7 baby elephants or bulls, 8 ponies, 1 sacred cow, 20 head ring stock.

This car looks as though it might be an old converted whale exhibit car, as the sides of the car are mounted on hinges and look as though they might be opened up.

Stock car No. 81, 72 ft. long—24 head of baggage stock and 1 colt, 8 head of ring stock.

Stock car No 82, 72 ft. long—9 large elephants or bulls, 4 llamas, 4 mules, 1 camel, 8 head of ring stock.

Stock car No. 83, 72 ft. long—29 head of ring stock, 6 ponies, 1 zebra, 1 Brahma bull.

All four stock cars are painted with silver roofs, the upper half of the car sides are also painted silver color, the lower half of car sides are painted red, with the show's title on the red side in silver paint.

Total of cars—6 coaches, 10 flat cars, 4 stock cars, 20 car R. R. show using a motorized advance brigade.

Animals on the show are: 65 head ring stock or performing horses, 24 head of baggage stock and 1 baggage stock colt, 14 ponies, 1 sacred cow, 4 llamas, 4 mules, 9 large bulls and 7 baby bulls for a total of 16 elephants, 1 camel, 1 zebra and 1 Brahma bull.

Caged animals on the show are: 10 monkeys, 2 Polar bears, 14 lions, 2 tigers, 1 leopard, 2 pumas, 4 audads or barbarry sheep, 1 lion slaying baboon, 1 mandrill, 1 black bear, 1 brown bear, 1 Himalayan bear, 1 baboon, 37 dogs in show wagon.

All wagons and cages are painted red with fancy scroll work done in yellow or gold paint. All wagons have dual pneumatic tires

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at our table. During supper I talked for nearly an hour on Palamino horses with Hazel King, chief horse trainer, who was seated on my right. Si Kitchie and his wife, Nellie, were also at our table.

Jack Brown and I then went up town to pick up some Dailey bills for our collections. On our return I spotted Milt Robbins, the Kid Show manager, and an old friend of mine, and we talked with him for sometime, then he took us into the side show to look things over.

We then visited once more in the backyard and during the night show were in and out of the backdoor, going in to see some special number and coming out once again to visit in the backyard.

Many circus people and many fans think Ben Davenport is horse and elephant crazy because he carries so many horses and bulls. But for Brown's money and my money, the more horses and bulls he carries the better we like it. If things had gone right, he would now have 10 big bulls and 10 baby bulls for a grand total of 20 bulls. But Nemo, a big male tusker, had to be shot at Chambersburg, Pa., and three of the baby bulls died in transit. Louis Reed of Chatham, N. Y., who had charge of the bulls on Charlie Sparks R. R. Circus and later with his wife, Adele Nelson, had the three famous baseball playing bulls which are now on the Dailey Show, went to India to bring back the ten baby bulls. Well he was able to bring back 7. He also brought back 4 Indian Mahouts with him, one of whom is Sabu's (the Indian movie actor's) brother. Ben Davenport treated these Mahouts fine, giving them all expensive wrist watches and a purse of money when they left for home.

The show did a big business all thru Maine, as it should for with the exception of the Ringling Barnum Show playing Portland a couple of times, this is the first R. R. show to play Maine since 1938 when the Cole Bros. show on 20 cars and the Robbins Bros. show on 15 cars. (Both shows being owned by Zack Terrell and Jess Adkins) came down from Canada and made a few stands each in Maine on their way South.

The Big Top at the matinee in

Lewiston had about 5800 people only about 200 short of a full house, but at night the show must have packed in 7500 people as the Hippodrome track was packed right up to the ring curbs. It was the same way all thru the Maine tour of this show.

After the night show, Brown and I took Chuck Sateja to the R. R. cars and visited some of the performers in their cars. We then headed for Brown's home in Brunswick, all tired out after catching the unloading, setting up, two performances and most of the tear down and after spending 16 hours on or about the circus.

We got up late Sunday morning, then after dinner saw the 39 car carnival called "The World of Mirth Shows" unloading at Brunswick for their stand in Bath, Maine. We then drove to Portland and visited Dailey Bros. on the Portland lot.

On Sunday they had painted all center, quarter and side poles as well as most of the props. We visited around for a while, then took Hazel King uptown in Portland. While on the Portland lot we met Herb Ames, CMB&OA of South Portland and Dana Blom, CFA of Portland. We all then went in Brown's car to Ames' house to see his 1-4-inch model of Sells-Floto Circus, and also saw his swell 1-4-inch steel arena and Mabel Stark carved on the 1-4-inch scale and her 12 tigers.

I ate supper at Herb Ames' and then caught the 8:00 express to Boston. Ben Davenport has a swell show, it looks like a thirty car show on the lot. He has plenty of horses and bulls. All he needs is a wider big top, a few more feature acts, like a family bareback act, a flying return act and another trained animal act. His menagerie could stand some more cages and he would have a show the equal of the smaller editions of John Robinson, Sells-Floto, Hagenbeck Wallace or any of the old American circus corp. shows. It is rumored he plans to go out on thirty or thirty-five cars for the 1948 season. I was tired out but had two swell days on a real show.

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The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded In 1939
By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson Editor

OFFICERS

Bette Leonard President
Maurice Alaire Vice-Pres.
Walter Pietschmann Treas.
John Crowley Secretary
William Green ... Election Comm.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith
Walter Tyson
Arthur Stensvard
John VanMatre

CHS PHOTO

This month's CHS photo was furnished by Bill Green, publisher of the "Call Of The Calliope." The photo shows the 1903 Sells & Downs elephants tied to chains in front of the Washington, Kansas, court house . . . this court house was destroyed by a tornado in 1932. The smallest elephant is believed to be Big Babe now in the Cole Bros. herd. This photo will be mailed under separate cover.

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NOTES

Many CHS members will be pleased to learn that Charles Gerlach has been able to return to his home in Buffalo, N. Y. Charlie was found ill in his home Thanksgiving day by Joseph L. Tracy and was rushed to the Columbus hospital for medical treatment where he remained for several weeks.

Joseph L. Tracy, 172 Riverside Ave., Buffalo, N. Y., has started a new album of old and present day circus folks, collectors and model builders. He has over 300 photos and would trade his photograph with any that would care to have theirs in this album.

Henry Kyes has been employed as Bandmaster for the Cole Bros. Circus in 1948. Kyes is one of the best directors of the "Big Top" and will be a valued addition to this great circus.

NEW MEMBERS

355—J. W. Beggs, 7125 Pard Rd., Eastwood Hills, Kansas City 3, Mo.

356—James G. Hamby, 15 Wilder Ave., Rockwood, Tenn.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Fred Hope, Hotel Amherst, 273 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.

Eddie Jackson, 64 Hawthorne Ave., Akron 3, Ohio.

Chas. H. White, St. Elmo Hotel, San Diego, Calif.

Herb Fursier, Box 8, Holly Hill, Fla.

Tedd G. Meyer, 313 East St., Iola, Kansas.

Russell Cooke, 620 Elm St., Union, N. Y.

Col. Tim McCoy, Mission Inn, Riverside, Calif.

Stuart Thayer, 10 Harvard Pl., Ann Arbor, Mich.

Jack Robinson, 203 East Main, Cartersville, Mo.

F. A. Norton, c/o Bright Lights Expos., Box 851, Lynchburg, Va.

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

Herbert J. Antes.

Mrs. Chas. Urquhart.

Billy S. Isbell.

James R. Clarke.

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BRITISH CIRCUS PHOTOS

SEVEN REAL POSTCARD-SIZE photos together with my interesting list of British Empire circuses. One dollar bill. Eddie Hawthorne, 48 Leander Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, England.

COVERED WAGONS

Complete with oxen. Draft horses. 40 horse hitches. Write for information and prices.

T. J. MALONEY

16 Edward St. Tonawanda, N. Y.

BRITISH CIRCUSDOM

By Eddie Hawthorne
Surrey, England

Comparing the many photos and articles I have seen and read of the American Circus have shown me there are some outstanding differences with those of our British Circuses.

To begin with, we in England, have nothing to approach the huge travelling circuses of Ringling Barnum & Bailey or Cole Bros., and our only railroad circus is that of Bertram Mills.

All English circuses have one ring only, which vary in size from 35 feet to 42 feet dia., according to dimensions of Big Top. Our Tops are mostly of two center pole type with an occasional 3 center pole.

Seating capacity varies from a few hundred to the 4,000 of Ber-

saines, own their own circuses, and in many instances, father, mother, sons and daughters all take part in the program and management of their shows; they have done so for generations. Sangers have been in the circus for 126 years, while two European wars could not stop them. During this last war, the circus womenfolk frequently took a hand at building up and tearing down when labor was non-existent. Our circus families are much intermarried, and I honestly doubt whether many of the Sangers, Fossetts, Baileys, Cookes, Yeldings, Duffys and Ginnetts really know all their complicated relationships to each other. I have long since given up trying to trace the bewildering branches of the family trees.



tram Mills Circus, our biggest. No Hippodrome tracks are used, the audience being seated almost right down to within a few feet of the ring curb. Hence the extension from old-time circus days of the talking clown. He is still a popular feature of most of our Big Tops, and one of our best. Phil Williams, who incidentally is a globe-travelled Australian, has been with the Lord George Sanger Circus for several seasons. Another versatile talking clown is Pimpo-Jimmy Freeman, also with Sangers, and married into the Sanger family. And speaking of circus families, several of them such as Sangers, Fossetts, Duffys of Ireland and Ro-

“Backyard” of the Sir R. Fossett’s Circus of England in 1939. Photo by E. Hawthorne of Surrey, England.

Some of our circuses have a side show but mostly on a very small scale, and hardly to be compared with those of your big ones. So you see we have no skidway as you know it. Our main entrance is in most cases built up, brightly painted light timber and plywoods, fastened to a couple of trucks, drawn up for pay boxes. Neither do we have after-show concerts. With us the circus is the thing, Lord George Sanger, Bertram Mills Chippenfields, Reco Bros., Sir Robert Fossett, Billy Smarts, the

programs compare favorably with those of most other countries. They are put over with snap and precision and are in most cases well dressed. In this I have but one regret, the girls and men no longer wear the colorful, full-length tights of yesteryear, but now appear bare limbed.

In these days of world discord and misunderstanding I close with the fervent wish that the greatest International Institution of Good Fellowship—THE CIRCUS — goes on forever. And so to my grand American friends up and down the U. S. A. I say "Good luck, and may your circuses be many."

Eddie Hawthorne, CHS 225

APOLOGY

I wish to apologize for the lack of general news and other items this month and for being one week late with this issue . . . all was due to the holiday season.

Harry M. Simpson, Editor

Shop & Swap Guide

4c per word, three insertions of same adv. for price of two. Display adv. \$1.50 per inch. Remittance and reference with first order.

FOR SALE

100 OLD BUTTONS FOR \$1.00, ALL different. Mrs. Stanley S. Reynolds, 112 Malta Ave., Ballston Spa, N. Y. 3t12

WANTED

WANTED — ADVERTISING PENCILS, advertising and political buttons, celluloid and metal. Fred S. Ring, Route 3, Owatona, Minn. 6t47

WANTED TO BUY—CHARACTER type tobacco jars of all kinds. Send description and price. Also will swap for duplicates. Norman W. Habersat, 3127 N. 21 St., Milwaukee 6, Wis. 6t3

I W A N T TO BUY OLD U. S. stamps on or off cover, also early Ohio covers, APS. 17819, E. C. Blank, 242 Irving Ave., Dayton 9, Ohio.

CARD OF THANKS

I wish to thank my many friends of CHS for their fine cards received while in the hospital and Bette Leonard for the card with her photo on it.

Charles Gerlach

CARD OF APPRECIATION

We wish to express our appreciation for cards and kindness bestowed on us during our recent bereavement. Also for the beautiful flowers sent by Mrs. Bette Leonard.

Mrs. Shevlin and Family
Buffalo, N. Y.

THANKS

I want to thank the following for photographs sent me: Bette Leonard, Harry Simpson, C. Spencer Chambers, Burt L. Wilson, J. Havirland, Jake Posey, Will Brock, Wm. Woodcock, John VanMatre, Walter Pietschmann, Col. Sturtevant, Dad White, Joe Flemming, Johnnie Clark, Bill Kasiska, Edward Ruppert and Sam Chapman. I wish them all the BEST FOR THE YEAR 1948.

JOSEPH L. TRACY

172 Riverside Ave. Buffalo 7, N. Y.

Business Directory

Rate—three lines for 6 months, no change in copy, \$3.00; or 12 months for \$5.00.

PHOTOS—BARNUM & BAILEY, In Europe, list on request. Jake Posey, 549 North Maine St., Baldwin Park, Calif. 347

ANTIQUES, CHINA AND GLASSWARE. Emma Huffman, South Main St., Camden, Ohio, on Federal Route 127. 6

NEW & USED BOOKS, BACK COPIES magazines. Pat's Trading Post, 105 W. Main, Johnson City, Tenn.

ANTIQUES—GENERAL LINE FURNITURE, china, glass. U. S.-27, between Millville-Oxford. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sapp.

ANTIQUES—WHEN IN CAMDEN, stop at Hattie Hibbins, S. Main St., Camden, Ohio. x6

ANIMAL, RAILROAD, MUSIC, Flower, Sport, Ship Stamps on approval. E. Ferguson, 217 Charles, Westfield, N. J. 6t1047

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IF you have a collection of CIRCUSIANA
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