

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

Vol. 9, No. 4, Nov. 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.”

SARASOTA IN 2019

You can begin to make your hotel reservations for the huge Circus Historical Society Convention in Sarasota in May of 2019 by contacting Hilton Garden Inn, 8270 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL. 34243. The rooms are \$ 109.00 for double occupancy rooms and include your Breakfast. You can call 844-266-9264 to make reservations. Be sure to tell them this is for the CHS.



WED
MAY 1
THRU
SAT
MAY 4
2019
DETAILS
TO COME!!

THAYER PRIZE

Have you read, heard or seen a piece about the circus that grabbed your attention as being the best you have experienced lately? Nominate it for the acclaimed Thayer Prize. All Nominations must be submitted by February 20, 2019. Issued by the Circus Historical Society in Honor of the late great Stuart Thayer, the prize adds to their credits and carries a \$ 500.00 gift along with it. The prize winner will be announced at the Sarasota Convention in May.

Contact Thayer Prize Chairman Niles “Buddy” Calhoun with your nomination at 19 Sylwood Place Jackson, MS 39209-9755 or nilescal@aol.com

SPEAKING ABOUT ?

Would you like to be a presenter at the CHS Convention in Sarasota in May? A call for papers is up right now. You are invited to send a proposal of your work in with a short abstract of the work and what you would need for technology to make it happen.

Mail your proposals to:
Deborah W. Walk
5138 Summerwood CT.
Sarasota, FL. 34233

Or email her at DWWalk@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome our new members that have joined since our last newsletter.

5028 – Shannon Scott
St. Paul, MN.

5029 – Margaret Kirby
Maldon, Vic., Australia

5030 – Kathleen Maher
Bridgeport, CT.

5031 – Daniel Zuckerbrot
Toronto, Ont. Canada

5032 – Dan Stapleton
Orlando, FL.

5033 – Bennett Garrioch
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

5034 – Lisa Graves-Kelly
Fernando Beach, FL.

5035 – Chris DeVol
Lebanon, IN.

5036 – Brandy Moss
Lebanon, IN.

5037 – Robert Buchin
Mocksville, NC

5038 – Codi Powell
Wooster, OH.

5039 – Charlene Gibbons
Bishopville, SC

5040 – John Wright
Clinton, IL.

5041 – Loren Bagelman
Lake Cowichan, B.C., Canada

5042 – Lohren Meier
Gladstone, MO.

5043 – Robert D'Andrea
Detroit, MI.

5044 – William Jacob
Dublin, OH.

5045 – Dana LaManna
Chicago, IL.

AN OLD PHOTO....

This undated photo is a loose negative in the Conover Photographic collection. The Ringling Brothers World's Greatest Shows did like so many others by presenting a Free Act on their midway to keep the patrons attention and tip those wondering into buying their tickets.



The location, year, performer or photographer are all unknown.

DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't done so already, please mail your dues payable to the Circus Historical Society to Bob Cline, Treasurer, 2707 Zoar Road, Cheraw, SC 29520.

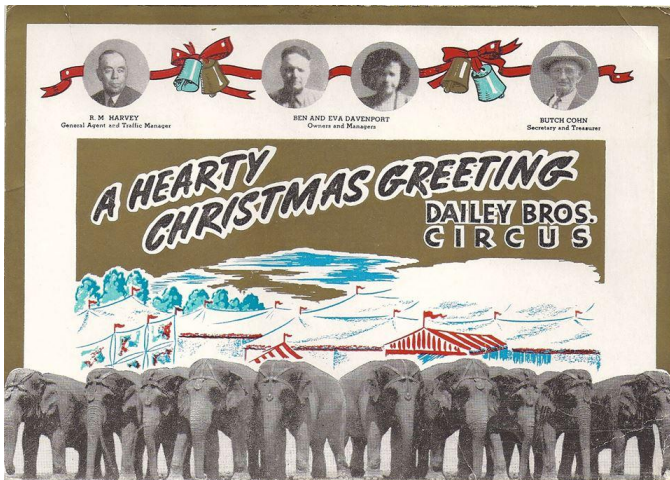
GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Once a year, we pay tribute to our Circus Historical Society members that have passed on to grassy lots before us. Some have enriched our lives, some authored writings we may have read, some were friends and some were all alone. Bless them one and all.

# 818 – Charles Perry	April 29, 2018
# 1120 – Frank Felt	May 6, 2018
# 1360 – E. Regis Amend	April 28, 2018
# 1379 – John R. Thiele	February 4, 2018
# 2349 – Ricky Jay	November 24, 2018
# 2398 – Ward Hall	August 31, 2018
# 4426 – Connie Thomas	December 22, 2017
# 4823 – Edward W. Pope	January 12, 2018

These are all that we know about. Unfortunately, some people pass away and all we get is an unable to deliver notice. If you know of anyone, please let us know.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



This great old Christmas card comes from one of the most colorful owners in the business, Ben Davenport. Having taken a picture with 5 elephants, the image was reversed and super imposed to create ten elephants wishing you a Christmas Greeting.

FELD ANNOUNCEMENT

Nov. 14, 2018 – Feld Entertainment announced at the recent Independent Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions meeting in Orlando, FL., that the Feld Company have created a concept for the Grave Digger Roller Coaster based on what the Monster Truck Drivers experience. While no site has been confirmed, talks are ongoing with several major players in the Amusement Business.

CIRCUS CITY FESTIVAL

The “Circus Capitol of the World,” Peru, Indiana, will celebrate their famed Circus Festival week again July 13th – July 20th, 2019. Celebrating their 60th year of training the young performers and performing for the world, the great Circus Parade will be held on Saturday, July 20th, 2019.



For more information, you can visit their website at <http://www.perucircus.com/>

BIG APPLE CIRCUS

The Big Apple Circus has returned to Lincoln Center once again. Having opened on October 20th and running through January 27th, 2019, the show returns veteran favorites, Jenny Vidbel with her many animals and the Flying Tunizianis who are regularly completing a quadruple somersault. New to the show this year is the incredible Duo Fusion and Adam Kuchler. Serving as Ringmaster this year is Stephanie Monseu, formerly with the Bindlestiff Family Circus.



(Jenny Vidbel – James S. Cole photo)

WORK WEEK IN PERU

The Circus Hall of Fame will be having their annual work week May 19th – 25th, 2019. Volunteers are urged to come help. Workers can be found painting wagons, cutting trees, sandblasting, building, welding, etc. They will be giving a particular emphasis on restoring the former Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus Bandstand wagon. New tires and bearings have already been installed. Feel free to contact them at circushalloffame@gmail.com There is room for travel trailers or motor homes at the Circus Hall of Fame in Peru, Indiana.



(1953 at Sarasota WQ – Dyer Reynolds photo)

CIRCUS WORLD SHOP

The Circus World Museum has the Kangaroo Tableau in the shops this winter for restoration. Originally built for the Gollmar Bros. around 1910, it was a tableau cage with bars on just one side. Having seen service on several shows and then privately owned, it was given to the Circus World Museum in 1964.



(Dave Lorbeske photo)

TERRELL JACOBS FARM

Terrell Jacobs, known as the Lion King, established his own circus training facility on the west side of Peru, Indiana in 1939 by building a huge cat barn with cages on three sides and a training arena with a dirt floor in the center of the barn. Circus painter, Art Johns decorated the inside in the late 1940s after Arthur Wirtz bought the property. The signage includes the year 1946, Barnes Bros. Circus and Terrell Jacobs throughout.



(Bob Cline photo)

Paul Kelly then bought the property around 1954 from Arthur Wirtz and utilized the property to perform their lions, seals, horses and elephants for another thirty years. By the mid 1980s, it was no longer used and has been deteriorating ever since.

When the CHS Convention was held in Peru in 2013, it was noted that the elephant barn roof had already collapsed.

In 2018, the Paul Kelly family sold the property to Indiana Dept. of Transportation for a highway interchange. The State has acquired approval to finish tearing down the elephant barn due to being a safety hazard. Three remaining Cole Bros. wagons, a center pole and other artifacts from the Cole Bros. Circus will be moved to the International Circus Hall of Fame.

The cat barn roof is starting to collapse at the one end. Volunteers from the Circus Hall of Fame removed some of the cage sections before the sale to the State.

By working with the State, the Circus Hall of Fame has requested the floors and walls of the cages that the bars were removed from to re-assemble in the elephant barn at the old Peru circus winter quarters to show how the wing was made for all of the menagerie animals. Credit for the cages will be given to the Paul Kelly family.