

# THE CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. PRESENTS

## NEWS & VIEWS

*Bringing Circus Past and Present Together!*

The Circus Historical Society Newsletter  
Bob Cline – Newsletter Editor

[www.circushistory.org](http://www.circushistory.org)

Vol. 9, No. 2, May, 2018  
Chris Berry – Co-Editor

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

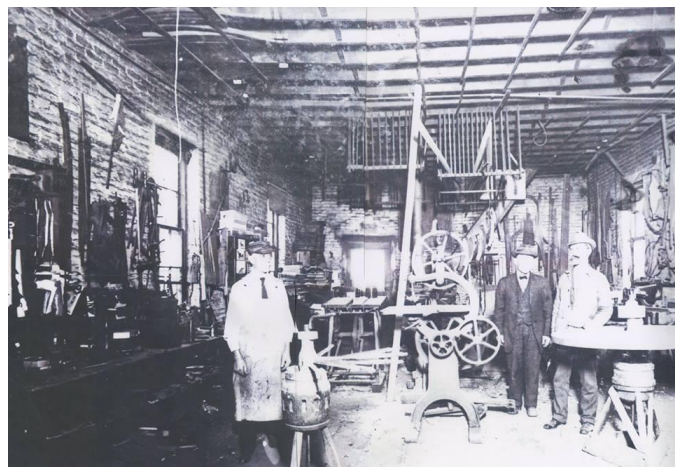
### 250 YEARS . . . . .

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.

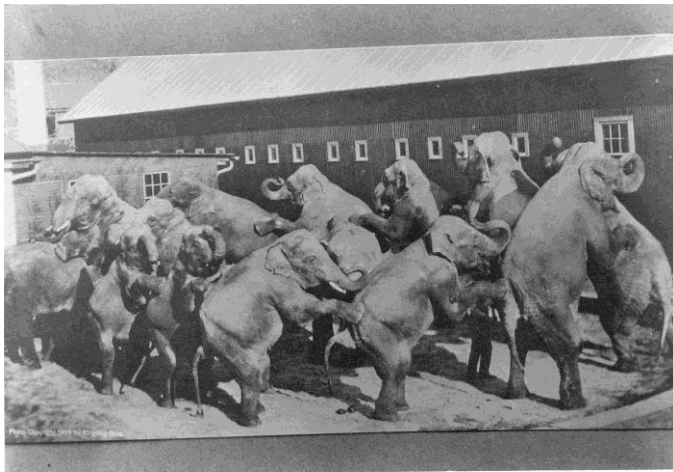
Unfortunately for all of us, almost all of the records, patterns and drawings were destroyed in the terrible 1913 flood that also ravaged the Ben Wallace winter quarters.

# 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](mailto:circushistoricalsociety@gmail.com)

The full convention information text and the Registration Form can also be found online at [www.circushistory.org](http://www.circushistory.org). Check there periodically for updates.

## DID YOU KNOW...



The Ladies are also breaking records:

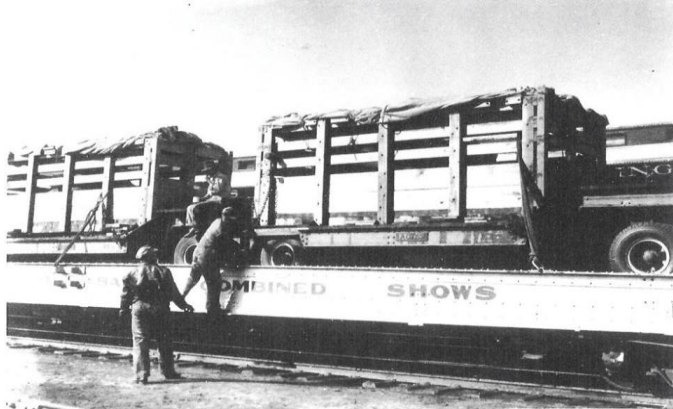
### Triple Somersaulting Female Flyers:

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Lena Jordan (1897)  | Monica Neves              |
| Antionette Concello (1944)                                    | Adrielle Alves            |
| Terry Cavaretta (1 <sup>st</sup> at age 13)                   | Betty Woods               |
| Jill Pages (also 3 & ½)                                       | Cassidy Krug (non pro)    |
| Celine Li   | Margarita Egrova          |
| Veronica Caballero  | Marisa Tonito Saba Casu   |
| Isabella Caballero  | Gail Redpath              |
| Maricela Vargas   | Anna Farfan (in practice) |
| Taelyr Lazaris  | Gaynor Johnson (practice) |
| Bekki Mitzi Ashton  | Emma Close                |
| America Larible   |                           |
| Ketty Jarz  |                           |
| Diane Valentine   |                           |
| Lori Gutierrez  |                           |
| Olga Rudneva  |                           |
| Jacqueline Ludmila Triskova Pensado (currently doing triples) |                           |
| Francesca Luna  |                           |

( Courtesy of James S. Cole )

## 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 through 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.”

## 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 )

## NEW MEMBERS . . . . .

We would like to welcome all the new members that have joined the CHS since the 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
Florissant, 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

Jeff Barg # 4997  
Bradenton, Florida

David Paczona # 4998  
San Diego, California

Peggy Williams # 4999  
Wimauma, Florida

Louis Picard # 5001  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sarah Chapman # 5002  
Aitken, Minnesota

Kevin Gerrone # 5003  
Cleveland, Ohio

Christopher Lowe # 5004  
Bakersfield, California

Tony Burnette # 5005  
Papamao Beach, Australia

Scott O'Donnell # 5006  
Baraboo, Wisconsin

Robert Stark # 5007  
Ontario, Canada

Erin McCabe # 5008  
Brooklyn, New York

Amelia Osterud # 5009  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Betsy Kellum # 5010  
New Haven, Connecticut

Kristin Lee # 5011  
Medford, Michigan

Joseph L. Berk # 5012  
Towson, Maryland

( Emily Smith, along with Scott and John Parkinson  
become 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>, the Greater Showman's Assoc. of Chicago will be holding a commemoration service of the 100<sup>th</sup> 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.