



Snowball and Silver, Don Niemeier's rare white mule team, have learned to pull well together.

RARE PAIR GETS LOTS OF STARES Wisconsin Farmer Owns Team Of White Mules

"I've been around horses and mules all my life and I haven't seen more than a half dozen white mules," says Don Niemeier, 63, of Brodhead, Wis., who owns a pair of white mules. "I'd like to get another pair just like these but they're hard to come by."

It took him two years to find the white mule team he uses for field work on his 250-acre farm. He also takes them to area events and parades.

Niemeier got the first white mule, a 9-year-old mare named Snowball, two summers ago from southwestern Missouri. He bought the second, a 5-year old jack named

Silver, sight unseen over the telephone last June from southeastern Kentucky. White mules sell for at least \$500 more than sorrel, buckskin or coffee brown mules, he notes.

Silver challenged the veteran trainer's skills because it had been poorly treated by a previous owner. Before long, however, the team was "traffic" safe and working well together.

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The Mountain Cur, usually found in the southern U.S., stands 18 to 20 in. high and weighs 30 to 35 lbs.

"THEY MAKE GREAT HUNTING DOGS"

Wisconsin Family Breeds "Mountain Cur" Dogs

"They make great hunting dogs and are also fun to have around the house," say Sally and Mike Pfund, Mondovi, Wis., about the "Mountain Cur" dogs they breed.

Common in the southern U.S., Mountain Curs are seldom found as far north as Wisconsin. The Pfunds, who operate the only Wisconsin kennel that breeds Mountain Curs, started raising the dogs about five years ago.

The Cur is a short-haired, long-legged dog that stands 18 to 20 in. high and weighs 30 to 35 lbs. They come in black, brindle, or yellow, and sometimes have splashes of white. However, if more than 30 percent of its body is white, a dog cannot be registered. They usually have four to eight puppies per litter.

Mountain Curs came from Europe with

pioneers. They guarded families against wild animals and specialized in "treeing" small game.

"They are twice as fast as a coon hound and will hunt whatever game their master wants," says Sally. "A lot of people are intimidated by them because they think that they're strictly working animals and anything but personable. But we've found that they make as nice a dog for children as you can buy. Our 5-year-old stud dog lives in our house and rides with us in the front seat of our pickup. As many people buy Curs for companion dogs as for hunting dogs. They're real short haired so shedding isn't a problem."

The Pfunds have three females, two males, and a litter of 7 pups. They hope to eventually sell six litters per year. They had



Tombstone near the gate pays tribute to Kay, a 58-year-old circus elephant that died of kidney failure.

TOWNSPEOPLE FOUND A RESTING PLACE FOR 4-TON CRITTER

Deceased Elephant Rests In Illinois Corn Field

By C.F. Marley

When a 58-year-old elephant died suddenly a couple years ago while her circus was playing in Taylorville, Ill., townspeople who'd enjoyed the elderly elephant's visits to their town joined to give her a proper burial.

Kay is buried on a farm owned by veterinarian Jerry Breuel just south of town.

A granite tombstone stands near the gate of the farm so visitors can stop and read the epitaph, which reads: "Kay, Oct. 21, 1994. In appreciation for over 50 years of devotion and for the joy you brought to millions of children of all ages. The Carson and Barnes Circus and the Al G. Kelly and Miller Circus."

Kay suffered kidney failure. Breuel was preparing to treat her when she suddenly went to the big top in the sky.

A tow truck loaded the 4-ton elephant's carcass on a trailer and she was buried in a hole 20 ft. deep. A deputy sheriff kept watch to make sure no one removed her ivory tusks.

The tombstone was donated by Jack Stengel of the Dakota Granite Company, Milbank, S.Dak., where the circus - and Kay - had a played a couple years before.

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**"MAN AND WIFE" ATTRACT
A LOT OF ATTENTION**

Bale People Made From Big Round Bales

Visitors on their way to the International Plowing Match held last fall near Selkirk, Ontario, had to smile when they saw this round bale "man and wife" standing in a field close by a highway only a few miles from the show.

The couple stood three bales high. The man wore a yellow shirt, blue coveralls, gray boots, and a black brimmed hat. He was holding the Canadian flag high and appeared to be smoking a pipe. The woman wore a pink skirt, halter top, and a dazzling white crown. The arms on both "bale people" were made from plastic drain pipe.

Archie and Hazel MacDonald of Hagersville say they used whatever they could find to dress up their bale people.

been using hound dogs for hunting and were first sold on Curs in 1991 when Pfund's uncle Ardene bought his first dog, Ardene's Jay. His sire, Smith's Streak, is a recognized world champion, and Ardene Jay has already proved himself in pleasure hunting with more than 300 squirrels and 100 raccoons in one year.

"Good bloodlines are important with Curs," says Sally, "but they're hard to come by because there are relatively few dogs. Raising Curs is a risky business, too, as a dog is either born with or without promise. A dog is given until it's 1 1/2 years old - with about 75 woods outings - to develop



Bale people stand three bales high.

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its natural instinct for hunting. Pups also go through gunshot training up to five times a day until they're comfortable with the sound."

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