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Billionaire H. L. Hunt On Exhibit at Texas Fair

DALLAS (UPI) Billionaire H. L. Hunt quit smoking cigars because it took \$300,000 worth of his time a year to light them, but he spent more than two weeks at the state fair of Texas this fall promoting Epsom salts, aspirin, soap, sun-tan lotion and patriotism.

The drugs, soap and lotion are Hunt's own brand. He has been pushing patriotism and fighting communism for almost 40 years.

"I don't care for fairs," Hunt, 82, said at his booth at the Texas fair. "It's a matter of advertising. I also see people I haven't seen in five years."

Because the state fair of Texas draws about 3.5 million persons a year, it charges high rates for exhibit space. Competition among exhibitors to attract spectators is fierce.

Hunt is shrewd enough to realize he is an attraction. Spectators passed up a health studio booth featuring shapely girls in leotards to stop, gawk and shake hands with a real live billionaire.

After the Texas fair closed in late October, Hunt went to the Louisiana State Fair in Shreveport.

Hunt will not discuss his fortune—"I don't like success stories"—but does not go out of his way to deny printed reports that he has "resources"

of \$5 billion. It could be even more.

Two modestly-dressed blondes and a redhead handed out plastic bags for Hunt promoting, in about equal parts, Hunt drugs and cosmetics printed articles he and his staff turn out about the dangers of leftists, and his "Life Line" radio program.

Hunt made his fortune mainly from oil and ventured into drugs and cosmetics in recent years. He recently sold a food processing company because it was not making money.

People at the Dallas fair did double takes as they saw Hunt, sitting in a chrome and red plastic chair. Most who stopped accepted bags of literature and grinned self-consciously at Hunt. A few stopped and shook hands.

One mother led her son, about 8, up to Hunt and told him to shake hands. Hunt shook the boy's hand and asked: "What's your name, sonny?"

"You're a very rich man," the boy blurted, snatching his hand back and running away without answering.

Another woman, hand outstretched for a bag, was overcome by shyness and declined to shake hands. "A bag for a bag," she said and hurried away.