

44-206-255
44-206-820-622

The Crypt
Beach Road
St Osyth
Clacton on Sea
Essex.

18th April 1979.

Dear Sir,

I was very pleased to hear from you regarding the Walking Elephant, as it happens, I am the person you are looking for. I know the whole story of Jumbo.

I started working for Mr Stewart when I was 16 years old, way back in 1943 during the War. in a desused Tith Barn making Theatrical Masks & costumes also stage props.

Regarding the Elephant, the Story starts here in this Barn Studio known as, Blue Gates Studio, at the ^{time} I was the only ~~the~~ person apart from ^{one} a woman who was our needle woman who Mr Stewart employed.

We had made an Elephant Head Mask and hung it on the wall, it's hung there for several years, and Mr Stewart was always on about making an Elephant to give children rides on.

This went on for many years, about going to make this Elephant, untill about 1948 when he decided to start one.

This was a small Elephant with straight legs, it did not walk but just ran on four wheel-barrow wheels and carried about 6 children, driven by a single cylinder engine.

Now this is where the Walking Jumbo started.

While I was working on these small Elephants, I also had a very good friend known as Jimmy Wright, and I said to him I could make the Elephant walk, and he said dont be silly, if it could be done Mr Stuart would do it. Although Jimmy was and I am pleased to say still is my mate, his remark upset me a bit, so I started makeing a model one, which took me about two month to make, but I proved my point, it did walk.

I took this model to work showed Mr Stuart and he decided to make the big Jumbo which you are lucky to own, as I have been trying to get one for years but no luck.

But then he started getting margins so we could make the parts we needed. Of course then he employed engineers to do the work, so between us we made Jumbos.

We made approx 25 Jumbos in all, they all were sold, but where they are now, I would like to know, I have heard from people who have seen one or two being used by people who know nothing about them but just will not part with them which makes me mad.

These people are not genuinely interested in Jumbo.

Please do not get me wrong, I do not mean you, as I can tell from the tone of your letter that you are really fascinated by Jumbo, and I will give you all the help you need.

Please find enclosed one of the actual Books on Jumbo. I am looking forward to hearing from you further.

Yours faithfully

Maurice Rothman

The Croft

Beach Road

St Osyth.

Clacton

Essex.

11/12/79

Dear Larry.

Thank you for your letter of Nov 23. 79. and the Photos of Jumbo, also for the paper cutting.

First I will answer your questions.

Are Mr Stewart or myself in any of the Photos.

No I do not think either of us were Photogallic at all.

What The Jumbo Driver states is wrong when he claims that Aircraft part were used, none at all.

John Pies the Driver, heard of another mechanical elephant ten years ago,

yes, this could have been the Electric

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one I mentioned. Yes I would say he is right on that one.

Also your ~~are~~ right, I did say the Electric one did come to the States.

This one was the Elephant I was on BBC. Blue Peter with in 1977.

Other people involved, yes there were others, but sadly all have passed on, or would be much to old. I was the youngest of the team, and I am 53 years old now.

Am I involved in the manufacture of the type of items I did when Jimbo was built.
Yes but only as a hobby.

Please find as beagines I have done myself for you of the original Drawing.

Also two Photos of my model. One is of myself holding Bimbo, the other is Bimbo himself.

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This Bimbo of mine is the one I had
on Blue Petter.

Sorry about my writing, but I am
Typing you the whole story of Junko, right
from the start.

I will promise this story of Junko
I am Typing for you will give you all you
need.

Yours faithfully

Maurice

Please note The British Patent No.
on Typing.

Patent No. 13317/49

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The Croft

Beach Road

St Osyth,

21 3/ 81.

Dear Larry,

I received your letter on the
10th of Feb 81, and there seems to
be a number of conflicting reports
being stirred up, over Jumbo that
does not make sense to me,

Firstly, you state there was only
three large Jumbos and at least four
small ones, ever built, who ever told
you this, seems to know more of the
Jumbo story than I do, And I think I
know as much about Mr Stewart and
Jumbo as anyone.

secondly, The Jumbo in Sandy Bay with wooden parts is unlikely to be one of Mr Stewart's Elephants, unless someone has repaired it with wood, But it was not me.

You make something like Jumbo, to use wooden parts, would be stupid.

Thirdly, The Electric one, I was on Blue Peter with, was owned at the time by a Mr Mc Pherson, and this one was built at Alden ~~near~~ Colchester by Mr Bury, I never ^{met} him, But new of him.

This was the one which came to the States in the seventys, This was the one we repaired several times.

The Gentleman who sponsored this Electric Jumbo, was a Fruit Farmer,

at Stalford St Marys, The Ipswich
Suffolk. But his name has slipped
my memory, But Mr Berry would
probably give it to you.

My wife, made a set of Blue &
Gold Meltons and Head Cap, For this
Jumbo, when it came to the State.

Lacey, I am not being funny, God
Forbid, But anyone who is trying
to cash in on the Jumbo story, by
making Elephants, which have nothing
to do with The Stunt, I do not
want to know.

The big photo you just sent me is
apparently the Etatic one, Built by
Mr Berry, and repaired by us, but
this is not our work on this photo,

I know this for a fact, the Lacey

which is behind Nellie, is joined to
 Her, for safety reasons.

One more thing which baffles me,
 is this Mr. Harrison of Harrison
 Works, who is he, or who was he, I
 don't know anything of such a man
 or company, unless it was the firm
 who supplied the Ave Brekes for Jumbo.

But his statement, of a crocodile
 is correct, and I owned this very
 crocodile in later years, but was
 sadly destroyed.

His statement about him building
 the Elephants, I do not understand,
 unless this firm Mr. Harrison was
 connected with, could it have been
 Henwicks Ltd, if so, then it makes
 sense.

Thank you Lorry, for the Gas Engine Magazine, with Jumbo in it.

Lorry, I can go on and on with this story of Jumbo and Mr Stuart, or Mr Frank Cannon, as he was when I went with him first,

To prove I know the Jumbo, and Mr Stuart more than anyone else, I have enclosed another set of drawings for you, But Lorry only for you and your family, and know hangs on.

Hope to see you in the summer.

Cheris Lorry

All the Best

Maman