

Making Real News of the Show Business

Remarkable Experiments with Show Animals---By Tody Hamilton

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WHEN IT comes to handling the matter for the large papers of the country, the press agent requires all of his journalistic as well as diplomatic ability. The matter must be prepared especially and exclusively for the paper to which it is offered. It must be not only well written, but of a character in harmony with the class of matter usually favored by that particular journal.

The average metropolitan journal will favor the show only when it can be done without violence to the tastes and interest of the readers. The notice must not bear the mark of having been "tugged in"—it must have the air of belonging there, like any other piece of news or interesting information, and it must be worthy of the precious space it takes in the paper. In an advertisement, the highest standard is permitted of the show, though it may be a detailed description of a new phase of circus life, or of a novel act. The "finest" must be there in any case.

Now, as to what is of public interest the press agent and the city editor frequently differ, and in these little differences of opinion the agent usually gives way. But I have done so very reluctantly. Many times I have fastened myself that I had a first-class article on a highly interesting theme, only to find myself turned down at the desk. Sometimes the column would be cut down into an inconspicuous straggler that would send a chill down my spinal marrow. Yet when I couldn't "reach" I did not suffer myself to be cast down, but would rewrite the article and try it on another paper. If I had set my heart on any particular paper I tried a new subject, perhaps a different method, until I succeeded. And that success was always very dear to me.

A Junket to Winter Quarters.

Every year just before the opening of our season at Madison Square Garden I have taken a large party of newspaper men from the New York dailies to our winter quarters at Bridgeport, Conn. All the papers knew that it was purely and simply an advertising scheme. Why, then, should they assign their best reporters and expert special writers on high salaries to go with me to Bridgeport? Because there was not a city editor but knew that I had some novel schemes or scientific experiment to present to the public that would be fully worth the space and expense, with the indirect advertisement in the bargain.

Some of these private exhibitions interested the whole scientific world, some of them merely coming readers next day. Any of them were good for from half a column to a column and a half of readable matter.

We would go up on a special car at an early hour—for a morning newspaper man—and breakfast served in a large car. At Bridgeport a 16-horse team—some 40 horses—met us at the station and carried us out to the winter quarters of the show. After the inspection of the new outfit of rolling stock, the thing being, where riders, made or female might be practicing, and witnessing whatever new I had to offer, we were driven to a hotel where a fine dinner was served.

At these banquets the mayor of Bridgeport usually presided, and among the guests are the local newspaper editors, visiting scientists, animal experts and other prominent men, who thus have the opportunity of inspecting the New York reporters. Immediately after dinner the latter men get out "copy," which done and the stuff dispatched by special messenger, "the gang" accepts the freedom of the city. And we have always had a first rate sociable time.

Dinner in a Wild Beasts' Den.

Once I arranged to have luncheon served in the big circular den of trained animals. The brutes were loose and



were posed by the trainer, or permitted to roam at will about the arena. The reporters entered through the empty animal cages connected with the steel training enclosure. Only a few of the

There were two big lions, two royal Bengal tigers, two black leopards and two spotted ones, two pumas, two great bears and other beasts. Barring the jumping into the middle of the table of a black leopard just as three or four men got seated, there was no accident.

In justice to the reporters it must be added that none of them flinched. "Take this beast away," said the Herald man, calmly pouring his glass full to an even brim, "he's got a foot in our beer."

And amid the roars of laughter from the outside the trainer took the animal in his arms and unceremoniously threw him aside.

At another time I had arranged to illustrate how wild animals seize their living prey. Two big tigers were delivered of their meals for 24 hours; then a full grown but most innocent-looking sheep was placed in the empty compartment of their cage. The crowd of interested reporters and animal men filled the space in front, while the growling beasts, anxious to get at the unfortunate sheep, roused the whole animal house to loud curiosity.

When a Lamb Bluffed a Tiger.

At a signal from me a keeper threw down the intervening gate, and in the instant the largest of the tigers bounded through the opening. But whether the gentle ewe was paralyzed with fear or simply stupefied by curiosity, she confronted the savage beast in the frame and look. Their noses were not six inches apart. And the big tiger was scared.

He leaped back into the other compartment to his mate and glared through the grating at this contemptuous deft, while the boys set up a shout. They said the poor sheep deserved life. But the noise they made was fatal to the innocent, for it attracted her attention. In that moment the tiger's head was on her back and his terrible yellow fangs were deep in her throat.

While the bill substituting electricity for the hangman's rope was pending in New York state, the subject was being widely discussed in the newspapers throughout the state. In the heat of the debate pro and con I conceived the idea of testing the effect of electricity on certain beasts of assailing how many volts of the electric current might be administered with safety. It was not only interesting as an experiment, but apropos—two valuable considerations, namely, in reaching for a free advertisement.

Trying It on the Menagerie.

I took with me a certain learned scientist in electrical affairs, who brought with him the necessary instruments, and the usual carload of first-class reporters from the big dailies. By arrangement with the local electric company at Bridgeport we got the necessary force, made the connections, etc. We tried the current upon some 20 different animals, lions, tigers, leopards, bears, lynxes, etc., carefully recording the number of volts received by each before showing symptoms of succumbing to the unusual treatment. Naturally enough some of these animals vigorously resisted the experiment. But it was good for a column or more in the morning press. Two days later the legislature passed the present law of electrocution.

Effects of Music and Liquor.

The effect of music upon wild animals was another interesting experiment. What was learned by it has affected the operations of keepers and trainers all over the world. Besides the reporters present, there was a swarm of keepers and trainers, who rather incredulous of any influence upon wild beasts other than the whip and iron.

A violin played softly and slowly would rouse the kangaroo to an attention almost unobtainable in the most pathetic in its intensity. When the violinist struck up a rollicking Irish jig all the animals leaped to their feet and began to hop around their cages in the

liveliest manner, as if trying to keep time to the tune set them.

The reporters were astonished, for they saw that the elephant quadrilles in the ring, the horses waiting to the music of the band during the performance were traits not artificially acquired, but a true effort of nature under the spell of music. The assembled animal men were still more surprised. For their benefit the thing was tried over and over again. The effect was the most marked upon the Australian kangaroo, this animal apparently having the most correct ear for music.

In the nature of the case, all of these experiments were given by me without any previous knowledge of how they would turn out. I had to "chance" it, as to whether the result would be interesting or a fiasco. In this way I went into a trial of liquors on different animals.

Lord Byron said that "man differs from the lower animals in his ability to get drunk"; but that great poet, like the greatest this country ever produced, who described a herd of cattle "lapping the cool waters of the brook," didn't know much about it. Most animals other than the carnivora will take to whiskey as a duck swims by nature.

It was my experiment that showed the carnivora exceptional. The elephant needed no coaching to drink whiskey by the pailful. A monkey got as drunk as a lord, and had no objection to mixing drinks. It was the same way with bears. In my youth I once saw a lot of hogs having a high old time on a gallon of whiskey, cutting as many antics as the most befuddled human creature. Quails, geese, fowls and birds of all kinds will get "as full as a goat," while

ments fed a whole pound of catnip to a big elephant and then, as he said afterward, "waited breathlessly to see him act like a cat." But to his disappointment the elephant swallowed the catnip and never even sniffed or winked.

The truth of the old story that elephants are really afraid of mice was practically demonstrated at one of my seasons at Bridgeport. We had several mice and rats in a basket. A mouse was secured by a string and permitted to run near the head of the pachyderms tethered by chains in a long line in the elephant house. The moment the mouse's head got eyes on the diminutive chap he trumpeted loudly and began tugging at his chain to get away, all the time holding his trunk curled up well out of reach. Finding his efforts to free himself vain, the elephant turned around and with his head furthest away from his enemy began to stamp and kick his hind feet.

His terror was communicated to the entire herd of 24, all of whom were soon trumpeting, stamping and rattling their chains. This became so violent that the elephant keepers were afraid to permit any further test.

In the meantime some of the visitors became so dubious about the interest of the experiment that they went away suddenly. One found safety on top of some bales of hay. Another never stopped until he was secure among the rafters of the building. There was some danger of a breakaway and stampede. So we contented ourselves by turning the rats loose among the lions and tigers. Both of these big cat species behaved much as ladies would. They jumped out of the way and looked

at the vermin with absolutely comical expressions of disgust and horror. The more agile leopards, however, pounced upon the rodents like house cats and devoured them in a twinkling.

On nearly every Sunday while the show was at Madison Square Garden I presented some similar kind of a novel entertainment that would make legitimate news for next day's papers. The Monday papers are less crowded with news matter, and any fairly good press matter of this character will find tender consideration. One of the most meritorious of these Sunday entertainments was a test of strength of various animals. A registering machine was fastened to heavy, deep driven stakes. To this machine elephants were attached by stout ropes and set to pulling with all their titanic strength. Then horses were tried, singly in pairs, and finally in teams of six, eight and ten. Camels were tested and "sacred" oxen, zebras and other beasts.

Nelly Bly in the Lion's Cage.

"Nelly Bly" went into the lion's cage with the king of beasts and lived to write a good story of her sensations. Another New York newspaper man spent a morning with 11 leopards, among them a black one so fierce that it had to be forced into a corner of the cage at frequent intervals by men stationed outside with poles and hooks.

At the close of one season I organized a troupe of "Rough Riders," thus antici-



the latter animal is an adept at all the tricks of humanity—chewing tobacco and drinking liquor inclusive. Only the carnivora, so far as I know, and as we learned that day by test, are testafalers by nature.

In the experiment of mirrors we presented a big plate glass mirror at the side of the lion's cage. The animals bristled all at their dreadful counterfeit presentation, and backing away uttered a series of growls that were much like barks of an angry dog, while they half-crouched for a spring at the intruders. The tigers would back away, put back their ears and hiss like house cats.

Catnip has the same soothing effect upon tigers and leopards as upon the domestic cat. One of our experiments was successful in producing most amusing antics. They will snore if it roll over it on their backs, taste it and in various other ways show their pleasure at its presence. One of our party who had a penchant for independent experi-

encing the famous organization with which Roosevelt was identified in later years. My company was composed wholly of newspaper men. They rode across the Brooklyn bridge with the show one Saturday night. The main point, however, was the crossing of Jumbo. The man who rode him afterward became the Sunday editor of one of New York's largest daily papers, and still chuckles over the sensation that was created by the proposition to take the mighty beast over the suspension bridge. Jumbo's successful passage, as a matter of fact, was hailed by the public as the best indication of the safety of the great span.

These matters may seem trivial now, as far as the background of events, but in that day they were the prominent subjects of general discussion in the newspapers at well as in private circles. It was my first business to keep them alive as long as possible. Nothing, big or little, was neglected to produce this result.

For the first time in history a careful

for controlling and forestalling the attacks of insects and pests. The cinch bug, the grasshopper, granary weevil and grain moth will be considered and studied. Fertilizers, soil inoculation and other important means of improving lands will be taken up and explained in every phase of their usefulness. The demonstrations in the many possible uses to which the farmer may use nature's alcohol will be of great benefit to all farmers, and its moderate cost will appeal to every one. The use of free alcohol will revolutionize the conditions of farm life.

As long as man can keep his cells limpid and keep his protoplasm limpid he will never grow old.

Alcohol absolutely coagulates the protoplasm the moment it touches it, but the alcohol that is in whiskey or brandy is so mingled by nature's operations that it is an entirely different proposition.

For instance, you take ordinary field corn and put sugar in it more than sweet corn has and it does not taste like sweet corn. It is not sweet corn. Nature has a way of combining the elements in foods which man cannot imitate, and therefore, when nature pro-

duces 20 different substances, as she does every time a whiskey is fermented, and all 20 of them come over in the still, alcohol among them, then you put these natural elements away to become mellow, to marry (as the distiller says), which takes years to accomplish—it is a long drawn out ceremony—you make a beverage which is tonic and wholesome and healthful and non-poisonous.

A young woman in Chicago rescued a boy from drowning at the sacrifice of her Easter hat. She has received three Carnegie medals—one for saving the boy.

Occupations for Women in Portland

By K. R. W.

PORTLAND is fast becoming a manufacturing city and new industries are being founded here which depend largely for their operation upon the work of women. Conditions of labor and of wages are still far from those which obtain in eastern cities where such industries furnish some of the entire working life of a community and where the number of wage earning women in a manufacturing community sometimes far exceeds the number of men.

In any manufacturing city, however, where women find employment questions of far-reaching importance are raised.

Where may the wage-earning girl get employment? How many hours a day will she have to work? How much can she earn? What will she have to pay for room and board?

These are but a few of the questions for which she must find answers. In dealing with such a large subject as this it is well to take first a comprehensive glance at the whole field of labor open to women in this city, what is required in each and what she may earn in different lines.

What She May Do for Living. She may, for instance, go into factory work, enter as a clerk in a department store, get employment as a waitress in a restaurant, and so on. Portland has abundant opportunities for the girl who is just starting to earn her living, and it is the purpose of this series of articles, of which this is the first, to take these occupations up in succession and try to give some definite information in regard to them.

The kind of work for which there is constant and increasing demand in Portland is in the home. Women who would be glad to pay \$15 to \$25 a month for the services of a girl of ordinary intelligence who would keep the kitchen in order, cook three meals a day and with the assistance of the mistress of the home sweep and dust one room each day; who would be glad to give a girl one week day and every Sunday afternoon off; who demand nothing in the way of waiting up to prepare suppers after the theatre or the case of small children, such women find it impossible to get any help at all.

It is almost impossible for a girl to make the same amount of money clear of expense at store or factory work. Yet all the factories of the city are well supplied with hands, and although some employers really try (as I know in certain cases) to dissuade girls from that line of work in favor of home work, their advice is uniformly ig-

nored. The factories are full, the kitchens empty. Why?

From the point of view of the intelligent working girl for these reasons. Whether they are sensible or what means may be taken to overcome the supposed objections each reader may judge. In domestic employment the girl objects to:

First. Less of freedom; except when she is out of the house there is in many homes no time that she can call her own. If she is quick and finishes her allotted work the mistress hunts up something more for her to do.

Second. It hurts her self-respect to be expected to perform personal service.

Third. She is the only one of her class in the house. The rest of the family have companionship; she has none.

Fourth. She has no place for privacy. Fifth. The orders that she must have "no followers" is humiliating.

Sixth. She is often called upon to take care of the children after a hard day's work and feels that an imposition.

Seventh. There are no definite hours and requirements. She may at any time be called upon to perform extra work without extra pay.

If on the other hand we talk of factory work the following objections may be raised.

Objections to Factory. First. Unless her home is in the city it takes almost all that she can make at factory work to pay her board and room. She has still to pay her laundry bill and the food she can afford is not so good nor so well cooked as that which she would get in a private home.

Second. The hours are long and in many cases she must be upon her feet all day long. The hours for factory work are usually from 7:30 to 5:30 with a half hour at noon.

Third. The noise and din of the machinery is bad for the nerves and induces nervous diseases.

Fourth. Performing merely mechanical tasks all day long and every day the same thing over and over without opportunity for original work is narrowing and stultifying. It makes the girl merely a machine.

Fifth. She never sees her work done. Until one has spent some time among the busy and driving machinery of industrial work this would not be recognized as a reasonable factor. Later on, it seems the most important of all. She is hired to do one thing, and over and over, one day after another, year in and year out, there is no lessening of her work. She may bend her utmost

energies to the task, yet work as hard as she may, fingers flying, brain and nerve alert on this one task, still it comes pouring in, on and on, a steady stream. Though she should stick to it, she is taken to her heels—still the amount to be done is not lessened one bit.

Sixth. The employment is uncertain. When she needs the work most a strike may be started and all the factory hands be ordered out. When orders are full the factory may be closed for days at a time.

Seventh. Her employer may at any time shift the work so that she has to take up a new line of work at which she can earn only half as much as at that which she has mastered.

Visit to Paste Factory.

It chanced that the first factory which I visited in search of definite information of wages and work was a paste factory. Not bill-posters' paste, but edible paste, such as macaroni, spaghetti, vermicelli and other varieties whose names are too foreign for my untortured tongue or pencil. Here I found but a few girls employed, and that at light and easy work. The mixing of the paste is done by men. After the long strips or tubes of paste come from the machines they are laid in wooden trays and spread to avoid touching. The storing of these trays until the paste is quite dry naturally requires considerable room but that is provided by running the trays one above another throughout the length and height of the large rooms. The work of the girls is to spread the paste upon the trays which are then placed in position by men. Girls also pack the paste in the paper cartons and paste the label and string with which it is fastened upon the carton and tie it. They may also be given the work of packing the paste into the wooden boxes in which it is also sold. The work is light the sanitation good, the rooms airy. However, there is but little of this work in demand. As to wages. Beginners can earn about \$2.50 a week. Experienced girls who can handle the product quickly and deftly, who wrap and paste machine they are laid in wooden trays and spread to avoid touching. The storing of these trays until the paste is quite dry naturally requires considerable room but that is provided by running the trays one above another throughout the length and height of the large rooms. The work of the girls is to spread the paste upon the trays which are then placed in position by men. Girls also pack the paste in the paper cartons and paste the label and string with which it is fastened upon the carton and tie it. They may also be given the work of packing the paste into the wooden boxes in which it is also sold. 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