

# The Advance Car

The Official Newsletter of the Circus Historical Society

February 2023

Welcome to the updated version of *The Advance Car*, the official newsletter of the Circus Historical Society! This newsletter is your news source for the latest CHS activities and other information about the circus-related activities of our members. *The Advance Car* is distributed automatically to all CHS members and to non-members who subscribed or registered for *Circus History Live!*

I hope that you enjoy reading *The Advance Car*. And, if you are not already a member, please [join us today](#) to receive all of the other benefits of a CHS membership including *Bandwagon: The Journal of the Circus Historical Society*.

See you down the road!

Bruce Hawley,  
President, Circus Historical Society

## Convention 2023 Registration is Open!

We can't wait to see you in Bloomington-Normal this August for Convention 2023.

Learn more, register, or submit a proposal



CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**CONVENTION**  
**2023**  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
AUGUST 24-27

Register on  
[circushistory.org](http://circushistory.org)

Photo: Mervyn Library Collection  
1952 Ringling Brothers World Circus

## Circus History Spotlight

Meet the people who made circus history in our new online video interview series, *Circus History Spotlight*. The first episode features Ron Severini, formerly of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, who discusses the RBBB Thrill Circus at the Ohio State Fair in 1977.



Watch the first episode

## Member News



From left: CHS President Bruce Hawley, CHS Trustees Wayne McCary and Stasia Kelly, Feld Entertainment CEO Kenneth Feld, and CHS Vice President and Bandwagon Associate Editor Chris Berry.

## CHS Officers Attend 45th International Monte-Carlo Circus Festival

by Stasia Kelly

For the 45th time, circus artists from around the world wowed audiences with their leading-edge skills and competed for prestigious trophies during performances that ran January 20-29. As is customary, Prince Albert and Princess Stephanie of Monaco presided over the event, which is sponsored by the European Circus Association and Fédération Mondiale du Cirque (FMC).

Four Circus Historical Society (CHS) trustees traveled to Monte-Carlo for the festivities and, for the first time, presented a special edition of *Circus History Live!*, giving American viewers a taste of the excitement and glamour that make this festival a stellar, one-of-a-kind experience. Bruce Hawley, Chris Berry, Stasia Kelly, and Wayne McCary (who also serves as vice president for the Fédération Mondiale du Cirque) enjoyed everything the festival had to offer – from dress rehearsals and glittering performances to Midway crepes and champagne, fellowship with the circus community, special seminars, and the dazzling Mediterranean coast.

The highlight of the gathering was the thrill of live circus performances! Joy that the event was back in person was acknowledged by many and reflected in the crowds' enthusiastic reaction. For many, the presentation of animal acts was a thrill that hadn't been realized in recent years. Bruno Togni and his tigers, Alex Giona and his horses, Elsa Cussadie and her birds, and Renee and Merryly Casselly with Quincy Carnevale and their horses virtually brought the house down with their marvelous presentations. American unicycle sensation Wesley Williams earned standing ovations and a host of acrobats, contortionists, and clowns kept audiences clapping loudly, in unison.

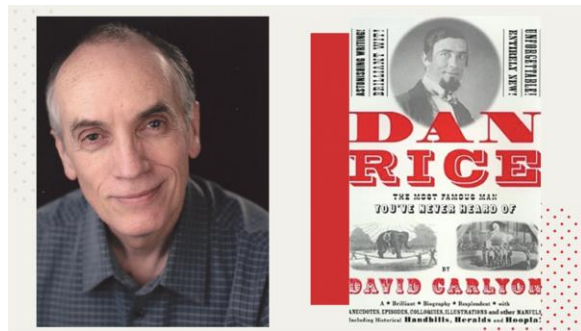
A special panel of judges, led by Festival Chair Princess Stephanie of Monaco, observed rehearsals and performances, and on the fifth day announced award [winners](#) who received Gold, Silver, and Bronze "Clowns," the coveted statues signifying rankings as the very best of the group in 2023.

For the first time, *Circus History Live!* was presented from outside the United States. Host Chris Berry led the program, as trustees McCary, Hawley, and Kelly reviewed the shows and shared photos. Special guest Executive Director of FMC Zsuzsanna Mata joined the discussion and provided fascinating insights into the program's history and purpose. You can watch the recording on the [CHS YouTube channel](#).



### CHS Featured in Discussion on National Public Radio

CHS President Bruce Hawley was recently a guest on Town Square Talk. [Listen here](#).



### Carlyon Celebrates the Dan Rice Bicentennial with Travalanche

CHS Trustee David Carlyon writes guest post for Travalanche about Dan Rice. [Read more](#).



If you're a CHS member who has recently promoted circus history through publication, presentations, media appearances, or community talks, let us know! Email [CHSmarketingpr@gmail.com](mailto:CHSmarketingpr@gmail.com)

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## Upcoming Events



**CIRCUS HISTORY LIVE!**

WITH CEDRIC WALKER,  
FOUNDER AND CEO OF  
UNIVERSOUL CIRCUS

SUN, FEB 26, 7PM EST  
FREE ZOOM EVENT (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Join us on February 26 at 7pm EST to celebrate Black History Month on *Circus History Live!* The program will feature a conversation with Cedric Walker, founder and CEO of UniverSoul Circus!

*Circus History Live!* is a free Zoom event open to all CHS members and non-members. Registration is required.

[Click here to register](#)

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