

Circus Hall of Fame

3076 E. Circus Lane

Peru, IN. 46970

www.visit.circushalloffame.com

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WORK WEEK . . .

The annual work week at the Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, IN. was held from May 16th to the 22nd. We were truly blessed to have over 40 volunteers from Peru and assorted states work with us this week. Volunteers arrived from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Michigan, North and South Carolina and of course, Indiana.

We would love to give you an idea of some of what was accomplished this year. We'll point out the items and include a photo to allow you to grasp our efforts. Anyone can donate to help offset some of the costs. With over \$4,000 spent last week for lumber, concrete, signs and new toilets, your help is graciously appreciated. Simply make a check out to the Circus Hall of Fame and send it to 3076 E. Circus Lane, Peru, IN 46970 or you can send money through PayPal to 5Tigeract@gmail.com.

New signs were placed throughout the Circus Hall of Fame grounds and buildings this year. We think these will give our visitors something to really study and enjoy as well as allow some family photo opportunities. A 4 foot x 4 foot sign was placed near the

former American Circus Corporation office to signal your arrival to the historic lands.



A large 8 foot tall x 16 foot wide history and map from 1929 of the Peru Circus Winter Quarters was installed. Five of these original buildings are part of the Circus Hall of Fame and the family home beside us was also part of the winter quarters.



We also put up a digitally colored photograph of Clyde Beatty and NERO on

the very exact spot that the original photograph was taken at.



Show cases were emptied over the last few weeks. We had two volunteers come in and repaint four of them before work week started.



Those four showcases then became the homes to the Clyde Reynold's 3/4" scale Circus and the Dominic Yodice Models and his legacy of being the "Greatest Show on Earth" movie historian.



We were blessed to have volunteers that are not claustrophobic and could get in the show cases to move items around and attach the pieces to the walls.



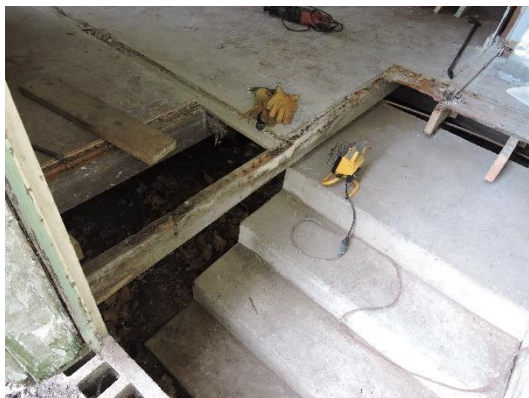
The former American Circus Corporation Office Building underwent more changes again this year. The existing kitchen area was taken out.



Once the kitchen area was removed, a new wall was put back in place where the old wall had been. This allowed our electricians to start placing outlets and wiring in place.



The large addition on the back had some rotten boards in the flooring. Our volunteers had a ball tearing out the floor and some walls to discover the original concrete steps from the back door were still there.



Floor joists were then replaced, the framing was jacked back up and a new floor was put in place.



Then to complete the transition, a “new” door from an old house was donated to us. These volunteers then installed a door jamb, new hinges and locks, and the back end was ready to be painted.



We were really thrilled to have received a new scale model of one of the legendary truck shows, the Beers-Barnes Circus. This 1/4” scale layout is on a 3 foot x 5 foot table and

makes a welcome new exhibit in the Museum.



The Windjammers is an organization dedicated to the playing and preserving of the circus music. While we were discovering several items of interest in our archives, we also realized the need to enlarge their showcase display. That was being repainted and reorganized as work week was ending.



The Circus Hall of Fame was really excited when we were asked to please accept the Dennis Gilli / Mort Gamble collection. While this was a huge collection, we hurriedly built a 4 foot x 8 foot table to display some of their rides and trucks on for this summer.



A rather large fiberglass elephant head had been donated from the Dominic Yodice collection. Imagine our surprise when Joe Barney took to it like an artist and a canvas. Well done Joe.

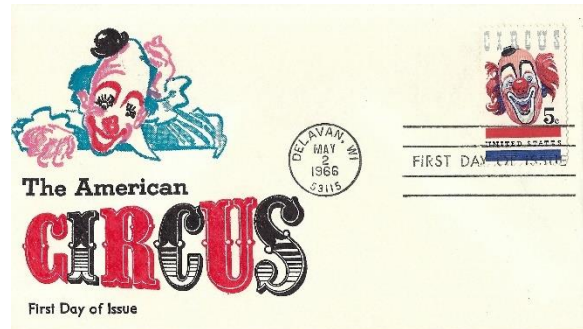


Our volunteers worked on the large Tom Dunwoody model of the 1934 Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus. The Plexiglass was cleaned, the inside was vacuumed as needed and some repairs were made along the way.



Another new exhibit this summer will be the United States Post Office Honoring the

Circus. We were delighted to have received the Martin L. Severe collection of First Day Postal Covers dating back to the 1960s. Many of these have been framed and placed on various colored mattings to enhance the displays a little bit.



We even removed a smaller showcase that after 30 plus years at the Circus Hall of Fame was showing signs of some rot. There's no telling how old it was when it was purchased from the Chicago Museum in 1992.



We had a company from Logansport, Indiana come out to examine three wagons. They specialize in High Pressure air blasting.

There is no sand used. We talked to them about blasting, priming and painting. The former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Commissary # 1 frame was pulled to where it can easily be worked on. It will be raised up on blocks for the wheels to be placed on the frame, later on. The blasting and priming will start shortly.



The same company also examined the former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Bandstand wagon. This has several places where the metal needs to be replaced first. This wagon would need \$6,000.00 to completely restore it by replacing the metal first, blasting it, inside and out, priming it, painting it and replacing all of the wood on the top and adding the wings back on again.



Our electricians and licensed contractors also had a busy week. Power was brought back into the former American Circus Corporation Office Building for the first time in nearly 25 years.



A new Thermostat was installed in the Office Trailers that is now Wi-Fi Controllable from home. This replaced the old-fashioned rotary Thermostat.



The electricians also replaced sets of Gallery style spotlights with LED strips. The Office is so much brighter now.



The Museum also had all new lighted Exit signs installed as well as emergency lighting.



Before going back home, our electrical crew also started running the new wiring inside the old American Circus Corporation Office Building.



While we value our volunteers immensely and want them to go home with a great sense

of accomplishment, we went a little lower than normal when we were given three brand new toilets. Two went in the Museum and a new one went in the Offices. Roto Rooter was paid to install them. Good thing too because one of the toilets gave them fits and required three trips out there to work on it.



As with everything else, items get older each year and more frustrating to use. Thus after a new coil last year, a new battery, spark plugs and another coil, our riding grooming mower still will not start. Our large finishing mower also decided to not play nice after work week was over. So now we have a new Bush Hog on the tractor to keep the place fully cut.



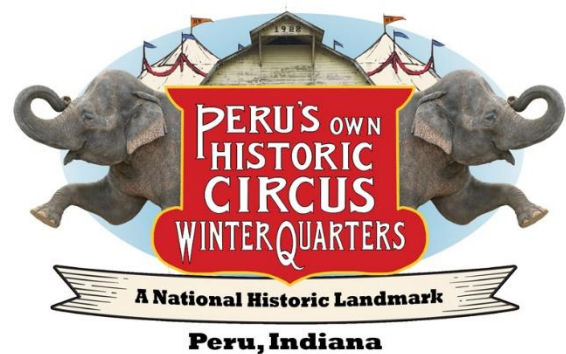
The Circus Hall of Fame is dependent upon our volunteers. We need volunteers to stay open all summer. We only have one Board member who will be there for 16 hours a week. If you live close and wish to volunteer for three hours in the week, we sure could use your assistance. Currently, we will be open from 12 noon to 4 pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays all summer long. If we can get some more Volunteers, we will be open longer hours and more days.



Our volunteers take on varying tasks throughout the year from repainting signs, to planting flowers, selling tickets in the air-conditioned Gift Shop area, painting parts of the buildings, to even laying concrete block or welding. That depends on your own experience. To volunteer, contact us at peruhalloffame@gmail.com



We have also introduced a newer looking website with a bright red background and drop-down menus. Your Gift Shop cart is in the top right-hand corner where it is real easy to see. Simply go to our website at www.circushalloffame.com



In the circus, when a meal was ready to be served on the show, a flag was hoisted above the tent to literally mean the Flag's Up.



All of our dedicated workers were served lunch everyday and supper a lot of times by some really terrific family members, and volunteers to the Circus Hall of Fame. While some groceries were brought to Peru from their homes, some family members gave us a Gift Card to but groceries. Our staff then prepared meals, bringing in the necessary foods and drinks. We were also very blessed to have Ron Short, from Peru, bring in dinner on two occasions to all the volunteers. Many of you may recall that Ron owned and operated the Siding Restaurant in Peru for many years.



The Circus Hall of Fame was delighted to have Members of the Peru Public Library come visit us on Friday, May 21st. We had just taken down two showcases full of children's toys and the Library is excited to place several of these on exhibit as we enter into the summer circus season in Peru.

Kathleen Plothow, of the Peru City Council, invited us to attend the Peru Small Business Owner's Luncheon on Friday, May 21st. Our Treasurer, Bob Cline attended and was offered the opportunity to tell the Business owners about our Work Week and to give a little idea on the economic impact to the community.



(Kathleen Plothow photo)

The Circus Hall of Fame, Inc. would like to extend a huge Thank you to our neighbors, Wayde Ames and Valley Farms.

We were able to accomplish so much due to the Businesses in the area that we turned to. Our volunteers to shelter at the Best Western, Knight's Inn and the Cole Porter B&B. We bought supplies from Arnie's Ace Hardware, Dollar General, Family Farm and Home, Midland Lumber, Abner & Sons Signs, Menard's in Kokomo and we can't forget Julie Tussey's king donation of an antique door for the old Office Building.

In addition to building supplies, we filled ourselves up at restaurants around town including Wings, Smitty McMusselman's Pub and Grub, Subway, Beef O'Brady's and the Los Tres Caminos restaurant.

The Circus City Festival is on again in 2021 with the Youth Circus performances and the Big Circus Parade on Saturday July 24th at 10 AM in downtown Peru, Indiana.