

# Mad Elephant Faces Guns For Killing Keeper

## Efforts To Save Beast Who Turned Killer, Futile

By Peter Wolff

A BULL elephant ran amuck trampling and goring his keeper who for an instant had turned his back; then the sequel, three police inspectors outside the elephant paddock, aiming carefully at a small spot between the eye and flapping ears—sending three steel-jacketed bullets plowing into the mad brain.

That was the unusual story unraveled by circumstances recently at San Francisco's Fleishacker Zoo, where Wally, six swaying tons of irritated elephant had committed the unforgivable crime of killing a man.

Wally's keeper, Edward Brown, is dead—mutilated almost beyond recognition by the huge feet and single sharp tusk of his charge. Wally is dead, paying with his life for a moment of irresponsible

elephant worth thousands of dollars, too valuable to be destroyed." Too, the "people of San Francisco believed that the elephant was not morally or legally responsible for the accident," and, in any case, the animal had received "cruel and inhuman treatment."

However true or untrue these allegations might be, there was proof of only two things: Edward Brown had been killed, and therefore Wally must pay.

Edmund Heller agreed that the keeper had unfortunately turned his back upon the elephant. Keeper Bjork said the same thing. Fred Chatten, chief elephant keeper at the zoo, and an experienced animal man, related at the inquest that the circus had warned zoo attendants to watch Wally carefully, to keep in front of him and face him. All of these men agreed there was only one thing



Wally and his executioners. With eyes blazing, the mad elephant faced the firing squad. He went down before three bullets fired at close range.

phant. Elephants are briefly mentioned in both the Koran and the Bible. In the Homeric age the Iliad speaks of reins and harness made of ivory:

"As when some Carian or Maeonian maid With crimson dye, the ivory steins designed To be the check-piece of a warrior's steed—"

The Greek sage, Aristotle, tells of hunting the elephant, and obtained his information from Alexander the Great, who used the great beasts in war.

PERHAPS the most beautiful doors in the world were those of the Christian church of Santa Sophia, Constantinople—virtually

paneled in ivory carvings which were ordered by the emperor Justinian.

Even in modern times elephants were considered the gift of kings and rulers, highly valued by the owners. One such gift was made by the East India Company to the Sultan of Sulu—who until his recent death was the only royal ruler under the American flag—a group of much prized Singalese elephants, magnificent animals apparently unappreciated by the aging Sultan. He tired of them and turned them loose at Cape Unasang, Borneo. Their descendants are today the wild elephants inhabiting the jungles of that island continent.

Several states contain the re-

Bailey. "Bet" was valued at only \$1,000. Later, Bailey built the Hotel Elephant in the animal's memory, and erected a tremendous wooden image of his pet.

The Chicago Exposition of 1893 displayed what is said to be the largest ivory carving ever executed—a figure of Buddha by the Japanese artist Ichikawa Komei.

THE most delicate workmanship is shown by the Chinese in exquisite ivory fans, which according to tradition were invented about 700 A. D. One of these fans, inscribed in French, was carved by an unknown artist in the 12th century; the inscription reads, "If you love what I love, you will love yourself!"

Some unique excellent carvings have been made by Chinese and Siberian native artists from the tusks of mammoths, notably several depicting camels, reindeer, and a remarkable ivory model of a Chinese woman. This model has the typically small feet of Oriental women; the statuette is carved from a single piece of ivory, and age has imparted to it a beautiful yellow tone. Legend says that women of the better class used these tiny figures to explain to their doctors the location of their ill-



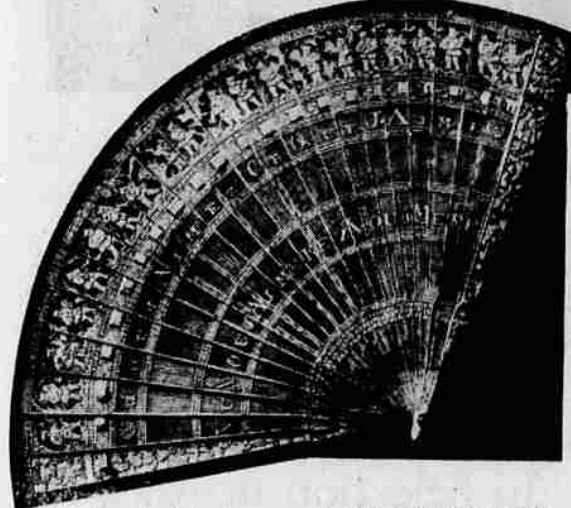
(Photo reproduced from "Ivory and the Elephant," by George Frederick Kuntz)

The ivory of elephants' tusks has been used in ornaments since the beginning of recorded time. Here is a beautiful ivory figure made thousands of years ago.

mains of the mastodon and mammoth, skeletons preserved in the mud underlying the ice sheet which covered swamps and rivers, and slowly receded. But the first elephant to tread American soil since prehistoric times was brought over by Hackaliah Bailey.

Its name was "Bet," and the circus man landed it at Ossing, New York. The journey inland had to be made at night, in order not to frighten the horses along the way. It was exhibited at Somers, and later proved a main attraction in the pioneer circus organized by

ness. A doctor in China some 200 years ago was not permitted to actually see a lady of the higher class; instead, she would put her hand through a curtain to allow him to feel her pulse, and then lay her finger on the section of the ivory model affected.



A Chinese ivory fan of the eighteenth century. It bears a French motto.

madness. Expert elephant men and citizens who wanted to save Wally's life protested and succeeded in postponing the execution a day; but further effort proved futile. The death sentence had been passed.

It all happened under conditions which might have been avoided. Wally's keeper made the fatal mistake of turning his back on the angry bull elephant. At the time, Wally himself was far from normal, suffering from the periodical madness which overtakes all elephants at regular intervals—a physical condition known as "must," indicated clearly by the action of a small circular spot on the forehead.

SINCE the time when animal men knew anything certain about elephants, they have recognized the fact that an animal is not responsible for abnormal actions while "in must."

Wally had come, three months previously, from the Al G. Barnes circus, accompanied by special instructions; the keepers were never to turn their back upon the animal.

The morning of the tragedy, Wally had been splashing in the concrete pool with a cow elephant, enjoying himself. Brown decided to remove him from the cow elephants, and apparently proceeded to do so alone. Again, this was a mistake, since trainers recommend there be always one man at the animal's back, another in front.

The first the zoo attendants knew of an accident, was when keeper Brown began to swear. They heard nothing more, except Wally's trumpeting. Rushing to the scene, they found the keeper crushed to death, and the elephant uncontrollable.

Wally's execution was almost a holiday for over 100 spectators—cameramen, officials, and curiosity seekers. Attendance became a mark of distinction, similar to the throngs who witnessed the beheading of France's aristocrats during the days of the Terror.

The day had been set, and the hour—1:45 p. m. Everything was arranged for speedy action. Pictures of Wally had been taken, swaying at his chains, seeming to expect what was coming. Three police marksmen stood ready with high power elephant rifles to pour steel-nosed bullets through the 14-inch skull and two-inch hide.

A TAXICAB roared to a stop on the edge of the gathering crowd, and a young attorney leaped out. It was the representative of several indignant or sentimental citizens (depending upon your feeling for executions), waving a reprieve issued by Judge Frank Deasy.

Edmund Heller, director of the zoo, accepted the papers, and dismissed the crowd. Wally's death had been postponed, perhaps spared.

The attorney's plea alleged several reasons why Wally should not die. He was a valuable "movie

to do, which was to execute Wally. He was, they said, certain to be dangerous to attendants and visitors after the killing. Elephants didn't forget, and looked for an opportunity to do the same thing again.

SEVERAL other animal hunters and big game trainers did not concur, notably Frank Buck. He was quoted in New York as saying that Wally's death "was a useless waste of life. He would soon have become normal again."

For several days newspapers carried headlines about Wally and his predicament, long reports on the progress of new reprieves.

But no further reprieve was obtained. Twenty-four hours elapsed, it was again early afternoon, the sun warming Wally's dusty back as he strained uselessly at the chains fastened to the concrete paddock posts.

Newspaper cameramen stood about, snapping "action pictures" and waiting for the three police marksmen to aim and fire, for the huge body to topple over and end the suspense.

Wally, they thought, knew what it was all about. He strained at his chains, but couldn't move them. He swayed back and forth, restlessly. His little-inflamed eyes blinked into the camera and at the curious crowd. Then, slowly, he sank on his front knees, slightly bowing his great head—much as French victims of the guillotine did when they lost their heads before the gaping mobs of Paris streets. The bull elephant was ready.

Three shots crashed out. Three tiny dots appeared near his ear, forming a triangle about the size of a half dollar. Wally slipped from his knees, rolled on his side and was still. Twelve minutes later he was pronounced dead, and shortly thereafter the thick hide was stripped from his body.

PORTIONS of his anatomy were presented to various scientists at universities and hospitals for research purposes.

Alive, Wally was valued at \$5,000. His body, however, is worth little, except for scientific research. The hide will require two years to cure, and may be exhibited at the 1939 exposition. The one ivory tusk—he had lost the other in a train accident—was presented to the police department commemorating the marksmanship of the three inspectors.

The lore of elephants goes back before history was recorded. Cave dwellers of early Europe left traces of ivory carvings, relics of great mammoth tusks probably gained at the cost of several human lives.

Ivory and elephants are mentioned in ancient Chinese manuscripts of the tenth century, and Buddhist legends relate that one of the transformations of Guatama Buddha took the form of an ele-

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