

Circus Hall of Fame

3076 E. Circus Lane

Peru, IN. 46970

<https://circushalloffame.com>

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GRANTS

The Circus Hall of Fame, Inc. has been steadily applying for grants from various sources for the last couple of years. Our efforts were turned down several times again this year and rewarded in a few other cases.

We were successful in receiving a Collections Preservation mini grant from the Indiana Historical Society for \$ 4,969.05. This will purchase Industrial shelving for our archival storage. Many archival boxes of different shapes and sizes will be purchased to properly store, hats, costumes, albums and photos. These grants are made available through the Eli Lilly Foundation.

We were given a \$ 10,000 grant, to be used for advertising only, by Miami County Economic Development. The Miami County Chamber of Commerce also gave us a \$1,500.00 grant for TV ads for the Circus, Calliope and Mechanical Music Festival in June.

CIRCUS, CALLIOPE AND MECHANICAL MUSIC FESTIVAL



Our very first Festival to incorporate Steam Calliopes, Air Calliopes, and other Musical instruments was held at the Circus Hall of



Fame on June 17th and June 18th. The outpouring of excitement from all walks of life was most rewarding. Before the Festival ever started, we had exhibitors asking if we would do this again. By all means, YES.



Mark your calendars for June 16th, 17th and 18th, 2023 for the 2nd Annual Calliope Festival. We had people buying tickets from Mississippi, The State of Washington, Florida, Missouri, Vermont, New Jersey, Texas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana.

The following list was our exhibitors that entertained the masses on both days. (being emailed, you can enlarge it)

Exhibitor's Name	City	State	Presenting
Circus Hall of Fame	Peru	IN	Tangley Air Calliope
Circus City Festival	Peru	IN	Gentry Steam Calliope
Karl and Hope Rider	Wabash	IN	Degan Unafo 43 Note Miner Air Calliope
Howard SteamBoat Museum	Jeffersonville	IN	Cozart Air Calliope
Jayden Werley	Bourbon	IN	Tangley Air Calliope
Circus Hall of Fame	Peru	IN	Indiana University Steam Calliope
Circus City Festival	Peru	IN	Tangley Air Calliope
Bob Blomberg	Kenosha	WI	Deleka NT 26/44 Street Organ
Rick McDowell	Liberty	MO.	New-Matic 168 Band Organ 165 Style
Larry and Jane Beverly	Churubusco		Wurlitzer Band Organ Monkey Organ
Tom and Kay Bode	Kansas City	MO.	37 Note Self Built Organ 20 note Jager and Brommer Organ
Multiple Owners		KY.	DELTA QUEEN Steam Whistles
Zach Morecraft	Peru	IN	Morecraft Steam Calliope
Ted Guilliam	Nashville	TN	Grinder Organ
Sharon Hollingsworth	Lebanon	IN	Tangley Air Calliope from a steam boat
John Gordon	Groton	VT	Homemade Granite organ
Dave Mahr	Decatur	IL	Raffin 31/124 Street Organ
Kramer Bros. Calliope	Eaton	OH	Tangley Air Calliope
Victor Thomas	Tipp City	OH	27 note Allen Pell
John Ravert	Watsonstown	PA	90 key Page and Howard Band Organ
Bob Buckler	Pittsburgh	PA	36 Key Verbeeck Organ 40 Note Wittman 20 Note Concertina
Tom Baugues	Layfayette	IN	John Smith Senior 20
Steve and Sandy Dean	Centerville	OH	46 Key Wilhelm Bruder
Bob and Marcia Ebert	North Ridgeville	OH	20 Note Struber 27 Note Blumi 20 Note Concertina
Dennis Green	Canton	OH	43 Note Miner Air Calliope 43 Note Homemade Air calliope
Spencer and Nikki Meachum	Hartford	MI	Raffin 20/31 20 Note Concertina
The Weierick Family	Cary	NC	20 Note Wittman
Gordie Davidson	Ludington	MI	Stuber VP311 Street Organ 20 Note Concertina

In addition to this amazing list of musical instruments, we were thrilled to have the Peru Circus Festival Band perform on the fully

restored Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Bandstand for the very first time since 1956. With the cooperation of the Circus Hall of Fame and the Peru Circus Festival Band, the wagon was completely restored in the first six months of 2022 by Professional Sandblasting of Walton, Indiana.



Being fully restored, the wagon was on display downtown during the Circus City Festival and then became part of the Circus City Festival Parade on Saturday Morning.

The Swamp Water Stompers also performed during the Calliope Festival. Being renowned for their Bluegrass style, they have performed in New Orleans before.

We also had four different presentations offered from how to build a new calliope whistle to a synopsis of the Ben Wallace and American Circus Corporation winter quarters and the impact it had on Peru.



The Circus Hall of Fame and the Indiana University are joining forces to show off the Indiana University Calliope. It is available for parades and exhibitions. Simply contact us.

CIRCUS MODEL BUILDERS

We were delighted to host the Great Wallace Ring from Indiana of the Circus Model Builders on August 12, 13 and 14, 2022. Their works of art ranged from about 1" long to about three feet long. Some of these models were handcrafted in wood, some in metal, some in plastic and some were 3D printed.



(John Dick's HO Scale canvas spool wagon)

The many visitors that came over the three-day weekend were excited to see so many things we don't see every day. The circus moved by wagons, tractors and trucks and all were offered in one form or another.



(Doug Konkle's handcarved 3/4" scale act)

The overwhelming response immediately turned into plans to come back in 2023 for another three-day weekend exhibit. Make your plans to see the many Circus Model Builder exhibitors on August 11, 12 and 13, 2023 at the Circus Hall of Fame.

REHABILITATION

The Circus Hall of Fame was successful in getting a grant for \$ 50,000 last July from the Indiana Historical Society as sponsored by the Eli Lilly Foundation, to rehabilitate the former American Circus Corporation Office Building.

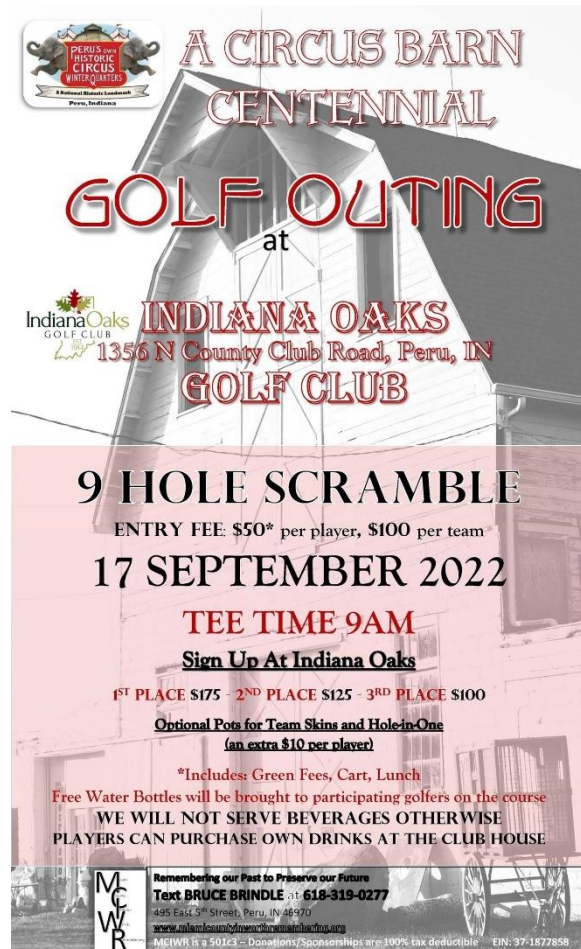
The entire roof and shingles were replaced in 2019. We were slowly doing what we could to preserve and protect the building. With the arrival of the grant, we have already had a new electrical system installed. We have also had a brand-new HVAC system installed and running. This will create a climate-controlled atmosphere for the archives that will be stored in here after the rehabilitation is completed.



Work will begin the week of August 22nd on the large back room. It will be completely gutted, new lights and outlets installed and then new insulation and sheetrock installed. The Back room was added after 1944 so it is not part of the historical requirements that apply to the front of the Building.

MORE EVENTS

The Circus Hall of Fame is also sponsoring a Golf Outing in Peru on Sept. 17th. This is a good way to have fun and raise some money at the same time. Indiana Oaks is a nine-hole Golf Course. Next year, we are trying to go to one of the local 18-hole courses.



A CIRCUS BARN CENTENNIAL GOLF OUTING
at
INDIANA OAKS GOLF CLUB
1356 N County Club Road, Peru, IN

9 HOLE SCRAMBLE
ENTRY FEE: \$50* per player, \$100 per team
17 SEPTEMBER 2022
TEE TIME 9AM
Sign Up At Indiana Oaks
1ST PLACE \$175 - 2ND PLACE \$125 - 3RD PLACE \$100
Optional Pots for Team Skins and Hole-in-One (an extra \$10 per player)
*Includes: Green Fees, Cart, Lunch
Free Water Bottles will be brought to participating golfers on the course
WE WILL NOT SERVE BEVERAGES OTHERWISE PLAYERS CAN PURCHASE OWN DRINKS AT THE CLUB HOUSE

Remembering our Past to Preserve our Future
Text **BRUCE BRINDLE** at **618-319-0277**
495 East 3rd Street, Peru, IN 46970
www.miamimountaintop.com
MCMW is a 501(c)(3) Donations/Sponsorships are 100% tax deductible EIN: 37-1877858

The Circus Hall of Fame is also hosting a Car and Truck show on Sunday October 2nd. Simply calling “Anything with Wheels” to the show, the circus wagons will be on display as well as approximately 100 to 200 vehicles. Food and craft vendors will be there as well as a D.J.

Knowing that the Car Shows are usually a huge hit, we have already scheduled another Car Show for October 1, 2023 We look forward to a big crowd on the grounds again which will be our last day open in 2022.



Fun For ALL Ages
Circus Hall of Fame
CIRCUS CAR & BIKE SHOW
Anything with wheels
First Sunday in October ~ **Sunday, Oct 2, 2022**
Registration 10am - 11am
Car Show 11am - 3pm
Registration Fee: \$10.00 ea.
Includes entrance to museum, and ticket for drawing
Spectator Entry is FREE!

Circus Hall of Fame Museum will be open!
Location:
3076 E Circus Ln,
Peru, IN

Car Show Music Food Stands Vendors Entertainment Prizes

Early Registration to reserve entry, or to inquire about vendor options:
Stacy Mize: 70 N. Broadway, Peru, IN
765-469-0644

RESTORATIONS

The Circus Hall of Fame has been working on several items being repaired, rebuilt or restored. One of those items is the old Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus Dining Wagon # 1. This wagon appears in a photograph in 1925 when it was still on wooden wheels.



This wagon had a full-length water tank inside the wagon and then had materials stored on top of the water tank to fill the wagon. When the Ringling show started

switching the wagons over to the rubber tires, this wagon had a new steel frame built then had the wooden body put back on top.

Historically, this is the oldest Ringling wagon in the Circus Hall of Fame collection. It also appears in a 1932 Loading list of the train and wagons. We have already spoken to Professional Sandblasting who restored the Ringling Bandstand wagon to consider sandblasting the frame, priming and repainting the frame. Some metal is rusted beyond help and will need to be replaced.

The best part of this restoration is once the metal frame is right, our volunteers can help build the wooden body all over again. When it is completed, it will look like this. Our Donors that help support the restoration of this wagon will receive a certificate of appreciation and their name on a brass plaque that will be attached to the wagon.



(Sverre Braathen slide at Milner Library of Illinois State University)

In order to work on these wagons, we are dependent on donations from people who want to help and a couple that really want this to be rebuilt. We gladly accept any help to restore these wagons by simply sending a check or money order marked wagons to the Circus Hall of Fame, 3076 E. Circus Lane, Peru, IN. 46970. We can also accept a PayPal donation on our website at [Wagon Restorations | International Circus Hall of Fame](#)

Your donations will also help in the restoration of two other wagons on our list to do next. The old Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Giraffe wagon # 83 is only one of two left in existence. This is an all steel wagon with a wooden interior flooring that was heavily padded on the inside to protect the giraffe during transportation.



(2012 – Dom Yodice Photo)

We are also wanting to get the former Cole Bros. Menagerie Pole and Canvas wagon # 42, sandblasted, primed and painted. The wooden undergear will need to be rebuilt along with the back doors, but this wagon is still in relatively good shape. Once repainted and repaired, it will need a new floor.



(1968 – John Sapita Photo taken at the Paul Kelly farm)

STORM DAMAGES

The Circus Hall of Fame started off our Summer Season on Saturday, May 21st, 2022 as our 100th Anniversary Birthday bash. We were celebrating the 100th year since the American Circus Corporation built the existing winter quarters barns.

We had vendors all lined up, We had a bounce house and slide. We had Cake and ice cream. We even had two brand new bicycles to raffle off over the weekend. Let the Party begin.

No one scheduled a weather event but as the National Weather Service has called it, a “Gustnado” hit the Circus Hall of Fame around 7:30 that morning. Board President, John Wright and volunteer, Jayden Werley saw the cyclone form over the river and head straight towards them.



The entire northern end of the Museum barn was blown out. The upper half was completely off of the bottom level. The metal siding was blown off and a roof rafter has

been twisted in the middle of the barn from the pressure.



The back wall of the north wagon shed has been completely blown off of the pedestal foundation points.



The entire western end of the North Wagon shed was seriously damaged. All of the roof still there will all have to be taken down to be able to rebuild the section.

An insurance adjuster was there on Tuesday after the storm. A structural engineer was there a week later. As of August 10th, the insurance company had asked our contractor, ALFFA Construction of Peru, Indiana to provide an estimate for repairs. That repair estimate has been turned in to the Insurance company and we now have to sit and wait again. The estimate is for \$ 70,000 in materials and \$ 115,000 in Labor.

Sadly, because of our insurance policy, we are responsible for a \$ 5,000.00 deductible again this year for these damages.