

FermiNews

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Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Bison Net Great Interest at Fourth Fermilab Auction

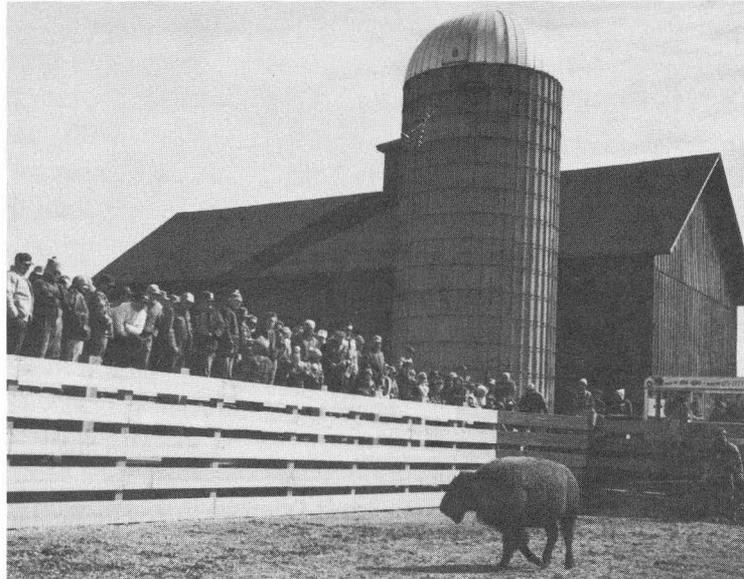
by Kevin A. Brown

Long before Europeans settled the North American continent, a huge, hooved animal with 9-ft horns grazed on the countryside. This impressive animal was the ancestor of the American Bison (*Bison bison*). The American Bison once roamed in large herds, sometimes derailing trains or stopping steamboats, before its numbers dwindled by the year 1900.

On Thursday, March 16, 1989, Fermilab sold 64 head of bison at an auction held at the Lab's Buffalo Barn (Site 52). At the last auction in March of 1987, 52 animals were sold, ranging in price from \$644 for bull calves to \$1725 for a 4-year-old bull. This year, according to Bob Hall (*Rds. & Grnds.*), 15 buyers out of 30 registered bidders paid prices ranging from \$3100 for a 4-year-old bull to \$775 for a bull calf. Specific bison were preselected for the auction. "We targeted a lot of calves, some bulls, and older cows. Some of the bulls and cows were chosen because of dominance conflicts or unacceptable temperament," explained herdsman Don Hanson (*Rds. & Grnds.*).

The Lab hired a professional auctioneer, John Almburg, who has done all three previous Fermilab bison auctions, and sent flyers to people who showed interest in this year's sale or bought at past sales. "We have a sale every two years," said Hall, "and we will probably continue to do so. Between sales, we like to increase our herd size so that the auction is interesting and draws bidders."

Fermilab's founding Director, Robert R. Wilson, decided that a herd of bison at the Lab would be appropriate to the site's prairie heritage, and would give visitors to the Lab from other countries a first-hand



look at a truly American totem. The Lab purchased its first bison - a bull from Wyoming and four cows from Colorado - in 1969. Two years later, the State of Illinois Department of Conservation donated an additional 21 head to the Fermilab program. "There are several other herds in the area, but they're smaller than ours," said Hanson, adding, "We like to maintain between 60 and 80 head. Our herd is

primarily a display herd, not a production herd, so we cannot keep any excess animals. This year, we had 114 head, but that's fine because this was a sale year. I expect that we'll have anywhere from 23 to 30 calves, so we could be back to 70 or 80 head in the spring."

Buyers at the auction came from all walks of life. "Some people buy bison to raise them for food; some buy them to breed; others buy them just because they like them. Once in a while, someone will buy one as sort of a novelty," said Hanson. "They think it's neat to have a couple of bison out in the pasture." More typically, most buyers are farmers or ranchers who know how to work with bison. "We have regular customers. Certain breeders come in all the time just to buy breeding-age heifers (young cows) to increase their herd size." These buyers like to introduce younger animals into their herds to maintain vitality. "Breeders don't want to keep line breeding [inbreeding individuals within a particular line of descent] too much."

"We have buyers from Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee, but most are from the Midwest," Hall said. "We have a number of buyers from Illinois and

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En Pointe! North Carolina Dancers at Lab

Nothin' could be finer than the dance of North Carolina Dance Theater! Critic after critic agrees that this handsome 18-member ensemble under the artistic direction of Salvatore Aiello is one of the most versatile, stylish, and sought-after dance companies performing in America today. The North Carolina Dance Theater will present both classical and modern ballet repertoire in its Fermilab performance on Saturday evening, April 15, 1989, at 8:00 p.m. in Ramsey Auditorium.

The North Carolina Dance Theater, the professional affiliate of the internationally renowned North Carolina School of the Arts, has toured the U.S. and Europe to soldout crowds. The company's extensive repertoire ranges from the classical choreography of Bournonville and Petipa, through Balanchine, to the imaginative contemporary work of Elisa Monte, David Parsons, Lar Lubovitch, Salvatore Aiello, and is complemented by the music of Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, Rachmaninov, Chopin, and Debussy among others. The North Carolina Dance Theater's Fermilab performance will showcase the spectacular talent of the company's



principal dancer, Mel A. Tomlinson, former solo dancer with the New York City Ballet, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Dance Theater of Harlem.

Experience the North Carolina Dance Theater's exuberance, skill and versatility for a \$12 admission. Reserve seats by calling ext. ARTS weekdays between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon, or 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. Phone reservations are held for five days, but due to ticket demand those not paid for within five working days will be released for sale.

This performance of the North Carolina Dance Theater is supported by Arts Midwest's members and friends in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. - **Tammy Kikta**

Coming Soon:

Folk - Sotavento/David Hernandez & Street Sounds - May 6

Jazz - Dorothy Donegan Trio - June 17

Stories - Frivolousness: Jonathan Frid in a Lighter Vein - July 22

N•A•L•W•O

What is NALWO?

The National Accelerator Laboratory Woman's Organization (NALWO) was established to provide hospitality and fellowship in order to enhance the quality of life at Fermilab. There is no formal membership.

NALWO events have included morning coffees, cooking demonstrations, luncheons, trips to local sites of interest, knitting classes, the spring and winter holiday teas, and pot-luck suppers. Children are always welcome, or babysitting is provided.

Children's Activities

NALWO sponsors a successful cooperative play group in the Village for children from 18 months to kindergarten age. Call Sylvia Thompson, 393-1335,

for information.. NALWO also shows children's videos on Saturday afternoons in the User's Center.

International Folk Dancing

You are invited to enjoy the International Folk Dancing sponsored by NALWO on Thursday evenings from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Village Barn. During the first half of the program, dancing is taught at the beginner's level. During the second part of the evening, requests for dances at all skill levels are honored. The list of dances for which music is available continues to expand. Everyone is encouraged to join the festivities and bring their friends and relatives. For more information, call Mady Newfield at 393-4318.

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Spring Forward and Start Gardening

Combine relaxation, exercise and good fresh food and what do you get? You get a garden plot in the Fermilab Garden area. These plots are managed by the Fermilab Garden Club and are available to Fermilab employees, retired Fermilab employees, visiting experimenters, and contractor employees.

Each plot is 20 x 40 ft in area and has access to a water pipe running along one edge of the plot. About half of the plots are plowed each year by the Fermilab Roads and Grounds crew and need minimal preparation before planting. The other half is not plowed and is ideal for planting perennials. Rototilling is often available for a small fee through one of the club members. The club owns a lawnmower for use by club members to keep grassy areas around the plots short and to discourage weeds. Organic fertilizer usually is available in the spring or the fall. Anyone gardening for the first time is invited to make use of free advice available from the many experienced gardeners who are part of the club.

The yearly membership fee is \$3 per plot per year and covers use of all the Garden Club equipment. Each member receives an identification card listing your name and the numbers of all your assigned plots. The garden area is patrolled by Fermilab Security and is open only to club members and their guests. This procedure helps to control the theft of ready-to-harvest vegetables.

Anyone wishing to join the club and current club members are invited to our spring meeting on April 5 in Wilson Hall in the Hornet's Nest, 11W, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. If you have any further questions, contact either Jim Wendt (ext. 4441) or Don Goloskie (ext. 2277). - **Eileen Berman**

Post-retirement, Tom plans "to do some traveling and just plain take it easy."

Estimated speed of human hair growth, in miles per hour: **.00000001**

Percentage increase, since 1980, in U.S. consumption of potato chips: **67**

Percentage change, since 1977, in per capita consumption of white bread: **-30**

Ratio of G.I. Joe dolls to American G.I.'s: **50:1**

- from *Harper's Index*



'Wellness Works' News

Breast Cancer and Mammography Screening

The Laboratory is again pleased to announce a program that we feel is very important to the continuing health of female employees and spouses of male employees. The program is mammography screening for the early detection of breast cancer. A mammogram is a low-dose x-ray that helps your doctor "see" breast cancer before there's a lump, when the cure rates are near 100%.

We have made arrangements for a mobile unit to come to the Laboratory and perform the mammography screening at a competitive price. The 35-ft mobile unit uses state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and an all-female staff. Results can be sent to your own doctor if you elect to do so.

The mobile unit will be located in the parking lot on the west side of Wilson Hall on Monday, April 3, 1989, and Tuesday, April 4, 1989, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Pre-registration is required. To schedule an appointment, simply call Diagnostic Services, Inc., (DSI) at 1-800-666-6550. They will be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

The price for the mammography screening is \$60.00 and includes the radiologist's interpretation. The fee is payable on the day of your appointment. DSI will accept cash, check, American Express, Visa, or Master Card.

Retirees and their spouses are also invited to participate in the program.

We hope that the convenience, comfort, and low price of the program will encourage your participation. - **Kathy Gavorcik**

Recent Retirements

Thomas Gutierrez (ID #1115), who began at Fermilab on October 2, 1978, is retiring from the Lab on March 31 of this year.

Tom, a member of the Technical Support Conventional Magnet Production team, has "worked on various jobs for the TeV II magnet program, such as small quads, Lambertson magnets, trim magnets, and SDD dipoles." He also worked on the E-687 coils and the Loma Linda medical accelerator project.

"Bison" continued from page 1

Wisconsin that buy several head." In addition to buyers, the media and curiosity seekers watch the auction.

One buyer, Richard Duff of Scott City, Kansas, arrived two days before the sale to look over the bison. "I bought my first bison in 1973. I have about 20 head now, and my father has about 1000 head." This was Duff's first time at Fermilab. "I came out here because I liked the quality - I want to buy maybe 10 head." Duff, who was accompanied by his son, buys bison to breed for slaughter. Climbing up on the catwalk surrounding a bison pen for a better view, he said, "I like that number 15 animal. I look for good body length and at the hindquarters." After the sale, Duff will transport his animals in a 24-foot trailer. "They do pretty well for the 900-mile drive."

Before the sale, the animals are confined for at least two weeks before a veterinarian runs blood tests and prepares health certificates for each one, as required by law. On auction day, "just about everybody in Roads and Grounds was involved," Hanson said. "I needed all the help I could get, because once we started shuffling 64 head around that corral, it took a lot of work." After the sale, Hanson sorted and separated the animals. "If someone bought two animals, I had to go out there and find the two animals and load them into the buyer's trailer. You can't just *ask* a bison to walk to its new owner."

Number of years Steve Jenne of Springfield, Illinois, has saved a buffalo sandwich bitten into by Richard Nixon: **28** - from *Harper's Index*

"N•A•L•W•O" continued from page 2 Arbor Day

NALWO has become involved in reviving the Fermilab Arbor Day celebration, not observed at the Lab since 1984. This year during the celebration, trees and shrubbery will be planted to beautify the site and to emphasize the importance of conservation of our natural areas. More information on Lab-wide Arbor Day participation will be in the next issue of *FermiNews*.

For information, suggestions, comments, ideas, or to volunteer, call NALWO's president, Adrienne Kolb at ext. 2543. Special "Thanks!" to employees for forwarding this information to their families and friends. - **Adrienne Kolb**

Frank's Place: New Stockroom Items

(Watch this space in future issues of *FermiNews* for recent additions to the Fermilab Stockroom inventory.)

Plate, wall, brushed stainless steel, 2-3/4" x 4-1/2", Mulberry P/N 97101 or equal, 1-gang, 1-duplex receptacle. #1125-2070.

Same as above, except Mulberry P/N 57071 or equal, 1-gang, 1-toggle switch. #1125-2080.

Desk organizer/Post-It Note holder, plastic, black color. #1345-0535.

Transparency marking pens, set of 8 pens, black, blue, brown, green, orange, purple, red, yellow, super-fine point, permanent type. #13151175.

For questions/suggestions regarding stockroom items, contact Frank Cesarano, ext. 3808.

Amount spent in 1988 on Chinese yak hair for British Army helmets: **\$300**

Price of a 10-oz bottle of Mendocino Truffle Mineral Water: **\$4**

Portion of all U.S. imports that are produced by American companies abroad: **1/5** - *Harper's Index*

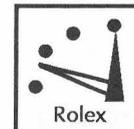
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FOR SALE

Miscellaneous:

CAPTAIN'S BED, twin size, w/matching dresser and mirror, all wood, clean, \$300.00. CHAIN LINK FENCE, 24 ft in length, 4 ft high, w/posts, hardware and 3 ft gate, used as dog run, \$25.00. Call Ralph at 879-7808.

1987 JAYCO POP-UP CAMPER, designer series, used five times, TV antenna, booster, awning, porta potty; immaculate. \$3,700. Call 557-2523 or ext. 3011.



The *Lundywatch*, symbol of the threat of Dick Lundy's retirement, stands at 12 minutes to midnight.

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