

Circus World Museum  
Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center  
426 Water Street  
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

Oral Interview Transcript

Subject: Norman Elliott "Luke" Anderson

Interviewer: Fred Dahlinger, Jr.

Date: July 4, 1994 and July 14, 1994

Location: Baraboo and Milwaukee, WI

Transcriber: D. Evelyn Riker

Transcription Date: May to August 1995

Note: This transcription was checked for accuracy in May 1995. Corrections to spelling, etc. were provided by the Fred Dahlinger, Jr. and the transcriber during the proofreading process. The interview is contained on three cassette tapes filed in the Library.

## LUKE ANDERSON INTERVIEW

Today is July 4, 1994, this is Fred Dahlinger speaking with Luke Anderson.

Fred: Luke, can we start off by having you give us your full and complete given name.

Luke: My name is Norman Elliott Anderson and I was nicknamed "Luke" when I was seven or eight years old and I've been called that ever since. I was called "Luke" because I wasn't so hot.

Fred: What's the date of your birth, Luke?

Luke: October 29, 1917.

Fred: And what's the full and complete name of your parents and where were you born?

Luke: I was born in Emporia, Kansas. My father and mother were both born in Emporia, Kansas, too.

Fred: And your father's and mother's names?

Luke: My father's name was Fred Elliott Anderson; my mother's name was Laura May Anderson.

Fred: How did it come to be that your parents were in Emporia, Kansas when you were born?

Luke: Well, my father's father was an engineer on the Santa Fe railroad, and my mother's father was a truck farmer who, incidentally, happened to be the first child that was born in Lyon County, Kansas after it became a county; what year I don't know, but he was No. 1.

Fred: Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Luke: No.

Fred: So you're the only child? (Right.) What's the ethnic background of your family and does it have pertinence to the circus business?

Luke: None.

Fred: Maybe we can start this out, Luke, by just starting with perhaps your dad and finding out how he got into the business, and how that led into your coming into the business. Can you give us some background on your dad as far as that?

Luke: My father got into the business by way of horses and rodeos. He made rodeos when he was a young man, he was a bronc rider and calf roper when he was 16-17 years old. He

