“Our Mission is to Preserve, Promote and Share through Education, the history and cultural significance of the circus & the allied arts, past and present.

250 YEARS . . . .

The celebration of the beginning of the modern circus occurred in London, England on April 2, 2018, with Zippo’s Circus performers and their horses recognizing 250 years in the making.

The first American Circus occurred in Philadelphia on April 3, 1793.

AN OLD PHOTO . . . .

This large format negative is found in the Conover Photographic collection. This photo was taken inside the famed Sullivan and Eagle Wagon Manufacturers, located at 15 -22 Canal Street, Peru, Indiana.

Some of their finely carved wagons still exist to this day in a couple of holdings. The Sig Sautelle Band Chariot is at the International Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana.

The well known Lion and Gladiator Bandwagon is now at the Feld Entertainment Main Offices in Ellenton, Florida.

Unfortunately for all of us, almost all of the records, patterns and drawings were destroyed in the terrible 1913 flood that also ravaged the Ben Wallace winter quarters.
2018 CHS CONVENTION

Are you going to the Circus Historical Society Convention in Baraboo July 18-21st?

The abundant circus history, heritage and legacy present in Baraboo will be celebrated over a span of four days. The heart of the assembly will be four sessions of presentations on Thursday and Friday July 19 and 20. One will focus on local and Wisconsin circus history. Another will be on women of the circus, with a largely female slate of presenters. Two panel discussions are currently being planned, one whereby managers of the largest publicly-accessible collections will make attendees aware of the latest developments and acquisitions.

Local flavor features include a special tour of the recently restored and truly resplendent Al. Ringling Theatre, America’s oldest and among the most elegant of motion picture palaces. A tour of multiple circus proprietor homes, several never before available to public access, is being arranged. Registrants can also take part in a tour of the local cemetery, using a recently produced guidebook.

Late breaking news

Christian Overland, the new Ruth & Hartley Barker Director at the Wisconsin Historical Society, has accepted an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the banquet on Friday July 20th. Coming from the famed Henry Ford in Dearborn, Michigan, Overland arrived just as the WHS commences a more direct role in the management of Circus World Museum.

In addition to the other activities and provided meals, a special reception at Circus World Museum with a lavish meal will be provided free to all registrants on Wednesday, July 18. Be sure to arrive early to partake of this outstanding event that will include special music and viewing opportunities!

Address all convention questions, assistance or special requests to circushistoricalsociety@gmail.com

The full convention information text and the Registration Form can also be found online at www.circushistory.org. Check there periodically for updates.

DID YOU KNOW...
CORRECTION:

Our dear friend and fellow historian, Richard J. Reynolds III, contacted me to tell me we made one mistake in the article in our February issue about the crates on the Ringling Flatcars.

We wrote “What is loaded on the transports (and flat car) are crates containing three rhinos that Frank Buck had purchased from the show and were being shipped to Buck's exhibit at the World’s Fair.”

Richard wrote: “They held hippos, not rhinos. For the seasons 1936 though 1944 RBBB did not have a rhino, the longest such stretch in its field show history. However they did have a surplus of hippos in the spring of 1939 - 5 to be exact. They commissioned Frank Buck to try and sell 3 of them (He had been the big cheese on the '38 show). So the hips went into the crates and rode the canvas section to Long Island City for the first under canvas date. The crates were unloaded from the flats and sent to Frank Buck's animal compound near Amityville, Long Island.”

NEW MEMBERS . . . .

We would like to welcome all the new members that have joined the CHS since the 1st of the year.

Louis Sather # 4981
Madison, Wisconsin

Dana Barnum # 4982
Mt. Vernon, Illinois

Dave Anderson # 4983
Wausau, Wisconsin

Gale Pifer # 4984
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Jessica Hentoff # 4985
Florrisant, Missouri

Emily Smith # 4986
Henderson, Nevada

Scott Parkinson # 4987
Arlington, Virginia

John Parkinson # 4988
Bethesda, Maryland

Thomas Donadio # 4989
Tobaccoville, North Carolina

Laura Topolsky # 4990
Armonk, New York

Richard Fair # 4991
Norfolk, England

Janice Todd # 4992
Austin, Texas

Paul Mowery # 4993
Dover, Ohio

Daundra Baker # 4994
Coloma, Michigan

Guy Palace # 4995
Washington, DC

Lew Hackling # 4996
Noxen, Pennsylvania

DID YOU KNOW . . .

That our Circus Historical Society Facebook Group surpassed 10,000 members in February? We have had 29,100 posts, comments and likes in the last 28 days. We encourage you to join in the daily postings of all things circus. We can also be found on Pinterest and Twitter for those that enjoy those sites.

( Gene Baxter slide from Stephen T. Flint collection )
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Barg</td>
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<td>David Paczona</td>
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<td>Peggy Williams</td>
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<td>Louis Picard</td>
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<td>Scott O’Donnell</td>
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<td>Betsy Kellum</td>
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<td>Kristin Lee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph L. Berk</td>
<td>5012</td>
<td>Towson, Maryland</td>
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(Emily Smith, along with Scott and John Parkinson become 3rd generation members of the CHS.)

Do you know someone who might enjoy being in the Circus Historical Society? Why not hand them an application or better yet, sign them up yourself as a gift for that special occasion.

**Work Week at the Circus Hall of Fame**

The International Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana is located in the original remaining barns of the American Circus Corporation. Each spring they have a work week where volunteers (local residents, circus fans, model builders etc.) are offered the opportunity to come help improve the place. This year, they will be there from May 14th to the 20th. There’s always something to be worked on whether you can help for a couple hours, a day or the entire week.

**Hagenbeck-Wallace / Troop Train Wreck**

This May 17th, the Greater Showman’s Assoc. of Chicago will be holding a commemoration service of the 100th Anniversary of the horrific train wreck involving the stopped Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus train and an empty troop train in Hammond, Indiana.

The Circus Hall of Fame will have the Sig Sautelle Band Chariot there. Crafted by Sullivan and Eagle in Peru, they made wagons for the Hagenbeck-Wallace Circus also. This event will be celebrated on Thursday May 17, 2018 at Woodlawn Cemetery; 760 Cermack Road; Forest Park; Cook County, IL.

The formal program at 1:00pm will feature several well-known speakers whose expertise is circus and carnival history. The 3:00pm to 4:00pm informal gathering might prove to be the most interesting as we would like the attendees to relate their personal experiences with Showmen’s Rest and those who are interred here.