

3076 East Circus Lane

Peru, IN. 46970

www.visit.circushalloffame.org

Welcome

The Circus Hall of Fame would like to welcome you to 2020 with our first Newsletter of the year. We have many things to look forward to this year. We hope that many of you will be able to visit us this year and see the many changes and improvements that have been made in the last couple years as we breathe new life into a Museum that came to be 60 years ago in Sarasota, Florida.

Acquisitions

The Circus Hall of Fame has been fortunate enough to be gifted several acquisitions in 2019. One of the terrific collections was a group of Circus posters that date from the 1930s to the 1960s.

The flamboyance of the brilliant and colorful circus poster was a piece of artwork that brought thrills and excitement from around the world to a little piece of hometown America each and every day. The methods of artistry for making these gaudy posters has changed dramatically over the years. This collection gives us a general idea of the different times and works of art.

All but one of these posters are referred to as a one sheet poster. They used a standard dimension of 28" x 42". A half sheet was literally half the size, being 21" x 28".



The Circus Hall of Fame will be preserving these amazing posters by having them professionally linen backed and restored for safe keeping.

Work Week

Each spring the Board of Directors, circus friends and volunteers come together to work on various projects at the Circus hall of Fame. This is actual hands on work from sweeping, cleaning and painting to working on the historical buildings, wagons and displays. This year, the Circus Hall of Fame will be a beehive of activity from May 18th thru the 23rd.



Last spring saw several exhibits being cleaned and changed around. Here is one of the flags that flew on the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus big top on the very last day the circus was under canvas. They closed in Pittsburgh, PA. on July 16, 1956. We are honored to think that this flag was not only saved but donated to us last year.

The barns started to get a new coat of paint as well as the original American Circus Corporation Office Building.



One of the original Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus animal cages had the scenic panels added to recreate the original look on the ammo cages. They were called ammo cages as these trailers were bought as military surplus with drawers of all sizes to carry the different sizes of ammunition on them. Ringling took off the drawers and built the cages on top of these trailers.



We made some plumbing repairs and some electrical repairs. There was a lot of old lumber and paper put on the bonfire to clean up around the winter quarters building. While it is a huge help to have the people there that helped, it's always a blessing to have other volunteers join us. Maybe you can only come for a couple hours or just a day. There is always something you can do.

We offer you lunch every day. Your abilities and desires lend you to helping a non-profit organization make it a little bit better every time. Feel free to come out and join us Monday May 18th to Saturday May 23rd for an exciting week of making a difference at the Circus Hall of Fame.

EVENTS

We are excited to announce several events coming up this spring at the Circus Hall of Fame. Starting on Sunday May 17th, we will be offering an Introduction to Circus Model Building.



Anyone can register to attend. We'll offer a guided tour of Tom Dunwoody's amazing 3/8" scale Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus to start with, a walk through the Circus Model Builder's Museum and then sit down to build a circus model you can take home with you. We'll even offer you some old time circus popcorn and drinks before you go.

On Wednesday evening, May 20th, the Circus Hall of Fame will be hosting a presentation about the Suffragettes and the Circus. One of the biggest named stars under the Big Top was May Wirth. She was a fearless horse bareback rider and a leader in the circus people becoming adamant about women's rights to vote.



There will be an opportunity to see the Circus Hall of Fame exhibits and enjoy a discussion about the development of women's rights.

Friday, May 22nd, will be another huge fundraising auction. Instead of a catered dinner downtown, we will hold the auction right here at the Circus Hall of Fame with all the good circus concessions available to you. There is no charge to attend this exciting event.



Out of town bidders will be able to bid live and before hand through liveauctioneers.com. An Online catalogue will be available for your viewing pleasure closer to the may Dates.

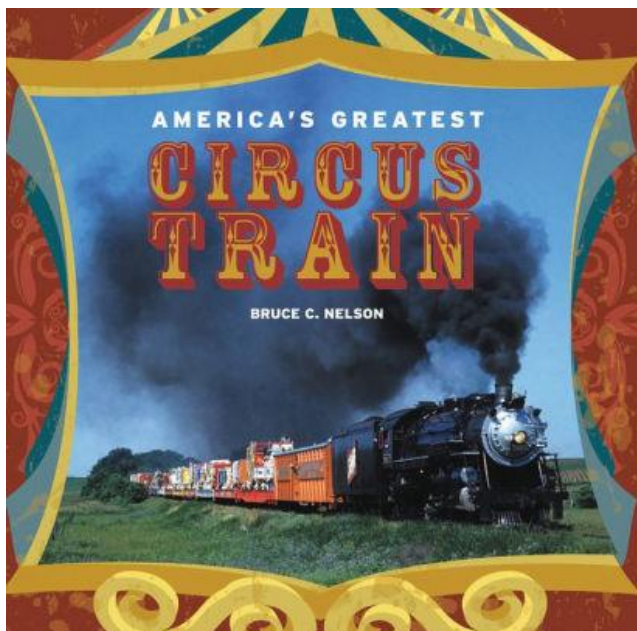


(Acrylic painting by Bob Cline – 1972)

On Saturday, May 23rd, the Circus Hall of Fame will host an Arts and Crafts show. Here is a perfect opportunity to display your wares and make new friends as craftsman from all over come to Peru for a terrific experience. Circus souvenirs and concessions will also be available.

Online Gift Shop

Many people are not aware that the Circus Hall of Fame Gift Shop is open year round. Our website has a page for the Gift Shop where some of the great opportunities to have a great circus souvenir exist. We were very fortunate to be able to obtain one of the greatest hardback circus books produced in many years. America's Greatest Circus Train by Bruce C. Nelson is a full color in depth study of the amazing Circus World Museum collection of wagons and traincars to go to Milwaukee for the famed Circus Parades every July for nearly 25 years.



Our Gift Shop includes colorful T-Shirts, circus posters, novelties, books, music CDs and much more. Simply go to the Circus Hall of Fame website and view our Gift shop at <http://visit.circushalloffame.com/gift-shop/>

VIDEOS

Did you know that the Circus Hall of Fame has a You Tube Channel? We have a few videos that we have made of the Circus Hall of Fame and a couple of the circus greats that have been inducted into the Circus Hall of Fame. Our selection of videos can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzUpvzB3Pk990LI41xRQOVg>

ENDANGERED

The Indiana Landmarks declared the Peru Circus Winter Quarters as one of the top 10 endangered historical places in the State of Indiana.

From the Indiana Landmarks website: "Leaky roofs endanger both barns and the invaluable collection of circus artifacts they house, including vintage circus posters, photos, costumes, circus wagons, and a miniature replica of the 1934 Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. The Hall of Fame has started raising money to repair the barns, but the necessary work comes with a hefty \$1 million price tag, a challenging fundraising goal for the nonprofit organization. With the impending demolition of the nearby Terrell Jacobs Winter Quarters along US 31, the need to save this last tangible piece of Peru's circus heritage becomes even more urgent."



The International Circus Hall of Fame has a Go Fund Me Page for restoration and re-roofing these National Historical barns at https://www.gofundme.com/f/reroofing-the-north-barn?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=fb_dn_postdonate_r&fbclid=IwAR25c5JvgPn7Dnwd7504qCB1uHA9u0Y2DjxSALtWSD6_tNk5v_jHnEpR214

Anyone wishing to donate without using Go Fund me, may simply mail a check or Money Order to the Circus Hall of Fame, 3076 East Circus Lane, Peru, IN. 46970. Your donation will be tax deductible as we are a 501c3 Non-Profit.