

Part 1

My work is an article, titled “Welcome to the Circus,” that I authored while I was an intern at the Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI). The article recounts a project I completed as a student at the University of Texas. The class, “Media Archaeology,” was taught by Dr. Caroline Frick, founder of TAMI, and our final project was to research an orphan film from her archive. My partner, Alex, and I received a 30-second long Universal newsreel titled “Midgets Get Short End as Circus Closes.” It was black and white, had no sound, and showed little people washing cars and working in a restaurant in San Antonio, Texas. The article describes how Alex and I dated the film to 1937, tracked down the circus in question, and identified various performers involved. I also recount our meeting with an 88-year-old little person, Myrna, whose husband had performed in the failed circus. She recognized everyone in the film, but her memory was too fragile for her to confidently identify any of them. That is where our research ended. My article was posted on texasarchive.org on February 20, 2015, where both it and the orphan film can be viewed. I am the sole author of the article and I believe that I retain the rights to it because I was not an employee at TAMI, and we did not sign an agreement to transfer over the rights. My article is displayed publicly online, but the Copyright Office indicates that public display does not necessarily constitute publication, so I don't think my article is officially considered published.