St. Martinville’s Famous Mama Mule in Road Show

Lou and Trouble, the 20 year old washed-out, long eared mule and her two month old colt who brought her fame and trouble are off for a tour of the country.

Unknowning subjects of a $50,000 law suit over dispute of their possession by man until the whole thing was dropped a short while ago, Lou and Trouble have caused tongues to wag ever since November 11, when the tired mother dropped her colt during the night.

Trouble represents only the third time the records of man have recorded a reversal of Mother Nature’s ruling that all female mules must remain old maids. Far-away Egypt was supposed to have witnessed such an unusual event years ago, but no definite facts are known about it here. The College of Agriculture at Texas A & M was the site of the second occurrence, when a mule foaled three times—only to die after the birth of her third colt. There is nowhere a record showing a male mule siring an offspring.

Lou’s partner in defiance of Nature was an aged stallion who died before seeing the results of their union.

Their now recognized owner, a farmer Acie Miller, of nearby St. Martinville, has teamed up with the owner of another of Nature’s freaks for a tour of the country, beginning with Southwest Louisiana. Ralph Stanley, Conner County, Mississippi farmer, is taking his 15 month old hog which has a left foot and leg that resembles a human hand and arm, as an added attraction for paying sightseers.

St. Martinville farmer Acie Miller, who came out of the lawsuit as rightful owner of the peculiar pair, originally teamed up with the owner of another freak for a tour of the country, beginning with Southwest Louisiana. Ralph Stanley, Conner County, Mississippi farmer, was to take his 15 month old hog which has a left foot and leg that resembles a human hand and arm, as an added attraction for paying sightseers.

Lou’s contribution to the world seems like a normal enough animal, and in fact is physically similar to a horse colt except for slightly elongated ears that are neither horse nor mule, smaller than usual hooves, and a mule-like peak at the top of his head.

Biggest attraction of the show in its early months was the $50,000 law suit filed by negro tenant farmer Samuel Basile against Miller for possession of the animals.

Basile claimed that Miller sold him a worn-out old plow mule that had seen her better days, only to reclaim her when Miller and a colored tenant-farmer, until the suit was dropped a short time ago. Miller was supposed to have given her to Basile in return for three loads of hay—valued at about $35—and some labor which the negro was scheduled to work out on Miller’s farm.

Ralph Stanley, Conner County, Mississip farmer who owns the hog shown above. is traveling with his freak on the exhibit tour now being made by Acie Miller and his mule and colt. The hog’s left foot and leg has the appearance of a human hand and arm, as the picture shows.