

H O B B Y

BANDWAGON



October
1947

10c

Large antique French Boulle clock from the collection of Mrs. Ethel Allen and recently shown at the fourth annual Santa Monica Hobby Exchange Show, Ocean Park, California.

— The Collector's Monthly —

Hobby-Bandwagon

"The Collector's Monthly"

(Formerly Hobby-Swapper)

122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio

October 1947

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HARRY M. SIMPSON
Publisher

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The
Publisher
Says



We wish to call your attention to the article by Katherine J. Justh Baross in regards to the Fourth Annual Santa Monica Hobby Exchange which should be of interest to all hobbyists. This fine organization has a large membership that includes many of the leading collectors of the West Coast. Photographs showing items from the members collections will appear in future issue of this publication.

Lack of space and illustrated articles have caused several hobbies to be neglected during the past months. We have several fine illustrated articles on hand and they will appear from month to month as space permits, but we can not enlarge the magazine without advertising this has increased during the past months from very reliable firms, but they will not continue unless you mention this publication when you answer their advertisements would you please do this, so we can add pages and hobbies to the Hobby-Bandwagon? Thanks.

Sincerely,
Harry M. Simpson

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from your negative

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SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank
Member of CHS and CFA
Camden, Ohio

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded In 1939
By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson Editor

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HISTORY OF THE MIGHTY KAAG SHOWS ON TOUR FOR OVER FORTY YEARS

By Charlie Duble
(Old Troupier)

It was back in the early 1890's when a young fellow in the late twenties whose ambition it was to become a circus man was strolling along the Red River one day, near Shreveport, Louisiana. His attention was attracted to a flat boat tied up at the shore and right then and there, he conceived an idea. The owner of the boat, a fisherman, was finally found and the young fellow with circus inclinations offered \$20 for the craft and luckily got it. He then managed to gather together a few performers consisting of a black-face comedian, a buck and wing dancer, and a juggler, one Jim Alberta. Seats were next rigged up and the flat boat painted in

gaudy colors and decorations, and a second-hand bass drum was resurrected from somewhere to help make music for the performance. The other instruments needed for music, or who perform-

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HERD OF PERFORMING ELEPHANTS
THEY HAVE NO EQUAL

DO NOT FAIL TO SEE THE
GRAND CIRCUS STREET PARADE

ed on same, there is no record of.
Now the flat boat all ready for the tour set out and called merely "The Big Show". Down the Red River they moved slowing along because there was no transportation to pay. Stopping at different places,
Next Page, Please

CIRCUS — WANT TO BUY — MAGIC

Cash for Circus and Magic programs, posters, heralds, couriers, old prints, books (fact), letters, letter heads, photos, route books, songsters, handbills, lithographs, etc. State all in first letter, giving dates, number, condition, price. Cash paid day items received. America's foremost dealer in Circus material.

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and sand bars and landings the young showman put on his exhibition that he called "a circus." One of the features was a prize with each drink of lemonade. The reader will have to use his own imagination as to the interest created by this show. From the Red River they went down the Bayou Teche, which emptied into the Atchafalaya river near Morgan City. Upon reaching this town the "Big Show" was unloaded and another idea was conceived. Now a two-wheel cane cart, drawn by three mules abreast, was bought and with this outfit their show now creaked about through the French country and the sugar plantations of the lower South.

The young fellow who started his career in this humble way was Ernest Haag, who later became one of the prominent circus owners of the white top world. It was after this cane cart tour through the plantations of Louisiana, that he bought his first team of horses and a common old farm wagon (perhaps an "Old Hickory") somewhere in that state. With this outfit they crawled about over the country roads showing the cross roads towns and hamlets up through Arkansas, Missouri, and all the way up into Kansas—a one wagon show so to speak. From then on this ambitious showman bought more wagons and continued to add to his baggage stock. His circus now became known as the Mighty Haag Show. As time rolled on it grew to be one of the largest wagon shows of its day. It entered new territory over through Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky and for more than a decade the name was a household word through the Southern States.

The show had grown to such proportions and prosperity that in the spring of 1909 Ernest Haag put his show on rails. The very best railroad equipment was secured. Elaborate hand carved tableau wagons, cages and chariots with the traditional sunburst wheels, and massive elegant band wagon, were all in place when the railroad show pulled out of Shreveport in the early spring of 1909 for the long summer tour. A year or so later points in Canada were included in the itinerary and the turn to page 11

NEW MEMBERS

- 345—Edna McLeod, 593 Cottage St., New Bedford, Mass.
 346—Robert J. Bernard, 324 Witter St., Los Angeles 13, Calif.
 347—Ida M. Applegren, Hotel Broadview, Galesburg, Ill.
 348—Richard W. Kline, 306 South 11th St., Indiana, Pa.
 349—Elmer Jones, North Warren, Pa. (H)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Eugene Feigert, 451 Gordon Ave., Van Wert, Ohio.
 Sheridan Holdridge, P. O. 8913, Philadelphia 35, Pa.
 Edward J. Doyle, 1118 Commerce St., Little Rock, Ark.
 John W. Houston, 23 S. Highland, Clearwater, Fla.
 Leroy W. Sweetland, 1219 W. Laurel, Beacon Hill Sta., San Antonio 1, Texas.
 William E. Pearson, 2912 S. Delaware, Milwaukee 7, Wis.
 Bert Hansen, 1177 Colusa Ave., Berkeley, Calif.
 Edwin Wendler, Gen. Del., Santa Barbara, Calif.
 Joseph Shields, Box M, Old San Diego Sta., San Diego 10, Cal.
 —John J. Crowley, Sec'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
 CIRCUS LITERARY SOCIETY
 P. O. Box 653
 Trenton 4, New Jersey

BARNIE SHEVLIN CARVES HORSES AS HOBBY

Barnie Shevlin of 46 Manhattan Ave., Buffalo, N. Y. is one of America's foremost horse carvers and has one of the finest collections in the United States in spite of the fact that he has sold many to collectors throughout the country. No doubt his hobby is derived from the fact that his grandparents of Ireland, raised horses for the Kings of England.

A lover of horses, Mr. Shevlin had a desire to become a veterinarian, but fate placed him in the hardware business. So with the large collection of model horses shared by his 17-year-old daughter, Carol, he turned to the hobby of carving horses. Their collection at that time numbered over 125.

Mr. Shevlin carved over 500 saddle horses with a small jack knife using all kinds of hard wood. These were made to scale from pictures of horses owned by Western Stars and are complete with leather saddles and trimmings.

Then in 1945 he turned to baggage or work horses such as those used by the circus. Made from all kinds of hardwood, with harness and trappings, they have been bought by model builders all over United States. These horses are in 1-4, 1-2, 3-4 inch scale and a few are shown in the photograph of Mr. Shevlin.

His latest model is a 1-4 inch scale of the Two Hemispheres Bandwagon, located in the Col. B. J. Palmer Museum at Davenport, Iowa. Along with this wagon he has carved forty horses in the same scale, four abreast and ten in line using the original 40-horse hitch. This model as shown

in the illustration is outstanding because of its size and the smallest that any man can carve with the correct formation to the limbs of the horses and correct carving of the wagon.

This model and many of his fine saddle horses were on display at the CHS convention at Jamestown, N. Y.

—Joseph L. Tracy

CIRCUS ARTICLES

Circus articles appeared in the following magazines: July '47, 86; Reader's Digest, Sept. '47, page 113; Cornet, Sept. '47, page 116; Pageant, Oct.-Nov. '47, pages 122-127. New novels: "Gus The Great" (703 pp—fiction) by Thomas W. Duncan, published by Lip-pincott, price \$3.50, also released through Book-of-The-Month Club.

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 England C. F. A., C. H. S. and CMB&OA will hold their fall gathering with the Hamid Morton Shrine Circus the second week in October. John J. Crowley is chairman for the sixth consecutive year.

C. H. S. Fall Meeting will be held at Peru, Ind., Oct. 25-26 at the Bears Hotel.

HAND CARVED HORSES

Hand carved horses of all kind or size with harness or saddles. Send 10c for picture of type horse desired.

BARNIE M. SHEVLIN

46 Manhattan Buffalo 15, N. Y.



THE SHOP & SWAP GUIDE

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE—NINE OLD WAVERLEY novels from 1831, \$1.00 each. Lou Hayek, Toledo, Iowa.

HOBBYSWAP CONTACTS MAGAZINE contains large list of exchanges. Copy 10c. Degan, 519 Washington Ave., Albany, N. Y.

SEND \$1 FOR 20 "GOOFY" BUTTONS. Packard, 825 South 98th St., Tacoma, Wash. 3t1047

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

\$1.75 CATALOG VALUE ALL DIFFERENT very fine Used British Colonies. Pictorials, commemoratives, airs, etc. No low values included. A superb selection. Only \$1.00. W. Clifford, 581 West 161 St., New Ycrk 32.

WANTED

WANTED — ADVERTISING PENCILS, advertising and political buttons, celluloid and metal. Fred S. Fing, 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.

Thomas Burnett, associate editor, has purchased the stock of the Camden Card Co. and while he is not going into the card business will be glad to supply card collectors with any special cards that he has.

Augustus Rapp of Nashville, Tenn., is an expert in repairing and restoring memorabilia . . . his adv. appears in this issue.

Business Directory

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

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

CBS NOTES

Word received from William H. Woodcock to the effect that his son was injured while playing on the trampoline net at Alexandria, La. Although the injury was painful, C. H. S. members will be pleased to hear that his son was able to return to school.

Robert C. King of Richmond, Ind., Chalmer Condon, Logansport, Ind., George G. Piercy of Kokomo, Ind. and Harry M. Simpson, Camden, Ohio, caught the Dailey Bros. Circus at Frankfort, Ind., on Sept.

Clyde Wixom, Detroit, would appreciate any data on the Nat Wixom Great Show, founded in 1874 and closed 1907.

Wendell Goodwin of Trenton, N. J., is announcing the formation of a new group called the "Circus Literary Society."

writer the season of 1912, was one of the organization. Sixty-six towns and cities were played through Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The show went still farther east to Prince Edward Island where six towns were played including the largest, Charlottetown with 16,000 population at that time. During its railroad career the show covered many states going as far west as Montana.

It was just thirty three years ago Ernest Haag disposed of his railroad show, the cars being sold to the Great Wortham Shows carnival. He then took out an overland wagon show from surplus equipment stored in Shreveport and toured Louisiana and a few towns in Texas, the writer being along on this trip. I recall some of the show troupers referred to a certain section as the Creole country, the Cajun country, and the Red River country. Mr. Haag continued with this show, adding to the outfit and always presenting a pleasing performance.

With the coming of good roads about the country trucks were finally used for transportation, and during the tenting season the tour was extended up through Tennessee and Kentucky, crossing the Ohio river, towns in southern Indiana and Ohio were played, then down to the Virginias and all through the South.

It was in 1935 the veteran circus man passed on, then other members of the family kept the show going, appearing in the old towns each year where it was eagerly looked forward to by young and old. All were glad to see the posters of the Mighty Haag Shows. The show came to an end in December, 1939, at Climax, Georgia. Besides the Ringling, and Barnum & Bailey names (in a combined form since 1919) the Mighty Haag Show was the only one that carried on continuously the entire time without missing a single season since its beginning.

Ernest Haag was one of the most popular and widely respected circus owners of his time. Many show folks who have come and gone received their schooling under the Haag banner. At one time winter quarters were in Lecompte,

Louisiana, later more extensive quarters were established in Shreveport where the showman had a beautiful home, and was also director of that city's largest bank, the Commercial National. His show during the zenith of its greatest—as the bills proclaimed—was a Supreme Achievement in Clean Amusement.

—Charlie Duble

—o—

THANKS

I wish to thank the following for items received during the past month by the publisher: Bert J. Chipman, Lou Hayek, Robert C. King, Tim Mahoney, George Churchill and Clarence R. Shank.

—o—

Sparks Circus closed their season in Tacoma, Washington, on September 7th. James Edgar can be lauded for the fine performance this circus had this season. A railroad circus, they traveled from Florida through Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and toured Canada from coast to coast.

—o—

The Great James M. Cole Circus closed their circus at Mineola, N. Y. on Sept. 13th after tohring the East, Mid-west and Southern States. This is one of the most colorful truck shows on the road this season and provided a fine program featuring the baby elephant worked by James M. Cole II.

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WANTED—LITHOGRAPHS, PHOTOS of bill cars, billing stands, Al. G. Barnes quarters, and tabalue trucks. F. A. Norton, Bright Lights Expo., c/o Billboard, Cincinnati, Ohio.
