

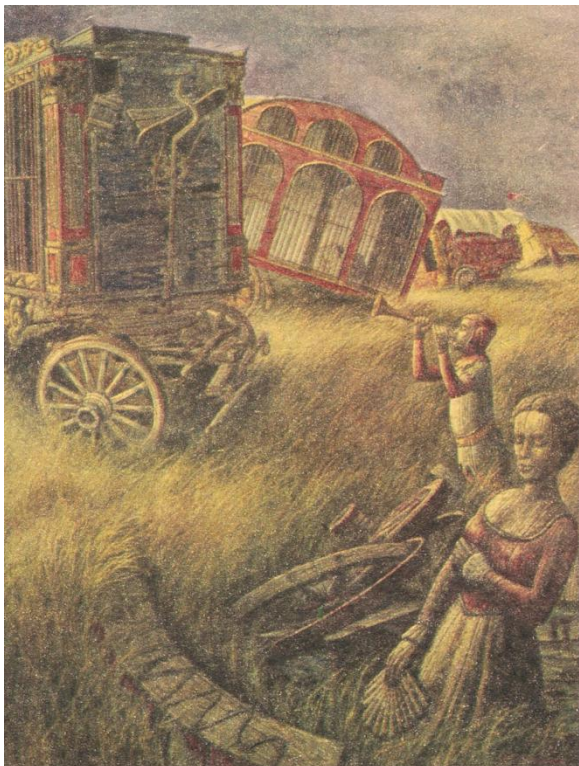
3076 East Circus Lane

Peru, Indiana

Volume 1, No. 1, 2019

Welcome

We would like to welcome you to the very first Newsletter ever produced by the International Circus Hall of Fame. It is our goal to communicate with you more than one time a year and to keep you informed of the happenings at our Museum. The Logo at the top was created by Peru native Robert Weaver. He was a gifted artist who drew many of his drawings from the circus and the Peru winter quarters.



Acquisitions

The Circus Hall of Fame has been very fortunate to have been given several different items and collections in 2018.

The Clyde “Highpockets” Baudendistel family has graciously provided Clyde’s bullhook, many old photographs and clippings from this late, great elephant man. Making a long career in the world of elephants, he was well known for his years at the Wm. P. Hall farm in Lancaster, MO. and then on the Sells-Floto Circus from here in Peru.

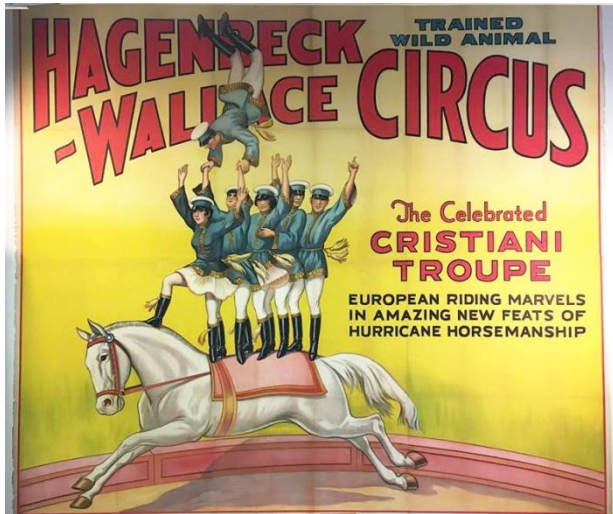


(Taken in late 1929 on the Sells-Floto Circus.)

The wagon in the background is known as the Jardinere Tableau. 1929 was the last year it was used on a circus. The remaining carvings are on display at the Miami Co. Museum in downtown Peru, Indiana.

Acquisitions, Continued:

One of the largest gifts received in 2018 was this enormous 12 sheet litho featuring the Cristiani family and the bareback horse riding act.



Dr. Robert Young had this wonderful poster sent to Chicago Poster Restoration where it was restored, linen backed and then sent to the Circus Hall of Fame. Vincent Newkirk, who did the work, explained that this was six double sheet pieces put together to back the one large poster. The completed poster measures approximately nine feet x ten feet, six inches.



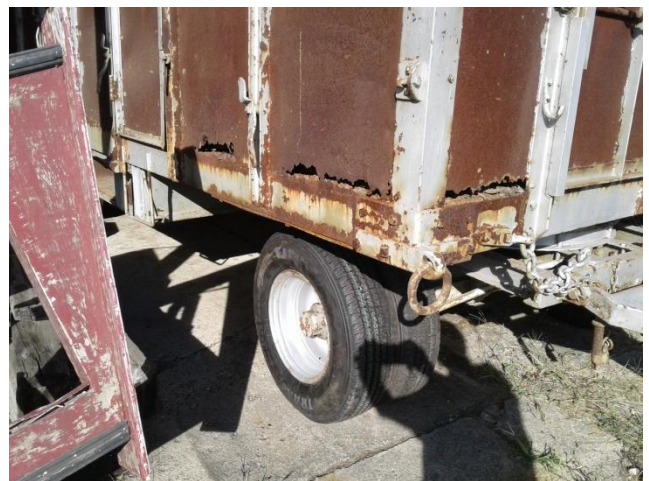
A huge collection of clowns has been given to the Circus Hall of Fame in 2018. This collection has clowns in every kind of creation from porcelain and ceramic to hand crocheted, molded, plastic, wax, and hand painted.

Ringling Bandstand

The former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus bandstand wagon is in the process of being restored. Earlier in the year, the wheels were removed, replaced and new bearings were installed to make the wagon easy to move around again.



(Taken in 1953 at the Sarasota Winter Quarters – Dyer Reynolds photo via the Conover collection)



(John Wright photo – Oct. 5, 2018)

Many photos have been taken inside and out to compare with the blueprints that were drawn in 1971. New metal will be ordered, old metal cut out and replaced during our Work Week in May. It will be sandblasted and primed to protect the completed work. It is our goal to have the wagon restored to the point that a band can once again take their place and perform the thrilling circus music we all have heard before.

Work Week

The Circus Hall of Fame has a work week each spring where Board members, circus friends, and volunteers come together to help repaint, repair, clean, replace, cut, mow, and sew items to make them better once again. Our next work week will be May 19th to the 25th, 2019. Please make your plans to come help in any way you can this year. Perhaps you can only come for a couple hours, maybe a day or two or by chance, all week. There is ample room to park a motor home or travel trailer.



(Dom Yodice is painting the panels for an ammo cage – Bob Cline photo)

We will be in need of some help in the metal working field as we repair the old Ringling Bandstand. Do you weld or fabricate? The steel arena that was out front was blown down by the hard winds last fall. It needs to be repainted so it can be put up again. Are you a carpenter? We have a Knott's Berry Farm wagon that needs the floor replaced. We have a new sign frame that needs to be built that will be 8' tall and twelve feet wide, four feet off of the ground.

There will be a new sign installed out at the highway entrance to the Circus Hall of Fame. Some signs will be replaced in the Hall of Fame wing where the inductees are honored. Show cases need to be washed, costume exhibits need to be dusted out and freshened up.

Last year we installed many signs indicating where the old winter quarters buildings used to be. One of the old Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Mack trucks was completely repainted and we look forward to getting it lettered this year.

We also have one of the long Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey cages from the 1950s that we will be sandblasting and repainting as the first step towards restoration.

We are building a couple new displays with push buttons and sound. Can you help with the wiring?

The friendship and fellowship is a reward all by itself. You get to live and breathe circus history for a week where it happened and you get to talk to others about it as we have many visitors stop by to see what is going on.

The Circus Hall of Fame provides a lunch each day for the workers. We want you to have an enjoyable experience. What a great way to make a difference at the Circus Hall of Fame.

Building Assessments

The Indiana Landmarks Helped get the Circus Hall of Fame started in the right direction to help preserve the remaining buildings from the old Peru Circus Winter Quarters. Paul Hayden, helped get us a grant for structural assessments of the buildings. The Circus Hall of Fame had to match the grant and pick up the additional costs.



(2018 – Regine Brindle photo)

Board President, John Wright, has met with the structural engineering firm of D and K Construction Company of Flora, Indiana on a couple of occasions. They have measured, photographed and started drawings for a prioritized list of repairs and improvements to help preserve the remaining building for future generations to come.

Paul Kelly Farm

The former animal training facility on the west side of Peru, known as the old Terrell Jacobs farm was sold to Paul and Dorothy Kelly about 1954 and has remained in their families possession up until this summer. It was finally sold to the Indiana Dept. of Transportation for a highway interchange.



(July 21, 2017 – Bob Cline photo)

After purchasing the land from the Kelly family, the Dept. of Transportation filed for a permit to demolish the former elephant barn. Demolish really wasn't a good term as the building had already collapsed. They are simply tearing it all down and cleaning up the debris.

The Circus Hall of Fame is working with the State of Indiana to preserve any and all artifacts that were still there. Three remaining wagons and a center pole from the old Cole Bros. Circus will be brought to the Circus hall of Fame.

Volunteers with the Circus Hall of Fame had removed some of the cage bars from the Terrell Jacobs cat barn earlier this year. We have requested that the State of Indiana save the walls and floors those bars were in so that we may rebuild the wing of the elephant barn at the Circus Hall of Fame and re-install these cages to represent the long line of cages that held the menagerie animals 100 years ago. Once these are re-assembled, a sign will be displayed showing where they came from and that they were gifted to the Circus Hall of Fame by the Kelly family and the State of Indiana Dept. of Transportation.

When the state uses taxpayer money to significantly alter or demolish a historic property, the move triggers a "mitigation process" to make up for the loss of that history.

It is now being discussed by the Indiana Department of Historic Preservation and Archaeology and INDOT to put money into preserving similar structures. The Circus Hall of Fame is in hopes that they will benefit from the decision and that monies will be granted for repairs to the existing buildings at the Circus Hall of Fame.

Paul Hayden, director of Indiana Landmark's northeast field office, said "The people at the Circus Hall of Fame are doing great things right now at their property," Hayden said "... If INDOT could help with that, that would be a tradeoff we would support."

Indiana State Fair



(2018 – John Wright photo)

The Circus Hall of Fame had a large display and Gift Shop at the 2018 Indiana State Fair. Along with the Big Top Circus, produced by Wayne McCary, the circus was favorably received by nearly 900,000 visitors.

The Circus Hall of Fame was incredibly well received by the multitudes of visitors who were awe struck at the history of the circus in Indiana that they never knew about. This year featured the Sig Sautelle Band Chariot and the huge, incomparable Two Hemispheres Bandwagon. A former circus racing chariot was displayed along with artifacts and models from the Circus Hall of Fame. The Children's Museum's interactive circus display was there also.

The State Fair then produced several large posters that were all reproduced from images in the John and Mable Ringling Museums / Tibbals poster collection. Circus Facts from Indiana also graced the display area.

Hello Dear Circus Friends,

Our board members, volunteers and I would like to say a Big Thank you for your continued support of our museum and circus activities. Thanks to you, we were able to make a few improvements to the museum along with some repairs and restoration on some wagons.

We were able to attend the Indiana State Fair with a huge exhibit including three of our wagons. We handed out over 17,000 business and rack cards with our information on them. Most of the public did not know about us. We are hoping to be invited back for 2019. Your support, along with Indiana Landmarks, has enabled us to get a contractor to come in and give us some detailed estimates on rebuilding our buildings. With this, we will be able to apply for better grants.

The buildings need a lot of work. Our Insurance keeps going up along with increases in our costs to stay open and maintain the grounds. We are working with Indiana Landmarks along with other organizations, to get National, State and Private help.

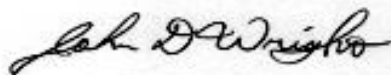
With your support, you are supporting not just a National Historic Landmark with five original buildings, but we are a circus museum with historical artifacts and wagons. The Circus Hall of Fame is the place where we enshrine circus greats from the past. We also have the Circus Model Builder's Museum. We are four attractions in one location.

Volunteers are a vital part to keep this organization going. We invite you to come join us for work week the 19th to 24th of May and Festival week the 14th to 20th of July or stop by and say hello and visit for a while. Help can be used all year long. Check our website for details, hours and news.

Enclosed is a 2019 membership donation form. Upon receipt of your membership or donation, we will send you a membership card and letter of acknowledgement. With this card you will receive a 10% discount in our gift shop and FREE admission.

We are a 501 (C) (3) organization so that your donation is tax deductible. Perhaps, the Circus Hall of Fame is dear enough to your heart to be included in your estate planning.

May all your days be Circus Days!



YES! I want to be a Circus Hall of Fame Supporter!

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PERU, IN 46970



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