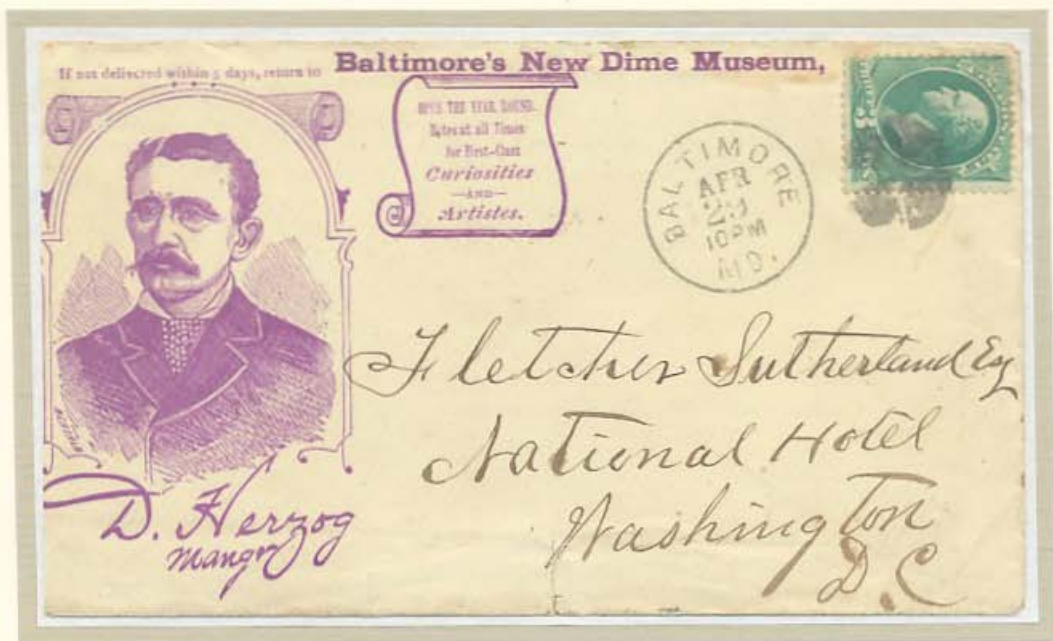


THE WESTERN MAILS



OFFICIAL ROUTE CARD No. 5



SELLS FLOTO CIRCUS

AND **BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST**

PERMANENT ADDRESS, PERU IND.

SEVENTH WEEK

May 28 Boston, Mass.

May 29 Boston, Mass.

May 30 Boston, Mass.

N.Y.N.H.&H. 32

CHICAGO, SUMMER 1893

RETURN TO
The Western Trail

CONQUERORS OF TWO CONTINENTS.

BUFFALO BILL'S



CONGRESS OF ROUGH

RIDERS OF THE WORLD

WILD WEST



TO ALL

Located 62d and 63d Streets

Opposite and Outside of Columbian Fair Grounds.
READ DESCRIPTION.

BLANELY PRINTING COMPANY, CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, SUMMER 1893



THE

TO ALL

The OPEN SESAME to the
WORLD'S FAIR SUBJECT

IS

BUFFALO BILL'S



CONGRESS OF ROUGH

RIDERS OF THE WORLD

(COL. W. F. CODY).

WILD WEST

62d and 63d Streets.

[OVER]

BUFFALO BILL'S (COL. W.F. CODY.) WILD WEST



Historical Sketches
& Programme

PRICE 10 CENTS

STONE & HILL PRINTING CO. 117th ST. N.Y. 1894



COL. W.F. CODY,
(BOYKID BILL),
PRES.

All Roads Lead To

BUFFALO BILL'S (COL. W.F. CODY) WILD WEST

AND CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD

AT AMBROSE PARK, 39th Street Ferry.

South Brooklyn.



NATE SALSURY,
VICE PRES. MANAGER.

2
PERFORMANCES DAILY
AT 3 P.M.
AT 8 P.M.
RAIN OR SHINE.
GENERAL ADMISSION 50 CENTS
COVERED GRAND STAND
SEATING 20,000

39th STREET FERRY - WHITEHALL ST.
THE MOST DIRECT ROUTE FROM
BATTERY TO CAMP GATES, FARE 5¢

JOHN W. HUNTER,
GENERAL MANAGER.



Published by Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

CARDIGAN.

—TENNYSON.

CUSTER.

—LONGFELLOW.

TWO of the memorable military episodes that will always live in song and story as emblematic of the soldierly qualities of the Anglo-Saxon Race, are Cardigan's Charge at Balaclava (Crimea, 1854), immortalised by Tennyson, and Custer's Last Battle (1876), eulogised in verse by Longfellow. The latter in many respects was more sadly dramatic than the famed "Charge of the Six Hundred." One was a combat between enemies of but slight difference in degree of civilization and its rules of warfare—the other a fierce struggle with a savage foe whose victory meant not one, but a thousand deaths, to the vanquished. In the Custer Massacre not one escaped.

Leonidas and the Three Hundred fought no more desperately than did Custer and his gallant men, for not one survived the field of battle to tell the story, and while:—

"Thermopylae had its messenger of death—
Custer's Last Battle had none."

CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death,
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said;
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered!
Their's not to make reply;
Their's not to reason why;
Their's but to do and die;
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred!
Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well;
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of Hell,
Rode the six hundred.
Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air,
So they passed, so they were gone,
So their quick lines like lightning gleam—

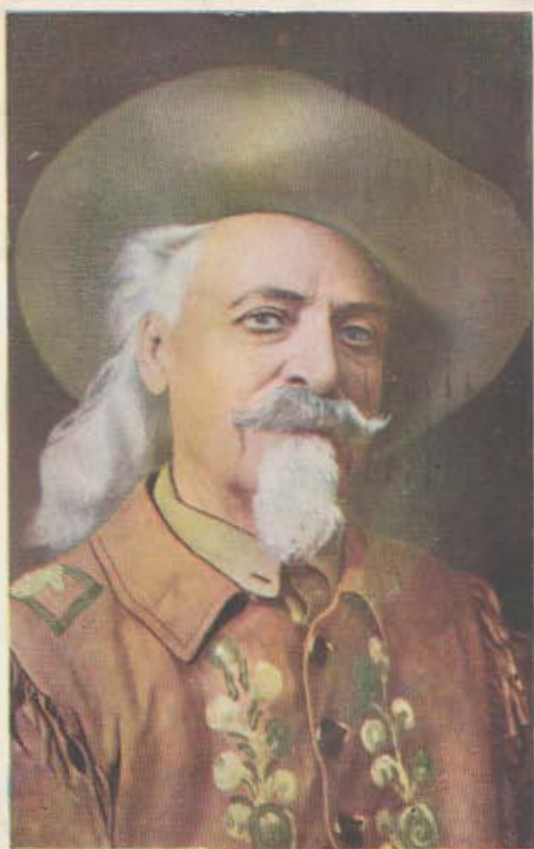
THE RED ROVER'S REVENGE.

In the desolate land and lone,
Where the Big Horn and Yellowstone
Roar down their mountain path,
By their fires the Sioux Chiefs
Muttered their woes and griefs
And the menace of their wrath.
"Revenge!" cried Rain-in-the-Face,
"Revenge upon all the race
Of the White Chief with yellow hair!"
And the mountains dark and high
From their crags re-echoed the cry
Of his anger and despair.
In the meadow spreading wide,
By woodland and riverside,
The Indian village stood;
All was silent as a dream,
Save the running of the stream
And the blue-jay in the wood.
In his war paint and his beads,
Like a bison among the reeds,
In ambush the Sitting Bull
Lay with three thousand braves
Crouched in clefts and caves,
Savage, unmerciful!



Published by Buffalo Bill's Wild West.

In this oft-to-be-remembered campaign of 1876, Col. W. F. Cody ("Buffalo Bill") figured prominently as Chief of Scouts for the combined forces of Generals Wesley Merritt, E. A. Carr and G. C. Crook, who were afterwards joined by a force of infantry under General Nelson A. Miles, who succeeded through many victories in driving back the Ogalalla, Brule (under Red Cloud) and other Indian tribes that were then attempting to join forces with Sitting Bull. Their destination led them through a then almost unknown country, seeking to make a junction with Generals Terry and Custer, and then to throw their combined forces on the northern Sioux. This was nearly effected as the combined commands under Cody's guidance arrived but a few hours too late, but in time to punish the victorious savages, who escaped annihilation only by crossing over the border into Canada.



4535. Col. W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill)

recording the first revenge for Custer by a single-handed combat. This episode is referred to by Captain (now Major-General) in his fascinating book, "Campaigning with Crook." Incidentally various pages as a scout, and testifies to the general esteem and my. The subjoined extract from his book gives an idea of the

from which he had been spying, Cody said, 'By jove, General! now is our fight and we'll cut those fellows off. Come down every other man of you.' 'Tait and 'Chips,' with five cavalrymen, eagerly bending forward in their cry eye bent upon me, watching for the signal. Not a man but myself left, close in you beggars! Ten seconds more and you are on them! A drol—ninety—now lads, in with you.' 'beer, then bang! bang! bang! and in a cloud of dust Cody and his men closing on a superbly accoutred warrior. It is the work of a minute: the bullet tears through the rider's leg into the pony's heart, and they tumble in Cheyenne struggles to his feet for another shot, but Cody's second bullet's knife to knife. After a hand-to-hand struggle Cody wins, and the young his tracks after a hard fight. Baffled and astounded, for once in a lifetime of joining 'Sitting Bull' nipped in the bud, they are compelled to take a 'Buffalo Bill' is radiant; his are the honors of the day."

Sioux nation, or the Allied Northwestern Tribes, occurred in 1890. Wild West Exhibition in Strasburg, Alsace-Lorraine, and placed it he hastened with eighty-five Indians to the scene of the threatened ing at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, a few hours after the lamented Seventh United States Cavalry. The seriousness of the outbreak allied the Nebraska National Guard composed of Western Rough African war later developed in the Canadian Mounted Rifles and reg.-General, Col. Cody acted throughout the campaign and also illes.

of Sitting Bull, after many desperate engagements in guerilla battle of Wounded Knee. General Forsyth with the Old Seventh uster," practically annihilated Big Foot's band of 245 warriors killed and 10 wounded. The strategic methods of the army were ounted Sioux warriors in the field surrendered—as the following ing general expresses:—

ARTERS DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI.

IN THE FIELD, PINE RIDGE, S.D.

January 11th, 1891.

National Guard, Present.

in that the entire body of Indians are now encamped near here (within a position to comply with the orders of the authorities. Nothing but an ablished, and it will be our ambition to make it of a permanent character. withdrawn in safety, and desire, through you, to express to them my thanks our people in their isolated homes.

Take information has this day been given General Colly.

Very respectfully yours,

NELSON A. MILES,

Major General Commanding.

This was the last and absolutely final blow to the power of the red man in the United States. Never again will the warlike Sioux be able to gather such formidable forces. Generous treatment by the Government since has brought about an amity of feeling which assures the fact that in the once dark Northwest, civilisation now "soars Phœnix-like to Jove."

The vivid representation of "Custer's Last Stand, or The Battle of the Little Big Horn," which is given in Buffalo Bill's Wild West, is one of the most accurate, and most splendid battle pictures ever reproduced on stage, or in arena, and no one who has the opportunity should fail to see it.

BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST will make an Extensive Tour of SCOTLAND during the Summer of 1904.

Writers Limited, London.

Published by Buffalo Bill's Wild West.



THE CUSTER BATTLE, as presented in BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST.

The above picture is from a special painting made for Col. W. F. Cody, of the Battle of "The Little Big Horn, or Custer's Last Stand," as reproduced in Buffalo Bill's Wild West. The moment chosen is when most of his command had fallen, and Custer is, with almost unexampled bravery, holding out against the savage horde. This bravery won for Gen. Custer immortality at the hands of the Redskins, from the barbarous mutilation which was inflicted on the rest of his band. On the opposite page is given a key to the celebrated painting by the artist, Paxton, of "Custer's Last Battle," showing the participants in the fight, and their relative positions at the height of the action. Mr. Paxton spent over twenty years studying the subject of this great battle picture. He was a personal friend of Gen. Custer and well acquainted with all his officers. He often visited the battlefield, making studies and sketches, and received from army officers, soldiers and Indians, vivid accounts and details of extreme value, which he carefully sifted, and which resulted in securing absolute historic accuracy to this wonderful picture.

THE WESTERN MAILS





Buffalo Bill's Wild-West



AND
CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD.

Located at 62d and 63d Streets.

Chicago, Aug 8th 1893.

Dear Miss Lowe.

Your most kind letter of a week ago to hand. All safe - am pleased to hear you are quite well also.

Mother is quite well -
I will be here -
I am
Kindly
My

BUFFALO BILLS WILD WEST



CHICAGO
AUG 10
7 30 P.M.
95

ans. 3/10/93

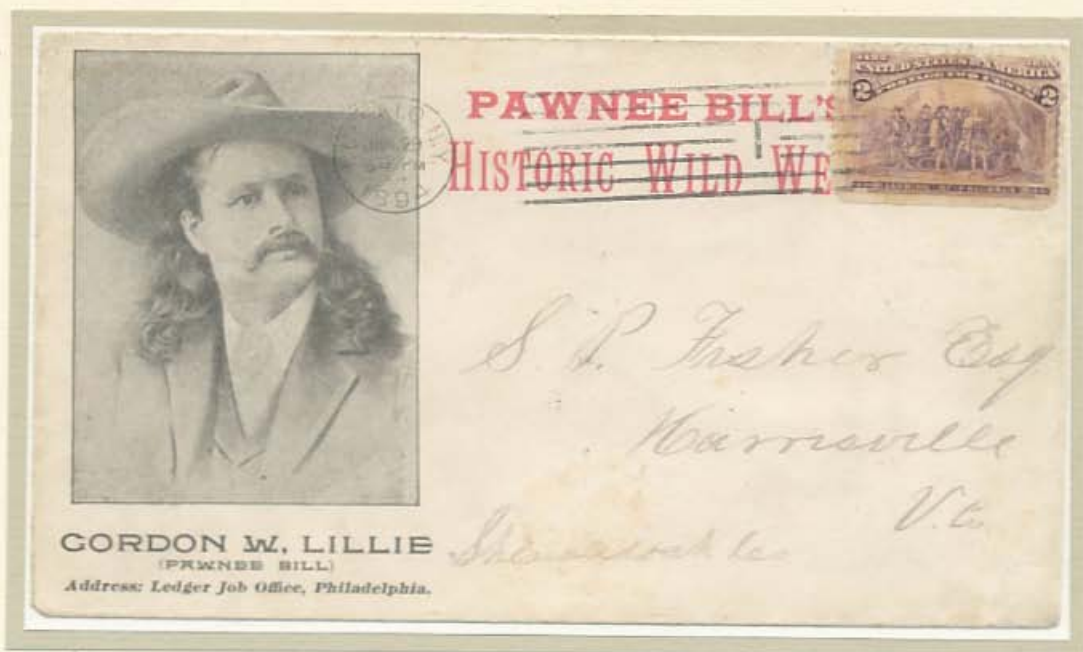
Miss Grand. Lowe.
Whitehill Gardens
Duninstoun
Glasgow

Century

Yours with me..
Remain
Your friend
L. Champran



THE WESTERN MAILS



PAWNEE BILL'S HISTORIC WILD WEST. Organized as a circus road show by Major Gordon W. (Pawnee Bill) Lillie in 1887. Pawnee Bill was a buffalo hunter and Indian Agent to the Pawnee Indians. In 1909 he merged with Buffalo Bill and it became the Buffalo Bill Wild West & Pawnee Bill Great Far East Show. It was nicknamed the "Two Bills Show" and it failed in 1913. The two covers shown were both used in 1894.



G. W. L.



"Out Where The West Remains." On U. S. Highway No. 64.

Lawnee Bill's Indian Trading Post

Lawnee, Oklahoma
Roy E. Hawkinson
7125 East End Avenue
Chicago, Illinois



and presented it to you, perhaps o
may have it forever as a t
Gordon Lillie

RAY O. LY

WE HAVE IT!

Indian and Indian Post



and Work In The World
RETAIL

2.50 alright and have had plenty
ately but don't happen to have
Do you want us to try and get
y. I have had Major autograph
wanted to read it as he hadn't
ave it for you in a few days.

to have you come this way and I
ry interesting.
ut the suit case.

Bear Chief, Head Chief of the Black feet Indians.



If It Was Made By An Indian -- WE HAVE IT!



Pawnee Bill's

INDIAN TRADING POST

LARGEST LINE of SINEW SEWN INDIAN
WHOLESALE
PAWNEE, OKLA.

RAY O. LYON

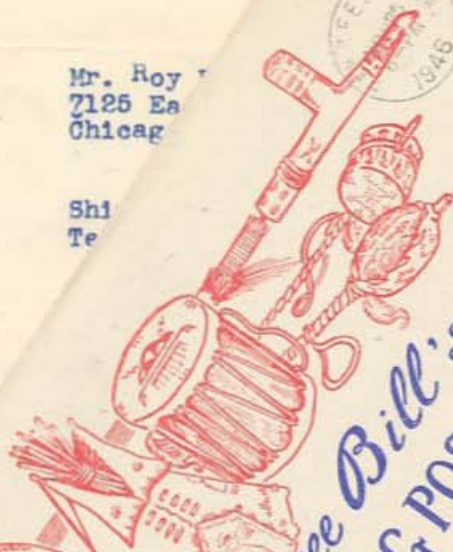
CLAUDE NEET



Mr. Roy
7125 Ea
Chicago

Shl
Te

MR. ROY E. HAWKINSON
7125 East End Avenue
Chicago 49, Ill



Pawnee Bill's
INDIAN TRADING POST
Pawnee, Oklahoma



Post 12/2/46





LAST OF THE GREAT SCOUTS

FORT GARLAND, COLORADO. Airport dedication cover autographed by:
PAWNEE BILL - Geo. W. Lille
Capt. LUTHER H. NORTH - Pawnee Scouts.

SILVER TIP - Tom C. Grant.
DIAMOND DICK - Dr. Richard Tanner.
PARSON BOB - last Scout of the Oregon Trail, on reverse of the cover.

Wm. H. ADAMS - Governor of Colorado.
 And others including **KIT CARSON III**
 Postmarked at **FORT GARLAND**. No year date, but before 1935.





Capt Jim Moore
New York City
77 years old =

William Sherrill
Rattle Snake Bill
Deadwood S.Dak

Johnny Parrott
Potatoe Creek Johnny

Tom C. Grant - Silver Tip
Deadwood So Dak

Capt Jim Moore spent a month
with us this year & took part in
our Days of '76 - He claims he
helped to kill Wild Bill in a
room when he was shot in 1876 -
This was taken by Fox Film Co of
Denver Aug 9 9th 32



American Circus



GOLLMAR BROS CIRCUS, was founded and operated by cousins of the Ringlings as a wagon show 1891-1902 and on rails 1903-1916. In 1922 they were operating as **GOLLMAR BROS-YANKEE ROBINSON**. The cover above was used from **BIRD ISLAND MINN. JUL 18 1898** as per postmark, **BIRD ISLAND MINN JUL 18 1898**, tying a 2 cent stamp of the Trans-Mississippi issue.



COLE BROTHERS CIRCUS, Inc.

GENERAL OFFICES and WINTER QUARTERS
State Fair Grounds
LOUISVILLE, II KY.



Box 5 Howland
260 W Gay St
Columbus
Ohio



1932
Louisville Color Gravure Co.
Louisville.
Ky.

AIR MAIL

SELLS FLOTO CIRC



GENERAL OFFICES
AND WINTER QUARTERS
PERU, INDIANA.

1925



National Printing & Engraving Co.,
1508 Tribune Building,
Chicago - Illinois.

REGISTERED
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED.


REGISTERED
1415

THE WESTERN MAILS

SELLS FLOTO CIRCUS

Owners of the Denver *Post* started the Floto Dog & Pony Show in 1902. Enlarging it and wanting a fuller title in 1906, they brought Willie Sells into the firm and called the show Sells Floto Circus. Since the Sells title was owned by the Ringlings, Sells Floto was sued in 1909 and was ordered not to use the pictures of original Sells brothers. In 1913, owners of Sells Floto Circus figured in the financial failure of the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show, and in 1914-15 their name was Sells Floto-Buffalo Bill Circus, with Buffalo Bill as a feature. From 1921 until the end of 1929 the show was owned by Mugivan and Bowers' American Circus Corporation. Ringling bought the company and operated Sells Floto in 1930-1932. The title was appended to the Al G. Barnes Circus for 1937 and 1938, its last appearance.

OFFICIAL ROUTE CARD
ROUTE CARD NO. 2



SELLS FLOTO CIRCUS
AND BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST
PERMANENT ADDRESS, PERU, IND.

THIRD WEEK

Date	Location	Route	Miles
April 30	Peru, Ind.	N.Y.C.-L.E.&W.	124
May 1	Indianapolis, Ind.	L.E.&W.-Penna.	74
May 2	Dayton, Ohio	Penna.	100
May 3	Columbus, Ohio	Penna.	71
May 4	Canton, Ohio	Penna.	126
May 5	Youngstown, Ohio	Penna.	116

FOURTH WEEK

May 7-8	Pittsburgh, Penna.	Penna.	73
May 9	Altoona, Penna.	Penna.	112
May 10	Lancaster, Penna.	Penna.	163
May 11	Norristown, Penna.	Penna.	75
May 12	New Brunswick, N. J.	Penna.	76

FIFTH WEEK

May 14	Stamford, Conn.	N.Y.N.H.&H.	65
May 15	Bridgeport, Conn.	N.Y.N.H.&H.	22
May 16	Waterbury, Conn.	N.Y.N.H.&H.	31
May 17	Springfield, Mass.	N.Y.N.H.&H.-B.&A.	66
May 18	Albany, N. Y.	B.&A.	102
May 19	Pittsfield, Mass.	B.&A.	50

SELLS FLOTO CIRCUS



SECOND
LARGEST
SHOW
IN THE
WORLD




Home's Zoological Arena,
Kansas City, Mo.

ADDRESS 703 CRILLY BLDG.
35 S. DEARBORN ST.
CHICAGO, ILL.

THE WESTERN MAILS



COLE BROS. CIRCUS. Created in 1906 by Martin Downs. The name has been used by various circus men under several titles. In the 1930's it was used by Jess Adkins & Zack Terrell. Cover above was used in 1938, proclaiming CLYDE BEATTY famous wild animal trainer and KEN MAYNARD, well know wester movie star. Also see cover below for variation of the title by JESS ADKINS & ZACK TERRELL. Cover used in 1937. The name is presently in used by a circus.



MINNESOTA



CIRCUS DAY PARADE

MONTEVIDEO, MINNESOTA July 1911. writer says, "The Circus was good".

Top post card not identified - 1910-20?



KING BROTHERS
CIRCUS

Floyd and Howard King operated several shows, beginning in 1919 with the Sanger Circus, which was named after the British circus of that name. Then in the following years, Harris Bros., Walter L. Main, Gentry Bros. and Cole Bros. In 1946 they established KING BROTHERS CIRCUS which folded in 1956.

Cover shown bears the images of the two brothers, postmarked at MACON GA. MAR 18. 1954.



GEN'L OFFICES, 2180 PATTERSON ST.
CINCINNATI, OHIO



AIR MAIL

Mr. Tom Parkinson, Circus Editor,
The Hillboard,
183 West Randolph,
Chicago, 1, Ill.

SPECIAL
DELIVERY

Sec. 34.66 P.L.&R.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 6707
Chicago, Illinois

POSTAL PATRON

LOCAL



KING BROS CIRCUS

NEW BEDFORD • Tues., June 29

CIRCUS GROUNDS

CHILDREN 55c - ADULTS \$1.18 - All Tickets Plus Tax

KING BROS. CIRCUS

BIG FREE
STREET
PARADE

LARGEST IN
THE WORLD



A. N. KING

W. E. FRANKLIN



The King & Franklin Circus was a railroad show that operated from 1887 to 1891. W. E. Franklin, the manager, was connected with the John Robinson and Franklin Bros. Circus in 1896. "Bill Woodcock's Circus Letterheads," *Bandwagon*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (May-Jun), 1966, p. 19.



KING & FRANKLIN'S CIRCUS

Andrew N. King (1843/1890) was born in Texas. He entered the circus and show business at a very early age. About 1882, he became associated with the circus of King, Burke & Co. When Burke retired, W. E. Franklin became a partner and the firm took the title of King & Franklin. It was a railroad show operating between 1887 & 1891. The cover is postmarked CHATTANOOGA, TENN/MAR 18, 1890. Andrew King was not related to Floyd and Howard King.



SIG.

Sautelle's
NINE BIG RAIL ROAD SHOWS

SAUTELLE, LOWANDE & ROLLINS, OWNERS



CIRCUS
MUSEUM
MENAGERIE
ROMAN
HIPPODROME
WILD WEST

Hornes Zoological Arena
Kansas City
Mo,



SHREVEPORT - LA.

THE MIGHTY
HAAG SHOWS



Horne Zoological Assoc.
Kansas City
Mo.

1909

SIG SAUTELLE'S CIRCUS

This was a wagon road show opened by Sautelle in 1885. In 1902 it went on rails and continued until 1919 when it was closed. The cover is postmarked Cortland, N.Y. Feb 9, 1914 and portrays L/R Sautelle and his two partners - Lowande & Rollins. It also proclaims a WILD WEST segment on the program.

THE MIGHTY HAAG SHOWS

This was a wagon show started by Ernest Haag about 1894. In 1909 it went on rails, but because of lost revenue it went back to wagons in 1914 and then, to motor trucks in 1918. Ernest Haag died in 1935 and the circus ended in 1938. The Ringlings called Hagg "The Barnum of the Sticks". Cover is postmarked STIGLER, OKLA APR 27 1909, the year the circus went on rails.

**KIT CARSON
WILD WEST
SHOW.**

Organized by the
Wiedemann brothers
and operated during
1908 to 1914.



*Recd at
Wayne Ind.*

*Home Zoological Academy
318 North Dearborn St.
Chicago, Ill.*

Cover was postmarked
at Chicago on March 5,
1912. Just 6 days after
this collector was born.

THE WESTERN MAILS



HOWE'S GREAT LONDON CIRCUS. Started in the 1850's by Seth B. Howes and toured England as Howe's Great American Circus. Continued over the years under several ownerships and changes in title until 1908 when Mugivan & Bowers used the name for a railroad show until 1922.

MILLER BROS & ARLINGTON 101 RANCH REAL WILD WEST SHOW. Organized by Edward Arlington with the Millers, who were Oklahoma ranchers, in 1908. At one time, Buffalo Bill became paer of the show, which continued until 1931, under various partnerships and title. The cover shown below was postmarked August 8, 1912.



THE WESTERN MAILS



SANGER'S GREAT LONDON CIRCUS & MENAGERIE. Originated by Lord George Sanger in Great Britain. No year date or data on this circus as well as the CHAS. LEE'S LONDON SHOWS as shown below. Both covers used in the 1870 and 1880 periods.



CLYDE BEATTY - COLE BROS.
CIRCUS.

This was one of several road shows operated by the King Brothers and the Cole Brothers, under various names during the 1930's through the 1970's.

Clyde Beatty was one of the best known wild animal trainers that followed in the footsteps of the great Carl Hagenbeck. SEE Barnum/Hagenbeck letter in this exhibit.

Cover shown was used from DE LAND, FLORIDA MAR. 31, 1968. It was sent by Floyd King, a brother of Howard King of the King Brothers.



Mr. Fred Pfening, Sr.
2515 Dorset Road
Columbus, Ohio

1968

**ATTERBURY BROTHERS
WILD ANIMAL CIRCUS**

This circus was operated by Robert Atterbury during the late 1920's through 1937 when it was discontinued.

Enclosed letter dated June 21, 1936 at Abbotsford, Wisconsin, to "Baraboo Bill" Kasiska, in which he gives the route of the circus - "Neilsville, 24, Pittsville 25, Sauk City, 27, Albany, Wisconsin 30"



*Mr. Kasiska
419 Third St,
Baraboo, Wisconsin*

SEASON 1935
ATTERBURY BROTHERS
3 RING WILD ANIMAL CIRCUS
Highest Class Circus En Tour
Entree _____ 193



Enclosed letter typed and signed by:

Robert Atterbury

**SEILS - STERLING
WILD ANIMAL
CIRCUS.**

This was a motorized circus
operating in the 1930's.
The equipment was sold
and the show colsed in
1936.

Cover was used from
SANDUSKY, OHIO FEB 21
1938.



Mr. Baraboo Mill Kasieka
419 Third St.
Baraboo
Wisconsin

**SEILS-STERLING
WILD ANIMAL
CIRCUS**

F. A. THALROFER, SPECIAL AGENT
1425 Shelby St., Sandusky, Ohio
MAIN OFFICE, SHEBOYGAN, WIS. 10
WINTER-QUARTERS, SPRINGFIELD, MD.



August 19, 1947.

Dear Mr. + Mrs. Hawkinson -



Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Hawkinson
Indiana Dunes State Park
Chesterton, Indiana

MIT LUFTPOST
PAR AVION



Herrn u. Frau John Prince
14 Sycamore Rd
USA - Carmel 1. Ind.
46032

JANESVILLE STAMP CLUB

BURR ROBBINS CIRCUS

Burr Robbins



Seventh Show Cover Issue April 16-17, 1966



Delavan, Wis. 53115



19th Century

CIRCUS

Capital of the Nation

Delavan, Wis. 53115

19th Century

CIRCUS

Capital of the Nation



Miss Ethel N. Heagyman
R.D. 3 Box 135
Delavan
Wisconsin 53115



1870 CENTENNIAL 1970
P. T. BATHROOM CIRCUS

DELAVAN, WIS.



5c
UNITED STATES



STANDARD FIBER WARE CO.
 J.A. WILLARD, Pres. & Treas.
 M.D. WILLARD, Secy & Mgr.

"STANDARD" OLD FELLOW,
 TRUSS BOTTOM HOLDS UP THE LOAD.
 "STANDARD" HOLDS MORE EITHER END UP, THAN ANY OTHER PAIL.
 SOAKY HIS FEET
 BUT NOT THE PAIL.

MANKATO, MINN.
 (OVER)

W. M. BARTELS

FEB 19
 8 - PM
 ST. LOUIS, MO.

Mr. J. S. Horne
 318 Keith & Perry Bldg
 Kansas City Mo.

160 GREENWICH STREET
 NEW YORK



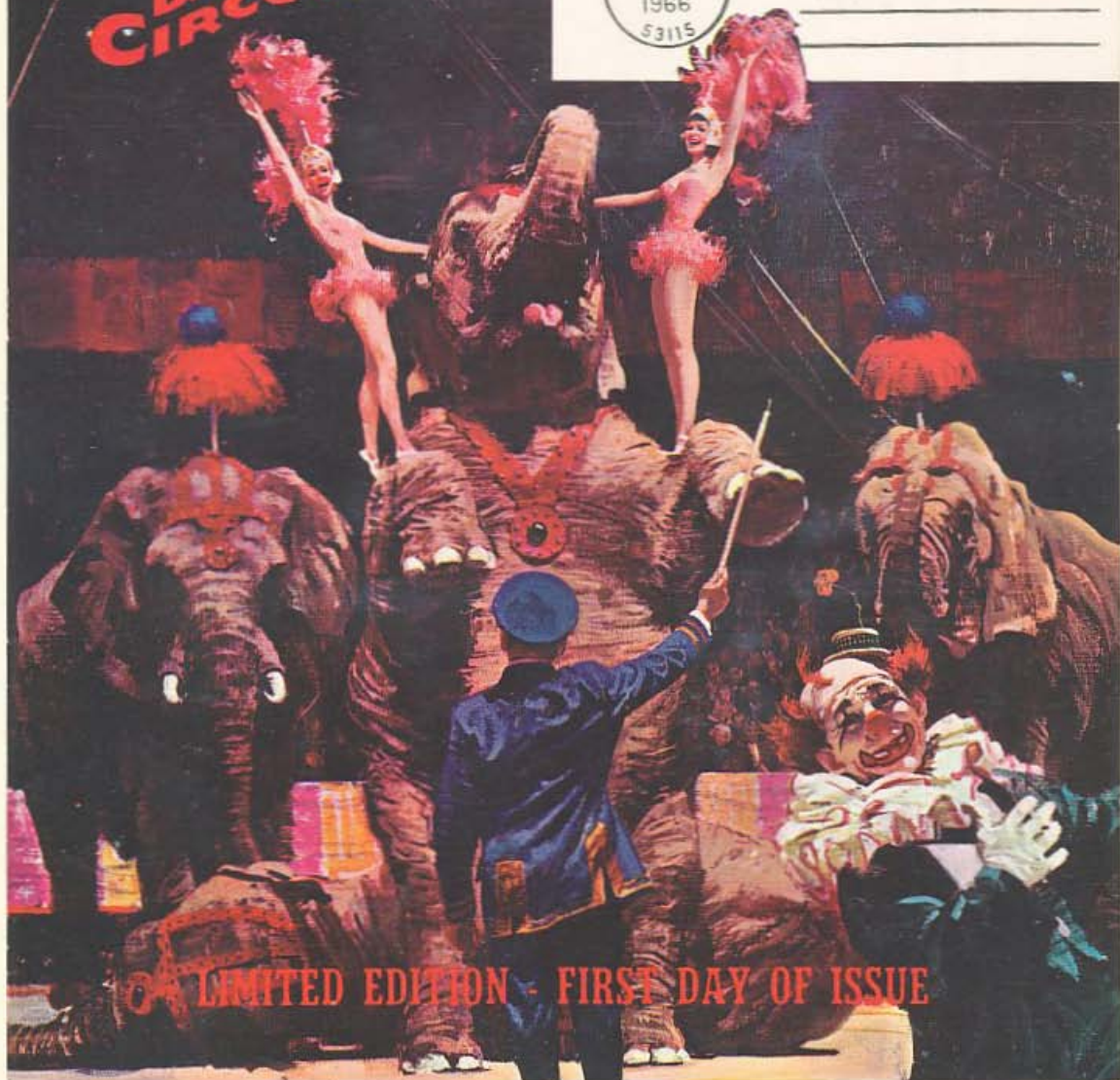
OFFICIAL
**Ringling
BROS
AND
BARNUM
BAILEY
CIRCUS**



5c

UNITED STATES

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



LIMITED EDITION - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

1918

GHERISTY BROS.

WILD
ANIMAL

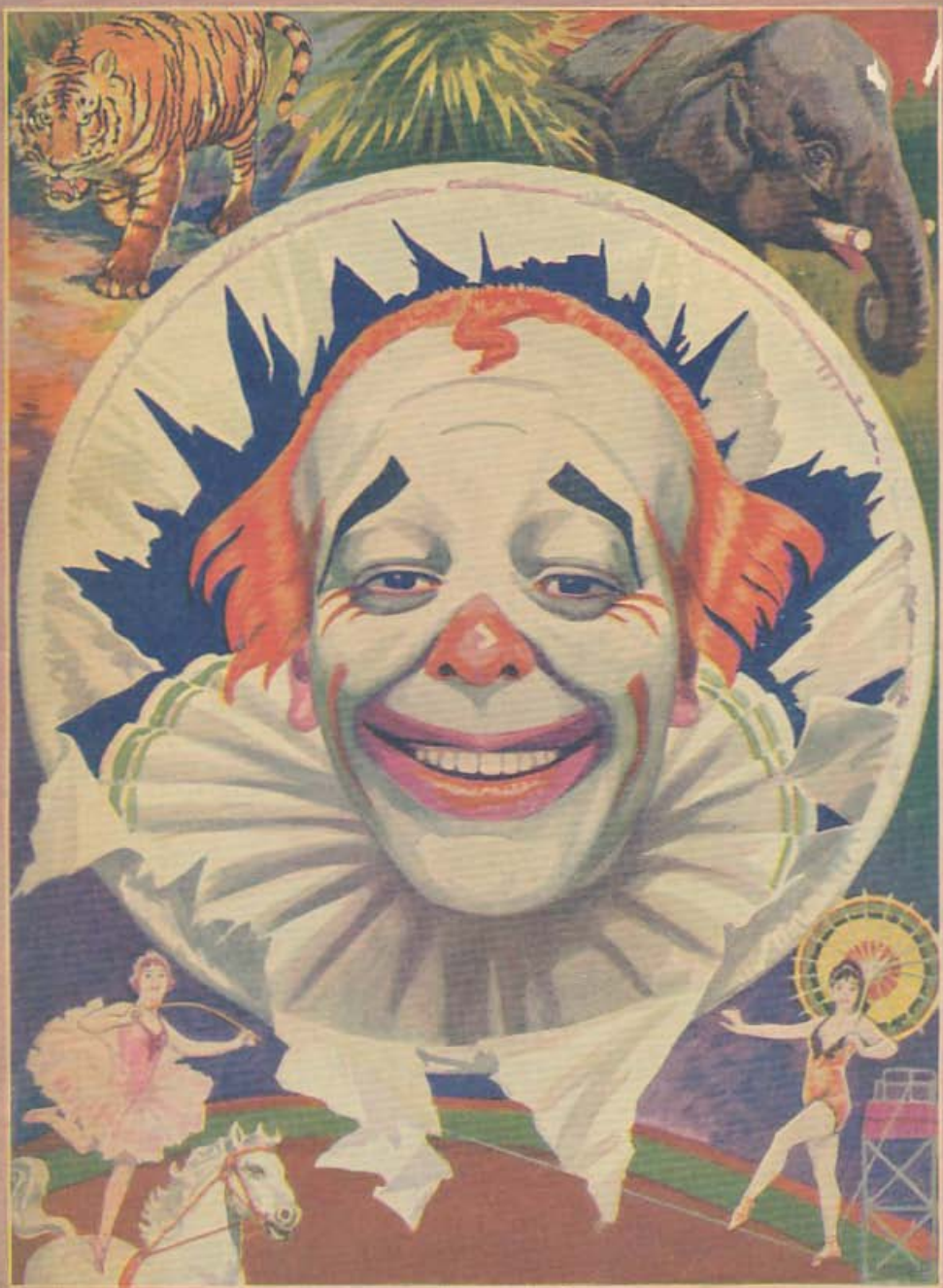
5
RING

SHOWS





NEW BEDFORD
THE AIR



COMBINED SHOWS
RINGLING | PRICE 15 CENTS | BARNUM & BAILEY
BROS | MAGAZINE AND DAILY REVIEW

“I like a Fair Fighter”

“That’s one of the things I like most about Chesterfields . . . their advertisements are so reasonable. No wild claims . . . Nothing that’s hard to believe. Just facts.

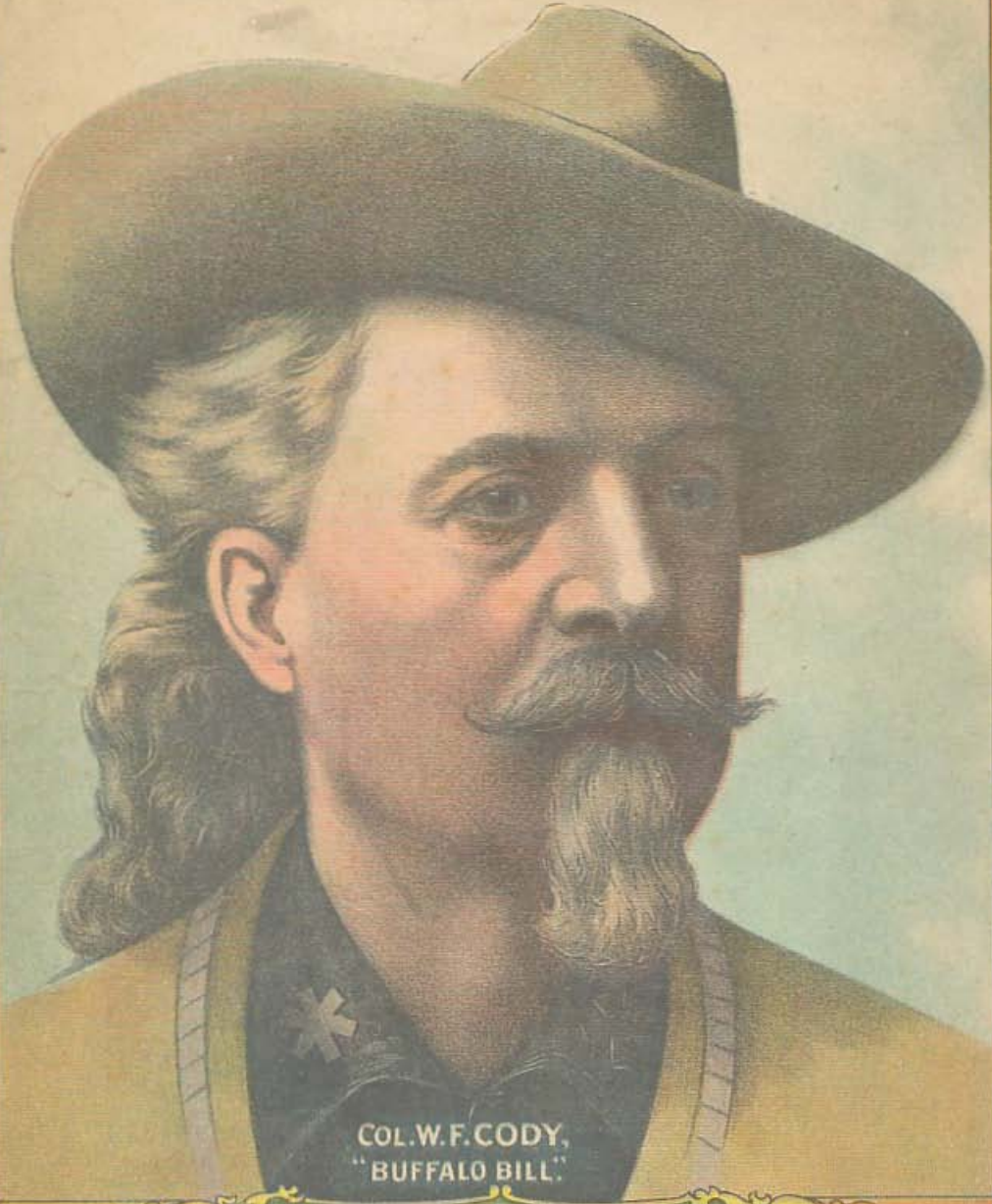
“I wouldn’t want to be a competitor of Chesterfield. They make too good a cigarette! I really believe they’re the mildest I ever tasted . . . So mild I don’t even bother to keep track of how many I smoke. They must be purer, too . . . they certainly taste better to me!”

● Wrapped in Du Pont No. 300 Moisture-proof Cellophane—the best made.



THEY'RE MILD
THEY'RE PURE
THEY TASTE BETTER

They Satisfy



COL. W.F. CODY,
"BUFFALO BILL."

*HISTORICAL SKETCHES
AND PROGRAMME.*
PRICE - 6 - PENCE.

LITHOGRAPHED, PRINTED & PUBLISHED
BY THE FARMINGTON ADVERTISING COMPANY,
171, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

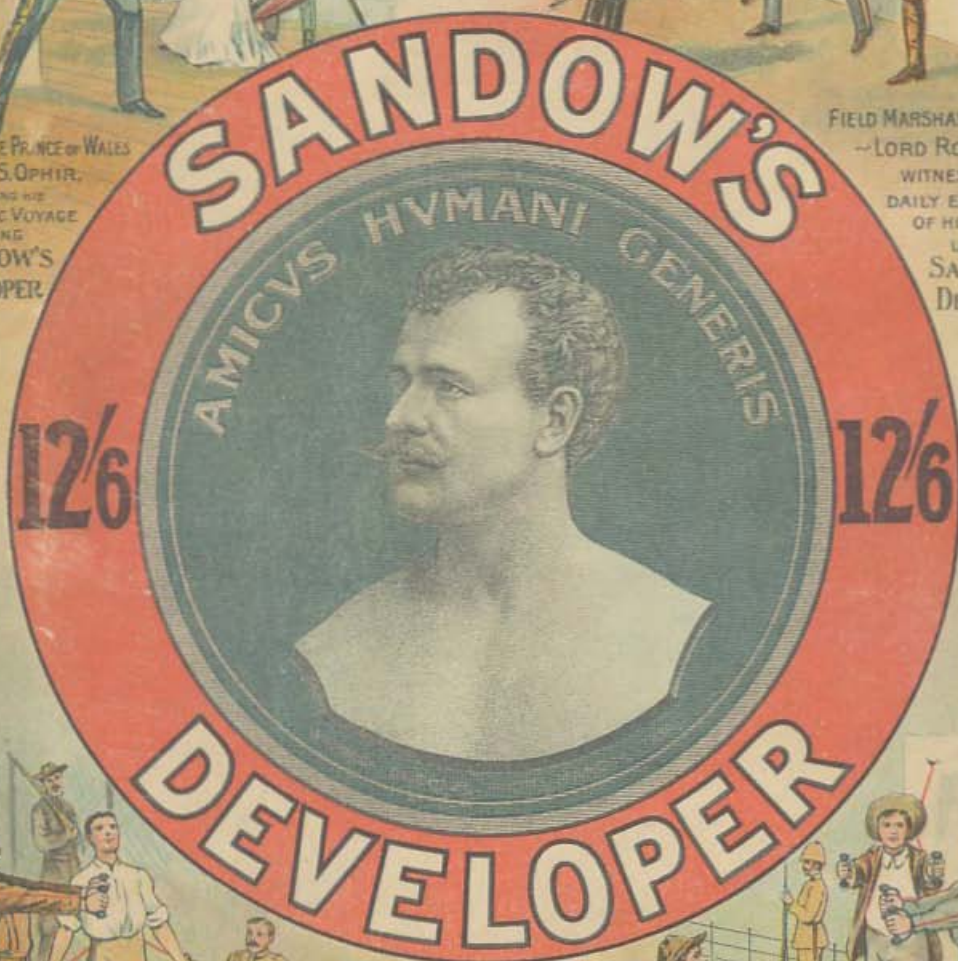
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ENTRUSTATIONERS HALL.

AUTHENTIC INCIDENTS CONCERNING "SANDOW'S DEVELOPER"



H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES
ON S.S. OPHIR,
DURING HIS
HISTORIC VOYAGE
USING
SANDOW'S
DEVELOPER.

FIELD MARSHAL—
—LORD ROBERTS
WITNESSING
DAILY EXERCISE
OF HIS STAFF,
USING
SANDOW'S
DEVELOPER.



BRITISH PRISONERS AT PRETORIA USING
SANDOW'S DEVELOPER.



BOER PRISONERS ON HOSPITAL SHIP USING
SANDOW'S DEVELOPER.

THE WESTERN MAILS



**DOWNIE BROTHERS
CIRCUS**

Established by Andrew Downie McPhee in 1884, traveling by wagon, railroad and river boats. In 1911-13 it was Downie & Wheeler, 1914-17 La Tena, 1918-24 Walter L. Main, all on railroad, then as DOWNIE BRO'S CIRCUS in 1926. Sold to Charles Sparks in 1930 and was continued in the DOWNIE name through 1938, when it was sold and failed in 1939.

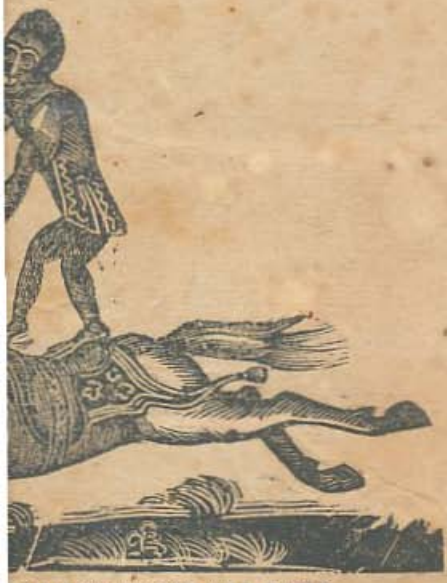
Cover shown was used from LOS ANGELES CALIF. OCT 1 1940. The corner card shows Charles Sparks as manager.



Mr. Wm. H. Kasiska
419 - 3rd Street
Baraboo, Wisconsin



MA, FROM PER



AND THE SHETLAND PONY.



animal ever exhibited in America. Here appears to be a similarity, is so wonderful, that their speed is accurately estimated at the rate of Kings and Queens preferred for their nuptial beds; but above all, thms, as a complete cure for the Hooping Cough.



SILKY MONKEY.



U.

A I A



every species of animal



the most curio



DAN

Travel on Mercury &c.

ing the exhibition. Price of admission, 25 cents...Children under 12

from

THE LONG CAT'S WARMOGOT OF, FROM BARBARY, &c.



P. T. Barnum



THE WESTERN MAILS



Marina.
Bridgeport, Ct.

Sept 23^d 1890

P.S.

→ J Parvin &
Dear Sir

I send this as
a postscript to my other letter

BARNUM & LONDON
TEN UNITED MONSTER SHOWS

PERMANENT WINTER QUARTERS
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.

Theodore J Parvin &

P.T. BARNUM'S
GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH **GREAT LONDON CIRCUS**
AND GREAT INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

DAILY EXPENSES \$4,800. RECEIPTS \$100,000

P.T. BARNUM, J.A. BAILEY, & J.L. HUTCHINSON, SOLE MANAGERS.

Address Madison Square Garden, 27th Street & 4th Avenue.

L. S. Chase
R. R. Advertising Agency
731 Broadway, New York

18 CIRCUSES IN 8 RINGS.
2 MENAGERIES IN 2 TENTS.
1 MUSEUM OF LIVING CURIOSITIES.
1 HIPPODROME WITH 1/4 MILE TRACK.
MAKING 7 UNITED MONSTER SHOWS.

Paris May 11th 1845

My good friend Dr. J. S. Lodge

I have been so constantly occupied with business and pleasure since my dojourn in Paris that I have found no time to write you before this, nor indeed have I written even as much to my General Hitchcock as I ought. Our success here is all that I could have wished and much better than I anticipated. General Tom Thumb is not decidedly the lion of Paris, and as such is carrying all before him.

We have crowded halls day and evening and afterwards appear at the theatre where every seat is engaged seven or eight days previous. What the end of these things will be on when I shall say "hold! enough" and return home satisfied, it is almost impossible to conjecture - however I think I shall not always be so greedy for money.

I have become well acquainted and intimate with Dr. Brewster, call on him almost daily and dine with him often. But I get no new idea or business in your line, for the Doctor never speaks of his business except to mention Duke and Duchess so and so, Lord and Lady this and that who are his patrons. There is no doubt that Brewster has the highest class of society for his customers, and he does all the operative part of the business himself. It is said here that he earns \$100. per day but that his success is owing to the patronage of many branches of Royalty, including the Emperor of Russia - all Russian noblemen in Paris &c &c - an elevation only to be attained by time and good luck. So after all, my dear friend you see that I am no better prepared to advise you now than I was when last I had the pleasure of seeing you. You are much better qualified than I am to judge what course you

should take for the attainment of the object of your just ambition.

Of course circumstances will govern you in a degree, and as you will have the full knowledge of all those circumstances (your business) at home, whether you can leave it safely or not &c &c you can decide what it is best to do, with a much greater degree of accuracy than I can.

At all events if you conclude to come to Europe I hope that I shall have the great gratification of taking you by the hand and of spending many happy hours in your society.

We shall not be able to tear ourselves away from the charms and profits of Paris, before another month we shall then probably visit the principal towns in France, thence to Brussels and thence — whither the golden star may lead us.

Please give my kind regards to your family and all friends, write me at your earliest convenience and believe me to be

Yours, your friend & old friend

P. J. Barnum

Positively ONE DAY ONLY!

LIBERTY HALL, - Hillsdale, Mich.

FRIDAY, April 16th, 1869,

Two Performances at 3 and 8 P. M.

The Organs and Melodions used by this Troupe, are from the MUSIC WAREHOUSES of **SHERWIN & HERBERT, 542 Broadway,** (between Spring and Prince Streets), New York.

WYLVESTER BLEECKER Director of Amusements.

RETURN FROM EUROPE

After an absence of Three Years when they appeared before nearly all the Kings, Queens, Emperors and Nobility of the Old World!
Four beautiful and symmetrically formed LADIES and GENTLEMEN IN MINIATURE, being the **SMALLEST HUMAN BEINGS OF MATURE AGE EVER KNOWN ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE!**



GENERAL TOM THUMB, AND HIS CELEBRATED LITTLE WIFE,

late **MISS LAVINIA WARREN**, whose beauty, grace, and accomplished talents, captivate all hearts.

Commodore NUTT, MINNIE WARREN,

The former, \$30,000 NUTT, and the infinitesimal **OF FAIRY PROPORTIONS.**
A MARRIED COUPLE, a BACHELOR and BELLE, all FOUR weighing a trifle over 100 pounds.

They are perfect in development; educated, and fitted intellectually for association with the most refined and literary; being thus superior to all other dwarfs. Robust health, beauty, grace, manly dignity, and feminine sweetness are amply combined in them. Admire, polite, and possessing excellent conversational powers, they interest, amuse and delight all who visit them.

On Saturday, June 24th, 1865, the GENERAL, his WIFE, their Infant Daughter, Commodore NUTT, and MINNIE WARREN, were commanded by her MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, to appear at Windsor Castle. They gave their entertainment in the Reuben Room before the ROYAL FAMILY, and elicited many tokens of appreciation. At the 11 o'clock Levée they will gratify the visitors by wearing the **SPLENDID AND COSTLY COSTUMES** in which they were dressed upon that interesting occasion. At the 3 o'clock Levée they will appear in the **ELEGANT COSTUMES** worn at the Tuilleries before the EMPEROR NAPOLEON, EMPRESS EUGENIE, and the FRENCH COURT. The **MAGNIFICENT DIAMONDS** and **DIAMONDS** worn by Mrs. General TOM THUMB and Miss MINNIE WARREN at their exhibition, absolutely cost over **FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.** They will appear in a great

VARIETY OF FASCINATING PERFORMANCES!
at their several Entertainments, among which
"THE \$30,000 COMMODORE NUTT,"

will appear as a DRUMMER; a SAILOR with a hornpipe; as PATRICK O'POGERTY, with a song; THE DRUNKARD; SCOTCH BROADSWORD DANCE, &c. Also, will dance, "JIM CROW."

In the Character  of a Crow!

THE WESTERN MAILS

1003

126 Leurye
London April 21/59

CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY
1859

Dr Sir
Genl Tom Thumb - Picco and
Senor Oliviera the best solo
violinist living, except one, can
be disengaged from about the
2^d May until the 2^d July. On the
6th of July the little General will
sail for America, never to appear
in England again. They can perform
twice a day & if required three times
a day.

They propose to visit a number
of cities & towns which the General
has not visited in 12 years, but as
he wishes to make some purchases

TOM THUMB THE LITTLE GENERAL

Letter by P.T. Barnum offering the services of Tom Thumb & Company, under the handstamp of the CRYSTAL PALACE COMPANY/APR 21 1859, at the time the Little General was in England.

Dr Sir: Genl Tom Thumb - Picco and Senor Oliviera, the best solo violinist living, except one, can be disengaged from about the 2^d May until the 2^d July. On the 6 of July the little General will sail for American, never to appear in England again. They can perform twice a day & if required three times a day.

They propose to visit a number of cities & towns which the General has not visited in 12 years, but as he wishes to make some purchases and arrangements in London previous to sailing, I have suggested to him to offer you the services of the entire party for the time specified above.

I think you can have them for 175 (pounds) per week all included - or if you will only want them to perform twice per day & will not object to their performing in London at night, a deduction of 50 (pounds) per week would be made from the above.

The entire attraction is very superior. The General's present footman & coachman are negroes (black as charcoal) and the miniture equipage is more attractive than before.

The General has any amount of cuts & can also furnish at cost price, those mammoth colored American Bills. As I leave for the Continent on Saturday afternoon I will feel obliged by your reply by return post. Truly yours/P.T. Barnum

Geo. Grove.

THE WESTERN MAILS



THE SWEDISH NIGHTINGALE & TOM THUMB

The illustrated covers on this page represent two of Barnum's greatest entrepreneurial promotions in the history of entertainment - Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale (above), and the celebrated midget General Tom Thumb (below). Jenny Lind was brought to America in 1850 by Barnum under contract that she would not be associated with his museum freaks. She was paid for 150 concerts at \$1,000 each plus all expenses for her maid, butler, secretary and an additional \$25,000 for her musical director. By the end of the tour, in May of 1852, Barnum had grossed almost \$700,000.



Greeting to America.

Written for Jenny Lind.

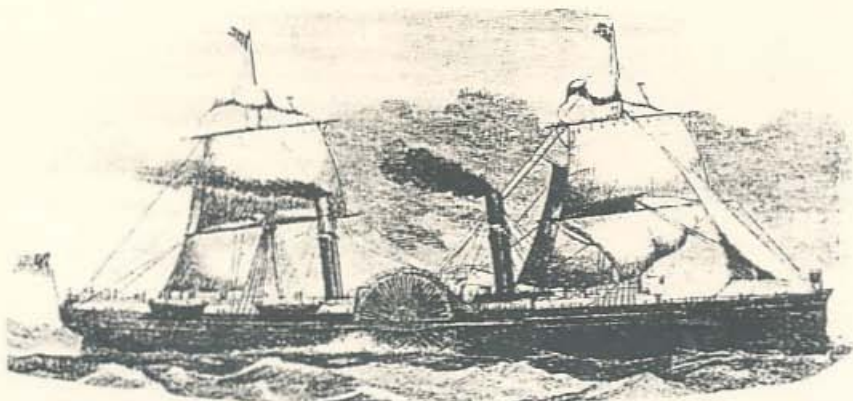
I greet, with a full heart, the Land of the West,
Whose banner of stars o'er a world is unrolled;
Whose empire o'er shadows Atlantic's wide breast
And opens to the sunset its gateway of gold!
The land of the mountain, the land of the lake,
And rivers that roll in magnificent tide—
Where the souls of the mighty from slumber awake
And hallow the soil for where freedom they died.

Thou Cradle of Empire! Though wide be the foam
That severs the land of my fathers and thee,
I hear, from thy bosom, the welcome of home,
For Song has a home in the hearts of the Free!
And long as thy waters shall gleam in the sun
And long as thy heroes remember their scars,
Be the hands of thy children united as one
And Peace shed her light on thy Banner of Stars!

Mayard Taylor.

New York,
Sept 13, 1850.

THE WESTERN MAILS



JENNY LIND, THE SWEDISH NIGHTINGALE, ARRIVES IN AMERICA ON THE U.S. MAIL PACKET "Atlantic"

This folded letter originated at Batavia, Dutch East Indies on June 20, 1850. It was routed "via Marseilles" to Barin Brothers & Co. London, where it arrived on August 20th. Thence forwarded to Liverpool where it was placed onboard the "Atlantic". It arrived at New York on September 1st and thence to Boston. The letter was rated 1 shilling from Batavia to London. At Liverpool the 1 shilling was crossed out and it was rerated "24" and "3 CENTS" to New York - 21 cents U.S. and 3 cents British, because it was carried on a U.S. Packet Ship.

It was on this very voyage that P.T. Barnum brought Jenny Lind to America, which is one of the great feats in the history of entertainment. Before her arrival, Barnum had offered a \$200 dollar prize for an "ode", GREETING TO AMERICA, to be sung by Jenny Lind at her first concert. The prize was awarded to Bayard Taylor and it was set to music by Julius Benedict. SEE opposite page for retained copy of the ode in the hand of Bayard Taylor.



Bayard Taylor



WALDENERE.

Bridgeport, Conn. Nov 30 1874

My dear Hagenbeck,
I wish you
would read enclosed letter and
then post it to

Carl Mueller

C/o

Herrn Candlist Unrath
(old Gassenbrunn) Leiden Strasse
Stuttgart
Germany

If he writes you that he will
fill my order I will at once

RA

Letter to Carl Hagenbeck,, the great animal trainer and circus owner, on Barnum's stationery illustrating his home at: " Bridgeport, Conn. Nov. 30, 1874"

"My dear Hagenbeck I wish you would read enclosed letter and post it to Carl Mueller C/O Herrn Candlist Unrath/Leiden Strasse/Stuttgart/Germany If he writes you that he will fill my order I will at once send you the money to pay him also to pay freight & soon as you can tell me what it amounts to. Meanwhile if Mueller asks for some pay in advance please let him have it.... Also please direct him as to the cheapest and best way to ship the goods to New York and be sure that I get Bills of Lading and Invoice from Mueller & c as to have no trouble in Custom House. I hope you are doing well. Business is very dull in America, but my Hippodrome realies a little money. I married the young lady who was with me in Hamburg, and am very happy. She is the daughter of my friend the "Enterprising Englishman" whom I have described in chapter 32*. She sends her kind Regards. Please write me.

Truly yours P.T. Barnum"

*John Fish. Barnum's first wife died in 1873. LIFE OF P. T. BARNUM 1889, by Barnum.

THE WESTERN MAILS



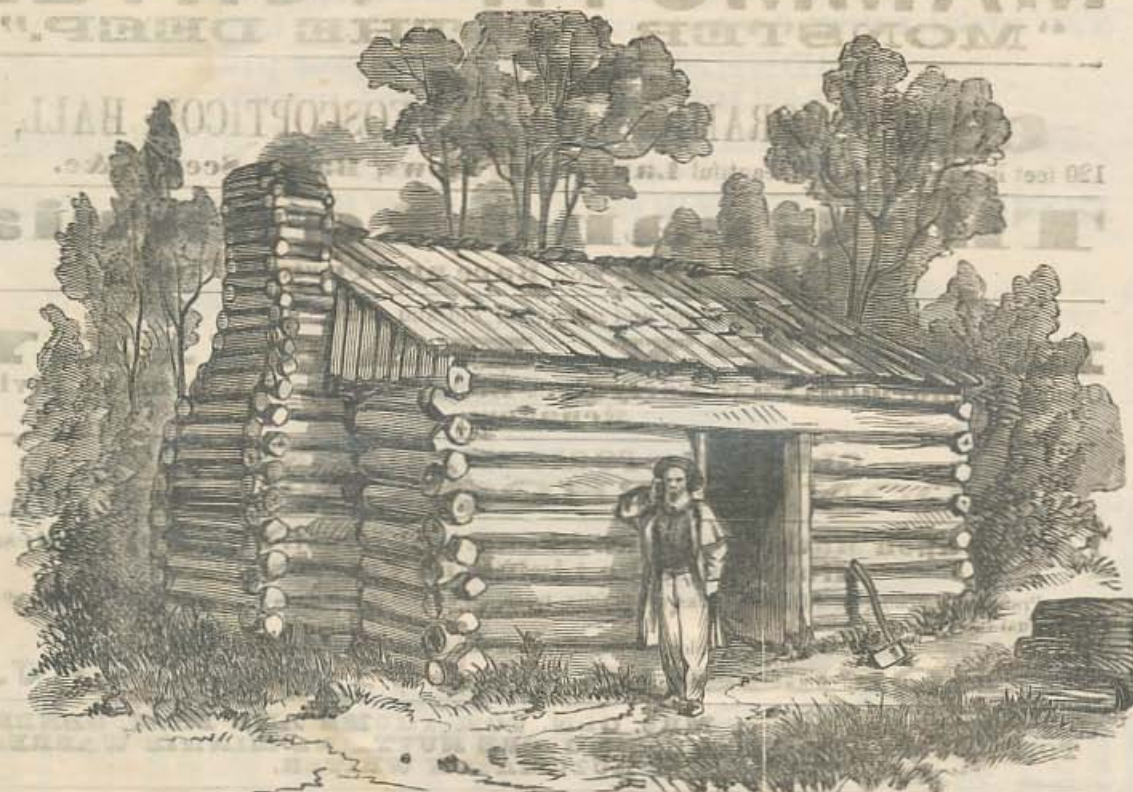
BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM



GRAND TABLEAU.

THE IDENTICAL

Lincoln Log Cabin



This Cabin was built by **Abraham Lincoln** and **John Hanks**, in Macon County, Ill., in 1830, and was the home of **Mr. Lincoln** for two years, showing the early laborious and worthy efforts of our beloved late President in his youth, to make for himself a home.

MR. JOHN HANKS

Will be in the Cabin and answer such questions as may be propounded to him.

BARNUM'S NEW MUSEUM

539 and 541 BROADWAY,

LATE CHINESE BUILDINGS,

Between Spring and Prince Streets.

E. F. TAYLOR

STAGE MANAGER

(Continued from preceding page.)

BARNUM'S GREAT EXPOSITION!

INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT COMBINED!

No ornate description, or pictorial illustration can give an adequate idea of the extremely curious, rare, unique and astonishing varieties of the

WORLD'S WONDERS!



Animals and Invertebrates captured together from the remotest parts of the earth by Mr. Barnum, and here shown. They are now all placed on public exhibition at the

EMPIRE RINK,

Where they can be seen

EVERY DAY AND EVENING.

For the same price charged by a usual ordinary Manager or a common Circus.

Mr. Barnum's supreme delight is in giving to the public, by whose patronage he has been so long and so generously sustained.

Ten Times the Worth of their Money!

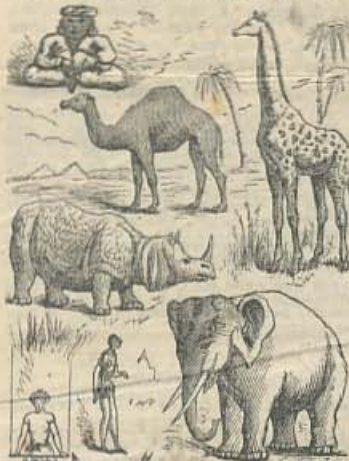
As an evidence of this, the daily expense of his great traveling exhibition alone, which is now more than quadrupled, exceeds the entire receipts of the biggest Show that ever traveled. To this fact is attributed the great

CARNIVAL & OVATION

Which everywhere greeted him during the last summer. There are numerous



SINGLE FEATURES of this Mammoth Exposition



WORTH MORE TO SEE

THAN THE

Combined attractions of an ordinary show.

A Mammoth Section of CALIFORNIA

BIG TREE

360 feet high, 80 feet in circumference, and 1900 years old.

Which may be seen every day and night, at

BARNUM'S MUSEUM

5

1857

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM,

Cor. Broadway & Ann St., opposite St. Paul's Church.

Admittance to the whole Museum, the Picture Gallery, the Natural History Department, the Happy Family, the Living Wild Beasts, and the Cosmorama Room, as well as the Entertainments in the Lecture Room,..... 25 Cents.
Children under 10 years,..... 12 1/2 Cents. Seats in the Parquet and First Balcony, are each One Shilling extra.
MORNING VISITORS TO THE MUSEUM ADMITTED FREE TO THE AFTERNOON PERFORMANCE.

JUST RECEIVED A GRAND COLLECTION OF

LIVING WILD BEASTS!

AND

PERFORMING ANIMALS.

Mr. White, the celebrated Lion King,



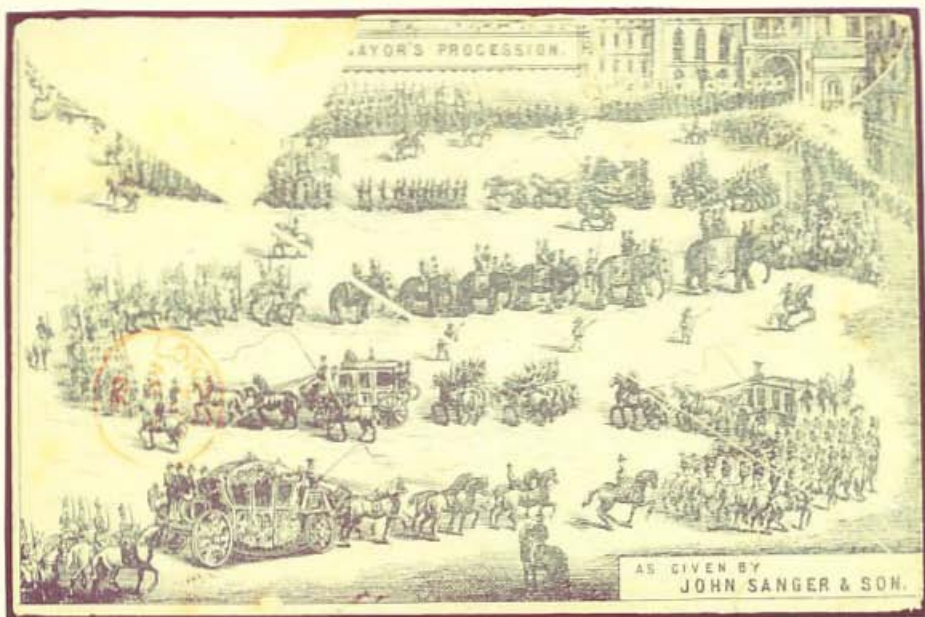
Will Enter the Den of Lions,

At 2 1-2, and at 7 P. M., each day, and exhibit the remarkable power he possesses over these ferocious animals. Amongst this Collection may be found

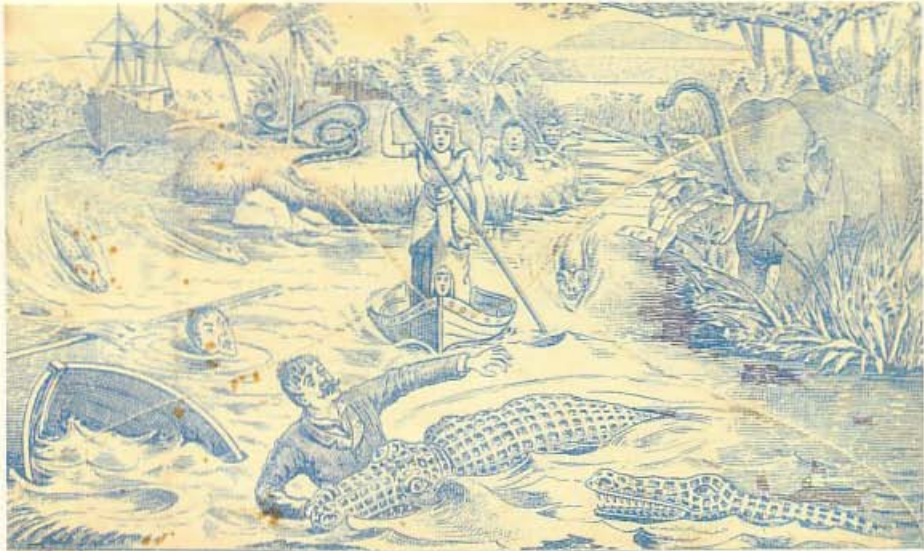
TWO AFRICAN LIONS AND A LIONESS! ROYAL BENGAL TIGER!

THE WESTERN MAILS





THE WESTERN MAILS





PLANNING'S GREAT TRAVELING MORAL EXPOSITION OF THE WONDER WORLD.

ANIMATE & INANIMATE CURIOSITIES

MOVING MECHANICAL WONDERS LIFE SIZE

RARE EXCERPTS OF LIVING WILD ANIMALS MUSEUM CARAVAN & HIPPODROME - ONE TICKET ADMITS TO ALL.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE LARGEST SHOW ON EARTH.

WILLIAMS & PEARCE, N.Y.



Admiral Dot's Carriage.



Infant Esau, or Bearded Child.



Dot's Classic Poses.



Goliath, French Giant.



P. T. BARNUM'S MUSEUM, MENAGERIE, CARAVAN & HIPPODROME.

Largest Combination Ever Witnessed!

IN 3 COLOSSAL TENTS

Requires the actual services of

FIVE HUNDRED MEN & HORSES,

Contains more Novel Features, more Real and Substantial Merit, instituted and organized by expenditure of more Labor and Wealth, and contains a Greater Variety of Living and Startling Wonders than was ever seen in

20 ORDINARY SHOWS!

THE MUSEUM

DEPARTMENT

Contains in the aggregate more than

One Hundred Thousand Curiosities!

We have room to mention only a few of the leading features contained therein, referring the reader to Barnum's Advance Courier, Mediums, posters and programmes, &c., scattered everywhere by thousands.

ADMIRAL DOT,

The celebrated California Deaf, 25 inches high, 18 years old, and...



Mitrailleuse.



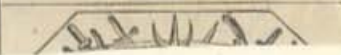
Wonderful Automaton Performers.



Automaton Musicians.



Miss Anna Leak.





MARSH'S JUVENILE COMEDIANS

MASTER GED. W. MARSH THE WONDER OF THE DAY

C. A. Simpson
No. 9 Bow St
Charlestown Mass

RECEIVED BY THE
WESTERN MAIL



BEN. F. BOWEN'S
Evening Star Serenaders.

Mr. James Bradsburn
Box 273
Madison
Prince Edward Island

As best
L. F. B. 15

Price 10c

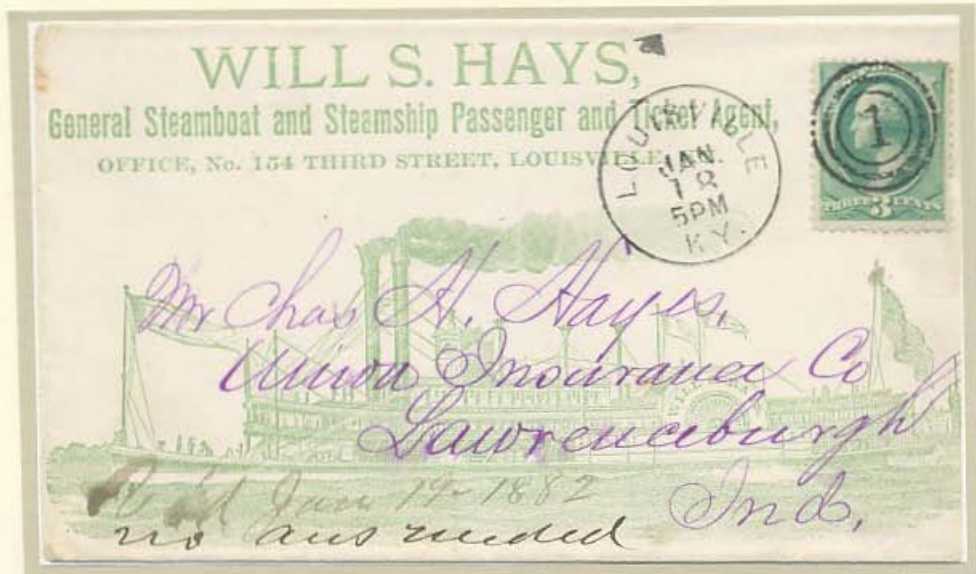
THE WESTERN MAILS



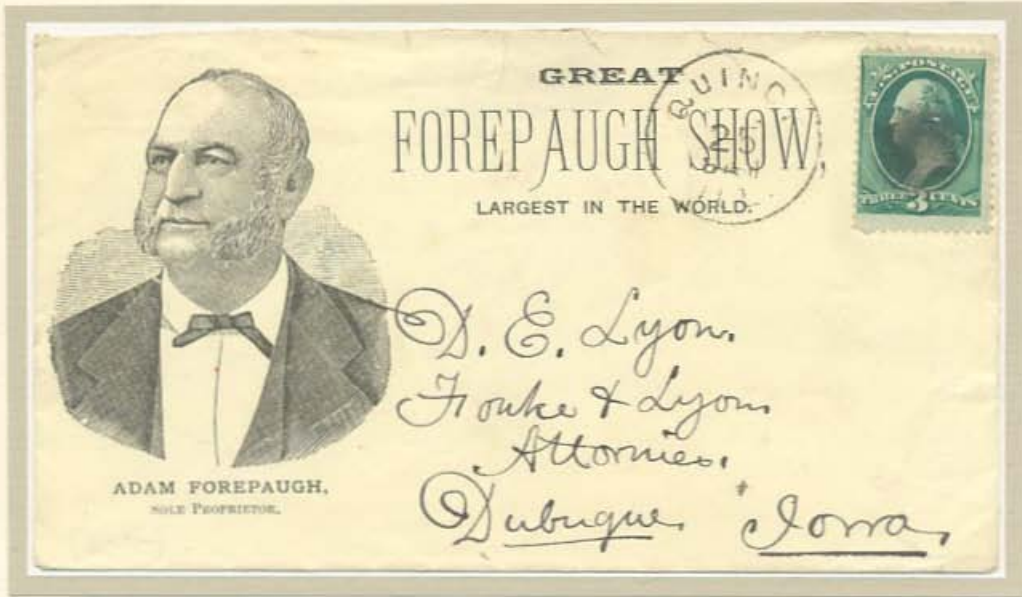
ALLIE LEON Showboat on the Ohio River. No record of this boat. Most showboats were towed like barges by regular steamboats such as the WILL S. HAYS.

Cover used from Evansville, Indiana, on the Ohio River, in the 1870's.

WILL S. HAYS A sidewheeler built at Freedom, Pennsylvania in 1882. Her cabin and machinery came from the THOMPSON DEAN when that boat was dismantled. She was named for the noted song writer and river reporter Col. Will S. Hays. She operated in the Cincinnati/New Orleans trade. Was wrecked by ice in the river in 1888.



THE WESTERN MAILS



ADAM FOREPAUGH CIRCUS. Forepaugh began by going on the road in 1863 and terminated with his death in 1890. At one time it was the largest circus in the United States. Cover shown below was used to England in 1875.





ORTON & OLDER'S CIRCUS

Hiram Orton, a former sailor on the Great Lakes, formed a circus at Portage, Wisconsin in 1854. In 1858 he went into a partnership with A, P, Older and it became ORTON & OLDER'S GREAT SOUTHERN CIRCUS 1858-60. Sometime after 1860 Older left the show, Hiram retired from management and died at the age of 72. After Hiram's death the show continued under the Orton family and Hiram's son Miles, who was an equestrian bareback rider of note. Miles died in Key West, Florida in 1903, but the show kept on going as ORTON BROTHERS CIRCUS, under R. Z. Orton, until they finally closed it out in the early 1930s. Cover shown is prepaid by a three cent stamp of the 1857 issue and postmarked at Tallahassee, Fla Jan 16, 1858, the very same year that Orton & Older began.



VAN AMBURGH & CO'S MENAGERIE & CIRCUS. Established by Issac Van Amburgh, the first important wild animal trainer in America, about 1846. After Van Amburgh's death, in 1865, the circus was continued by Frost his manager, Hyatt Frost, until 1885 when the name was leased to Ringling Brothers. In some fashion Hyatt was connected with P.T. Barnum as shown by the illustrated lettersheet on the opposite page. The cover shown above was used from "MT ZION/IOWA/APR 21" during the 1860s.

The cover shown on opposite page is postmarked at "NEW YORK JAN 4 (1867)" and is addressed to Harrisburgh, Indiana. The letter is by Frost advising Mr. Thomas to have the horses ready and in shape. He writes "I am to be let out of the museum most of the time for the coming season...I suppose Barnum is now with you and I will come out soon...we are now getting (the circus) ready for the road again."



BARNUM'S

New American Museum,

537, 539 and 541 Broadway.

Barnum & Van Amburgh Museum and Managerie Co.

PROPRIETORS

P. T. BARNUM, - - - - - General Director.
HYATT FROST, - - - - - Manager.



OPEN DAILY
From 7 A. M. till 10 P. M.

This elegant Establishment already contains over
over \$150,000
RARE AND VALUABLE

CURIOSITIES

Which are being rapidly increased by constant arrivals from Europe and elsewhere.

THE AQUARIA

Exhibit a variety of
Beautiful Fish swimming in Crystal Palaces
EXTRAORDINARY LIVING PHENOMENA,
GIANTS, DWARFS
Circassian Ladies, &c.

The Renowned Happy Family

And GRAND MENAGERIE of rare Living Animals
GRAND COSMORAMAS, &c. The new and splendid

LECTURE ROOM

Is most chaste, elegant and comfortable. Refined
Dramas of great interest—SINGING—DANCING
GYMNASTICS, &c.

Every Afternoon and Evening.

ADMISSION to the whole, 30 Cents
Children under Ten, 15 Cents.

Mr. BARNUM will be deeply grateful for all contributions of Curiosities for his new Museum. They may be sent to the above address. Receipts signed by him will be forwarded, and the names of donors will be placed upon each article, and published in the Museum Catalogue. It is desired that all articles sent be plainly described, and names of donors legibly written.

New York, Jan 3rd 1866
W. W. Thomas Esq

VAN AMBURGH & CO'S
MAMMOTH
MENAGERIE.
HYATT FROST, - - - MANAGER

W. W. Thomas Esq
Harrisburgh
Fayette Co
Pa

way wrong me; I support
The Barnum is now with
you and I will come

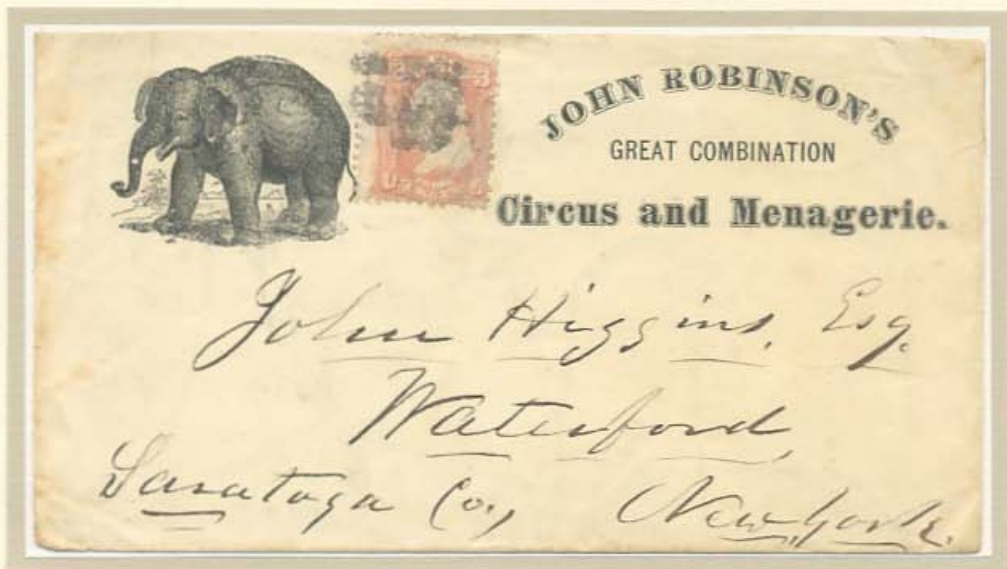
THE WESTERN MAILS



SPALDING & ROGERS NORTH AMERICAN CIRCUS Organized in the 1840s as a wagon show by Doc Gilbert R. Spalding. They also built the Floating Palace, a deluxe riverboat, where circus performances were given. It was towed by a steamboat on the Ohio & Mississippi rivers and was destroyed by fire at New Albany, Indiana in 1865. This was the first circus to use a 40-horse hitch to pull the bandwagon in circus parades. The spectacular 40-horse team was also used by Yankee Robinson in 1866, Dan Rice in 1873 and Barnum & Bailey in 1898, 1903 and 1904. The driver sat eighty feet behind the four-abrest lead horses and held ten reins in each hand - one for each two horses.

The cover show was postmarked at "KALAMAZOO Mich JUL 25 1856".

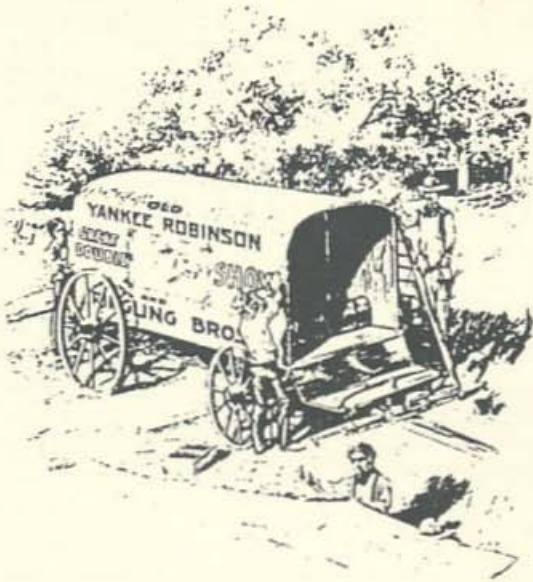
THE WESTERN MAILS



JOHN ROBINSON'S CIRCUS

This was a major circus in the last half of the nineteenth century. It began operations about 1840 and was run by four generations of John Robinsons with the show going on rails in 1881. The cover shown above was used in the 1860's. The photo post card was taken about 1915-20 in a midwestern town. Probably Iowa.





YANKEE ROBINSON CIRCUS. Established by Robinson in 1854 as a tent show giving a circus in the afternoon and "Uncle Tom's Cabin" at night. By 1860 he went on the road with a wagon circus until 1876 when it failed. In 1884 Ringling Brothers retained him as an adviser for their first circus under the title "The Yankee Robinson & Ringling Brothers Great Double Shows, Circus and Caravan. Robinson died that same year.

The cover shown was used from the Minnesota Territory as per postmark "MINNEAPOLIS M.T. JAN 4 1858". It bears a 3 cent stamp of the 1856 issue and is addressed to "Col. W.M. Doughty/Knightstown/Ind."

My dear Mr
 concerning you
 ago but I ha
 I was sick, the
 to physical and
 perhaps as a
 the human me
 glad to know
 understand what
 and then I felt
 that you and I
 must be comfort
 understand by
 that I am phys

long for me
 and several weeks
 with several times
 of weeks and
 and that I
 have not written
 to you I am
 to you I am
 and I am
 and I am
 and I am



and I have
 to know that
 you have been
 for a moment
 by a scene
 physically or
 mentally obtained
 by scene

THE BIG SHOW OF THE WORLD.



SELLS BROTHERS **ENORMOUS UNITED SHOWS.**

MAGNIFICENT THREE RING CIRCUS, FIVE CONTINENT MENAGERIE, HUGE ELEVATED STAGES, AUSTRALIAN AVIARY, AFRICAN AQUARIUM, ROMAN HIPPODROME, SPECTACULAR PAGEANTS, ARABIAN CARAVAN & TRANS-PACIFIC WILD BEAST EXHIBIT. THE LONGEST ESTABLISHED, THE BEST RECORD, A CLEAN, FIRST CLASS, MORAL & UNPARALLELED COMBINATION, EMBRACING THE BEST PERFORMANCES, LARGEST MENAGERIE, MOST BRILLIANT PAGEANTS AND CONDUCTED ON BETTER LINES THAN ANY OTHER TENTED EXHIBITION IN AMERICA.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan'y 22 1896.

PAID



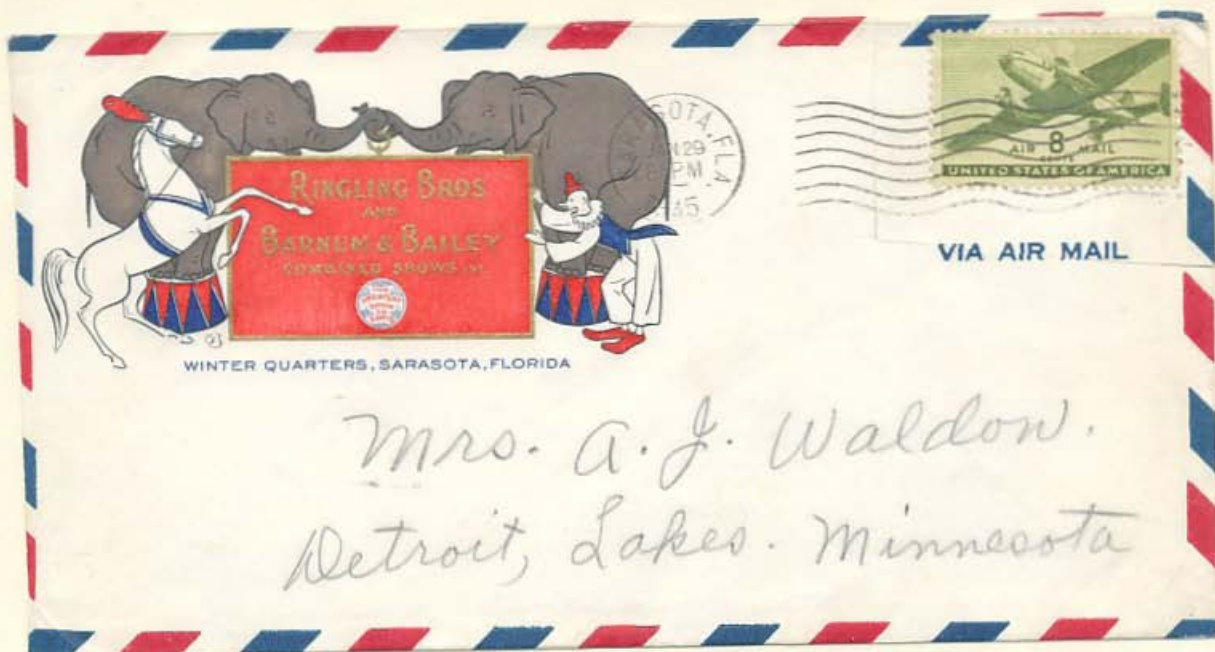
SELLS BROS. CIRCUS

Started in 1872 as Paul Silverburg Circus by four Sells brothers of Columbus, and called Sells Bros. Circus in 1875. In 1878, the wagon show was retitled and a new railroad show was assembled under the Sells name. Billed in 1884 as the Sells Bros. 50-Cage 4-Ring Circus. Reached 45-car size in 1885, when it also had a subsidiary with 44 cars. Catered to Mid-Western farm communities. In 1896 the Sells equipment was renamed Forepaugh-Sells Circus, and two of the Sells brothers, with James A. Bailey and W. W. Cole, owned the show.



SELLS BROTHERS CIRCUS. Cover above contained the illustrated letter on opposite page. It is postmarked at COLUMBUS, OHIO Jan. 22, 1896. In the letter Peter Sells states "we have entered into arrangements with Mr. Bailey [James A.] merging the FOREPAUGH SHOW with ours. . . . Charley Stow is at work for the Show in New York doing the entire writing for the FOREPAUGH - SELLS consolidation and will divide his time between BARNUM & BAILEY, BUFFALO BILL and our show as necessity requires. We have no other interest in any other show except in division of territory and a friendly alliance with the other two. . . . Peter Sells"

THE WESTERN MAILS





Mr. Theo. A. Lee,
c/o Louisville Color Gray ure Co.,
1100 West Broadway,
Louisville, Ky.



WINTER QUARTERS
BALDWIN PARK, CALIF.

HAGENBECK WALLACE CIRCUS named for Carl Hagenbeck, the great German wild animal trainer and dealer in wild animals, who came to America about 1900. (SEE P.T. Barnum's letter to Hagenbeck 1874 in this collection). In 1904 Carl organized a Wild Animal Show and took it on tour in 1905 - 1906 and then sold the show and **NAME** to Ben Wallace. It then became the Hagenbeck Wallace Circus. Eventually Wallace sold out, but the circus continued, although it suffered a railroad disaster when a troop train rammed the circus train in 1918. The following year it was sold again and in 1930 it was acquired by the Ringlings. The 1935 show was called the Hagenbeck Wallace & Forpaugh Sells Bros. Circus. The Ringlings leased out the 1937 - 1938 shows bringing it to the end. The 1934 show was one of the most successful modern circuses, out-grossing the Ringling show the very year that the cover shown on this page was used - 1934. A Special Delivery via railroad, See transit marks on back of cover - **BELOW**



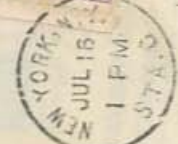
IND & LOU. RPO Tr 306 JUL 17
1934 R. C. PFEIFFER
[ROUTE AGENT]



HAGENBECK WALLACE CIRCUS

HIGHEST CLASS CIRCUS ON EARTH

J. C. DONAHUE
Gen. Agt. & Traffic Mgr.
221 INSTITUTE PLACE, CHICAGO, ILL.



1834
Louisville Color Gravure Co.,
1100 West Broadway,
Louisville, Ky.



Free Blained by Office of First Address
Via Airmail
Special Delivery

ST. PAUL'S PARADE



**GREATEST EVER PRESENTED
COSTS NOTHING TO SEE IT
TAKES PLACE AT 10 O'CLOCK A.M.**

PRECEDING

THE INITIAL EXHIBITION OF THE

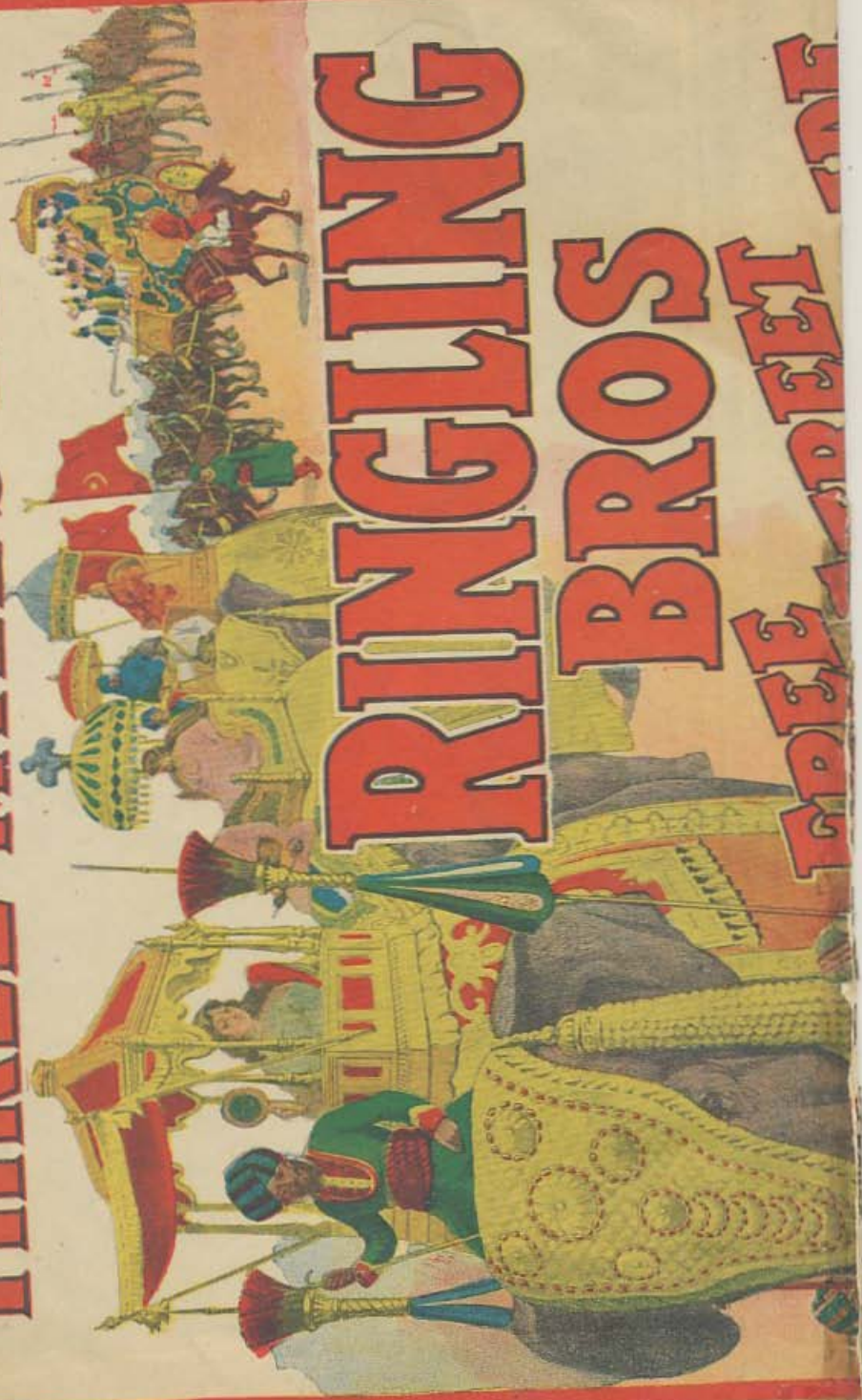
WORLD'S GREATEST SHOWS

Two Complete Exhibitions Daily at 2 and 8 P. M. Doors Open at 1 and 7 P. M.

ONE 50 CENT TICKET ADMITS TO EVERYTHING

Children under 12 Years Half Price.

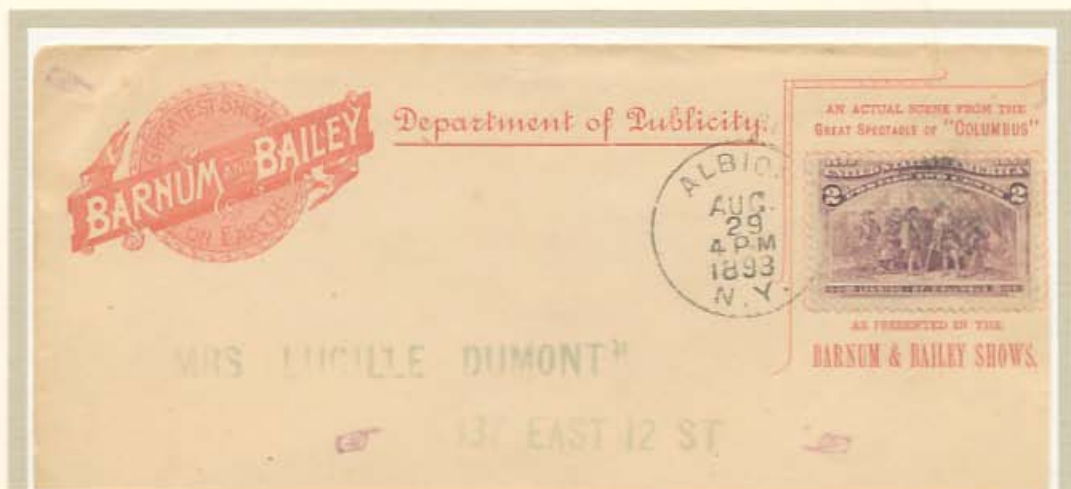
THREE MILES LONG



**RINGLING
BROS**

THE GREAT

THE WESTERN MAILS



BARNUM & BAILEY GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH. In 1888 Barnum reorganized his Great London Circus, taking James A. Bailey as his partner and renamed the show **BARNUM & BAILEY GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.** Cover above shows how the Publicity Department siezed the opportunity to use the 2¢ COLUMBIAN STAMP to advertize the circus.

RINGLING BROTHERS & BARNUM & BAILEY Combined Shows. The Ringling Bro. Circus began at Baraboo, Wisconsin in 1884. They bought out Barnum & Bailey in 1908, operating it as a seperate show until 1918 when it was combined as **RINGLING BROTHERS & BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS - THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.** By 1880 the day of the wagon shows was about over. The circus had gone on the railroad and the "heyday of the American circus" would last until the early 1830's. By 1956 the day of the great "circus tent" shows was over. In 1957 Ringling Brothers began as an indoor show.

THE WESTERN MAILS



HILLIARD, HUNTING & DEMOTT'S PACIFIC CIRCUS.

This was a small wagon circus operating in the midwest. The writer states that they have just arrived in town and that business has not been good because the farmers are in the fields. Her husband has gone ahead to rearrange the schedule because of the "Anderson show". The illustrated cover is postmarked "CRESCO IOA APR 2" 1870 or later.



Illustrated below is the reverse side of the cover shown on this page along with the illustrated letter-sheet.

HILLIARD, HUNTING & DEMOTT'S

STANDARD WILD ANIMALS



Always Performs as Advertised

GREAT PACIFIC CIRCUS.

THE WESTERN MAILS

HILLIARD, HUNTING & DEMOTT'S



AND TRAINED WILD ANIMALS.

Send me

St. Mary's Monday the 16/11



Great Pacific Circus

Best Show on Wheels



Mrs S A Babcock

Orwell

Astoria Co



She

Send me about the Bureau of the Police it belongs to



Main Street on Gala Day, Britton, S. D. Oct 10, 1912

Pub. by Baker's Drug Store.

THE WESTERN MAILS



MONTGOMERY QUEEN'S MENAGERIE & CIRCUS

Bought equipment from Adam Forepaugh and began operations in 1873. Queen sold out in 1878 after a successful and extensive tour of the west.

The post card pictures the parade on "Circus Day" in Boone, Iowa about 1912-14.



THE WESTERN MAILS



BURR ROBBINS, Proprietor.

BURR ROBBINS' Great Menagerie, Roman Hippodrome AND EGYPTIAN CARAVAN.

Janesville Wis Oct 30 1875

Mr Allen McNeil Paw Paw

Your Recd also Recd letter from Grossman and J.E. Stearns regarding

ACKNOWLEDGED
TO BE THE
FINEST SHOW
IN AMERICA.

Allen McNeil Esq
Paw Paw
Mich

BURR ROBBINS CIRCUS

The Burr Robbins Circus was a wagon road show operating out of Wisconsin between 1881 and 1888. The letter is datelined "Janesville, Wis Oct 30 1875" and the cover is postmarked at JANESVILLE WIS/NOV 1", 1875.

Respectfully
Burr Robbins

THE WESTERN MAILS



KLECKNER & CO'S. CIRCUS & MENAGERIE

This was a small wagon circus traveling through the country in the 1870's. Post card pictures a circus parade in Chatfield, Minnesota in 1914. Card is postmarked CHATFIELD MINN JUL 6 1914 2 PM.

